

# LOS

# NEWS



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

NEWSLETTER OF THE

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

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**Submission Deadline**  
**Winter LOS News**  
**December 1, 2013**

*Journal of Louisiana Ornithology*  
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## 2013 LOS FALL MEETING

### Friday and Saturday, October 18-19

### ONE WEEK EARLIER THIS YEAR

### Cameron, LA

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th**

#### FRIDAY EVENING:

**First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School Street off of Marshall Street (the main street)**

**6 P.M.-7 P.M.**

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

**7 P.M.-8 P.M.**

**Meeting and Evening Program**

*"Birding Attu—A Trip of a Lifetime"*

**Carl Sheely** is a cardiovascular surgeon in Baton Rouge who began birding in the third grade with the help of an aunt. In 1979 he and his wife took Bird Watching 101 offered by LSU. The instructor, Gayle Strickland, encouraged them to go to Cameron for the spring migration. It was phenomenal. The following year was a heart break. Almost all of the 27 acres of prime birding habitat had been cut down by the oil company. That led Carl and his wife to start the Peveto Bird Migration Sanctuary which continues to be Carl's favorite Louisiana birding area. Carl has birded extensively throughout the ABA area and recently his focus has been on avian photography. Over one hundred of his photos are included in the iBird application and many more can be seen on his personal website [www.pbase.com/csheelly](http://www.pbase.com/csheelly). Attu is not for everyone, both physically and financially. It will always remain the holy grail of birding, especially for all those wanting to get those last few birds on their ABA list or working on a "Big Year."

#### SATURDAY MORNING:

**7:00 A.M. Field Trip** Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel. Ed Wallace and Marty Floyd will lead a field trip to the Cameron Parish hot spots. **Bring lunch, drinks, bug spray, and walkie talkies if you have them.**

#### SATURDAY EVENING:

**First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School Street off of Marshall Street (the main street)**

**6:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M. Registration**

**6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M. Dinner – chicken & sausage gumbo, potato salad, bread, dessert**

**7:30 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program**

#### **Election of officers:**

Nominating committee's slate of candidates:

Ed Wallace, President  
Marty Floyd, Vice-president  
Joelle Finley, Secretary  
Judith O'Neale, Treasurer  
Larry Raymond, North LA Board Member

**Program - "Life, Death, and Man: The Mortality of Birds"**

**Michael Seymour**, non-game ornithologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program, will present the most up-to-date information regarding what challenges our native birds face. He will discuss the natural life expectancy of your favorite species and show

*Continued on page 2*

**LOS FALL 2013 MEETING, continued from page 1**

how anthropogenic sources reduce that number. He'll talk about past, present, and future directions of bird conservation needs – what has been done and what remains to be achieved. A topic like what causes our feathered friends to die prematurely clearly is not a pleasant topic, but Michael promises to keep images of dead birds to a minimum and promises a few surprises along the way. Come find out some common sense and not-so-common sense ways to help our birds.

Michael has been a Louisiana birder since the age of 11. He credits his love of birds to Mississippi Kites that fascinated him as a child, and the species remains his favorite today. During his undergraduate studies in Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University, he worked as a student worker for the LSU Museum of Natural Science and contracted with The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana compiling surveyors' field notes from the 1800's. After graduating with his undergraduate degree in 2001, he accepted a GIS position in the Red Imported Fire Ant Laboratory at LSU AgCenter and received his Master's degree in Entomology in 2007. Michael has worked as the non-game ornithologist for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program since 2007.

**Cameron Accommodations:**

The phone number for the Cameron Motel is 337-775-5442. The Cameron Motel also has sites available for RV campers. Several lunch places are open in Cameron and Johnson Bayou and gas is available. Bring your own breakfast food. Other accommodations can be found in Sulphur or Lake Charles. East Jetty also has camper spaces with hook-ups.

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH!  
SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 4.**

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## **DAVE PATTON, PAUL CONOVER AND ROSEMARY SEIDLER RECEIVE LOS AWARDS**

Marty Guidry, chair of the awards committee, presented the following awards at the 2013 Spring Meeting in Cameron.

**George H. Lowery, Jr. Award** was presented to **Dave Patton** for managing the BRAS Peveto Woods Sanctuary; his work banding hummingbirds in south Central LA; his work with beach nesting surveys and CBCs; his past work on the LA Bird Records Committee; his Breeding Bird Survey studies and his work on the 2007 ABA Meeting in Lafayette.

The **President's Award** was presented to **Paul Conover** for developing and maintaining an online resource for the LA Bird Records Committee; his work with the LA Birding Atlas; his membership on the LBRC and to **Rosemary Seidler** for developing and maintaining the LA Parish Bird Checklist series and for her contributions to the CBCs in LA. We offer our sincere congratulations to our recipients!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Cameron Parish again proves it is the best place in Louisiana to go birding. On Saturday (4/27/13) alone, people who attended the LOS Spring Meeting saw 208 species of birds. A fall-out on Sunday morning produced a warbler extravaganza at Peveto Woods (which I missed because I went looking for the Black Rail at Rutherford, but was unsuccessful again).

Not only was the number of species impressive, there also were several surprises: Black Scoter, California Gull, Great Kiskadee, Western Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Tanager and Bronzed Cowbird. I think almost everyone saw their state California Gull, who has been nick-named "Mr. Popcorn." In addition, many birders were given an opportunity by the Fish and Wildlife Service to see four Whooping Cranes behind the Cameron Courthouse. The group of folks I led on the whirlwind tour of coastal Cameron Parish was treated to Pinky, the pink Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin at the Cameron Ferry.

The weather was cooperative – amazingly cool for late April – which made the bugs tolerable. Although there was some shower activity, the flooding rains experienced that day just to the west in Houston held off.

All said, there were seventy-three people registered, including visitors from several states, even as far away as Minnesota. We also had visitors from Great Britain. I think our visitors were impressed with the variety of birds they saw in Cameron. It was great meeting new folks and seeing old friends.

Both speakers were very interesting. On Friday, Jared Wolfe spoke of his bird-banding project in Baton Rouge's Bluebonnet Swamp. Saturday we were regaled by Rick Simpson's adventures throughout the World to bring attention to the plight of shorebirds and in particular the extremely rare Spoonbill Sandpiper of Siberia.

I thank the local Cameron community for all their help, hospitality, and assistance with getting access – Cyndi Sellers, Joann Nunez, Cameron Tourist Commission, Cameron Police Jury, and all the people that help make our meetings happen. I wanted to recognize Thania of GiGi's Restaurant, who provided dinner Saturday night.

Finally, I congratulate Paul Conover and Rosemary Seidler for receiving the 2013 President's Award and Dave Patton for receiving the George H. Lowery, Jr. Award.

*Ed Wallace*

**Louisiana Ornithological Society**

**www.losbird.org**

## Upcoming BRAS Presentations

Each year BRAS brings renowned bird experts, scientists and conservationists to our community for monthly presentations. This season's line-up is proving to be very exciting. Starting things off this September 26th, 6:15 pm at Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, LDWF Biologist Sara Zimorski will present on the history of Whooping Cranes – both in Louisiana and nationwide, their decline, and now their recovery through habitat management and reintroduction projects. Sara will cover all facets of the introduction, positive and negative, and where we're headed. On October 24th, 6:15 pm at Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Dr. Donata Henry from Tulane University will present on the nesting ecology of Louisiana birds giving us an opportunity to discover answers to some questions you may never even have thought to ask! Where do baby turkey vultures hang out? How clean is a Kentucky warbler's nest? Who would you bet on in a competitive food eating contest, the cardinal or the cuckoo? You will also have the opportunity to test your bird, and nest, ID skills in this engaging program that includes forty species you know and love in Louisiana.

In addition to Cranes and nesting birds, we will also host presentations focused on Bald Eagle migration, the evolution of tropical birds, National Audubon's newest state office (Louisiana!), the life and times of Juncos, and a presentation and bird ID workshop in December with author and birding superstar, Kenn Kaufman. Be sure to check the BRAS website for regular updates regarding our monthly speaker series.

Jared Wolfe, MSc  
PhD Candidate  
Louisiana State University  
School of Renewable Natural Resources  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

### New Life Member

Kevin Morgan

### LOS NEW MEMBERS

Molly Folkerts, Bossier City  
Dr. Wilton & Connie Guillary, Alexandria  
Joe Hobbs, Sulphur  
Ann & Neilson Jacobs, Shreveport  
Anne Taber Klenke, Lake Charles  
Anita Merrigan, Covington  
Stephen Norman, Alexandria  
Deborah Taylor, Baton Rouge  
Casey Wright, Grand Isle

## Introducing Board Member - Larry R. Raymond, CPRP, CHI Director of Parks and Recreation (Retired) Caddo Parish, LA

Larry is married to Anne Crenshaw Raymond and has 3 children and 6 grandchildren. A native of St. Bernard Parish, he spent his working career with the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department serving as a Park Naturalist and Director of Parks and Recreation over a career that spanned 37 years. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biology from NLU, and maintains certifications as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and a Certified Heritage Interpreter. Larry also served as an adjunct instructor of Biological Sciences at LSU-Shreveport for more than 25 years.

He is a member of numerous scientific organizations with primary interests in ichthyology and herpetology. Larry has served as president of the Northwest Chapter, Louisiana Native Plant Society, president of the Louisiana Parks and Recreation Association, and is the current president of the Shreveport Bird Study Group. He also serves as a member of the Louisiana State Parks and Recreation Commission, on the board of governor's of the Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, and a board member of Shreveport Green. He is also involved at both the local and state level in the current effort to establish a Louisiana Master Naturalist Program.

### LOS Grant Deadline

The deadline for applying for an LOS grant is January 15, 2014. All proposals must be based on Louisiana Birds and the study should be a situation unique to Louisiana. Priority is given to studies addressing current problems and issues in Louisiana ornithology or bird conservation in Louisiana habitats. The researcher must be a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society. Further Details can be found on the LOS website <http://losbird.org/bulletin/grant.htm>

### 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

*In Memoriam*  
Billie Fay Spencer, Lake Charles



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

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|----------------|
| PRSRT STD.     |
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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 FALL MEETING  
 BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH!  
 See registration form below.**

- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -

**LOS 2013 FALL MEETING – CAMERON/CREOLE, LA**  
**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18-19, 2013**

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

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

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

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

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

|  |      |                       |
|--|------|-----------------------|
| Number registering for meeting _____ at \$10.00/person           | = \$ | _____                 |
| Number registering for Saturday's dinner _____ at \$11.00/person | = \$ | _____                 |
| Membership Dues enclosed   | + \$ | _____                 |
| Donation   | + \$ | _____                 |
|  | \$   | _____                 |
|  |      | <b>Total enclosed</b> |

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