

# LOS

# NEWS



[www.losbird.org](http://www.losbird.org)

NEWSLETTER OF THE

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

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**Submission Deadline**  
**Fall LOS News**  
**September 1, 2011**

*Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*  
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## 2011 LOS SPRING MEETING

Friday and Saturday, April 29-30  
Cameron/Creole

Please join us in the birding paradise of Cameron Parish for our spring meeting. We will search the Cheniers, the beaches and the marshes for everything that flies!

### Friday, April 29, 2011

#### **First Baptist Church in Cameron on Marshall Street**

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Registration**

Light snacks will be provided by the Cameron Parish Tourist Commission.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Meeting and Evening Program: "The Birds of Western Cuba: A Study of Endemic and Non Endemic Species".**

**Bob Loudon** will talk about his recent trip to Cuba along with many other LOS members. Bob is retired from a career of industrial automation and instrumentation. His retirement vocation is photography, getting challenging photographs of wildlife and birds. Bob is a Ham Radio operator, a computer guy and a piddle in his shop fixing-things guy; but nothing preempts photography. Bob has said "Some folks have bass boats to go out and catch that trophy fish, or hunting camps and fine rifles to bag that big buck. I have chosen to let my subjects live on so I can capture them again and again in the wonderment of life's action play."

### Saturday, April 30, 2011

7:00 a.m.

#### **Field Trip**

Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel. Ed Wallace will lead a field trip to the Cameron Parish hot spots.

### Saturday, April 30, 2011

#### **Creole Community Center (see directions on page 2)**

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Registration**

7:00 p.m.

**Meal -Brisket dinner prepared by the Cameron Catering Ladies**

7:30 p.m.

**Meeting and Evening Program: Window on Bluebonnet Swamp: What Birds and Birders Find by John and Cindy Hartgerink**

Often advertised as a small piece of a swamp in the city, BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center provides one's mind with a bit of peace. Birds and birders have nearby access to a welcome change from urban living. A PowerPoint presentation of photos will show some of the birds that can be found there and what some of the birds can find there. John & Cindy Hartgerink live 5 minutes away and have been visiting and photographing flora and fauna since 2001. John grew up in Zeeland, MI, and graduated as a Chemical Engineer from the University of Michigan. Cindy grew up in the area around Opelousas and graduated as a math major from USL. They met at work at ExxonMobil in Baton Rouge and are both retired after more than 35 years there. John does the photography.

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Cindy helps with the spotting of subjects and maintains the computer systems and files to store and juggle more than 200,000 photos of Bluebonnet Swamp.

**Cameron Accommodations:**

The phone number for the Cameron Motel is 337-775-5442. The Cameron Motel also has sites available for RV campers. Several eating places are open in Cameron and Creole. Other accommodations can be found in Sulphur or Lake Charles.

**Directions to the Creole Community Center:**

The Creole Community Center/Fire Station is approximately 15-20 minutes from the Cameron Motel. It is ¼ mile east of the only traffic light in Creole (Parish Road 1143). It is on the right hand side of the road with a big fenced parking lot.

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## LBRC ANNUAL Meeting The Louisiana Bird Records Committee March 14, 2011

At the meeting, newly elected Members Nancy Newfield, John Dillon, and Erik Johnson joined Paul Conover, Steve Cardiff, Donna Dittmann, Jim Ingold, Curtis Sorrells, and Phillip Wallace on the now, 9-person committee at the meeting.

The committee is charged with reviewing and determining the status of rare birds that are observed and reported within the state. At the meeting, the committee reviewed about 90 records of Review List species and accepted 86. Most of these were recent, uncontroversial photo-documented records viewable online at the LOS-LBRC "Pending Records" pages and reviewed by the Members in advance as "homework." The few "unaccepted" records will get a fresh start through the normal circulation process.

The committee also voted to remove Cave Swallow from the Review List. They will no longer review Cave Swallow reports from after 12 March, 2011. But ask that 3 x 5 cards for earlier records to still be submitted,

Additional information about the committee and the bird records that are under consideration can be found on the LOS web site, <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/lbrc.htm>, as well as the Full details of all LBRC Annual Meetings.

*Information above is from information posted on LABIRD by LBRC Chairman, Steven Cardiff.*

## LDWF Announces Whooping Cranes Return to Louisiana



Feb. 7, 2011 - The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) announced today that it will be re-introducing the whooping crane to Louisiana later this month. The Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(USFWS) cleared the way for the crane's return with approval for an experimental population in southwest Louisiana.

Governor Bobby Jindal said, "Adding the whooping crane to our diverse collection of bird species further demonstrates our state's commitment to restoring and revitalizing our coastal regions. This announcement today is another step forward in growing and enriching our state's wildlife species and preserving our one-of-a-kind Louisiana wetlands."

The last record of a whooping crane in Louisiana dates back to 1950, when the last surviving whooping crane was removed from Vermilion Parish property that is now part of LDWF's White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WCA). Habitat loss and unrestricted hunting led to population declines nationwide and on the North American continent in the last century. The last bird in southwest Louisiana was removed to a sanctuary in 1950. LDWF in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit plan to release the first group of ten non-migratory whooping cranes at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in February.

LDWF Secretary Robert Barham said, "LDWF has proven through implementing recovery efforts for species like the American alligator and the brown pelican, our state's expertise and willingness in implementing a long-term restoration plan for our most delicate wildlife."

The proposed designation of a non-migratory flock of whooping cranes for reintroduction to Louisiana was first published in the Federal Register on August 19, 2010. Public comments were received and two public hearings (Gueydan and Baton Rouge) were held to allow public comment. Comments were accepted through October 18, 2010, and were generally found to be supportive of the overall reintroduction effort.

*Continued on page 3*

### *Make a note ...*

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Fall meeting .....October 28-29, 2011 .....Cameron LA  
 Winter Meeting.....January 27-28, 2012 .....Lake Charles LA  
 More information will be posted on the LOS website as it becomes available. [www.losbird.org](http://www.losbird.org)

#### DEADLINE

We welcome submission from readers and others.  
 Submission deadline date for Fall LOS NEWS is September 1, 2011

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The non-essential, experimental flock coming to Louisiana will carry that designation under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This designation and its implementing regulation, as announced February 3 in the Federal Register, are developed to be more compatible with routine human activities in the reintroduction area.

Whooping cranes are the most endangered of all of the world's crane species, first added to the list of endangered species on March 11, 1967. Louisiana's reintroduction is part of a larger ongoing recovery effort led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners for this highly imperiled species, which was on the verge of extinction in the 1940s and even today has only about 400 individuals in the wild.

The only self-sustaining wild population of whooping cranes migrates between Wood Buffalo National Park in the Northwest Territories of Canada and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Like those in the eastern migratory population, it remains vulnerable to extinction from continued loss of habitat or natural or man-made catastrophes. Multiple efforts are underway to reduce this risk and bring this magnificent bird further along its path to recovery. This includes increasing populations in the wild, ongoing efforts to establish a migratory population in the eastern United States, and establishing a resident population in Louisiana.

For more information on whooping cranes and the re-introduction of whooping cranes to Louisiana, please visit the LDWF's website at [www.wlf.la.gov](http://www.wlf.la.gov) or the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast> and the International Crane Foundation at: <http://www.savingcranes.org/>

Editors: For more information contact Bo Boehringer at 225-765-5115 or [bboehringer@wlf.la.gov](mailto:bboehringer@wlf.la.gov).

*Because of its importance, I am including this press release as issued. Editor*

## LOS Award Research Grant

Emily J. Lain, a graduate student in the Dr. Frank R. Moore lab in the Migratory Bird Research Group, Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi, was awarded a \$500 research grant by LOS. This will allow her to purchase mist nets. Emily will study the effects of hurricane disturbance on migratory landbirds during spring stopover at a Louisiana Chenier. Her Chenier forest research site will be in the Johnson's Bayou area. We wish her the best of luck with her research objectives.

*Good Banding Emily!*

## LOS Awards 2011 Ted Parker Youth Scholarship

LOS has awarded Alex Haun a \$500 Ted Parker Youth Scholarship Grant to attend the ABA Young Birder Camp in Colorado this summer. Alex is a 14 year-old student at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge and just loves birds. He has been a birder for about 3 years and has a life list of over 100 species. He is a member of the "Kids Who Bird" Club led by Jane Patterson, the Baton Rouge Audubon Society, and the American Birding Association. Alex has volunteered to help Jane with the BRAS booth at Earth Day and has participated in the Baton Rouge Christmas Bird Count the past 2 years. He hopes to become an ornithologist when he grows up. LOS is pleased to sponsor such an inspiring young man.

## LOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Dues are payable January 1st of each year;  
Please check your mailing label for expiration date.*

Renewal  New Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### DUES STRUCTURE:

___ Regular:	\$20.00/yr	
___ Family:	\$25.00/yr	
___ Junior (under 14):	\$7.50/yr	
___ Student:	\$10.00/yr	
___ Senior (over 65):	\$15.00/yr	
___ Senior Family:	\$20.00/yr	*Please add \$2.00 for foreign subscriptions
___ Library	\$15.00/yr*	
___ Contributing:	\$50.00/yr	
___ Sustaining:	\$100.00/yr	**Installments may be arranged for Life memberships
___ Life:	\$300.00**	
___ Family Life:	\$500**	

Make check payable to: **LOS**

Send to: Judith L. O'Neale, LOS Treasurer  
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508-6362

## New Members

John Dillon, Athens  
Ron & Cheryl Durand, New Iberia  
Elizabeth "Kim" Hough, Marrero  
Eva Lydick, Carencro  
William Matthews, Monroe  
David & Sharon Spaulding, Shreveport

## New Life Members

Roger and Barbara Breedlove, Alexandria  
Marty Floyd, Cheneyville

## In Memoriam

Juanita Grimes  
Byron Gathright

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

**www.losbird.org**



**Judith O'Neale**  
**Louisiana Ornithological Society**  
**504 Whitebark**  
**Lafayette, LA 70508**

Return Service Requested

PRSRT STD.  
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 Permit No. 507

*Dues are payable in January of each year; Please check your mailing label.*

**- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -**  
**LOS 2011 SPRING MEETING – CAMERON/CREOLE, LA**  
**FRIDAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 29-30, 2011**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number registering for meeting \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number registering for Saturday's dinner \_\_\_\_\_ at \$12.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2011 Membership Dues

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

**Complete form and send with check payable to LOS to:**  
 Judith O'Neale, 504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette LA 70508  
***jloneale@aol.com • www.losbird.org***