

# LOS WINTER MEETING

Lafayette, Louisiana

25 - 25 January 2025

Cajun Country awaits the LOS membership this year as we begin our 2025 with our Winter Meeting in Lafayette! Southern food, good friends, and Zydeco will make this winter's fête a memorable one. Our host hotel will be the Homewood Suites by Hilton - Lafayette Airport location. A room block is available through 3 January, so book promptly to make sure you get a room at the LOS discounted rate (see p. 5). All meetings and dinner will take place at the Homewood Suites in their conference rooms (see address below). Meeting registration is \$15 online at [www.losbird.org](http://www.losbird.org). Saturday night dinner is \$25; deadline Friday, 3 January (see p. 4 for details).

## Events for Friday, 24 January 2025:

### Friday LOS Hummingbird Tour

11:00am – 4:30pm. Locations are available for you to visit on your own timeline. Please thank the hosts for their hospitality, and enjoy! Hummingbird species that have visited these sites this season include Buff-bellied, Allen's, and Black-chinned, among others. Toddy Guidry's place typically hosts Eastern Screech-Owl and Great-horned Owl.

1. Lafayette – Elaine Bourque's – 514 Garenne Road - hummer banding.
2. Lafayette – Toddy Guidry's – 501 Garenne Road - hummer banding.
3. Lafayette – Rose Must's – 145 Gable Crest Drive
4. Lafayette – Brad Price's – 122 Hathaway Drive
5. Lafayette – Cheryl Huner's – 130 Ashland Court
6. Lafayette – Mary Tutwiler's – 108 Emma Drive

### Friday Night Meeting

#### Homewood Suites by Hilton - Lafayette Airport

201 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(337) 264-6044

6:30 - 7:00 PM. Registration. Sandwiches provided by Buffalo Catering: Ham and Swiss on rye, chicken salad on wheat or white, chips, drinks, and homemade cookies. Door prizes!

7:00 PM. Welcome Members and Field Trip announcements.

7:15 - 8:00 PM. Program: "Sparrow Identification - I Promise, It's Fun" by Erik Johnson, PhD.

Did you know that there are 29 species of sparrow on the Louisiana list (not including House Sparrow)? Audubon Delta's Director of Conservation Science, Erik Johnson, will present on the charming little brown birds that give bird watchers headaches to identify, and turn complexity into elegance...we hope.

Erik joined the National Audubon Society in April 2011 and currently serves as the Director of Conservation Science for Audubon Delta, a regional office that includes Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Before coming to Audubon, Erik's graduate work at Louisiana State University included researching the effects of forest fragmentation on Amazonian bird communities and understanding the effects of fire management on pine savannas species, especially Henslow's Sparrows. Erik has been active in Louisiana's birding community for over 20 years and serves as Louisiana's Christmas Bird Count regional editor, a member of Louisiana's Bird Records Committee, and Director of the Louisiana Bird Observatory. Erik lives in Sunset, Louisiana.

## Events for Saturday, 25 January 2025:

Field trips: Field trip reservations will be made Friday night at the meeting, with the exception of the sparrow banding trip at the ULL Farm which requires pre-registration (see below). PLEASE be sure to give your cell phone number and your eBird user name to your trip leader. Remember to top-off your fuel tank before any field trip! All participants in LOS Winter Meeting 2024 are free to bird these areas on your own at any time of day. Please thank your trip leaders!!

Sparrow banding with Erik Johnson at the ULL Farm. 6:30am. Maximum of 12 participants. Half-day trip. The morning will start with birding early morning sparrow locations. Banding will begin after birding. Sparrows banded in recent years include Henslow's, LeConte's, Grasshopper, Lincoln's, Vesper, Fox, and Field. Because the ULL Farm requires special access, participants will need to pre-register for this trip by emailing Melissa Weaver at [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com). Erik will contact you once the trip list is full with pertinent information about meeting location, etc. Pre-registration begins 1 January, 2025 at 8:00am.

Lake Martin Birding with by Rob Dobbs and Andy From. Leave hotel by 6:00am. Maximum 12 participants. Half-day trip. East side along the levee, and west side entering near the Nature Conservancy – Cypress Preserve.

Lake Martin Birding by Kayak with by Ken Eyster and Mike Van Etten. Half-day trip. Maximum of 15 participants. Meet in the Lobby by 1:00pm to caravan, or meet at 1:45pm at Lake Martin Boat Launch, 1209 Rookery Road, Breaux Bridge. Birding will take you through a bald cypress swamp by kayak. The 200 acres in the center of the lake is only 5 feet deep. Kayak rental (includes life jackets, paddles, and kayak) is available for a \$30 for single or \$55 for tandem, but if you bring your own, there is no fee. Pre-registration is required and begins 1 January, 2025 at 8:00am. Email Melissa Weaver at [melissaweaverbird@gmail.com](mailto:melissaweaverbird@gmail.com) and state whether you are bringing your own kayak or plan to rent a single or tandem kayak. Ken will email you afterward with pertinent information.

Acadiana Park and Nature Station with James Smithers and Karen Terrell. Half-day trip. Maximum of 12 participants. Meet in the Lobby at 7:00 AM where you will caravan to the park at 1205 East Alexander Street, Lafayette. The park is along an ancient tributary of the Mississippi River, now called Francois Coulee, which flows into the Vermilion River. Upon conclusion, birders will lunch on their own. Moncus Park may be birded after lunch for those wishing to continue.

Matt Conn's Environmental Reclamation Property with Matt Conn and Bill Finney. Half-day trip. Maximum of 12 participants. Meet at 7:00am Lydia at Dago's Grocery and Gas Station at 3902 Darnall Road, New Iberia, to caravan to the property. Property is an area of 76 acres that includes habitat for wading birds, forest passerines, and resident avian species.

LSU Rice Experimental Station with Cheryl Huner and assisted by Mike Musumeche. Full-day trip. Meet in the hotel lobby by 7:00am and caravan to the location. Trip will also cover Bluefish Road, West Liberty Farm Road, and White Lake Conservation Area Bird and Nature Trail. Lunch at Suire's Grocery and Restaurant.

Esther, Mouton Cove, to include Schoolboard, E. Chapel, and Bayou Roads, with John Parker, assisted by Mary Tutwiler. Full-day trip. Maximum of 12 participants and three-car caravan. Other details TBA by John and Mary. Lunch at Suire's Grocery and Restaurant.

Indian Bayou and Oxbow Trail with Kevin Leigh, assisted by Jim Parker. Half-day trip. Maximum of 12 participants and three-car caravan. This area is adjacent to the Sherburne Wildlife Management Refuge on west side of the Atchafalaya River.

Palmetto Island to Intercoastal City with Toddy Guidry. Half-day to full-day trip. Details TBA by Toddy.

LOS leadership also asks all members present for the meeting to submit proper documentation of any Review List species to the Louisiana Bird Records Committee as soon as possible. The LBRC webpage is <http://www.losbird.org/lbrc/lbrc.htm>.

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Saturday Night Meeting  
Homewood Suites by Hilton - Lafayette Airport  
201 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
(337) 264-6044

6:30 - 7:00 PM: Welcome and Registration. Zydeco music by Tommy Michot.  
<https://tcmichot.wixsite.com/lesfreresmichot>

7:00 - 7:30 PM. Dinner is \$25/person and only available through pre-registration. Provided by Buffalo Catering. Dinner will be catfish bites, chicken and sausage gumbo, potato salad, and summer salad. Bread pudding with praline sauce and pecans for dessert. Drinks: Iced tea and water. If you desire a special diet meal, you are welcome to bring your own. You may also BYOB. Deadline for dinner reservation is Friday, 3 January. NO LATE DINNERS AVAILABLE; DINNERS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH PRE-REG.

7:30 - 9:00 PM. Program: "Birding in Southwest Madagascar" by Ken Eyster.  
Ken Eyster was born in Lafayette and got his BS degree in biology at USL. He then earned an AS in Industrial Technology from USL with a focus on electronics. While attending USL he worked part time at Lafayette General Medical Center in the Clinical Engineering Department. After graduating he was hired full time in that same department and become one of the first 1200 Certified Biomedical Equipment Technicians in the US. After approximately 15 years working in Clinical Engineering, he transferred to the Radiology Department. As a Certified Radiological Equipment Specialist, Ken managed and serviced over \$14 million worth of imaging equipment throughout LGMC.

After leaving LGMC he installed and serviced Hologic's digital mammography units, doctors' mammography reading workstations and bone densitometry units throughout Louisiana.

Ken has been a Life Member of the LOS for over 45 years. Ken remembers attending the LOS meetings in the smoke-filled Fred's Lounge in Cameron and he especially enjoyed listening to Dr. Lowery discuss birding with his dad. His dad, Dr. Marshall Eyster, taught Ornithology at USL, so Ken was exposed to birding at a very young age. Uniquely, both of Ken's parents, Marshall and Grace, were Past Presidents of the LOS.

Besides birding, he enjoys kayaking and photography and is on the board of the Lafayette Photographic Society. He also belongs to the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club (Colorado) and enjoys going on their rock collecting trips while in Colorado visiting his sons, family and grandchildren. Recent distant birding trips other than Madagascar were Costa Rica and a winter trip to the Sax-Zim bog in Minnesota.

### Winter Meeting Lodging and Restaurant Information:

LOS has reserved a block of rooms at the Homewood Suites by Hilton--Lafayette Airport, 201 Kaliste Saloom Road, in Lafayette, 70508 for \$115.00/night, plus applicable state & local taxes. The room block will be held until Friday, January 3, 2025. Register by phone at 337-264-6044 and ask for the LOS rate. It is better to call the hotel directly than to book online. Some members may find a lower rate through a loyalty program such as AAA, AARP, or the Hilton Rewards Program, but this rate really does appear to be a steal, so don't miss the deadline. Directions to hotel: From I-10, take the NE Evangeline Thruway (US HWY 90) south at the I-10 interchange with I-49. Stay on this highway until you turn west onto E. Kaliste Saloom Road. The hotel is immediately past the intersection of Kaliste Saloom and Pinhook. Locate dining suggestions include: The nearest Meche's Donut King is a half-mile away at 2025 W. Pinhook. Marcello's Italian Restaurant is at 340 Kaliste Saloom, Suite C. PJ's Coffee is at 1501 W. Pinhook. Smoking Joe's BBQ (in a Chevron station) is 600 E. Kaliste Saloom. Blanchard's BBQ (lunch only) at 2023 W. Pinhook Rd., Fat Pat's Bar and Grill is at 626 Verot School Road. Mercy Kitchen is at 1312 Verot School Road. Thai With Love is at 924 Kaliste Saloom Road. Lucia Bakehouse is at 607 Kaliste Saloom Road. Poupart's French Bakery is at 1902 W. Pinhook. A reminder that King Cake season will be upon us during the meeting (Be sure to ask about Poupart's French king cake).

Plate Lunches, the real Lafayette cooking. Lunch only.

Creole:

Laura's II (as seen on Anthony Bourdain) at 1904 W. University Ave, Creole Lunch House at 713 12<sup>th</sup> St.

Cajun:

Johnson's Boucaniere at 1111 St. John St.

And if you don't stop somewhere in Scott for boudin, shame on you.

