

LOS

NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE **Louisiana Ornithological Society**

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Submission Deadline
Fall LOS News
September 1, 2016

Journal of Louisiana Ornithology
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2016 LOS SPRING MEETING

Friday and Saturday, April 22-23

Cameron, LA

****PLEASE REGISTER FOR THE DINNER AND MEETING BY APRIL 15th****

Friday Evening: First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School Street off Marshall Street (the main street)

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Registration: Light snacks will be provided by the Cameron Parish Tourist Commission.

7:00 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program: Prothonotary Warblers – A Swamp Canary in the Coal Mine by Dr. Erik I. Johnson. The swamp-dwelling Prothonotary Warbler has been facing 50 years of decline and to learn why, Erik and an international team of partners have set out to map the migratory routes of this species. Erik will describe his research on tracking Prothonotary Warbler movements using geolocators. Let's find out how many warblers he can recapture to retrieve their geolocators after they return from their winter haunts. Erik is the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Louisiana.

Saturday Morning

7:00 A.M. Field Trip: Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel. Marty Floyd, Ed Wallace, Donna Dittmann, and Steve Cardiff will lead field trips to the Cameron Parish hot spots. **Bring lunch, water, bug spray**

and walkie talkies if you have them.

Saturday Evening: First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School Street off Marshall Street (the main street)

6:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. Registration.

7:00 P.M. Meal: Pork/sausage jambalaya, green beans, green salad, roll, peach cobbler, and tea prepared by Tressie Smith.

7:30 P.M. Meeting: Presentation of the President's Awards and the George H. Lowery, Jr. Award.

Evening Program: Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation by Paul Baicich. Americans have been feeding wild birds for over 120 years, but very few people have followed the history and development of that popular pastime. It's a surprise, since over 55 million Americans engage in some level of backyard bird feeding.

In this presentation, you will learn how bird feeding evolved, from decade to decade, and you will get insights into little-known stories of *LOS 2016 Meeting, Continued on page 2*

LOS 2016 Meeting, Continued from page 1

feeding development. These include the invention of the hopper feeder, the “discovery” and use of such seeds as black oil sunflower and Nyjer, the creation of the tube feeder, and why hemp (popular through the 1920s) is no longer fed to birds.

Most importantly, you will learn to connect the past with current developments in bird feeding. Paul will address the question: can we transform at least some of these feeder-watchers into people who will leave their homes to enjoy and even seek out birds?

The talk will be presented by Paul Baicich, one of the co-authors, with Margaret Barker and Carrol Henderson, of the recent book on the same subject, *Wild Bird Feeding in America* (Texas A&M University Press, 2015).

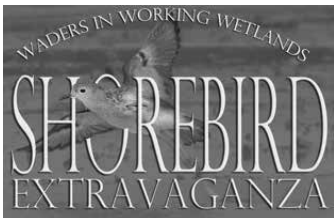
Cameron Accommodations:

The phone number for the Cameron Motel is 337-775-5442. The Cameron Motel also has sites available for RV campers. Several restaurants are open in Cameron, Creole, and Johnson’s Bayou. Other accommodations can be found in the Sulphur-Lake Charles area.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE**FOR DINNER:****FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016****PLEASE PRE-REGISTER****FOR THE MEETING!**

Second Annual Shorebird Extravaganza

27 April - 1 May 2016



Pass a good time in wonderful Southwest Louisiana during late spring migration. The Shorebird Extravaganza is strategically (for shorebirds) based in Jennings, Louisiana in the heart of the “working wetlands.” Observe shorebirds in rice and crawfish farm habitats and learn more about this area’s importance to shorebird migration and conservation.

The focus of this event is shorebirds. You will also be able to hone your ID skills. Choose a shorebird identification workshop by Dr. Erik I. Johnson (Audubon Louisiana) or attend shorebird field trips. In addition to daily-guided field trips through rice country in search of shorebirds (and other waterbirds and open country species), other activities include guided field trips to the Atchafalaya Basin, Cameron Parish coast, and Kisatchie National Forest longleaf pine forest in search of Louisiana specialties and spring migrants. The will also be tours of a working crawfish farm and a crawfish distribution facility. Socials included in the event packages a full-blown crawfish boil and a meet-and-greet social catered by Mike’s Seafood and Steak Restaurant (both were fun as well as delicious last year).

Join us and help support this new festival. Format is similar to Yellow Rails and Rice Festival - a small and personal event. For those of you who have visited YRARF during the fall, the spring festival offers a different suite of birds, including SE US breeding species and spring migrants. Online registration is currently open. No walk-ins. Info: http://www.snowyegretenterprises.com/Snowy_Egret_Enterprises/Shorebird_Extravaganza.html
Email: yellowrailsandrice@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL 2016 Meeting in Cameron!

The LOS Fall 2016 Meeting will be held in Cameron on October 28-30, 2016. Cameron has wonderful birds to offer and this meeting will be full of adventures. Put this on your calendar and watch for more details in the next issue of LOS News.



SAVE THE DATE FOR WINTER 2017 Meeting in Baton Rouge!

The LOS Winter 2017 Meeting will return to our capital city, Baton Rouge. There will be many lovely birds in and around Baton Rouge, plus lots of fun things to do after birding. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 25-27, 2017. Look for more information in future newsletters!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a good turnout at our winter meeting in Monroe, with a total registration of 65 people. We had one great program on each night. Judith O'Neale, Joseph Vallee, and Linda Stewart-Knight went to Alaska in October and Friday night's program was entitled "Barrow Alaska - In Search of the Ross's Gull." On Saturday night, Philip Hoose of the Nature Conservancy gave a presentation entitled "Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95," about a Red Knot who has logged at least 320,000 miles during its life. A special thanks is in order to our speakers.

High water was the reason for limited access to many of the areas we hoped to visit; however, we still had access to other great areas. The total list Saturday in the Monroe area netted 102 species.

Field trips were divided up into four areas and were led by Roselie Overby, Donna Dittmann/Steve Cardiff, John Dillon, and Joan Brown/Marty Floyd. This served to reduce the possibility of a large caravan with the last car often not seeing birds observed by the first cars. Some participants, of course, decided to explore on their own.

Special thanks to Nova Clarke from the Black Bayou NWR and to Ann Bloxom Smith and the Friends of Black Bayou Lake NWR, for hosting the Winter Meeting.

I'm looking forward to the Spring Meeting scheduled for Cameron on April 22-23, 2016, which will include a limited field trip to Monkey Island.

Marty Floyd

LOS NEW MEMBERS

Pamela Barton, West Monroe, LA

Chuck Hughes, Monroe, LA

Terri Jacobson, Bossier City, LA

Dr. Leesia Marshall, Glenmora, LA

William Matthews, Monroe, LA

Janelle Riche, Baton Rouge, LA

In Memoriam

LOS Past President 1958-59
James Stewart, The Woodlands, Texas

Ken Sztraky, Silsbee, Texas
(Johnson Bayou CBC compiler)

Louisiana Ornithological Society

www.losbird.org

LOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Renewal New Member

Name: _____

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DUES STRUCTURE:

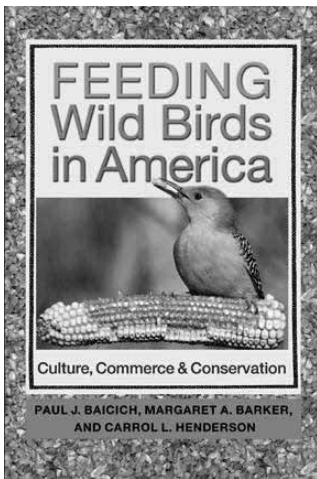
- ___ Regular: \$20.00/yr
- ___ Family: \$25.00/yr
- ___ Junior (under 14): \$7.50/yr
- ___ Student: \$10.00/yr
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- ___ Library \$15.00/yr*
- ___ Contributing: \$50.00/yr
- ___ Sustaining: \$100.00/yr
- ___ Life: \$300.00**
- ___ Family Life: \$500**

Make check payable to: **LOS**

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

*Please add \$2.00
for foreign subscriptions

**Installments may be arranged
for Life memberships



Feeding Wild Birds in America

Culture, Commerce, and Conservation

By: Paul J. Baicich, Margaret A. Barker, and Carrol L. Henderson

6 x 9, 320 pp., 76 color, 37 b&w photos, 3 maps, 2 tables, index.

Texas A & M University Press, College Station, Texas

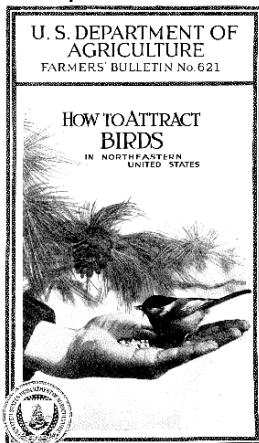
Publication Date: 30 March 2015

Paperback **\$27.95** Kindle Edition **\$15.99**

Book Review by Donna L. Dittmann

Feeding wild birds is one thing that Steve and I definitely do – some might even say to excess. After decades of bird feeding, we consider ourselves reasonably knowledgeable on the subject. So why add another book to our library on a subject we believe we know so well? Aside from a general love of anything resembling a bird book, we found that this book is packed full of interesting information that goes well beyond basic bird feeding. In fact, as the title (*Culture, Commerce, and Conservation*) suggests, a primary purpose of the book is to describe the history of bird feeding in the United States. Although there is specific information about bird feeding interspersed throughout the book, it is not really a ‘how-to book.’

The chapters focus on time periods, beginning with Chapter 1 (before 1900), then Chapters 2-11 in time increments of ten years (e.g., Chapter 2 spans 1900-1909) through 1999. Chapter 12 looks at changes in bird-feeding “recipes” over time (yum), Chapter 13 looks at bird feeding into the 21st century, and Chapter 14 summarizes some of the bird feeding basics learned through the ages. Because of the chronological organization, you can read the book cover to cover, or pick and chose a time period to investigate without losing continuity.



I initially flipped through the book looking at the images and reading their captions, but then stopped intermittently to read a chapter when it piqued my interest. I cannot deny it, *I love pictures* and pictures are what initially draw my attention. In addition to the requisite photos of birds, bird feeders, and birdseed, images

I found most enjoyable were those of historical figures and especially the ‘ancient’ bird feeder ads. For example, in 1953, *Little Joe* small black and meaty sunflower seeds from the Kellogg seed company cost \$5.50/25 lbs. And, in 1913, for \$6.50 you could get a wire sparrow trap (House Sparrows) to go with your wooden feeder shelf from the Dodson Company. After my exploration of images and a couple sneak peaks at chapters, I started back at the beginning. The book is a fun read, well written, and informative. Although Steve and I may already be “experts” at feeding birds, we both learned a lot about the history of bird feeding. The authors provide information about feeder types, how and when they became popular, and the variety of foods



that have been presented to our backyard friends through time. There are discussions tangential to feeding, such as birdbaths, pesky predators (native and exotic), squirrels, window collisions, and the emergence of citizen science. During the Great Backyard Bird Count 2016, as I watched real-time checklist submissions pop up on the global map, I imagined how many of those observers were focused on the activity at their bird feeders.

Feeding Wild Birds in America, Continued on page 5

Feeding Wild Birds in America, Continued from page 4

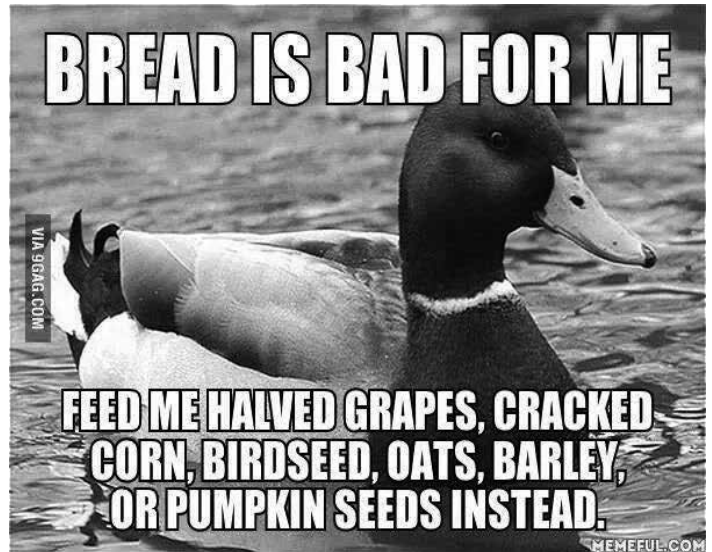
I give the book a hearty thumb's-up because of the wealth of reference information and because it is a fun and thought-provoking read. Have you ever thought about the history of blackoil sunflower seed? Have you ever considered that various concoctions were reportedly fed to hummingbirds as early as the late 1800s, or that the commercial designs used today hailed from pioneers on opposite sides of the country in the 1920s? Or, were you aware that the Federal Cartridge Corporation had ads to promote feeding songbirds and to stop shooting hawks and owls? How about the fact that goldfinch-favored thistle (niger, nyjer) seed isn't really from a thistle plant (spoiler alert- it's a sunflower)? Did you know the seeds are imported and heat-sterilized to avoid accidentally spreading noxious weeds? And, probably not all that surprising, is that there is a Wild Bird Feeding Industry (WBFI)? The book has an index, which facilitates browsing certain specific topics or to look up a particular question.

Lead author Paul Baichich will be discussing this project at the Saturday evening program at the LOS Spring Meeting on Saturday, 23 April 2016. Learn more about the writing of the book then – an additional perk, Paul will autograph your copy.

Many thanks to those who donated over \$500 in memory of Dr. Tom Eyster

- Virginia Mouw, Olympia, WA
Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers, Fitchburg, MA
Milton Academy, Milton, MA
Dr. and Mrs. Donald M. Dregalla, Milton, MA
Dr. Linde Eyster, Hyde Park, MA
Dr. Nancy M. Eyster-Smith, Waltham, MA
Ken Eyster, Lafayette, LA
Judith O'Neale, Lafayette, LA
Joseph Vallee, Abbeville, LA

Feed the Birds this Winter. They will repay you by destroying thousands of insects that harm gardens, trees, and crops. Includes sections on 'Feeding Birds in Winter', 'How to Help Birds in Winter', and 'The Best Winter Foods for Birds'.



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



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

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

**PRE-REGISTER FOR SPRING MEETING
 BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15 TO ENSURE
 A DINNER REQUEST!
 SEE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW.**

- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -
LOS 2016 SPRING MEETING – APRIL 22-23
CAMERON, LOUISIANA
DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2016

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

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

Number registering for Sat. dinner _____ at \$15.00/person = \$ _____

Donation enclosed + \$ _____

Membership Dues enclosed + \$ _____

\$ _____ **Total enclosed**

Please complete form and mail with check payable to:

Judith O'Neale
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508

jloneale@aol.com