

LOS

NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Louisiana Ornithological Society

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Submission Deadline
Spring LOS News
February 1, 2013

Journal of Louisiana Ornithology
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2013 LOS WINTER MEETING

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Jan. 25-27, 2013

Shreveport, Louisiana

Shreveport's Bird Study Group (BSG) will host the LOS Winter Meeting.

MEETING LOCATION: Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters Visitor Center and Environmental Education Center, 150 Eagle Bend Point/555 Sunflower Road, Bossier City, Louisiana 71112. The Refuge telephone number is (318) 742-1219. If you need assistance, there will be someone at the Refuge all day Friday and Saturday.

DIRECTIONS TO THE REFUGE: Current access to the Refuge is from the end of Sunflower Road in Bossier City. The Arthur Teague Parkway Extension is currently under construction adjacent to the Refuge. If the Teague Parkway extension is completed before the LOS meeting, access to the Refuge will be via a dedicated exit from the Parkway and the Refuge will no longer be accessible from Sunflower Road. If this happens, revised directions will be posted to LABIRD prior to the winter meeting. Until the Teague Parkway Extension is completed, for GPS purposes, use 555 Sunflower Road as the Refuge address rather than 150 Eagle Bend Point.

Current directions: From Shreveport, go east on East 70th Street/LA 511 or E. Bert Kouns Loop/LA 526 (E. Bert Kouns Loop will merge into East 70th Street). Cross the Jimmie Davis/70th Street Bridge over the Red River into Bossier City. East 70th Street becomes Jimmie Davis Highway on the Bossier side. At the second light, turn right (south) onto Sunflower Blvd. At the intersection of Sunflower Blvd. and Sunflower Road, turn right (west) on Sunflower Road. Proceed to the end of the road through the gate. Follow the main gravel road not quite one-half mile, bearing left at the fork in the road to the Visitor Center.

REGISTRATION & MEETINGS:

Registration and all meetings will be held in the Environmental Education Center at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters & Visitor Center.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25:

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Registration. Light snacks will be provided by the Bird Study Group.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program

"Aviculture" by Jacob Kraemer. Jacob is an aviculturist and is the manager of Pinola Preserve, Paul Dickson's state-of-the art private aviary. He will explain the importance of aviculture in conservation, education, and research as well as the goals of Pinola Preserve. Pinola Preserve will host an open house for LOS participants on Sunday morning from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26:

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

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Buffet dinner - \$15 includes catfish with all the trimmings or meat or spinach lasagna; assorted cupcakes for dessert.

~ BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE ~

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

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WINTER MEETING, continued from page 1**7:30 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program**

"Skydancing with the American Woodcocks" by Dr. Mia Revels. Born, raised, and educated in Arkansas, Dr. Mia Revels has been firmly ensconced at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, teaching biology and studying birds for the past 17 years. In the early spring she can be found sitting in fields watching American Woodcock breeding displays, and in late spring and summer, crawling through swamps looking for Swainson's Warblers and their nests. The rest of the time is spent in distantly or closely related activities.

FIELD TRIPS:

All field trips will depart from the parking lot of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters at the time listed. Please bring two-way radios if you have them. Radios are especially important in caravans to keep all vehicles in contact and to allow the leader to alert participants to birds seen along the way.

IMPORTANT NOTE RE: THE SHREVEPORT AIRPORT TRIP

AND THE CROSSLAKE BY BOAT TRIPS: Advance registration is required for these trips and advance payment of \$10 (to be included with your registration fees) is required for the Cross Lake boat trip. Trip spots will be assigned on a first-registered, first-come basis. Waiting lists will be maintained in case of cancellations. If you register for one of these trips and find you will not be able to participate, please contact Judith O'Neale at jloneale@aol.com or (337) 280-4193 to cancel so that someone else may have your spot. After Thursday, January 24, contact Larry Raymond at lrraymond@aol.com or (318) 347-5569.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26:**ALL-DAY TRIPS:****6:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.****Red River NWR Bayou Pierre Unit and Lock & Dam #4**

Leader: John Dillon. Participants will visit the Yates tract of this Refuge unit, which borders the Red River in Red River Parish. Extensive moist soil impoundments harbor waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, and rails as well as Marsh and Sedge Wrens and LeConte's Sparrows. Green-tailed Towhee was found on the tract last winter. Lunch will be at a restaurant along the route. There are restrooms onsite at the Refuge. Car-side birding and easy walking.

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**Northern Caddo Parish**

Leader: Jim Ingold. Sod farm, farm fields, piney woods, Caddo Lake, Red River, and small cattail marshes. Target species include Lapland Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, waterfowl, rails, winter finches, wintering wrens, wintering sparrows, and other assorted goodies (lots of possibilities). Lunch will be at a restaurant along the route. Car-side birding and light walking.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26:**HALF-DAY TRIPS:****7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.****C. Bickham Dickson Park**

Leader: Jeff Trahan. Shallow oxbow lake, open fields, and wooded areas. Approximately 2 miles of easy-to-moderate walking.

7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**Red River NWR Headquarters**

Leader: Terry Davis. Habitats include a shallow oxbow lake, bottomland hardwoods, pecan orchard, plum thickets, and open fields. A possible side trip may be included with this field trip. Easy-to-moderate walking on trails at the Refuge; car-side birding and light walking on side trip

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**Shreveport Regional Airport**

Leader: Terry Davis. Advance registration required. The airport authority will only allow a limited number of participants; the number is unknown at this time. This is the most consistent site in the area for Smith's Longspur. Sprague's Pipit is a possibility as well. Due to airport security, once the group is admitted to the fields, the gate is locked and no one may leave until the group leaves, barring an emergency, of course. There are no restroom facilities available onsite. Approximately 3 to 3½ hours of moderate-strenuous walking in open fields.

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**Red River NWR Headquarters Informal Birding**

Guided birding tours will be available, including assistance with finding any special birds observed during the morning field trip or in the last few days.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27:**7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.****Mystery "Goodies" Trip**

Details of this trip will be announced at the Saturday night meeting, if not before.

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**Pinola Preserve Open House**

Visit Paul Dickson's private, state-of-the-art aviary with over 140 species of birds from around the world. The preserve includes temperature-controlled ponds and waterfalls, breeding and incubation facilities and beautiful landscaping. Come and go as you like. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. Visit the preserve's website at www.pinola.net.

DIRECTIONS TO PINOLA PRESERVE, 10455 ELLERBE ROAD, SHREVEPORT, LA 71106, FROM HOTELS:

#1a. From the Clarion Hotel, go left on East 70th Street and turn left at the next light onto Fern Avenue. Follow Fern Avenue until it ends in E. Bert Kouns Loop/LA 526 and turn right onto E. Bert Kouns. Proceed as below in #2.

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WINTER MEETING, continued from page 2

#1b. From the Holiday Inn Express, go right on Park Plaza, then right on Fern Avenue. Follow Fern Avenue until it ends in E. Bert Kouns Loop/LA 526 and turn right onto E. Bert Kouns. Proceed as below in #2.

#1c. From the Hampton Inn, go right on Millicent Way to E. Bert Kouns and turn left onto E. Bert Kouns. Proceed as below in #2.

#2. Continue west on E. Bert Kouns, cross the railroad tracks, and turn left to merge onto LA 3132/Inner Loop Expressway. Follow LA 3132 1.1 miles until it ends in Flournoy Lucas Road/LA 523. Turn right onto Flournoy Lucas Road and proceed 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Ellerbe Road and proceed 2.5 miles to destination. Driving time from the hotels is 15 minutes or less.

SPECIAL LAKE TRIPS:**Cross Lake by boat with Charlie Lyon**

Advance registration and additional \$10 fee required. refundable if a trip has to be cancelled due to bad weather. There will be three trips on Saturday and one trip on Sunday, weather permitting. Times are listed below. Limited to 7 passengers per trip. Meet at the Refuge to caravan to the lake. Dress warmly as it is much colder out on the lake than on land. Life jackets will be provided.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26:

#1: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

#2: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Participants in either the C. Bickham Dickson Park or Red River NWR HQ morning field trips will have no problem making this trip.)

#3: 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27:

#4: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SUGGESTED HOTELS:

These are the closest hotels to the Refuge. All are in Shreveport in the East 70th Street/E. Bert Kouns Loop area just across the Red River from the Refuge. Driving time to the Refuge is less than 15 minutes.

- Clarion Hotel, 1419 East 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 797-9900 or (800) 321-4182; www.clarionhotel.com/hotel-shreveport-louisiana-LA146. Full service restaurant; no free breakfast.
- Hampton Inn & Suites, 8340 Millicent Way, Shreveport, LA, 71115, (318) 798-1320; www.hamptoninnshreveport.com. Free breakfast served 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. daily.
- Holiday Inn Express, 8751 Park Plaza Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 629-0163; www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/shreveport/shvbp/hoteldetail. Free breakfast served 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. daily.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY JANUARY 18TH!

See registration form on back page.

LOS Membership – Renewal time

It's time to renew your LOS membership for 2013. My how time flies by. Use your newsletter membership form or print one on our web site www.losbird.org. Make check payable to LOS and mail to J. O'Neale, LOS Membership, 504 Whitebark Dr., Lafayette LA 70508.

You can always pay your membership at the same time you register for the LOS winter meeting in Shreveport. Plus enjoy the field trips and meetings and join birding friends for a fun weekend. The Bird Study Group always does a great job of organizing for this meeting. Hope those rare birds stick around.

A good way to never forget to pay your dues - You can now also pay with a PAYPAL account. Go to our website: www.losbird.org and click on Join LOS. It is a automatic recurring membership, so if you don't want it to automatically renew for next year, after you make your payment, go to your paypal account, profile, my money and preapproved payment and cancel subscription.

Thank you for your continued support for LOS.

Judith O'Neale, Treasurer

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	*Please add \$2.00
___ Senior (over 65):	\$15.00/yr	for foreign
___ Senior Family:	\$20.00/yr	subscriptions
___ Library	\$15.00/yr*	**Installments may
___ Contributing:	\$50.00/yr	be arranged for
___ Sustaining:	\$100.00/yr	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

Citizen Science – an Invaluable Tool for Understanding Bird Populations

by Erik I. Johnson

If you participate in Christmas Bird Count (CBC) or Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), you should know that your time and effort provide the basis for how we track bird populations in North America. This ability to monitor population changes across vast landscapes would otherwise not be possible. There would be no other way of knowing that Rusty Blackbird populations have declined by 88% in the last 40 years, or that Chimney Swift populations have declined by about 58% over this same period. Indeed, we can say that 32% of 347 species analyzed from BBS data have significantly declining populations, compared to only 21% that are increasing (Sauer et al. 2011, *Auk*).

BBS alone can detect trends for only about half of the species in North America – many that breed on the high arctic and other habitats that are limited in extent like grasslands, wetlands, and coastlines are poorly represented by BBS. CBC also provides the ability to measure trend estimates for many of the species measured by BBS, and also supplements our knowledge for about 100 more species, but we still have a limited understanding of range-wide population trends for about 200 species in North America from these two population survey efforts.

International Shorebird Survey, developed by Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, fills in some of these gaps by strategically focusing on counts of shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, oystercatchers, and allies), an under-represented group in BBS and CBC analyses, by conducting surveys in important shorebird habitats. A recent analysis of this 38-year dataset showed that a whopping 42 of 75 (56%) subpopulations, encompassing 52 shorebird species, are declining (Morrison et al. 2006, *Wader Study Group Bulletin*). Even more chilling is that just one of these 52 species has experienced an increasing population – the Piping Plover – resulting from an intensive 25-year campaign to protect breeding habitat on the Atlantic Coast, Great Lakes, and prairie pothole region. Even so, Piping Plover numbers still require intensive management and remain far below sustainable levels.

The International Shorebird Survey has historically had little coverage and participation on the Gulf Coast, especially in Louisiana where much of the coast has been recognized by the National Audubon Society as having globally Important Bird Areas for many species of

conservation concern, including Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover, Snowy Plover, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Given the immense pressures that Louisiana's coastline faces, these and other coastal waterbird populations are at great risk to human disturbance, pollution (like oil spills), and the highest rates of land loss anywhere in the country.

Audubon's Gulf Coast Initiative has been working to expand a citizen science program called Audubon Coastal Bird Survey (ACBS) across the Gulf Coast to better understand coastal shorebird and waterbird populations. Modeled after the International Shorebird Survey, and contributing to those hemispheric analyses, the most effective surveys are at pre-defined routes visited at repeated intervals over the course of a season.

In its third year, ACBS will continue this winter with surveys being conducted from 10 January to 20 February and this spring from 20 March to 30 May at sites that many of us already go birding, including Grand Isle and Cameron. If 20 birders were to contribute 2 surveys to the program this winter, this would ensure complete coverage of all 10 sites accessible by road. Each survey usually takes about 1 to 2 hours to complete, and generally involves a nice walk along our beautiful beaches. ACBS uses the familiar ease of <http://eBird.org> for data entry and management.

In addition, we are working with Manomet Center for Conservation Science to host shorebird identification and ACBS training workshops. If you are interested in attending an upcoming workshop or volunteering for ACBS, please let us know.

More information about the program, including the first annual report, protocol, and data sheets can be found at: <https://gulfoilspill.audubon.org/audubon-coastal-bird-survey>

If you would like to participate in the program, please register at:

<http://www.audubonaction.org/acbs>

or contact Erik Johnson

Director of Bird Conservation

Louisiana Audubon | National Audubon Society

ejohnson@audubon.org



Watch for
**“Winter Hummingbirds 2011-2012:
 A Record-Smashing Season!”**
 by Donna Dittmann and Steve Cardiff
 in the spring edition of LOS NEWS.

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*

Louisiana Ornithological Society

www.losbird.org

LOS New Members Fall 2012 – Winter 2013

John Moser, Pineville
 John Romano, Breaux Bridge

New Life Member
 Steve Pagans, West Monroe

PISHING FOR SPOUSES’ STORIES

Please join in on the latest project collecting stories from
 Spouses of Birders.

The compilation was originally to be self-published for
 others to enjoy, however, there is
 a publisher interested in this work.

The writing should be comical and tell of any experience with
 the birder from a travel adventure
 to a trip to the backyard.

Ideally, the story should be at least 500 words and be open
 to editing. No writing skills? No worries.

If the story can be told, it can be written.

More specifically, the story should be told from the
perspective of the non-birder or SOB.

Please contact Milissa Sibley Weesner for more information
 or story submission at: emailmilissa@yahoo.com
 Or facebook: Spouses of Birders





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

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 Lafayette, LA
 Permit No. 507

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

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR
 WINTER MEETING
 BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 18TH!**
 See registration form below.

- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -
LOS 2013 WINTER MEETING – SHREVEPORT, LA
 FRIDAY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 25-27, 2013

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Number registering for Saturday's dinner _____ at \$15.00/person = \$ _____

2013 Membership Dues enclosed = \$ _____

Cross Lake Boat Trip _____ persons at \$10/person = \$ _____

Please check one:

Sat. trip #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ Sun. trip #4 _____

Shreveport Regional Airport trip _____ persons Donation \$ _____

\$ _____ **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