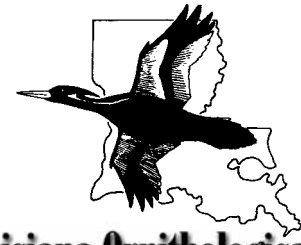


## LOS

## NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Louisiana Ornithological Society

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**Submission Deadline**  
**Spring LOS News**  
**March 1, 2012**

*Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*  
Jennifer O. Coulson  
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## 2012 LOS WINTER MEETING

Friday and Saturday, January 27-28, 2012

Lake Charles

The Gulf Coast Bird Club of Lake Charles will host the LOS Winter Meeting. Coastal Cheniers, marshes and flooded rice fields make for wonderful birding opportunities. Our programs will feature two endangered birds, the Red Cockaded Woodpecker and the Whooping Crane. Two Saturday field trips are planned: one to the coast and one to Lacassine Pool and the rice fields of the Thornwell area.

**Meeting Location: LaQuinta, 101 W. Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles 337-478-9889.** A block of rooms has been reserved. Breakfast will be served from 7-10 AM. The meetings will be held in the Contraband Room next door to the hotel. Please book early. Rooms are \$114 (excluding tax). There is a Springhill Suites by Marriot next door and a Wyndham Place down the road.

### Friday, January 27, 2012

**6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration in the Contraband Room.** Light snacks will be provided by the Gulf Coast Bird Club.

**7:00 - 8 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program - Eric Baka** is the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Coordinator for the LA Wildlife and Fisheries. He will give us an overview of the program and an update on the woodpeckers.

### Saturday, January 28, 2012

**7:30 a. m. - Field Trips:** Bring lunch, drinks and Walkie Talkies! **Meet in LaQuinta parking lot.**  
**Cameron field trip** led by Ed Wallace.  
**Lacassine Pool/Thornwell rice field trip** led by Gene Barnett and Bill Gover.

**6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Registration in the Contraband Room**

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner - \$21** includes Baked Chicken, Shrimp Alfredo over Pasta, Tossed Green Salad, Pasta Salad, Mashed Garlic Potatoes, Rice Dressing, Asparagus with Cheese Sauce, Mixed Vegetables, Praline Cheesecake and Mississippi Mud Cake.

**BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012!**

**7:30 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program - Carrie Salyers** from the LWL&F will talk on the "Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Southwestern Louisiana."

*Registration form on page 6*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WOW, the LOS fall meeting could not have hit at a better time - sort of like the lining up of the stars and the planets: the "perfect storm," so to speak. A cool front blessed us, sweeping down into Cameron on Thursday. Lots of eyes and ears (you LOS members) and many others in the area, to raise the total number of birds seen on Saturday (Oct. 29) to over 180, a very high number for a fall meeting. Then there were the rarities that were duly noted: Back-headed Grosbeck, Bullock's Oriole, Yellow-headed Blackbird, for example. These are the great moments of coming to Cameron Parish to bird. You may ask yourself (I know I did for years) WHY bird in a group? More eyes, more opportunity to see a new bird for you or for me. I started as a solo birder, binocs and book in hand, traveling and casually birding across the country. Heaven knows what I missed seeing - just me, my book, and my binocs. I'll never know. Suddenly I discovered the benefits of birding in a group or cluster, at an event. However you want to look at it, if I'm in the vicinity of a group and hear about a bird somewhere nearby, there's a much better chance I'll see the bird.

LOS also offers me an opportunity to go into areas that may be restricted at other times of the year. I know where I can go and what is off limits. (Believe me, I don't like being in the wrong place at the wrong time!)

At the meeting, Phil Stouffer covered a very critical topic on Louisiana's Grassland Birds - the good, the bad, and the ugly facts of what may lay ahead for all of us who love to try to see the lbjs (little brown jobs, i.e. sparrows). Wrapping up the Saturday day of excellent birding of course, the Cameron area folks (Cameron Parish Tourist Commission, Sammy Faulk, Joann Nunez, Cyndi Sellers, and the Cameron 4-H Foundation) kept us well fed.

Our next LOS meeting will be Jan 27-29, 2012, in Lake Charles. Come join us. It should offer great opportunities.

*Linda Stewart Knight, LOS President*

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOS BYLAWS OCTOBER 29, 2011

The current Bylaws read:

#### ARTICLE VII: FUNDS

Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Finance Committee but shall be limited to investments on the "Legal List" (Louisiana Revised Statutes 1950 9:2061), mutual funds, or any other investments which may be made legal and available.

Because the "Legal List" was abolished in 1962 and replaced by the "prudent man rule," our Bylaws need to be revised to eliminate this phrase.

#### PROPOSED CHANGE:

#### Article VII: Funds

Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Treasurer. Funds should be invested to produce maximum total return consistent with prudent risk limits.

LOS Bylaws may be amended by a (2/3) vote of members present at any legal meeting.

### LOS LOGO-IMPRINTED MERCHANDISE

We now have available customized Louisiana Ornithological Society merchandise with personal choice of • LOS logo/logos • size and placement of the logo/logos • color • size • personalization

To order, go to our LOS web site - losbird.org and click on "LOS shop online" and then "LOS Imprint store."

*Judith O'Neale, LOS Treasurer*  
*jloneale@aol.com*

### NEW BOARD MEMBER

Christine Kooi has replaced Curt Sorrel as the SE Board Member.

*Make a note . . .*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS\*

**Spring Meeting:**

Cameron LA

April 27-29, 2012

**Fall Meeting:**

Cameron LA

October 26-28, 2012

\*More information will be posted on the LOS website as it becomes available. [www.losbird.org](http://www.losbird.org)

### DEADLINE

Submission deadline date for Spring LOS News is March 1, 2012

## LOS FALL MEETING BIRDS, OCT 2011

Bl.-bel. Whistling-Duck	Greater Wh.-fr. Goose	Snow Goose
Ross's Goose	Gadwall	American Wigeon
Mottled Duck	Blue-winged Teal	Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail	Green-winged Teal	Redhead
Red-breasted Merganser	Eared Grebe	Pied-billed Grebe
American White Pelican	Brown Pelican	Neotropic Cormorant
D.-crested Cormorant	American Bittern	Great Blue Heron
Great Egret	Snowy Egret	Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron	Reddish Egret	Cattle Egret
Green Heron	Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	Yel.-cr. Night-Heron
White Ibis	White-faced Ibis	Roseate Spoonbill
Black Vulture	Turkey Vulture	Osprey
White-tailed Kite	Northern Harrier	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk	Red-shouldered Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk	Bald Eagle	Crested Caracara
American Kestrel	Merlin	Peregrine Falcon
Clapper Rail	King Rail	Virginia Rail
Sora	Common Gallinule	Purple Gallinule
American Coot	Black-bellied Plover	Snowy Plover
Semipalmated Plover	Piping Plover	Killdeer
American Oystercatcher	Black-necked Stilt	American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper	Solitary Sandpiper	Greater Yellowlegs
Willet	Lesser Yellowlegs	Whimbrel
Long-billed Curlew	Marbled Godwit	Ruddy Turnstone
Sanderling	Western Sandpiper	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper	Dunlin	Stilt Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher	Wilson's Snipe	Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull	Bonaparte's Gull	Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Gull-billed Tern
Caspian Tern	Common Tern	Forster's Tern
Royal Tern	Sandwich Tern	Black Skimmer
Rock Pigeon	Eurasian Collared-Dove	White-winged Dove
Mourning Dove	Inca Dove	Common Ground-Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Barn Owl	Great Horned Owl
Chuck-will's-widow	Ru.-th. Hummingbird	Belted Kingfisher
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Flicker	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Least Flycatcher	Eastern Phoebe	Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Loggerhead Shrike
Bell's Vireo	Blue-headed Vireo	Philadelphia Vireo
Blue Jay	American Crow	Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Cave Swallow	Barn Swallow
Brown Creeper	Carolina Wren	House Wren
Winter Wren	Sedge Wren	Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Swainson's Thrush	Hermit Thrush	Wood Thrush
American Robin	Gray Catbird	Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher	European Starling	American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing	Tennessee Warbler	Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Townsend's Warbler
Bl.-th. Green Warbler	Palm Warbler	Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart	Common Yellowthroat	Wilson's Warbler
Summer Tanager	Scarlet Tanager	Spotted Towhee
Eastern Towhee	Chipping Sparrow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Field Sparrow	Vesper Sparrow	Lark Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow	Grasshopper Sparrow	Le Conte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sh.-tail. Sparrow	Seaside Sparrow	Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow	White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco	Northern Cardinal
Black-headed Grosbeak	Blue Grosbeak	Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting	Dickcissel	Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle	Great-tailed Grackle	Bronzed Cowbird
Brown-headed Cowbird	Orchard Oriole	Bullock's Oriole
Baltimore Oriole	House Sparrow	

197 Species


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

## RESOURCE USE AND STOPOVER ECOLOGY OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS

*T.J. Zenzal, Migratory Bird Research Group  
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern  
Mississippi*

My graduate research focuses on the stopover ecology and resource of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (RTHU) at a coastal stopover site in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The narrow woodlands (cheniers) along the Louisiana gulf coast are thought to provide valuable habitat for migratory birds before and after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. RTHUs face challenges during stopover, including the need to acquire resources to meet energetic/nutritional demands in a short period, cope with competition from other migrants and residents, and face the threat of predation. My research focuses on how RTHUs respond to variation in the

*Continued on page 5*

### From Alex Haun, 2011 Ted Parker Award Winner

I am a proud member of the following birding clubs and organizations: Kids Who Bird, BRAS, LOS, National Audubon Society, and ABA. From June 25 to July 2, I got the special opportunity to attend the 2011 Young Birders' Camp in Woodland Park, Colorado, sponsored by ABA. My trip was possible because of the generous grants from BRAS and LOS.

Our group was made up of about 10 boys and girls from around the U.S. and one from Costa Rica. We had three highly trained counselors, Jennie Duberstein, Bill Schmoker, and Chip Clouse. We camped each night at the Catamount Institute's Mountain Campus in tents. We bird watched in many unique places like Chico Basin Ranch, Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs, Hayman Fire of 2001, Arkansas River Valley, Nature Conservancy's Medano-Zapata Ranch, Pueblo Reservoir and others. I saw a total of 151 species of birds on this trip. About 70 of which I had never seen in the wild before. I can't list them all in this article but my favorites were the Scaled Quail, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Blue Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher, Chihuahuan Raven, Pinyon Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Lewis's Woodpecker, Burrowing Owl, Flammulated Owl, Prairie Falcon, and a Golden Eagle.

I hope many birders get to see the beautiful birds that I and the other campers saw. It was fun to make new friends and share all our pictures and memories with others. I am really happy I got the chance to go on this trip and look forward to going on another birding camp adventure next summer!

*Alex Haun, 9th grader, Baton Rouge, LA*

## THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE DISTURBANCE ON MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS DURING SPRING STOPOVER IN A LOUISIANA CHENIER

*Emily J. Lain, Migratory Bird Research Group  
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi*

The goal of my graduate research is to examine the effects of hurricane disturbance on the habitat relations of migratory songbirds. For this project, I am using nearly 20 years of bird banding data collected on the stopover biology of migratory birds in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. About two-thirds of eastern North American forest-breeding songbird species migrate twice annually between temperate breeding areas and subtropical and tropical wintering grounds. Many of these migrants stop to rest and refuel along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. In southwestern Louisiana, coastal beach ridge forests called cheniers are the only forested habitat in the region, and they serve as important stopover sites for migrant songbirds. Because cheniers serve as critical stopover habitat for migratory birds, the disturbances that alter them may affect the ability of migrants to rest and replenish important fuel stores. With two major hurricanes severely impacting this region since 2005, an opportunity was presented to examine the impacts of these disturbances on habitat and migrant-habitat relations during spring migration.

My research consists of assessing changes in two main components after hurricane induced habitat changes: (1) bird species assemblages, and (2). stopover biology (e.g. habitat use, stopover length, mass gain, and change in body condition). For pre-hurricane data on both components, I am using long-term banding and transect survey datasets collected in a chenier forest site in Johnson Bayou, Louisiana, to address the research questions posed for this study. I am also using detailed vegetation survey data collected pre- and post-storm to determine the degree and amount of storm damage from Hurricanes Rita and Ike on chenier forest habitat.

I am thankful to the Louisiana Ornithological Society for providing funding for obtaining several new mist nets, which helped to ensure a safe and smooth operation of our long-term bird banding migration station in Johnson Bayou. Upon completion of my project, I look forward to sharing the results of my findings with LOS as well as communities in Cameron Parish.

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## EFFECTS OF HABITAT-EDGE AND NEST-PATCH CHARACTERISTICS ON THE NESTING SUCCESS OF PAINTED BUNTINGS

*Phillip L. Vasseur and Paul L. Leberg  
Department of Biology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

The suppression of natural disturbance events, such as fire and grazing, has considerably altered much of the U.S. landscape, negatively affecting the biotic communities dependent on early successional, scrub-shrub habitat. Populations of many species of shrubland birds have been declining primarily due to the loss of this habitat type on their breeding grounds. Significant rates of decline have been detected for the Painted Bunting, a migratory songbird that often breeds in shrubby areas or forested areas with substantial edge and grassy openings. Understanding their habitat use and reproductive success are essential accurately evaluate habitat quality and make proper management decisions to conserve this species.

In 2010 and 2011, we monitored a population of Painted Buntings on reforested agricultural land on a portion of Indian Bayou Recreation Area in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Our main objective was to collect breeding productivity data and identify factors associated with Painted Bunting nest survival. A secondary objective was to determine if nests on habitat edges were less productive than nests in more continuous scrub-shrub habitat. We conducted daily nest searches and checked nests every few days until their fate was determined. We also conducted vegetation surveys to

quantify the plant community structure and composition at nest sites and at random sites within territories. Territory size and habitat use was assessed by observing color-banded individuals whose locations were mapped on aerial photos of the study site. We conducted point counts to determine avian nest predator and nest parasite (cowbird) abundance. In addition, we monitored some nests in 2011 with video surveillance equipment to determine female nest visitation rates, as well as to identify predation and parasitism events.

We are currently analyzing the data to examine the habitat features and other variables that influence nest success and intend to present our results at an upcoming LOS meeting

This study was made possible through research grants awarded in 2010 by LOS, the Eastern Bird Banding Association, and the ULL Graduate Student Organization. Funding in 2011 was provided by LDWF and the Coypu Foundation. Additional support was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, and the Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with data collection in the field.



## LOS ON FACEBOOK

Labirders: This is just to let you know that those of you who are LOS members and are also on Facebook may be interested in "liking" LOS's new Facebook page. Just type in "Louisiana Ornithological Society" in the FB search box, and you'll find it.

Good birding,

*Christine Kooi  
Baton Rouge*

### *Continued from page 3*

abundance, availability and quality of resources, with a focus on sex-dependent differences. RTHUs provide an attractive model to answer questions that would be difficult to answer with other migratory species because they are attracted to feeders where resources can be experimentally manipulated. During the course of my study, information will be obtained on resource use, stopover duration, use of space, and pattern of passage in relation to sex.

As a way to investigate resource use, I set up five stations, each with two hummingbird feeders; one feeder had a 25% sugar solution and the other had a 50% sugar solution. Each feeder was connected to a radio frequency identification (RFID) device and had an electronic balance with perch, in order to weigh the birds when they landed to feed. Each captured RTHU received a passive integrated transponder tag that when detected by the RFID device records a unique ID number. This allows me to identify the individual tagged birds when they visit the various feeders.

I also made foraging observations in order to obtain information on competition as well as foraging behavior.

I would like to thank the Louisiana Ornithological Society for providing funding which was used to purchase ten hummingbird feeders and the equipment to build ten RFID devices. I would also like to thank Dave Patton who not only provided advice and support but also had a visited my study site and observe the research first hand. I look forward to continuing to work in Cameron Parish, LA.

## NEW MEMBERS

Dan & Laurie Mooney, Plaquemine, LA

Mary Frances Stayton, Leeds, AL

Marianne Thompson, New Orleans, LA

## 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

## eBird, A USEFUL TOOL

*Below is the first paragraph of an announcement made about recent improvements in eBird, an online tool used by many of our members and others for entering data into an international database of bird observations. In Louisiana, eBird is being used to enter data for the Louisiana Breeding Bird and Winter Bird Atlases and other projects. Many use it to store their personal bird observations. Check it out! [Editor]*

### **Check out eBird Version 3: The ultimate birding tool**

October 27, 2011

Dear eBird user,

If you haven't been to eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) in a while, it's time for another look. Over the past few months we've updated eBird so that it's easier to use and more useful than ever to the birding community. eBird can help you find birds through our "Alerts" or by exploring our newly revised mapping tools and bar charts. Recording and keeping track of your birds is easier than ever with a completely redesigned data entry system and our automated listing pages (My eBird). Most importantly, you'll become part of a growing community of tens of thousands of birders around the world whose data are now being used in real science and conservation. Best of all - it's free!



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

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

**- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -**  
**LOS 2012 WINTER MEETING – LAKE CHARLES, LA**  
**FRIDAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 - 28, 2012**

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

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

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

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

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

Number registering for meeting \_\_\_\_\_ at \$15.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number registering for Saturday's dinner \_\_\_\_\_ at \$21.00/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2012 Membership Dues = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012!** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

***Please 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***