After 10 years the LOS Winter Meeting will return to Lake Charles. We are fortunate to have as our Saturday evening speaker Kelly Bryan, who will give a presentation on “Birds of The Davis Mountains.” Kelly’s program will characterize and describe the Davis Mountains, comparing them to other mountain ranges in the region. He will present other important aspects of this area’s avifauna, including tape recordings of songs of selected bird species.

Kelly obtained a Masters Degree from Sam Houston State University and began his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service at Huntsville State Park. He went on to serve 18 years as Superintendent for Kickapoo Canyon and the Davis Mountains State Parks. He was then appointed Coordinator of Natural Resources Management for all of the West Texas State Parks. He retired from this position in 2002. His wide personal interests include banding and drawing birds, photography, recording bird songs and serving as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Kelly’s intensive studies of the avifauna of the Davis Mountains began in 1991 and continue today. His investigations have led to the discovery of one species new to Texas. With each passing year new discoveries continue to be added. The Davis Mountains of West Texas have been characterized as one of the last ornithological wildernesses in the state. Unlike the nearby Guadalupe and Chisos Mountains, which are included in the National Parks, the Davis Mountain range has remained almost entirely privately owned.

The discovery of nesting Buff-breasted Flycatchers there in 1999 provided a new species to the state’s bird list, as well as a first nesting record. Photographs obtained of the Olive Warbler (1992), Berylline Hummingbird (1997), and the Slate-throated Redstart (1997 and 2000) represent the first documented records for Texas. Additional first Texas nesting records include the Gray Flycatcher (1991), White-eared Hummingbird (1993 probable), Mountain Bluebird (1995), Dusky Flycatcher (2000), Greater Pewee (2002), and MacGillivray’s Warbler (2002) as well as many other important records/observations of birds.

Our Friday evening speaker will be our own Dr. Jim Ingold, Professor of Ornithology from the Department of Biological Sciences, LSU- Shreveport. He also serves as Editor of the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology. His talk will be the “History of Louisiana Ornithology;” the paper he presented in 2002 at the North American Ornithological Conference in New Orleans. Jim said while he was working on an annotated bibliography of Louisiana Ornithology, he became interested in Louisiana’s role in the science of ornithology from pre-history to Audubon, and from Edmund McHenry to George Lowery of LSU and his students, on up to 2002. Many of our state organization members should be very interested in the talk, as they have lived through part of this history!

Headquarters for the Winter Meeting is the Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel, which is currently undergoing a total remodeling and refurbishing of all rooms. It is located just off I-10 on Hwy 171 (see map.) LOS has a reserved block of 40 rooms, which the hotel will hold for us until January 10th at a special rate of $79 (normally $89) for their standard rooms:
- Executive Queen – oversized room with a queen bed and a love seat that converts to twin size sleeper
- Double/Double  – oversized room with two double beds
- King – oversized room with King size bed

Attention:
LOS MEMBERSHIP DUES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2002.
PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2003 DUES SOON!
Welcome New Members

Jack Eilime, San Antonio TX
Ralph Wayne Ezelle, Jr., Marrero, LA
Ivan J. Fruje, Iowa, LA
Catherine J. Kidd (returning member), New Orleans LA
Christine Koci, Baton Rouge, LA
Gypsy Langford, Farmerville, LA
Joy K. Louden, St. Francisville, LA
Saja McCarthy, New Orleans, LA
Scott Thurston, Baton Rouge, LA

New Life Members:
Ari Forbat, Pinellas, FL
J. W. Nixon, Baton Rouge, LA
Dan and Laurie Moore, Knoxville, TN

2003 LOS WINTER MEETING – can’t

Welcome New Members

Jack Eilime, San Antonio TX
Ralph Wayne Ezelle, Jr., Marrero, LA
Ivan J. Fruje, Iowa, LA
Catherine J. Kidd (returning member), New Orleans LA
Christine Koci, Baton Rouge, LA
Gypsy Langford, Farmerville, LA
Joy K. Louden, St. Francisville, LA
Saja McCarthy, New Orleans, LA
Scott Thurston, Baton Rouge, LA

New Life Members:
Ari Forbat, Pinellas, FL
J. W. Nixon, Baton Rouge, LA
Dan and Laurie Moore, Knoxville, TN

December 2002

LOS Newsletter 15

WINTER MEETING FIELD TRIPS

The All-Day trip will leave at 7 AM and return at 5 PM. Half-Day trips will run concurrently and each will be conducted three times (Saturday from 7 AM until noon, Saturday 1 PM until 5 PM, Sunday 7 AM until noon.)

Field Trip Departures

Departures will be from the rear parking lot of the hotel by convoy in personal cars. Each field trip leader will have a colored flag to coincide with the color assigned to that trip. At registration, attendees will be given color tickets for their chosen trips.

All-Day Trip (Red)
Cameron Hwy 82 W Beach
Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island (Port Arthur, TX)
Tyrell Park and Cat Hall Marsh (Beaumont, TX)

Trip will be split into two groups. Group A will begin with Cameron Beach and proceed to other places. Group B will go directly to Tyrell Park and Cat Hall Marsh then come back by Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island and last to Cameron Beach.


Half-Day Trips

Carlyss area (Green):
1133 ponds, Hwy 108, Choquake, Gum Island, Fabacher, Gum Cove, Charlie and Ellis Moss roads to Ellendor Bridge, Ship channel, De viral road to Erwin Oil Field.


East Calcasieu Parish (Yellow):
Rich rice fields east of Municipal Airport, Lionel Derouen, Fruge’, Rosssignal roads, Hwy 14, Lacassine NWR Pools, Lacassine NWR Headquarters and Stretter Rd.


North West Calcasieu Parish (Blue):
Grey Rd. to Ged and Ged Lake, WPA Rd., Houston River Rd., Navajo Trail, Big Woods, Route 66, Marcantel Rd.


Please complete and return the Registration Form on the next page!
**LOS Winter Meeting Registration Form**

**January 24th – 26th 2003**

Names (all) _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________
City________________________________________________ State ____________________ Zip ______________________

Number To Register  

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>______ x $10.00 = ________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>______ x $13.00 = ________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Roast Beef ______

Number of Baked Chicken ______

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to: Louise M. Hanchey  
305 Jeanine St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

**LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.**

**Winter Meeting Field Trips** – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time slot or field trip.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All-Day Trip</th>
<th>Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake &amp; Cattail Marsh</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Half-Day Trips (Choose up to three)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlyss Area</td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
<td>☐ SUN AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Calcasieu Parish</td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
<td>☐ SUN AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West Calcasieu Parish</td>
<td>☐ SAT AM</td>
<td>☐ SAT PM</td>
<td>☐ SUN AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number and variety of wintering hummingbirds continue to delight Louisiana birders. A Broad-billed Hummingbird was last seen on 7 November (WW, CL, RB) just south of Alexandria, Rapides. Another was present at the Mirabeau Gardens on 12 November (one day only) (DPM). Buff-bellied Hummingbird was in the Prien Raexue in Cameron, Cameron, on 24-25 November (DPM, BMM). The Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, hosted 2 immature Black-chinned Hummingbirds on 24 November (DPM, BMM). A Calliope Hummingbird was banded on 9 November at the home of Margaret and John Owens in Covington. St. Tammany (NLN, JB, TW). Another Calliope Hummingbird was banded here on 30 November (NLN). Two other Calliope Hummingbirds were found during the period, one on 11-12 November in Reserve, St. John (RS) and another on 25 November near St. Gabriel, Berville (VR, DL).

An amazing 7 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were at 7 different locations: an adult female banded on 14 November 2000 returned to the Must residence in Lafayette, Lafayette, on 25 September (DPM); an immature on 8 October near St. Gabriel, Berville (VR); a female at Reserve, St. John, on 4-5 November (RS); an immature male banded on 6 November at the G. Knox residence in Lafayette, Lafayette (DPM); an immature male banded on 11 November at the home of Margaret and John Owens, Covington, St. Tammany (NLN, JB, TW); an immature male at the home of Lynn Becnel, Donaldsonville, Ascension, banded on 11 November (NLN, JB, TW) and another at Mirabeau Gardens in New Orleans, Orleans, on 18 November (DPM). Finally, an adult male Rufous Hummingbird was found at the Grand Isle Cemetery, Jefferson, on 7 October (DPM).

Full 2001 produced a good many flycatcher reports. There were 2 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher – one bird on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 19 August (BMM, RDP, DPM) and 2 birds near Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 4 September (MS). There were also 2 reports of Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, both of single birds, one near LSU, East Baton Rouge, on 18 August and the other at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 6 October (MS). An Alder Flycatcher was both seen and heard near LSU, East Baton Rouge, on 22 August. Two Willow Flycatchers were found at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 18 August (MS- VT with sound, CL, JT). There were 5 reports of single Vermilion Flycatchers: the first on 14 October west of Johnson Bayou High School, Cameron (MS), different birds on 21 October (JT, JeT) and 27 October (JT, NM) at Richick Dickson Park, Shreveport, Caddo, on 21 October west of Welsh, Jefferson Davis (MS, JB) and a bird at Lacassine NWR, Cameron, on 15 November (MS).

There seemed to be more reports of Western Kingbirds than usual. The first report was that of 1 bird on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 16 September (BMM, DPM, RDP). More than a month later, this species was reported again, 1 at the Lighthouse Road, Cameron, (GP) on 20 October and another bird on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 21 October (BMM, RDP, DPM). On 26 October a Western Kingbird was seen in Acadia and another was found in Calcasieu on 24 October (DPM). In Vermilion 2 were found along LA 13 on 17 November (DPM, PC). Another single bird was found on 24 November at Johnson’s Bayou, Cameron (DPM, BMM) and 2 birds were found west of Johnson’s Bayou, Cameron, on LA 82 (MS, DPM, BMM, CCS).

A strange kingbird, possibly an Eastern Kingbird or a hybrid, was seen south of the LSU Vet School, East Baton Rouge, on 23-24 August (MS, SWC, DLD). The presence of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher with 3 juveniles on 17 August just west of Jonesville, Vermilion, is evidence for nesting in east-central Louisiana (Beth H. Willadsen). Additional large number of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, 200, were found in the Shreveport area, Caddo, on 5 September (JT, JeT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 14 October (DPM, BMM) and 3 were there on 21 October (BMM, RDP, DPM). In addition, 9 more were at Galliano, Lafourche, on that last date.

An early Blue-headed Vireo was at Shreveport, Caddo, on 7 September (JT). On 15 October a Philadelphia Vireo was found at Lafitte Woods, Grand Isle, Jefferson (MS). A Tree Swallow was marginally early southwest of Kaplan, Vermilion, on 12 November (DPM, BMM). Another Tree Swallow (Lathrop) was at a sugar cane field on 13 November, St. Martin (JH). A Chuck-will’s-widow found dead on Ellis Miss Road, Calcasieu (GP) on 20 October was a probable migrant. Another one, this time alive, was near Oak Grove, Cameron, on 27 October (MS). A Whip-poor-will was present at Willow Island, Cameron, on 6 October (MS, CL). A late swift was feeding with Tree Swallows over a sugar cane filed on 13 November, St. Martin (JH). A strange kingbird, possibly an Eastern Kingbird or a hybrid, was seen south of the LSU Vet School, East Baton Rouge, on 23-24 August (MS, SWC, DLD). The presence of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher with 3 juveniles on 17 August just west of Jonesville, Vermilion, is evidence for nesting in east-central Louisiana (Beth H. Willadsen). Additional large number of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, 200, were found in the Shreveport area, Caddo, on 5 September (JT, JeT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 14 October (DPM, BMM) and 3 were there on 21 October (BMM, RDP, DPM).
President Marty Guidry called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Marianna Primeaux and Judy Fruge for Cameron coordination and registration, Doc & Matilde Smith for Sales Table and Sue Wilson and Judith O’Neale for Friday and Saturday night registration.

The Creole Nature Trail has been selected as one of the top twenty All American roads. This will qualify the highway for Federal funds and hopefully we will see some much needed pullouts in the future.

The officers and board members of LOS were introduced:
- Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, SW LA Board Member Gay Gomez and SE LA Board Member Lee Ellis, and Jim Ingold, ILO Editor. He also introduced Kay Radlauer and Dennis Deimarche as the new editors of the LOS News. Vice President Karen Fay and Past President David L’Hoste were unable to attend.

The Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the October 28, 2001 meeting, Nancy Newfield moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Jim Ingold. Approved.

Judith O’Neale gave the financial report with the following highlights:
- Bank and CD balance $25,238.11 which includes $2,521.56 in the Ted Parker Fund. Of this amount $5,000 has been pledged to help build the viewing tower at the East jetty parking area and $10,000 is set aside for Life Memberships. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the financial report and Steve Cardwell seconded.

Marty thanked Linda Stewart Knight and Curt Sheely for their excellent program on Alligator on Alaska given on Friday night. Curt set up his scope and camera and answered questions regarding digitizing.

Marty announced that the George Lowery award and the President’s awards will be given at the spring meeting. He encouraged members to nominate people for these awards.

LOS supports the following organizations:
- Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration, Audubon County Fest, Cameron Preservation Alliance and the North American Ornithologist Conference held in New Orleans in September.

LOS gives a grant award each year to a research program involving Louisiana birds. Application and requirements are listed on our webpage.

The negotiations involving the East Jetty Viewing Tower are underway and hopefully the construction will begin in the next few months. LOS has committed $5,000 to the building of the tower and has suggested that it be built at the southeastern end of the RV parking lot.

The Sabine Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 14 and anyone who can help should contact Marty Guidry.

Marty announced that the Winter meeting 2002 will be held in Lake Charles, January 24-26, 2003. Louise Hanchez has been coordinating this meeting. The Friday night speaker will be Jim Ingold presenting a program on The History of Ornithology in Louisiana and on Saturday Kelly Bryan will give a program on the Birds of the Fort Davis Mountain. Three door prizes were given out to Andrea Mattison, Margie Griffin and Louise Hanchez.

Marty reminded folks to turn back their clocks tonight to Daylight Savings Time.

Marty read the checklist and there were 188 species seen in Cameron for the day.

Marty showed the new Baton Rouge Audubon sanctuary patch of Dr. Grobeak. The price has increased to $20 for 2003 and now are available at the sanctuary and membership in BIRAS.

Nancy Newfield, ABA Regional Membership Coordinator, encouraged all members to join ABA and had new flyers available at the front table.

There is a new webpage, Birdlouisiana.com, which lists all the festivals and calendars of events for the state.

Special thanks to all the members of the Knights of Columbus who continue to make it possible for us to have the wonderful buffet for our meetings.

Marty turned the meeting over to Nominating Committee member Gay Gomez. The committee nominations are:
- SE Board Member - Lee Ellis (Motion was made by Marty Guidry and seconded by Rosemary Seidler)
- Secretary/Treasurer - Judith O’Neale (Motion was made by NOLA ECO, GG, MG, MG and seconded by Marty Guidry)
- Vice President - Karen Fay (Motion was made by Ellis and seconded by Melvin Weber)

President - Rosemary Seidler (motion was made by Melvin Weber and seconded by Larry Raymond).

There were no nominations from the floor and all were approved unanimously.

Marty introduced our speaker, Greg Lasley from Austin Texas. Greg was our speaker on December 2002.

LOS Newsletter December 2002

Jefferson Davis, on 17 November (DM, PC). A surprise late fall coloration and snowfall were evident.

The Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the October 28, 2001 meeting. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Melvin Weber and approved unanimously.

Marty announced that the George Lowery award and the President’s awards will be given at the spring meeting. He encouraged members to nominate people for these awards.

LOS gives a grant award each year to a research program involving Louisiana birds. Application and requirements are listed on our webpage.

The negotiations involving the East Jetty Viewing Tower are underway and hopefully the construction will begin in the next few months. LOS has committed $5,000 to the building of the tower and has suggested that it be built at the southeastern end of the RV parking lot.

The Sabine Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 14 and anyone who can help should contact Marty Guidry.

Marty announced that the Winter meeting 2002 will be held in Lake Charles, January 24-26, 2003. Louise Hanchez has been coordinating this meeting. The Friday night speaker will be Jim Ingold presenting a program on The History of Ornithology in Louisiana and on Saturday Kelly Bryan will give a program on the Birds of the Fort Davis Mountain.

Three door prizes were given out to Andrea Mattison, Margie Griffin and Louise Hanchez.

Marty reminded folks to turn back their clocks tonight to Daylight Savings Time.

Marty read the checklist and there were 188 species seen in Cameron for the day.

Marty showed the new Baton Rouge Audubon sanctuary patch of Dr. Grobeak. The price has increased to $20 for 2003 and now are available at the sanctuary and membership in BIRAS.

Nancy Newfield, ABA Regional Membership Coordinator, encouraged all members to join ABA and had new flyers available at the front table.

There is a new webpage, Birdlouisiana.com, which lists all the festivals and calendars of events for the state.

Special thanks to all the members of the Knights of Columbus who continue to make it possible for us to have the wonderful buffet for our meetings.

Marty turned the meeting over to Nominating Committee member Gay Gomez. The committee nominations are:
- SE Board Member - Lee Ellis (Motion was made by Marty Guidry and seconded by Rosemary Seidler)
- Secretary/Treasurer - Judith O’Neale (Motion was made by NOLA ECO, GG, MG, MG and seconded by Marty Guidry)
- Vice President - Karen Fay (Motion was made by Ellis and seconded by Melvin Weber)

President - Rosemary Seidler (motion was made by Melvin Weber and seconded by Larry Raymond).

There were no nominations from the floor and all were approved unanimously.

Marty introduced our speaker, Greg Lasley from Austin Texas. Greg gave an outstanding slide program on The Juan Fernandez Firecrest (RDP) which is found only off the coast of Chile on the Isla Robinson Crusoe.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
but has a forked tail, lacks white back stripes, and has a hint of a partial breast band would be consistent with a first generation hybrid of Cliff X Barn. A hybrid between Barn Swallow X Cliff/Cave swallows should be easiest to detect. Cliff X Cave (as yet undocumented) will be more difficult to identify, as there is such a range of variation within Cliff, Swallow, and a Cliff X Cave X hybrid could easily be overlooked/dismissed as a Cliff Swallow. A “Cliff” with a rusty forehead, less black on the breast, and more buffiness on the under parts would be suggestive of a Cliff X Cave hybrid, but, again, it would be difficult to distinguish between what is within the “normal” range of variation for Cliff Swallow versus hybrid characters. Without specific evidence of forensic evaluation of pedigrees (DNA analysis) it is probably impossible to know for sure whether a “suspicious” individual is really a hybrid. Assuming that hybrids are “viable” and could subsequently breed with either parental type or other hybrids, continuing a second generation “backcross hybrid” would be even more difficult and probably impossible without voucher specimens and genetic analysis. For the most part, we will have to assume that birds at mixed-species colonies are “pure” until demonstrated otherwise (e.g., detection of mixed pairs, forensic analysis of DNA).

Interestingly there is a Louisiana specimen found dead at Little Pecan Island, Cameron Parish, 25 December 1990 tentatively (DNA of this individual has not yet been analyzed) identified as a Cliff X Barn X hybrid based on a combination of plumage characters shared between these two species. This individual has a dark brown forehead patch, face pattern of Cliff, and brownish-buff throat with a small indistinct darker patch. The under part of the under parts are dull white and the undertail coverts are unmarked, except for a rusty wash. The back is metallic blue and unmarked like Barn. The rump patch is like that of Cliff, but dull brown, and the tail is of a medium depth. There is a metallic blue patch extending from the side at the shoulder onto breast, suggesting the partial breast band of a Barn Swallow. Superficially, this bird might suggest a Cave Swallow to an inexperienced observer.

Specimens and the Louisiana bird record card file at the LSU Museum of Natural Science provided an invaluable resource.

Additional sources of information included:


The BNA accounts are highly recommended for additional information about these three species.


This is the first installment in a series of identification articles covering swallows. Because swallows are most often observed in flight, they can present a formidable identification challenge, especially for beginner and intermediate-level birders. Most occur in close association with man-made nest sources and are primarily diurnal migrants. There are approximately 73 species (depending on which taxonomy you follow), collectively referred to as swallows or martins. Most have a fairly slender form, short humerals (forearm) and proportionately long primaries (usually more than twice as long as the secondaries), small bill and corresponding large gape, very short legs and relatively small feet. Swallows are also very dependent on human-made habitats—many are parasitically occupying abandoned buildings. For these reasons they have a conspicuously forked or notched tail (important for aerial maneuvering). The upper parts of many species are adapted in shades of metallic blues, brown, or greens that gleam when the sun hits the feathers. There are several genera in this subfamily, which are classified primarily by plumage pattern, presence or absence of feathering on the tarsus, and by behavior. The species covered in this article are in the genus Hirundo (more on taxonomy below). One character that links all the lower mandible and formed into small, compact pellets. The pellets are attached to one another to form the nest “shell” (this substrate (e.g., cliff face or concrete) and/or someone else’s nest (in the case of colonial species). The Status

Cliff Swallow (Hirundo pyrrhonota) breeds over the majority of North America from western and southern Alaska (excluding the SE panhandle) eastward across Canada from central Yukon, northern Mackenzie, northern Manitoba, northern Ontario, southern Quebec, south throughout most of the U.S. to the Gulf Coast of Texas West, S. 1995. Cave Swallow (Hirundo fulva). In The Birds of North America, No. 41 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.

Additional sources of information included:


The BNA accounts are highly recommended for additional information about these three species.


This is the first installment in a series of identification articles covering swallows. Because swallows are most often observed in flight, they can present a formidable identification challenge, especially for beginner and intermediate-level birders. Most occur in close association with man-made nest sources and are primarily diurnal migrants. There are approximately 73 species (depending on which taxonomy you follow), collectively referred to as swallows or martins. Most have a fairly slender form, short humerals (forearm) and proportionately long primaries (usually more than twice as long as the secondaries), small bill and corresponding large gape, very short legs and relatively small feet. Swallows are also very dependent on human-made habitats—many are parasitically occupying abandoned buildings. For these reasons they have a conspicuously forked or notched tail (important for aerial maneuvering). The upper parts of many species are adapted in shades of metallic blues, brown, or greens that gleam when the sun hits the feathers. There are several genera in this subfamily, which are classified primarily by plumage pattern, presence or absence of feathering on the tarsus, and by behavior. The species covered in this article are in the genus Hirundo (more on taxonomy below). One character that links all the lower mandible and formed into small, compact pellets. The pellets are attached to one another to form the nest “shell” (this substrate (e.g., cliff face or concrete) and/or someone else’s nest (in the case of colonial species).

The Status

Cliff Swallow (Hirundo pyrrhonota) breeds over the majority of North America from western and southern Alaska (excluding the SE panhandle) eastward across Canada from central Yukon, northern Mackenzie, northern Manitoba, northern Ontario, southern Quebec, south throughout most of the U.S. to the Gulf Coast of Texas West, S. 1995. Cave Swallow (Hirundo fulva). In The Birds of North America, No. 41 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and The American Ornithologists’ Union, Washington, D.C.

Additional sources of information included:


The BNA accounts are highly recommended for additional information about these three species.


Cliff Swallow is reportedly becoming scarcer as a breeding species in the northeastern portion of its range, with active nest building in colonies elsewhere. (Cliff Swallows are legendary for being the swallows that are famous for returning to San Juan Capistrano Mission (in California) on March 19th each year.) Although they are still frequently observed for the integrity of the cliff. Cliff Swallows can actually arrive at California nesting sites by early March, and, more often than not, news media may use footage of “the arrival” shows other species such as White-throated Swifts or European Starlings instead of Cliff Swallows.

Although there are several described subspecies, authorities differ as to their true validity. Distribution of the subspecies is complex, and there is evidence of considerable geographic overlap. There are two main subspecies. The Cliff Swallow subspecies can be found in northern Louisiana, with a range of “the arrival” shows other species such as White-throated Swifts or European Starlings instead of Cliff Swallows.

In north Louisiana, the species was first reported nesting in 1978, and since has greatly expanded its range. Part of this expansion is undoubtedly due to the species’ ability to adapt to nest in manmade structures. It is common for the species to nest in buildings, bridges, and other structures. The Cliff Swallow is a familiar sight along waterways, rivers, and streams. It is commonly seen nesting in bridges and culverts. The species is known for its ability to nest in a variety of locations, including buildings, bridges, and even tree cavities.

Hybrids

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one species is not present in a given area. The most likely hybrid is the intersection of two species, with the possibility of originating from some population other than the widespread breeder, erythrogaster, should be thoroughly documented. There are only three records of Cliff X Barn hybrids in Louisiana. How do you spot a hybrid? One would hypothesize that a Basic Plumaged First Generation hybrid would likely appear intermediate between the parental types. Therefore, an individual that possesses characters of two different species (or looks “in-between”) might be a hybrid. For example, a bird that superficially resembles a Cliff Swallow is likely to be a hybrid. Hybrid.
Because Cave and Cliff swallows share the most similarities, they understandably share much plumage resemblance. By using all of the plumage characters outlined above, one can usually distinguish these three species. To complicate matters, older field guides did not adequately illustrate the range of variation in forehead color of Cliff Swallow. Nevertheless, the differences in the upper parts (especially Cliff Swallows) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile plumages of all species as well as several drawings of Cave Swallow. But, even so, there still aren’t any truly perfect guides. The Siehley Guide to Birds has excellent illustrations and depicts the major subspecies types, age classes, and birds in flight. Interestingly, Siehley mentions that a small percentage of adult Cave Swallows can have their tails spotted. This character is not represented in specimens at LSUMNS, nor is it mentioned in the BNA account. If in fact this does occur, it must be relatively rare (perhaps these individuals are females). As for identification, Siehley’s oversimplification of forehead color, with depictions of “northern” Cliff Swallows with only white forehead patches versus “Mexican” Cliff Swallows with a “dappled” forehead. Like adults, it is generally easier to see the differences for the latitudinal extremes, but the situation is much more complicated (see below). The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America (3rd and 4th editions) also has fairly complete coverage, including both extremes of Cliff Swallow, and at least a “miniature” of Caribbean Cave. The 3rd edition incorrectly shows juvenile Cave Swallow with dark auriculars, but this has been corrected in the 4th edition; also, in both editions the juvenile Cliff Swallow looks too dark and uniform in the head. The Kaufman Focus Guide, Birds of North America, noted for its photographic style in a field guide format, is a throwback to the old simplistic field guides of the past. Kaufman shows promise (nice photos, nests included), but is woefully incomplete for these three species; e.g., juveniles, Caribbean Cave, Cave, in flight, and “Mexican” Cliff (dark forehead) are missing from his action in hand.

Similarly, the older “Golden Guide” Birds of North America only shows adults of Cliff and Cave (head only), only pale forehead Cliffs, and grayish juvenile Cliffs. In New World Swallows, the Eastern guide does not illustrate Cliff and Cave are omitted. Cliff and Cave are on separate pages (†), and two different head-only illustrations of “Mexican” Cliff are illustrated in color. The guide does not illustrate Cave Swallow and only shows adult Cliff with pale forehead.

One further consideration that could complicate identification: hybrids have been reported between all three species. More on this later.

Identification

Cliff Swallow

The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow is distinguished by the following combination of characteristics. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark rusty. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white collar, thereby forming a “mask.” Females have been recorded in winter in southern Texas with increasing frequency. Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States. 

August. There is one December record: 16-17 Dec 2002, Cameron, Cameron Co., where the species has been recorded in winter in southern Texas with increasing frequency.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.

Barn Swallow ( Hirundo rustica), as currently recognized as a single species, is a widespread breeder in the Northern Hemisphere. In North America, breeding occurs from southern Alaska, southern Yukon, western Mackenzie, northwestern and east-central South America, and extending south through the United States to the Gulf Coast, north-central Florida, and southern New Mexico, and occurring in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and the District Federal, central Puebla, and northern Veracruz. The species winters primarily in Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles, and from Panama south through most of South America. Some indications suggest that the species does winter along the California coast or in the southeastern United States.
Figure 2. Juvenile-plumaged swallows—with fully-grown wings and tail

![Comparison of Cave, Cliff, and Barn swallows in Juvenile Plumage. Young birds can be recognized by retention of the yellow edges at the base of the bill (gape). At or near mixed-species colonies, Barn Swallow is easy to identify by virtue of its forked tail. Note that, if the white feather bases are exposed, some juvenile Barns may appear to have white-streaked backs similar to Cave and Cliff. Cave and Cliff are similar to adults, but paler and duller. Cave is best recognized by the paler-headed, pale-faced, more capped appearance; darker face and dark spotting on the center of the upper breast are diagnostic for Cliff.](image1)

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Length (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cave Swallow</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliff Swallow</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barn Swallow</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Comparison of Cave and Cliff swallows. Note overall similarity of the adult swallows. Although, Caves and some Cliffs can have similarly colored forehead patches, the take home message from this illustration, is that Cave looks pale-headed and more distictively capped, whereas Cliff appears dark-headed by virtue of deeper chestnut cheeks and throat that show less contrast with the dark crown. The dark patch on the upper breast of Cliff is conspicuous.

![Comparison of adult Cave and Cliff swallows. Note overall similarity of the adult swallows. Although, Caves and some Cliffs can have similarly colored forehead patches, the take home message from this illustration, is that Cave looks pale-headed and more distictively capped, whereas Cliff appears dark-headed by virtue of deeper chestnut cheeks and throat that show less contrast with the dark crown. The dark patch on the upper breast of Cliff is conspicuous.](image2)
Figure 2. Comparison of Cave, Cliff, and Barn swallows in Juvenile Plumage. Young birds can be recognized by retention of the yellow edges at the base of the bill (gape). At or near mixed-species colonies, Barn Swallow is easy to identify by virtue of its forked tail. Note that, if the white feather bases are exposed, some juvenile Barns may appear to have white-streaked backs similar to Cave and Cliff. Cave and Cliff are similar to adults, but paler and duller. Cave is best recognized by the paler-headed, pale-faced, more capped appearance; darker face and dark spotting on the center of the upper breast are diagnostic for Cliff.

Figure 3. Comparison of adult Cave and Cliff swallows. Note overall similarity of the adult swallows. Although, Caves and some Cliffs can have similarly colored forehead patches, the take home message from this illustration, is that Cave looks pale-headed and more distinctively capped, whereas Cliff appears dark-headed by virtue of deeper chestnut cheeks and throat that show less contrast with the dark crown. The dark patch on the upper breast of Cliff is conspicuous.
Because Cave and Cliff swallows share the most similarities, they understandably present the greatest identification challenge among the three species. To complicate matters, older field guides are now largely out of print, and few contemporary guides illustrate Juvenal Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows normally have a white or very pale, yellowish-brown situation of their yellow gape and fresh plumage with pale, edgings to the feathers. Once they become independent of their parents, it is not unusual to see birds with unmarked heads. Juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Identification
Cliff Swallow

The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band identify this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.

Most recent North American field guides are more thorough, especially in illustrating Juvenile Plumages of all species as well as forehead color variation in the Cliff Swallow. But, if an observer has good views, then identification should be straightforward. The combination of a dark chest patch, buff or rusty rump, white-streaked back, notched tail, head pattern, and lack of a broken breast band will confirm this species in all plumages.

Definitive Basic Plumage. Sexes similar. In general, a Cliff Swallow can be readily distinguished from other species through several diagnostic characters. Individuals may show a full range of forehead color from white to dark chestnut. The throat is dark chestnut and is bordered at its base by a white line, therefore, a black line. The nape is uniformly dark brown. In Juveniles of both species, the forehead patch is reduced or even absent, and, when present, color and pattern varies from a small patch (ranging from pale to dusky rufous) to a spattering of white spots. In addition, juvenile Cliff swallows (especially Cliff) resting together on wires or bare branches; these situations provide excellent opportunities for studying the subtle plumage variation among individuals.
Cliff Swallow is reportedly becoming scarcer as a breeding species in the northeastern portion of its range. Although there is an increase in this species elsewhere, it continues to increase as a breeder. Cliff Swallows are legendary for their efficiency in controlling pests such as White-throated Swifts or European Starlings instead of Cliff Swallows.

Although there are several described subspecies, authorities differ as to their true validity. Distribution of the subspecies is complex, and there is considerable geographic overlap, which makes it difficult to determine the true validity of the subspecies. The subspecies is mainly based on Behle (1976), there are general trends for all, pale-fronted individuals to the north and east and smaller, darker-fronted individuals to the south and west. However, authorities differ as to their true validity.

In Louisiana, the species was first reported nesting in 1978, and since has greatly expanded its range. Part of this expansion is undoubtedly due to the species’ ability to adapt to manmade structures. The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: bridges and mud nests. In Louisiana, bridges and mud nests are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Away from breeding colonies, spring migrants probably peak during April and May, when new breeders arrive or move south. Individuals already in the area may leave breeding colonies beginning in mid-late July. Fall migrants away from breeding sites have been recorded as early as mid-late July (e.g., 27 July; Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana). Spring migrants on the Gulf of Mexico coast are more regularly observed starting mid-late August; peak numbers have been recorded on the coast in mid September (e.g., 2000 on 19 Sep). Hybrids have been reported nesting in the area (e.g., 1970 in Louisiana). The LEDS records for northern and central Louisiana are mid-late September; migrants continue to trickle through the southern parishes into mid-late October. As is typical of many other species that winter primarily in the southern United States, some northern breeders may venture further south and return in late spring. A few records in April and May are from the northern portion of the range and are likely to be those that are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

Northbound migrants start to appear in Louisiana and at colony sites by mid March, with active nest building in progress by late March. Away from breeding colonies, spring migrants probably peak during April and May, when new breeders arrive or move south. Individuals already in the area may leave breeding colonies beginning in mid-late July. Fall migrants away from breeding sites have been recorded as early as mid-late July (e.g., 27 July; Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana). Spring migrants on the Gulf of Mexico coast are more regularly observed starting mid-late August; peak numbers have been recorded on the coast in mid September (e.g., 2000 on 19 Sep). Hybrids have been reported nesting in the area (e.g., 1970 in Louisiana). The LEDS records for northern and central Louisiana are mid-late September; migrants continue to trickle through the southern parishes into mid-late October. As is typical of many other species that winter primarily in the southern United States, some northern breeders may venture further south and return in late spring. A few records in April and May are from the northern portion of the range and are likely to be those that are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

In Louisiana, the species was first reported nesting in 1978, and since has greatly expanded its range. Part of this expansion is undoubtedly due to the species’ ability to adapt to manmade structures. The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: bridges and mud nests. In Louisiana, bridges and mud nests are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one of the parent species is near or at its northern range limit. The only documented case of mixed pairing between Cliff and Cave swallows occurred when an extralimital Cave Swallow was painted with, and nested with a Cliff Swallow in Arizona (no exact location indicated). Cave Swallows are large, with a black head and back, pink or purplish rump, and brown or rufous tail, which blends into the metallic blue of the underparts. The red or brown tail feathers are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is generally associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: bridges and mud nests. In Louisiana, bridges and mud nests are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one of the parent species is near or at its northern range limit. The only documented case of mixed pairing between Cliff and Cave swallows occurred when an extralimital Cave Swallow was painted with, and nested with a Cliff Swallow in Arizona (no exact location indicated). Cave Swallows are large, with a black head and back, pink or purplish rump, and brown or rufous tail, which blends into the metallic blue of the underparts. The red or brown tail feathers are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is generally associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: bridges and mud nests. In Louisiana, bridges and mud nests are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one of the parent species is near or at its northern range limit. The only documented case of mixed pairing between Cliff and Cave swallows occurred when an extralimital Cave Swallow was painted with, and nested with a Cliff Swallow in Arizona (no exact location indicated). Cave Swallows are large, with a black head and back, pink or purplish rump, and brown or rufous tail, which blends into the metallic blue of the underparts. The red or brown tail feathers are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.

The breeding expansion of Cave Swallow is generally associated with the species’ nesting adaptability, moving from original nest sites in caves and cliffs to manmade structures: bridges and mud nests. In Louisiana, bridges and mud nests are not in short supply, and further expansion of breeding is anticipated.

Hybrids have been reported between all three species. All three species select similar breeding sites, namely bridges, freeway culverts, etc. One might hypothesize that a hybrid is more likely to occur when one of the parent species is near or at its northern range limit. The only documented case of mixed pairing between Cliff and Cave swallows occurred when an extralimital Cave Swallow was painted with, and nested with a Cliff Swallow in Arizona (no exact location indicated). Cave Swallows are large, with a black head and back, pink or purplish rump, and brown or rufous tail, which blends into the metallic blue of the underparts. The red or brown tail feathers are intermediate between Cliff and Barn or Cave, and no mixed pairs have so far been reported at Louisiana colonies.
but has a forked tail, lacks white back stripes, and has a hint of a partial breast band would be consistent with a first generation hybrid of Cliff X Barn. A hybrid between Barn Swallow X Cliff XCave swallows should be easiest to detect. Cliff X Cave (as yet undocumented) will be more easily recognizable as such a range of variation within Cliff Swallow, and a Cliff X Cave hybrid could easily be overlooked/dismissed as a Cliff Swallow. A “Cliff” with a rustly forehead, less back on the breast, and more buffiness on the under parts would be suggestive of a Cliff X Cave hybrid, but, again, it would be difficult to distinguish between what is within the “normal” range of variation for Cliff Swallow versus hybrid characters. Without specific evidence of forensic evaluation of pedigig (DNA analysis) it is probably impossible to know for sure whether a “suspiculous” individual is really a hybrid. Assuming that hybrids are “viable” and could subsequently breed with either parental type or other hybrids, continuing a second generation “backcross hybrid” would be even more difficult and probably impossible without voucher specimens and genetic analysis. For the most part, we will have to assume that birds at mixed-species colonies are “pure” until demonstrated otherwise (e.g., detection of mixed pairs, forensic analysis of DNA).

Interestingly there is a Louisiana specimen (found dead at Little Pecan Island, Cameron Par., 25 December 1990) tentatively (DNA of this individual has not yet been analyzed) identified as a Cliff X Barn hybrid based on a combination of plumage characters shared between these two species. This individual has a dark brown forehead patch, face pattern of Cliff, and brownish-buff throat with a small indistinct darker patch. The under parts of the under parts are dull white and the underparts are unmarked, except for a rusty wash. The back is metallic blue and unmarked like Barn. The rump patch is like a Cliff but dull brown, and the tail is like Barn. There is a metallic blue patch extending from the side at the shoulder onto breast, suggesting the partial breast band of a Barn Swallow. Superficially, this bird might suggest a Cave Swallow to an inexperienced observer.

Specimens and the Louisiana bird record card file at the LSU Museum of Natural Science provided an invaluable resource. Additional sources of information included:


December 2002

President Marty Guidry called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and thanked Linda Stewart Knight and Carl Sheely for their excellent program on The History of Ornithology in Louisiana and on Saturday Kelly Bryan will give a program on the Birds of the Fort Davis Mountains.

Three door prizes were given out to Andrea Mattison, Margie Griffin and Louise Hanhey.

Marty reminded folks to turn back their clocks tonight to Daylight Savings Time.

Marty read the checklist and there were 188 species seen in Cameron, Lafourche (RSB), Jefferson Davis (BMM, MG, CF), 187 were seen in Vermilion (JPK, CF, MG, JG) and 31 were here on 15 September (JPK, MS). On 25 August 110 Black-bellied Plovers were in fields north of Kaplan, Vermilion (BPP, DPM, RDP) and 32 were still here on 7 September (JPK, JG). There were only two reports of Snowy Owls, a threatened species: 1 on Elmer’s Island, Jefferson, on 19 August (BPP, DPM, RDP, CCS) and another on 7 October (DPM, BMM).

Good numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were found in late summer.

On 23 August 85 plovers were found on Turg Grass Road, Jefferson Davis (BPP, MG, JG) and 31 were here on 15 September (JPP, JG). On 25 August 110 Black-bellied Plovers were in fields north of Kaplan, Vermilion (BPP, DPM, RDP) and 32 were still here on 7 September (JPP, JG).

If you can catch a ride on a river harvesting combine in late October and November, you may get lucky as Mark Swan (who saw 30 Yellow- leged Terns in Southeastern Louisiana) reported a flock of 134 Sandhill Cranes was found at Grand Cote NWR, Rapides, on 12 November (MS) and 25 were also found near Houma, Jefferson (PP).

The Creole Nature Trail has been selected as one of the top twenty All American roads. This will qualify the highway for Federal funds and hopefully we will see some much needed pullouts in the future.

The officers and board members of LOS were introduced: Secretary/Treasurer Judith O’Neale, SW LA Board Member Gay Gomez and SE LA Board Member Lee Ellis, and Jim Ingold, ILO Editor. He also introduced Kay Radlauer and Dennis Diehmecsk as the new editors of the LOS News. Vice President Karen Fay and Past President David L’Hoste were unable to attend.

The Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes of the October 28, 2001 meeting. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Jim Ingold. Approved.

Judy O’Neale gave the financial report with the following highlights: Bank and CD balance $25,238.11 which includes $2,521.65 in the Ted Parker Youth Fund. Of this amount $5,000 has been pledged to help build the viewing tower at the East jetty parking area and $10,000 is set aside for Life Memberships. Nancy Newfield moved to accept the financial report and Steve Carroll seconded.

Marty thanked Linda Stewart Knight and Carl Sheely for their excellent program on The History of Ornithology in Louisiana and on Saturday Kelly Bryan will give a program on the Birds of the Fort Davis Mountains.

There was a new website, BirdLouisiana.com, which lists all the festivals and calendar of events for the state.

Special thanks to all the members of the Knights of Columbus who came out to support the festival and calendar of events for the state.

All American roads. This will qualify the highway for Federal funds and hopefully we will see some much needed pullouts in the future.
An amazing 7 Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were at 7 different locations: an adult female banded on 14 November 2000 returned to the Must residence in Lafayette, Lafayette, on 25 September (DP); an immature on 6 October near St. Gabriel, Iberville (VR); a female in Reserver, St. John, on 4-5 November (RS); an immature male banded on 6 November at the K. Knox residence in Lafayette, Lafayette (DP); an immature male banded on 11 November at the home of Margaret and John Owens, Covington, St. Tammany (NLN, JB, TW); an immu-

ture male at the home of Lynn Becnel, Donaldsonville, Ascension, banded on 1 November (NLN, JB, TW) and another at Mira-bseau Gardens in New Orleans, Orleans, on 18 November (DP). Finally, an adult male Rufous Hummingbird was found at the Grand Isle Cem-

tery, Jefferson, on 7 October (DP).

Full 2001 produced a good many flycatcher reports. There were 2 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher - one bird on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 19 August (BMM, BDP, RDP) and 2 birds near Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 4 September (MS). There were also 2 re-

ports of Yellow-rumped Flycatcher, both of single birds, one near L.S.U. East Baton Rouge, on 18 August and the other at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 6 October (MS). An Alder Flycatcher was both seen and heard near L.S.U. East Baton Rouge, on 22 August. Two Willow Flycatchers were found at Peveto Woods Sanctuaries, Cameron, on 18 August (MS-VT with sound, CL). There were 5 reports of single Vermilion Flycatchers: the first on 14 October west of Johnson Bayou High School, Cameron (MS), different birds on 21 October, Jefferson (ST), and another was found in Calcasieu on 24 October (DP). In Vermilion 2 were found along LA 13 on 17 November (DP). A single bird was found on 24 November at Johnson’s Bayou, Cameron (DP, BMM) and 2 birds were found west of Johnson’s Bayou, Cameron, on LA 82 (MS, DPM, BMM, CCB). A strange kingbird, possibly an Eastern Kingbird or a hybrid, was seen south of the L.S.U Vet School, East Baton Rouge, on 23-24 August (MS, SWC, DLD). The presence of an adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher with 3 juveniles on 17 August just west of Jonesville, Catahoula, is evidence for nesting in east-central Louisiana (Beth H. Williams). An exceptionally large number of Scissor-tailed Fly-

catchers, 200, were found in the Shreveport area, Caddo, on 5 Sep-


Number To Register = x $10.00 = ___________ Number of Roast Beef _______

Meeting Check Total = ___________

Total money in checks enclosed = ___________

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS WINTER MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

January 24th - 26th 2003

Name(s) ____________________________

City ____________________________ State Zip ____________

Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Number To Register = x $10.00 = ___________

Number For Dinner = x $13.00 = ___________

Number of Roast Beef _______

Number of Baked Chicken _______

2003 LOS Membership Dues = ___________

(Separate checks and note for whom, please!)

Winter Meeting Field Trips – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time trip or field trip.

All-Day Trip – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail Marsh

• Saturday, January 25th

• Sunday, January 26th

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.

Choose Dinner Entree

Choose Lunch Entree

Table check total = ___________

Number of Baked Chicken _______

Winter Meeting Field Trips

continued

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.

Winter Meeting Field Trips – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time trip or field trip.

All-Day Trip – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail Marsh

• Saturday, January 25th

• Sunday, January 26th

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.

Winter Meeting Field Trips – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time trip or field trip.

All-Day Trip – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail Marsh

• Saturday, January 25th

• Sunday, January 26th

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.

Winter Meeting Field Trips – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time trip or field trip.

All-Day Trip – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail Marsh

• Saturday, January 25th

• Sunday, January 26th

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.

Winter Meeting Field Trips – Please choose the trips you wish to participate in by checking the following form. Trip participation is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. If your desired trip is filled, you may be moved to another time trip or field trip.

All-Day Trip – Cameron Beach, Sabine Lake & Cattail Marsh

• Saturday, January 25th

• Sunday, January 26th

Make checks payable to LOS and mail before Monday, January 6th to:

Louise M. Hanchey
305 Jeanine St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605-4455

LOS Meeting check can be refunded if cancelled by Wednesday, January 8th.
**2003 LOS WINTER MEETING - can’t**

Hotel also has Suites:
- Standard $89 plus tax (normally $99)
- Kitchenette, Living room with double size sleeper sofa, Bedroom with King size bed
- Deluxe $99 plus tax (normally $119)

Full kitchen, Living room with double size sleeper sofa, fireplace, Bedroom with King size bed or two queen size beds, whirlpool tubs
- Some can connect with another bedroom.

These room rates are for one or two persons with an extra $10 for each additional person.

Other amenities: courtesy airport transportation, free local phone calls, morning newspaper, T.V., clock radio, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, etc.

All room rates include a full buffet breakfast (over 50 items) in the club house. For our convenience it will be open at 6 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings.

For room reservations be sure to mention La. Ornithological Society Meeting, January 24 – 25 to assure getting the special rate!

5 – 6:30 PM Friday and Saturday evening a complimentary hospitality reception in the Club House for all registered guests featuring a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and snacks.

6:30 PM Friday LOS registration will begin in the Jean Lafitte Room with meeting beginning at 7:15 PM.

6:30 PM Saturday evening dinner will be a seated meal, not a buffet. To be able to offer two entree choices at a $13.00 price we must select which entree we want at pre-registration. The choices are Sliced Roast Beef with gravy or Baked Chicken Breast. Monday January 26 will be the deadline to register to attend the dinner.

**WINTER MEETING FIELD TRIPS**

The All-Day trip will leave at 7 AM and return at 5 PM. Half-Day trips will run concurrently and each will be conducted three times (Saturday from 7 AM until noon, Saturday 1 PM until 5 PM, Sunday 7 AM until noon.)

Field Trip Departures

Departures will be from the rear parking lot of the hotel by convoy in personal cars. Each field trip leader will have a colored flag to coincide with the color assigned to that trip. At registration, attendees will be given color tickets for their chosen trips.

All-Day Trip (Red)

Cameron Hwy 82 W Beach
Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island (Port Arthur, TX)
Tyrell Park and Catall Marsh (Beaumont, TX)

Trip will be split into two groups. Group A will begin with Cameron Beach and proceed to other places. Group B will go directly to Tyrell Park and Catall Marsh then back by Sabine Lake and Pleasure Island and last to Cameron Beach.


Half-Day Trips

**Carlsys area (Green):**
1133 ponds, Hwy 108, Choupique, Gum Island, Fabacher, Gum Cove, Charlie and Ellis Moss roads to Ellendor Bridge, Ship channel, Devard road to Erwin Oil Field.

Area Birds: Ducks, Anhinga, Migrants, Sparrows, Kites, Hawks, Caracara, Wading Birds, Shore Birds, Rails, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Black Skimmers.

**East Calcasieu Parish (Yellow):**

- Rice fields east of Municipal Airport, Lionel Derouen, Fruge’, Rossignal roads, Hwy 14, Lacassine NWR Pool, Lacassine NWR
- Headquarters and Stretcher Rd.


**North West Calcasieu Parish (Blue):**

- Grey Rd. to Ged and Ged Lake, WPA Rd., Houston River Rd., Navajo Trail, Big Woods, Route 66, Marcantel Rd.

Please complete and return the Registration Form on the next page!

---

**December 2002 LOS Newsletter**

least 0.5 million Tree Swallows, perhaps as many as several million, dropped into the sugarcane at dusk (IPK). About 1200 Barn Swallows were counted between Rascaland, Lafouche, and Kaplan, Vermilion, on 1 September (BMM, CCB, PAW). A late Barn Swallow was still present at Cross Lake, Caddo, on 21 November (JT, Je, MS, CL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch arrived in the state in late October. One was seen in the town of Cameron, Cameron, on 27 October (MS, m. ob.) and another (or the same) on 25 November (DPM). A Rock Wren was found on the Lighthouse Road, Cameron, on 28 October (RS, MW). A Northern Wheatear was found near Elmier’s Island, Jefferson or Lafouche, on 7 October (BMM, DPM) and found again on 14 October (BMM, DPM, Charles Muth, CL-VT, VT, Jerry Davis). The bird could not be relocated on the 15th (MS). A large number of Swainson’s Thrushes migrated over Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, on the night of 6 October (MS). A late Swainson’s Thrush was at Garner’s Ridge, Cameron on 28 October (PAW). A Sage Thrasher was found by Beth and Lyndel Wills (ph) and Lois Rodgers on 27 October (the Secret Place, Cameron). It was seen by other (CK, MS-VT, CL-VT, m. ob.) later that day. The bird was still present on 28 October (DPM-ph).

The following warbler species were found in the Surette Woods, Grand Isle, Jefferson. Blue-winged Warbler, 3, on 9 September; Palm Warbler, 2, on 9 September; Mourning Warbler, 1, on 9 September; and Canada Warbler, 1, on 25 August (LE). A Golden-winged Warbler was at St. Gabriel, Iberville, on 12 October (MS). A Nashville Warbler was early at Bickham Dickson Park, Caddo, on 2 September (Je). Another Nashville Warbler was at the Grand Isle, LA, Jefferson, on 14 October (DPM). A Northern Parula was at Mirabeau Gardens, New Orleans, Orleans, on 11 and 12 November as was a Yellow-breasted Chat on the 12th (DPM). Alaine Black-throated Green Warbler was present at Lake Martin, St. Martin, on 29 November (RCD). Palm Warblers, 20, made a good showing on 7 October at Fourche, Lafourche, and Grand Isle, Jefferson (BMM, DPM, RDP). These were the western subspecies. On 5 September a Cerulean Warbler was present at the Clifford-Dittmann residence, Iberville (MS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at Oak Grove, Cameron, on 10 November (MS). A spectacular concentration of 500+ Common Yellowthroats on 29 September at the McElroy Swamp, Ascension, were undoubtedly mostly migrants (BH).

Two Wilson’s Warblers were present on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 7 October (DPM) and 3 was there on 15 October (MS).

A Spotted Towhee was found at Pevery Woods Sanctuary, Cameron, on 24 November (Donna Bordelon) and refound on 22 December (MS-VT). A Clay-colored Sparrow, an uncommon migrant, was found at Brechtel Park, Orleans, on 19 October (LI). Another Clay-colored Sparrow was seen on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, on 27 October (DPM). A Lark Sparrow was on Grand Isle, Jefferson, on 22 September (PAW, BMM, CCB). On 27 October near Oak Grove, Cameron, another Lark Sparrow was present (MS, CL, BF). Two Lincoln Sparrows were found at Fournour Beach, Lafourche, where they are rare in fall on 7 October (DPM, BMM).

Stephan Pagans and Joan Brown found a Harris’ Sparrow just east of Start, Richmond, on 7 November.

On 9 September an early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found on Grand Isle, Jefferson (LI). A Black-headed Grosbeak was identified by Kay Drout at her home near Lafayette, Lafouche, and was subsequently videotaped by Mark Swan on 16 November. Another Black-
After 10 years the LOS Winter Meeting will return to Lake Charles. We are fortunate to have as our Saturday evening speaker Kelly Bryan, who will give a presentation on “Birds of The Davis Mountains.” Kelly’s program will characterize and describe the Davis Mountains, comparing them to other mountain ranges in the region. He will present other important aspects of this area’s avifauna, including tape recordings of songs of selected bird species.

Kelly obtained a Masters Degree from Sam Houston State University and began his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service at Huntsville State Park. He went on to serve 18 years as Superintendent for Kickapoo Cavern and the Davis Mountains State Parks. He was then appointed Coordinator of Natural Resources Management for all of the West Texas State Parks. He retired from this position in 2002. His wide personal interests include banding and drawing birds, photography, recording bird songs and serving as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department.

Kelly’s intensive studies of the avifauna of the Davis Mountains began in 1991 and continue today. His investigations have led to the discovery of one species new to Texas. With each passing year new discoveries continue to be added.

The Davis Mountains of West Texas have been characterized as one of the last ornithological wildernesses in the state. Unlike the nearby Guadalupe and Chisos Mountains, which are included in the National Parks, the Davis Mountain range has remained almost entirely privately owned. The discovery of nesting Buff-breasted Flycatchers there in 1999 provided a new species to the state’s bird list, as well as a first nesting record. Photographs obtained of the Olive Warbler (1992), Berylline Hummingbird (1997), and the Slate-throated Redstart (1997 and 2002) represent the first documented records for Texas. Additional first Texas nesting records include the Gray Flycatcher (1991), White-eared Hummingbird (1993 probable), Mountain Bluebird (1995), Dusky Flycatcher (2000), Greater Pewee (2002), and MacGillivray’s Warbler (2002) as well as many other important records/observations of birds.

Our Friday evening speaker will be our own Dr. Jim Ingold, Professor of Ornithology from the Department of Biological Sciences, LSU-Shreveport. He also serves as Editor of the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology. His talk will be the “History of Louisiana Ornithology,” the paper he presented in 2002 at the North American Ornithological Conference in New Orleans. Jim said while he was working on an annotated bibliography of Louisiana Ornithology, he became interested in Louisiana’s role in the science of ornithology from pre-history to Audubon, and from Edmund McRae to George Lowery of LSU and his students, on up to 2002. Many of our state organization members should be very interested in the talk, as they have lived through part of this history!

Headquarters for the Winter Meeting is the Best Western Richmond Suites Hotel, which is currently undergoing a total remodeling and refurbishing of all rooms. It is located just off I-10 on Hwy 171 (see map.) LOS has a reserved block of 40 rooms, which the hotel will hold for us until January 10th at a special rate of $79 (normally $89) for their standard rooms:
- Executive Queen – oversized room with a queen bed and love seat that converts to twin size sleeper
- Double/Double – oversized room with two double beds
- King – oversized room with King size bed