

LOS NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2002 LOS SPRING MEETING

CAMERON, LOUISIANA

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL OFF LA 82

APRIL 26-28, 2002

LOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President Marty Guidry
6139 North Shore Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
(h)225-755-1915
guidryrm@cox.net

Vice-President Karen Fay
732 Wordsworth Dr
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-1984
225-763-6805
lamskite@aol.com

Sec.-Treasurer... Judith O'Neale
504 Whitebark
Lafayette, LA 70508
337-981-1011
jloneale@aol.com

Past President David J. L'Hoste
1006 Arabella Street
New Orleans, LA
(h) 504-899-5018
lhoste@lhostelaw.com

Board Member..... Gay Gomez
P.O. Box 92335
Lake Charles LA 70609
337-475-5170
ggomez@mail.mcneese.edu

Board Member.....
..... Rosemary Seidler
740 Prospect Street
Shreveport, LA 71104
(h) 318-869-5231
rseidler@beta.centenary.edu

Board Member..... Lee Ellis
4123 Woodlands
New Orleans, LA 70131
504-394-7744
lehmane@earthlink.net

LOS News VACANT

JLO..... James Ingold
Department of Biological
Sciences, LSU-Shreveport
1University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115
318-797-5236
los-jlo@pilot.lsus.edu

With migration in full swing LOS will meet again in Cameron, LA during the last weekend in April to enjoy the trans-gulf migrant as they return to their nesting grounds. Daylight savings time begins April 7th so we'll have maximum daylight to enjoy the birds. Please complete the attached Registration Form and mail to Marianna Tanner Primeaux with your check so that we can plan the appropriate meals and seating set-up.

Saturday evening's program will introduce us to the southernmost bird of prey. In Looking for Johnny Rook: Unraveling the Biogeographical Mystery of the Striated Caracara in the Falkland Islands and Tierra del Fuego Jonathan Meiburg, a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, will describe the life history of this remarkable species through historical accounts and current research. The Striated Caracara is quite unusual both in its behavior and its distribution. Listed as near-threatened, the entire population of this bird of prey is confined to offshore islands in southern Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands. Because of its gregariousness and tame behavior, wool farmers in this region have nearly exterminated the species. These birds are opportunistic feeders and prey on a variety of foods; however, they also depend heavily on seasonal aggregations of colonial seabirds, especially penguins, albatrosses and burrowing petrels, to feed their young.

Jonathan recently conducted fieldwork on Isla de Los Estados in Argentina where he surveyed a previously unknown population of Striated Caracara at a large Rockhopper Penguin colony discovered in 1997. Using both slide projection and video clips Jonathan will discuss the environmental and behavioral factors that contribute to the limited distribution of the Striated Caracara.

Friday evening we'll remain closer to home

as Judith O'Neale presents Cuba: So Close and Yet So Far - a video of her February, 2002 trip to our southern neighbor. The largest island of the West Indies that includes both beaches and mountain ranges and less than 100 miles from Florida, Cuba has been difficult to visit since the 1960's because of the U. S. embargo. On February 7-16, 2002 Judith and 15 other enthusiastic birders ventured to Cuba with guide John McNeely, who has seen more Cuban birds than any other U. S. citizen. McNeely began birding Cuba in 1988 and participated in expeditions in 1989 and 1991 seeking the Cuban status of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Some of the birds seen during the February expedition included Antillean Palm Swift, Cuban Green Woodpecker, Great Lizard Cuckoo, Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody, Cuban Crab Hawk, Zapata Wren, Tawny-shouldered Blackbird, Gundlack's Hawk, Le Sagra's Flycatcher, Cuban Crow and Cuban Parrot. No, they did not glimpse any Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, but they did see the world's smallest bird at 2 inches long - the Bee

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Birding Festivals	2
LOS Needs Your Help	2
Winter Meeting A Success	3
LOS Supports Grand Isle Sanctuary	3
Research Grant Awarded	3
Cuba: So Close and Yet So Far	4
A Metric Pound of Louisiana Birds	8
Two LOS Members Honored by LWF	9
Welcome New Members	9
Membership Form	10

LOS Spring Meeting - continued

Hummingbird. This is sure to spur several LOS members toward a trip to the isle off our shore - so close, yet so far.

On Saturday evening we'll also recognize the recipients of the 2002 George H. Lowery Award and the 2002 LOS President's Award(s). The LOS presents the George H. Lowery Award to a person who has made a significant contribution to Louisiana birding and/or habitat or who has had a major positive influence on ornithology in Louisiana. Recipients of the LOS President's Award shall have supported birding in Louisiana, enhanced or taken special measures to conserve wildlife habitat in Louisiana or have promoted birding in Louisiana through their writing, lectures or other avenues.

For folks new to Cameron Parish birding or those who want to bird with a group, we'll have a field trip leaving from the Cameron Motel parking lot (near the restaurant) at 6:30 am. We'll bird on both sides of the Parish and will visit several habitats including beach, marsh, chenier woodlands and the town of Cameron. There is no charge for the field trip and everyone is welcome.

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SUPPORTS GRAND ISLE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Besides several LOS members working diligently to ensure a sanctuary system on Grand Isle for migratory birds, your Louisiana Ornithological Society recently provided a cash grant of \$2000 to the Orleans Audubon Society. This grant coupled with Orleans Audubon's partnership with The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana helped the Conservancy secure the Lafitte Woods Preserve on Grand Isle. Our LOS grant was part of a \$10,000 matching fund by Orleans Audubon Society to The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana to aid the Conservancy in securing this unique property. LOS appreciates and supports the outstanding work being done by Orleans Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the existing woodlands on Grand Isle.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program along with 23 other organizations including LOS annually supports the outstanding Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration in Grand Isle, LA (April 19-21, 2002). Besides offering birders and the general public an superb weekend of fun and birding, the Celebration focuses on educating the residents of Grand Isle on the value of their outstanding natural resources and the economics of ecological tourism while drawing public attention to the need to conserve these unique resources. Starting as a dream by a few visionaries several years ago, the Celebration now draws national visitors and has resulted in significant successes. The Lafitte Woods Preserve and the establishment of a regional office of The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana on Grand Isle resulted directly from the efforts of these visionaries. In 2002 LOS donated \$300 to support the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration. We congratulate Kay Radlauer and the Celebration organizing committee for their outstanding efforts and successes.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET OUT THOSE BINOCULARS

UPCOMING BIRDING FESTIVALS

In recent years South Louisiana has seen a remarkable growth in spring birding festivals. So get out those binoculars and enjoy some of Louisiana's outstanding resident and migrant birds. Here's a rundown on our great birding festivals:

Audubon Country Birdfest (St. Francisville, LA) - April 6-8, 2002

Field trips include Cat Island NWR, Tunica Hills, Mary Ann Brown Preserve, Butler-Greenwood Plantation, Cottage Plantation, Clark Creek Recreation Area
Programs include Dr. Wylie C. Barrow on "Importance of LA to Breeding and Migrating Birds" and C. C. Lockwood on his renowned nature photography
Contact 800-488-6502 or <http://www/audubonbirdfest.com> for more information

Lake Arthur Migration Sensation (Lake Arthur, LA) - April 11-13, 2002

Field trips include Peveto Woods Sanctuary, Lacassine NWR, Lake & river cruises, Woodland & swamp tour
Interesting seminars also
Contact Lake Arthur Chamber of Commerce at 337-774-3453 for more info

The Great Louisiana Birdfest (Covington, LA) - April 11-14, 2002

Field trips include Grand Isle, Manchac Swamp/Turtle Cove, Big Branch NWR, Cane Bayou 'Castle', Historic Godchaux Tract, Backyard Gardens, Tchefonct River Habitats, East Pearl River Estate, Pine Island Rookery
Programs include Gardening Workshop, Photo Workshop with C. C. Lockwood, Pine Island Rookery Photo Shoot
Contact: Visit <http://www.northlakenature.org> on the web for more info

Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration (Grand Isle, LA) - April 19-21, 2002

Field trips include Grand Isle State Park, Fourchon to Grand Isle, Grand Isle Birding Trail, Queen Bess Island, Birdwatching for Families
Programs include "How to Attract Birds to Your Backyard", "Hummingbirds and the Plants that Feed Them" with Walter & Olga Clifton, "Binoculars/Spotting Scopes: How to Choose and Use Them" with Jack Must, "Maritime Forest Ridges: Can They Be Re-established" with Ted Falgout, "Introduction to Those Confusing Shorebirds" and "Chenier Woods: Fast Food for Migrants" with Dr. Wylie Barrow
Contact Grand Isle Tourist Commission at 985-787-2997 for more info

Of course, don't forget the LOS Spring Meeting in Cameron, LA on April 26-28, 2002.

LOS WINTER MEETING HUMMS TO SUCCESS IN BATON ROUGE

In spite of the rain and cold front that covered Southeast Louisiana on Saturday, the LOS Winter Meeting in Baton Rouge on January 18-20, 2002 provided all with excellent programs and birding adventures. The highlight of the weekend was hummingbirds - both the evening programs and the wintering hummers that thrilled everyone.

Friday evening Karen Fay and Dennis Demcheck awed all with their spectacular video/slide presentation on the birds of Ecuador. Taking us on their June, 2002 trip to Ecuador with a group of Baton Rouge and Massachusetts birders Karen and Dennis provided superb photos and action shots of the unique Ecuadorean avifauna. We visited the Papallacta highlands with its amazing Sword-billed Hummingbirds and Rufous-bellied Seedsnipes, the Amazonian rainforest of Bellavista and Tandyama - home of the endemic Beautiful Jay and the lovely Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, the remote Galapagos Islands with its unique Darwin finches and the eerily tame seabirds as nesting Waved Albatross, Blue-footed Booby and Great Frigatebird and, of course, the towns and cities as Quito where people become the focus and birds as Rufous-Collared Sparrow and Eared Dove are often overlooked. Of course, hummingbirds as the diminutive Booted Racquet-tail, the flashy Violet-tailed Syph, the reclusive Rufous-breasted Hermit and the stunning Giant Hummingbird - the world's largest hummer - drew oohs and ahhs from the audience. Thanks, Karen and Dennis, for an enticing program.

Amid many its-too-early groans and threatening skies, field trippers assembled Saturday morning at 6:00 am outside the Holiday Inn. As rains held off, LOSer's departed in all directions to seek Southeast Louisiana's wintering birds. Heading north to Morganza Spillway, Mark Swan led an enthusiastic group seeking ducks, geese, shorebirds, woodpeckers and, hopefully, a Bald Eagle or two. To the Southeast Marty Guidry departed with a contingent hoping to view the wintering hummers at Tom Sylvest's Grammercy home and Gene Street's LaPlace abode. Neither disappointed us as five species and up to 20 birds were seen. Then it was on to the Bonnet Carre spillway for the shorebirds, raptors, herons, egrets and, of course, the LeConte's Sparrow and its cousins. Mike Seymour explored the lakes of Baton Rouge with his group and then treated them to a unique VIP tour of the LSU Museum of Natural Sciences where participants met Van Remsen and explored with him the value and uses of LSU's world-class ornithological collection. Dennis Demcheck of Baton Rouge CBC hummer fame led a large contingent visiting several Baton Rouge yards for wintering hummers. They thrilled at the opportunity to view at least six hummer species including the Broad-billed Hummingbird. On Sunday several of the above field trips repeated with Karen Fay

and Al Troy helping to lead them. Thanks to all of the field trip leaders for a wonderful experience in which 110 species were seen during the weekend.

Saturday night was a special one as LOS life members Bob and Martha Sargent from Alabama dazzled everyone with their presentation on America's hummingbirds. Bob's soft-spoken, spiced-with-humor presentation kept everyone glued to the edge of their seats for his every word. Although concentrating on his experiences with banding hummers in the southeastern U.S., Bob discussed all hummers that have visited the United States. What a wealth of knowledge provided in a quickly passing hour. Bob and Martha's experiences in banding hummingbirds are both intriguing and human and the kiss Bob imparts to each released hummer mirrors the care and love he has for these remarkable birds. As a real treat, Bob and Martha had a host of supplies and hummer-related articles from their Hummer/Bird Study Group for purchase. We all thank Bob and Martha for a memorable evening.

The excitement is building for our return to Southwest Louisiana. Join LOS for another outstanding Winter Meeting in Lake Charles, LA in January, 2003.

LOS AWARDS RESEARCH GRANT TO JENNIFER COULSON

The LOS Board has awarded the 2002 LOS Research Grant to Jennifer Coulson for her project entitled *Exploring Causes of Mortality and Reduced Fitness in Swallow-tailed Kites Breeding in the Pearl and Atchafalaya River Basins*.

The \$1000 grant will aid Jennifer in continuing her studies on the American Swallow-tailed Kite by funding an assistant to help with monitoring of kite nests. Jennifer began her studies on the American Swallow-tailed Kite in 1993. Her productive research focuses on Louisiana and Mississippi breeding populations and specifically those breeding in the Pearl and Atchafalaya River Basins.

We thank the LOS Grant Selection Committee (Jim Ingold, Peter Yaukey and Paul Dickson) for reviewing the 2002 proposals and providing excellent recommendations to the Board.

CUBA: SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR

by Judith O'Neale

Cuba is just over 100 miles from Florida, yet so difficult to visit because of the embargo placed on Cuba by the U.S. during the early 1960's, The U.S. has not traded with Cuba for 40 years and the American people have been banned from visiting. Some people have been able to go on humanitarian and scientific missions or to visit relatives, with approximately 140,000 Americans visiting legally each year. Some people have circumvented the system by traveling to Canada and going with Canadian groups. For years, customs have ignored these people when they reentered the U.S. but recently they have been fined when returning through Miami. When the August 2001 issue of ABA's *Winging It* arrived on a Friday announcing a legitimate birding survey, I immediately contacted the tour people to see what I needed to do. I sent my deposit on Monday, and along with 15 other impulsive birders, we made up the trip which would visit February 7 - 16, 2002.

Cuba, the westernmost of the Greater Antilles, is also the largest island in the West Indies as a whole. At approximately 43,371 square miles, Cuba accounts for 48 percent of the total West Indian land mass and is just slightly smaller than Pennsylvania. It is a long, relatively slender island, stretching 781 miles with 2,334 miles of coastline and literally thousands of offshore keys. There are several major mountain ranges, the largest being the Sierra Maestra where Pico Turquino rises to 6,507 ft. To date, 357 bird species have been recorded for Cuba, twenty-one species are endemics.

On February 6, I drove to New Orleans and caught a flight to Miami where I overnighted. On Feb. 7, I boarded a Jamaica Air flight to Montego Bay (flying over Cuba) and then returning north on another flight to Havana. I met two of our group in Miami and several more in Montego Bay. We arrived in Havana and after going through necessary immigration/customs lines, we were met by John McNeely and our Cuban guide and bus driver. As we drove through Havana, our guide pointed out landmarks of interest. We arrived at the Hotel Nacional which overlooks the Malecón (Havana's famous waterfront drive overlooking the Gulf of Mexico).

The Hotel Nacional of Cuba, emblem of Havana, built in only 13 months in 1920, is one of the most beautiful and luxurious in the country. What a treat it was for us to spend our first night in such a fabulous place. Special care has been taken to conserve the original decorations in the majestic building. Its several levels, embellished with small and lovely artistic mosaics, its marble columns and scagliola that support the roof and its public areas

have all been preserved to look as they did when the building was completed, endowing the Hotel Nacional with a very special appearance.

Our trip was led by John McNeely, who has perhaps seen more of Cuba's birds than any other U.S. citizen. His relationship with Cuba dates back to 1988 and he may be best known for expeditions between 1989 and 1991 seeking to determine the status of the world's last Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. We were there to help John survey the birds in specific areas.

After being assigned our rooms, several of us walked around the hotel grounds checking out the birds and taking pictures. We had two lifers very quickly with **Antillean Palm Swift** flying over and **Cuban Blackbird** in the trees. The dinner buffet that night was almost overwhelming. Much what I would expect on a cruise ship. The breakfast buffet was also very good, with fresh squeezed juices, many kinds of fruit and choices of eggs, bread, cereal and other dishes.

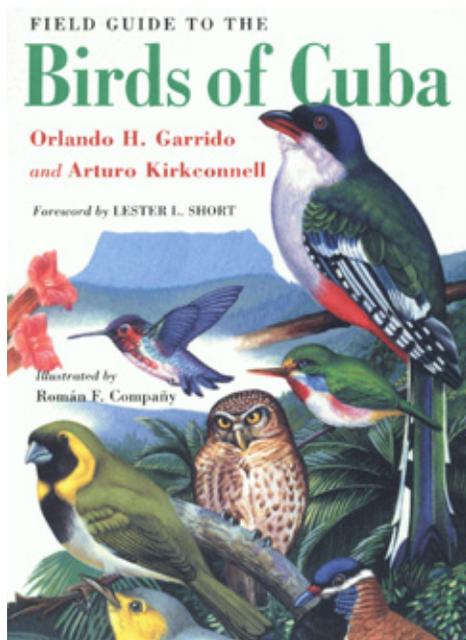
Most of you know that my nephews and I are antique car "nuts" and I was told to

take lots of pictures of the old cars in Cuba. Indeed, it was like going back to the sixties with many '57 Chevys and lots of other old cars on the roads.

Day two: We left the hotel around 8:30 for our drive to the Jardín Botánico Nacional, just south of Havana. On the way, we picked up Orlando Garrido, coauthor of the *Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba*. Orlando is a quick, older gentleman who was eager to show us "his" birds. We walked some trails and birded several areas finding **Cuban Green Woodpecker**, **Cuban Vireo** and **Great Lizard Cuckoo**. We had lunch at an organic vegetarian restaurant on the grounds.

Then we headed southeast to the Zapata peninsula (Zapata Swamp) which is by far Cuba's most prolific coastal birding region. We stopped at an area which had been known as a habitat for the **Bee Hummingbird** (world's smallest bird - 2") but they had not been seen this year by the previous groups. We had wonderful sightings of the **Cuban Emerald**, a much larger hummingbird, in the area but were almost about to give up when one of the ladies said: "Does it have a blue back?" YES, we all tried to get on the bird but it was chased by an emerald and out of sight. Then someone else said: "I've got it! Right in front of me!" Most of us were lucky enough to get good views of this precious little hummer, which is much prettier than the picture in the book. As I watched, I said to myself "This one's for you, Nancy." I wish she could have been there to see it with me. One of the primary reasons I came to Cuba was to see this bird, so I was a happy camper!

A very happy bunch trekked back through the brush to the bus to head for our next stop. The only road into Ciénaga de Zapata National Park follows the route of the Bay of Pigs invasion passing through extensive "everglades" and forest on limestone flats that includes stately Royal Palms. Unfortunately, it was hit very hard



Nacional Hotel - Havana

by Hurricane Michelle in November of 2001. We could see areas of devastation but we still found many birds. Some of the world's rarest and most restricted-range birds reside in this region.

We arrived at our beachfront hotel, Playa Larga, where we would stay for two nights. This was the first place that we encountered the conservation practice of shutting down all electricity when you weren't in your rooms. There were motion detectors and detectors on the doors which didn't always work as you would like. The power went off one night and then when it came back on the air conditioner came on in the middle of the night. We would also encounter our first menus of "chicken, pork or fish" with "beefsteak" to be added at a later place. Food was generally good, but best at the places which had buffets. Like many tourist places, they serve food they think the travelers want. We got black beans and rice only one or two places. After dinner, we went in search of owls and were rewarded by finding two **Stygian Owls** in the parking lot, just down from my cabana. This large owl has shown up in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas a couple of times.

Day three: An early breakfast was followed by birding in a restricted area west of the Bay of Pigs. Frank Medina, naturalist at Parque Nacional Cienaga de Zapata was our local guide for the day. In the las Salinas Refuge, we encounter numerous birds, including the **Cuban Trogon, Cuban Tody, Cuban Crab Hawk, West Indian Woodpecker, Yellow-headed Warbler and Cuban Pewee**. Frank led us back in the brush to some dead palm trees where he located a **Cuban Screech Owl**. A break that afternoon from 1 - 3:30 had several people swimming in the Bay of Pigs and I went wading and took pictures. From 3:30 to 6 p.m. we searched for the **Fernandina's Flicker**. There are only about 100 birds left and it is very site selective. We had a long hike through a cow pasture but no luck. Lots of **Smooth-billed Anis** and several **Northern Jacanas** and numerous **Palm Warblers**. It became quite muddy and now I have another pair of khaki pants with foreign spots on them.

Day four: We left very early and drove to Perelta Road and a three-mile, fast-paced hike into another Zapata Swamp area. We were trying to reach the end of the road early enough to see **Zapata Rail, Zapata Wren and Zapata Sparrow**. We were all successful in seeing the wren but the rail was only heard and the sparrow seen by only a few. We did see **Cuban Bullfinch and Tawny-shouldered Blackbird**. We had excellent views of the **Cuban Pygmy Owl** on our way out the trail. This little owl (6 _ inches) is a real cutie.

Then we headed for the south-central coast and Trinidad, via the beautiful Escambray Mountains. Trinidad is a 16th century settlement and former provincial capital. We had lunch in route and then arrived at the very new Brisas Trinidad Del Mar Hotel. What a resort! I'm surprised that they let birders in but I guess as long as we have "dollars" we are welcome. Beautiful stain glass windows separated the lobby with the courtyard area with swimming pools and palm trees. The restaurant was large and the buffet good and varied. You had to wander around to see what was available. I pigged out on guava juice and guava jam, which I love. There was evening "entertainment" which was very loud and lasted into the

night.

Day five: Up early for a hike parallel to the beach. Some saw **Gundlach's Hawk** on the trail. Back to the hotel for lunch and then some of us went on a tour of Trinidad. Our Cuban guide, Dani, took us to a bar which specializes in mojitos, the national drink of Cuba. It is made with rum, mineral water, sugar and mint. Very tasty. We had fun walking around the well-preserved colonial town with lots of street markets selling wooden items, handmade linens and maracas, of course. One of our group bought a beautiful handmade tablecloth and 6 napkins for \$20.00. Back to the hotel, where the others had been out searching for more birds. Successfully finding the **Red-shouldered Blackbird**



Judith in Bay of Pigs

Day six: Eight-thirty departure for Cayo las Brujas. Picked up two Cuban biologists, Edwin and Angel, at the hotel where we had lunch in Remedios. Tables were beautifully set with dark blue tablecloths and napkins and flatware. Took pictures around the square and more old cars.

Then we drove the newly opened causeway linking the mainland to Cuba's northern archipelago, the setting for Hemingway's *Islands in the Stream*. The causeway spans approximately 50 kilometers and goes over several cayos (keys) to reach Cayo Santa Maria. The modern cabins of Villas las Brujas were spread out along a cliff with balconies overlooking the beautiful blue water. There was a tranquil swimming beach adjacent to the restaurant area.

We birded the area around the cabanas after arriving and found some interesting warblers: **Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Yellowthroat and American Redstarts**. We also had close looks at **Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Bullfinch and Western Spindalis**.

Here we again encountered the "chicken, fish, pork or beefsteak" for lunch and dinner, served with rice and french fries. I must say, there was plenty of food and ice cream for desert. One strange thing was the bread in baskets before each meal. It was sliced bread and toasted, sometimes very hard not just crisp. Most of our salads were shredded cabbage with cucumbers and sometimes sliced tomatoes.

Mardi Gras evening, I gave out nice beads to all our group and had smaller beads for workers at the hotel. Even though we had to explain what Mardi Gras was all about, I kept getting request for more beads. We had a fun evening with me at the head of the table as the "Queen" of the Cuban Mardi Gras. The beads were quite a hit with the Cuban people and other requests continued during our stay there. I will probably always be known as "The Bead Lady" at Villas las Brujas. I even got accused of having a wooden leg full of beads. No, only a duffle bag.

We drove further out on the island of Santa Maria the next morning and encountered lots of waterbirds. We know that our spoonbills are really beautiful but put them with flamingos and you really have a sight to behold. There were also ducks, shorebirds and Osprey.

Day seven: There was much trepidation from our leaders as they had not gotten the necessary permission to bird in a key area



Western Spindalis - Mickey Wheeler

of the island. It was finally gotten the evening before and we were able to visit a very good birding area. This resulted in a few birds being sighted that John had never seen in this area before, including several transient sparrows. It was fun to see Wilson's Warbler, some folks saw Thick-billed Vireo and we got very good looks at several Key West Quail-Doves.

The day we were to leave for Santa Clara, word was out that a VIP would be coming and part of our group had to vacate their rooms early so they could be prepared for the arrivals. We heard the plane come in and saw the two helicopters but never did get a glimpse of the VIP who we found out was Raúl Castro, Fidel's brother and probably next in line for the Presidency of Cuba.

After lunch, it was a two-hour drive to Santa Clara, dropping off Edwin and Angel along the way. We spent the night at los Caneyes, Cuban-Amerindian styled cabanas. It was Valentine's day and many people were there for a party and dance with music into the night.

Day eight: Part of the group had opted to go back to Zapata Swamp the next morning, leaving at 5 a.m. (By the way, this group saw the Fernandina's Flicker on their second try.) The rest of the group set out for Havana with a stop at the Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution memorial in Santa Clara. We had lunch at the El Mira cafe in Old Havana, which was exceptionally good grilled shrimp. We stayed at the beautiful Hostal del Tejadillo, with some of our rooms overlooking an open atrium. We took a short tour of Old Havana, seeing the la Bodeguita Del Medio where Hemingway drank his mojitos and the hotel where he stayed in Old Havana. We walked the busy outdoor Havana Market, where art work and hand-crafted items were for sale. Cuba is fairly crime free and it was very safe to stroll around the market on my own, running into some of the group from time to time.

The original area of present day Havana, known as Old Havana, and in particular its famed historic center, declared a Heritage Site for Humanity by UNESCO in 1982, is made up of numerous buildings, plazas, churches, parks and streets. This old city center recounts the story of a culture that was formed by a unique mix of Spanish, African and American (in the true sense of the work), and its special charm makes it the most popular spot for the hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit the Cuban capital every year.

We had rain on our last evening but generally we had good weather. We drove to the old fort of El Morro, the 15th century fortress overlooking the city. Our dinner of lobster, shrimp and fish was very good. After dinner, we went into Castillo de San Carlos de La Cabaña for the ceremony of the guard. This lighting of the canon every evening at 9 p.m. to announce the closing of the walled city has been in practice for many years. Inside the fort we toured the revolutionary office of Che Guevara, a Cuban National hero, where many of his possessions were on display, including his binoculars and camera, plus early pictures.

Some people were leaving early on Saturday morning, so we

had some of our "goodbyes" before everyone went off to bed. A few of us did an early morning tour of Old Havana Saturday morning. How different it was from Friday afternoon when the music and atmosphere were so festive. Saturday morning, the city was just waking up and it was very quiet. Our group left for the airport at 12:30 and headed back to Montego Bay and our flight to Miami.

We had absolutely no trouble returning to the U.S. through Customs. The Customs agent asked me what I was doing in Cuba and before I could answer he said "license?" I said "Yes" and he motioned me through. One of our group was asked to show his license by a different customs agent.

We saw lots of people riding bicycles and motor scooters. Horse drawn carriages and carts, even a cart being pulled by two oxen. Everyone we encountered was very nice and many people spoke English. The literacy rate is around 98% and they have excellent medical care. The conversion to the U.S. dollar in the 1990's has jump-started the economy after the disintegration of the USSR when Cuba lost 85% of its foreign trade. Tourism has become their major economic focus. There were many tourists in Old Havana but it has been noticeably down since September 11. We saw lots of sugar cane fields, the main crop, and of course the Cuban cigar is still very much in demand, as is Cuban rum.

Most of the average Cuban housing that we saw would be classified as substandard here in the states. The average Cuban income is 200 peso/month which equals approximately \$8.00. Cuban pesos are mainly used by Cubans to buy groceries and other essentials by a ration card, public transportation and any medications that might be available. The national currency is the U.S. dollar and all services for foreigners are charged in dollars. Credit cards and travelers' checks are accepted except those issued on U. S. banks, so U.S. citizens must bring cash to Cuba. Visitors legally traveling to Cuba may bring back to the U.S. \$100 of Cuban-made products but educational materials, including books, music CD's artwork and handicrafts are allowed without limitations.

Northeast trade winds temper the heat in Cuba. In Havana, in winter, day temperatures can range from the low 60's to 80 degrees F. Evening temperatures can reach the 40's in higher elevations and on the coast. Rainfall is mostly in the summer and autumn with hurricanes coming in August - October. The best time for a visit is during the cooler dry season (November to April).

It is difficult to describe all the interesting sights and sounds of Cuba in just a few pages but hopefully you have been able to read between the lines to see what a tremendous birding experience this trip was for me. I hope to return to Cuba for more birding and exploring of Old Havana and hopefully, relations between our countries will open up opportunities for more people to experience the country, without losing the charm of Cuba.

Cuban Trip List of birds seen February 7 - 16, 2002

Pied-billed Grebe	Peregrine Falcon	Barn Owl	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Brown Pelican	Northern Bobwhite (h)	Cuban Screech-Owl (E)	Black-throated Green Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	King Rail	Cuban Pygmy-Owl (E)	Yellow-throated Warbler
Neotropic Cormorant	Sora (h)	Stygian Owl	Prairie Warbler
Anhinga	Yellow-breasted Crake	Cuban Nightjar	Palm Warbler
Magnificent Frigatebird	Zapata Rail	Antillean Palm Swift	Black-and-white Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Spotted Rail	Cuban Emerald	American Redstart
Great Egret	Purple Gallinule	Bee Hummingbird	Worm-eating Warbler
Snowy Egret	Common Moorhen	Cuban Trogon	Ovenbird
Little Blue Heron	American Coot	Cuban Tody	Northern Waterthrush
Tricolored Heron	Limpkin	Belted Kingfisher	Louisiana Waterthrush
Reddish Egret	Black-bellied Plover	West Indian Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Cattle Egret	Killdeer	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-headed Warbler (E)
Green Heron	Black-necked Stilt	Cuban Green Woodpecker (E)	Wilson's Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Jacana	Northern Flicker	Summer Tanager
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Fernandina's Flicker	Western Spindalis
White Ibis	Lesser Yellowlegs	Cuban Pewee	Red-legged Honeycreeper
Glossy Ibis	Willet	La Sagra's Flycatcher	Cuban Bullfinch
Roseate Spoonbill	Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Cuban Grassquit
Wood Stork	Short-billed Dowitcher	Loggerhead Kingbird	Yellow-faced Grassquit
Turkey Vulture	Common Snipe	White-eyed Vireo	Zapata Sparrow
Greater Flamingo	Laughing Gull	Thick-billed Vireo	Clay-colored Sparrow
American Wigeon	Herring Gull (?)	Cuban Vireo	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Yellow-throated Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Gull-billed Tern	Cuban Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Northern Shoveler	Caspian Tern	Purple Martin	Indigo Bunting
Northern Pintail	Royal Tern	Cuban Martin	Painted Bunting
Greater Scaup	Rock Dove	Tree Swallow	Red-shouldered Blackbird
Osprey	White-crowned Pigeon	Cave Swallow	Tawny-shouldered Blackbird
Northern Harrier	White-winged Dove	Zapata Wren (E)	Eastern Meadowlark
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Cuban Blackbird (E)
Gundlach's Hawk	Zenaida Dove	Wood Thrush	Greater Antillean Grackle
Cuban Crab Hawk	Mourning Dove	Red-legged Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Ground-Dove	Gray Catbird	Black-cowled Oriole
Crested Caracara	Key West Quail-Dove	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow
American Kestrel -	Ruddy Quail-Dove	Northern Parula	Chestnut Mannikin
(White-breasted, Red-breasted and North American migrant)	Cuban Parakeet (E)	Yellow Warbler	
Merlin	Cuban Parrot	Magnolia Warbler	
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (h)	Cape May Warbler	
	Great Lizard-Cuckoo	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
	Smooth-billed Ani		

Life Birds in bold

E = Endemics

A Metric Pound of Louisiana Birds

by James M. Bishop

It was not until I became familiar with John Gould's *A Century of Birds from the Himalaya Mountains* (published in 1832) that I realized the title had nothing to do with a hundred years of birding. The Century represents the number 100 and reflected the number of Himalayan birds species dealt with in the book. It is in a similarly misleading vein that I included a metric pound in the title of this article. When Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr. published the first edition of *Louisiana Birds* in 1955, the "official" list stood at 377. With the second edition five years later, the list had increased to 387 species, representing an addition rate of two species per year. By 1970, the number of accepted species had broken the four-century mark by three (Lowery, 1970), and was up to 411 with the third edition of *Louisiana Birds* in 1974. As detailed by Lowery in his 1970 article, changes in a state's list of bird species depends not only on an accurate and detailed description of a species new to the state, but also on taxonomic changes such as the splitting or lumping of species.

Lowery insisted on incontrovertible evidence in order to accept a species to the State list, and the best incontrovertible evidence was (and remains) a specimen. Of course, obtaining a specimen was not always possible, and he had to judge reports of a new species by the competence of the observer and description details. Lowery's death in 1978 set the stage for an official bird records committee to be formed, and in 1979 the Louisiana Ornithological Society's Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) published their bylaws (Anonymous, 1979). The purpose of this committee was covered in seven items, but briefly they were to increase knowledge of Louisiana birds; to establish criteria so that visual reports of rare and unusual birds could be accepted for the State list; and to maintain records and publish decisions regarding the status of rare-bird reports. The committee is comprised of seven voting individuals including the secretary (D. Dittman, personal communication, 19 February

2002). Besides being a member in good standing with the LOS, the voting individuals must be recognized experts of bird identification in the field. By establishing a records committee, the acceptance of a bird new to the State list is based on the judgment of six individuals, not that of a single person. Among their first order of business was to publish a "review list," encompassing 99 species whose sighting was deemed worthy of consideration by the LBRC (Crider, 1982).

Since 1982, the LBRC has published 8 reports as well as a review of selected species (Table 1) accepted by Lowery (1974). The results have been the deletion of 10 species that Lowery had accepted (Schulenberg, 1985; Dittmann, 1995) and the addition of 44 species new to the State. Four other species have been added and one deleted due to taxonomic changes. The unpublished 9th report by the LBRC adds an additional 6 species (D. Dittmann, personal communication, 23 January 2002). To summarize, starting with Lowery's 411 species in 1974, there have been 10 species

removed from the list, the addition of 50 species new to the State list, and a net of 3 species added from taxonomic changes, for a current total of 454, the number of grams in a pound.

When the list reached 451 species, Ray Bradburry's *Fahrenheit 451* came to mind, and I considered working this connection into a title for an article. No matter how I manipulated various words and the kindling temperature of paper, I failed to come up with a suitable title. Fortunately, new species came along in short order, and the metric pound appeared. Taking the decisions of the LBRC and taxonomic changes into consideration, Lowery's 1974 list would have been 402 species. In the ensuing 28 years, 52 species have been added to the Louisiana list, for an annual average of 1.9 species. With obvious assumptions, we would expect "One-half Kilo of Louisiana Birds" or perhaps "Five Centuries of Birds from Louisiana" to be published just after 2025. The biggest question, however, is not whether this rate can be expected to continue for the next 23 years, but whether I will live to author a follow-up article!

Louisiana birders are keenly interested in adding a new species to the official list. Perhaps this is a legacy of Dr. Lowery's enthusiasm for finding vagrants and extralimital species, reinforced by Louisiana's geographical location. Being a coastal state, there is always the possibility of discovering some exotic pelagic that has entered the State's offshore waters. The waters also serve as a barrier to migratory species from the Northwestern U.S., should they stray southeast on their customary movements south. And finally, sharing a common border with Texas, North America's most species-rich state, there is a good chance that a typical Mesoamerican species will travel up the Gulf coast and cross the Sabine River. With this in mind, Remsen (1990) published an article reviewing 15 experienced birder's predictions for the next 10 species. The experts came up with a combined list of 56 species. Perusing that list and the actual bird species that have been recorded, one can conclude that experience does little to hone one's ability for predictions. Only eight species (i.e., 14%) were common to Dr. Remsen's list and the list of birds that have been accepted since 1990: Connecticut Warbler, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cory's Shearwater, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Green Violet-ear, and Cordilleran

Flycatcher. Not counting the introduced species and subspecies elevated to species status, 26 species of birds have been added to Louisiana's official list since 1990. So vagrants in adjacent states cannot be used as good indicators of what may show up next in Louisiana. And if past records can be used as an indication of future records, then it is most likely that species new to the State will be an offshore species (shearwater, storm-petrel, or tropicbird), a gull, a hummingbird, or a flycatcher.

Of course, a big part of discovering a species new to the State is being in the right place at the right time. An even more important requirement, however, is recognizing that a bird is new. Skills necessary to sort out subtle differences of empid and *Myiarchus* flycatchers, nondescript warblers, and they-all-look-alike-to-me shorebirds are what it takes to recognize a new geographical record.

Personally, I like bells, whistles, and strobe lights on birds to help me identify who is filling the field of my binoculars. Medium skilled birders probably see new geographical records regularly, but simply do not recognize them. And with that in mind, I predict that the next gram of bird to be added to the Louisiana list will be a male Rose-throated Becard!

Donna Dittmann's assistance was invaluable in sorting out several problematical birds in Table 1 (see page 10). Donna also provided editorial comments and much needed advice on some terminology issues. David Muth and Donna responded positively to my request for a complete citation reporting Louisiana's first Lazuli Bunting record. I thank both for their contributions in improving the accuracy and completeness of this article.

References

- Anonymous. 1979. Bylaws of the Louisiana Ornithological Society's Louisiana Bird Records Committee. *LOS News* 87:3-12.
- Anonymous. 1982. Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee, First Annual Report. *LOS News* 98:2-5.
- Anonymous. 1984. Louisiana Ornithological Society Birds Records Committee, Second Annual Report. *LOS News* 103:3-5. Cardiff, S.W., D.E. Loria, and W. Yong. 1991. First Louisiana and easternmost United States record of Hooded Oriole. *The Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 1:49-53.
- Crider, B. 1982. Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. *LOS News* 97:6-7.
- Dittmann, D.L. 1991. Sixth Report of the Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. *Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 2:21-40.
- Dittmann, D.L. 1995. Seventh Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee. *The Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 3:17-42.
- Dittmann, D.L., J.P. Kleiman, and S.W. Cardiff. 1998. Eighth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee. *The Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 4:103-153.
- Dittmann, D.L. In preparation. Ninth Report of the Louisiana Bird Records Committee. unpublished manuscript.
- Gould, J. 1832. *A Century of Birds from the Himalaya Mountains*. London: published by J. Gould. 72 p., 80 color plates.
- Lowery, Jr., G.H. 1955. *Louisiana Birds*. First Edition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 556 p.
- Lowery, Jr., G.H. 1960. *Louisiana Birds*. Second Edition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 568 p.
- Lowery, Jr., G.H. 1970. The Louisiana State List. *LOS News* 56:1-7.
- Lowery, Jr., G.H. 1974. *Louisiana Birds*. Third Edition. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. 652 p.
- Perrington, R.D. 1985. The Autumn Migration, Fall 1984, Central Southern Region. *American Birds* 39(1):63-67.
- Remsen, J.V., Jr. 1985. Acquisitions and Expeditions. *Section of Ornithology Newsletter*, Museum of Zoology, Louisiana State University. No. 4:4-7.
- Remsen, J.V., Jr. 1990. Predicting Louisiana's Next 10 New Birds. *LOS News* 133:1, 6-8.
- Remsen, J.V., Jr. 1991. First record of Williamson's Sapsucker from Louisiana. *The Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 2:15-17.
- Schulenberg, T.S. 1984. Third Annual Report of the Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. *LOS News* 107:1-6.
- Schulenberg, T.S. 1985. Comments on the LOS Bird Records Committee's List of the Birds of Louisiana. *LOS News* 111:2-5.
- Schulenberg, T.S. 1986. Fourth Report of the Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. *LOS News* 113:2-7.
- Schulenberg, T.S. 1988. Fifth Report of the Louisiana Ornithological Society Bird Records Committee. *The Journal of Louisiana Ornithology* 1:15-23.



DO YOU WANT TO HELP LOS?

LOS has a need and we hope that you can help out.

Carol Foil, our outstanding *LOS News* editor has had to resign due to enhanced work requirements. Under Carol's skillful leadership, the *LOS News* has grown to be an outstanding newsletter - providing both news of the Society and informative, well-written birding and conservation articles. Our newsletter has received numerous compliments during the past few years from both our members and those outside the LOS. Thanks, Carol, for your diligent work and the outstanding *LOS News* that you have published.

In the past publishing the *LOS News* has been a very time-consuming task - primarily because of the lengthy layout process. By working with our printer, the LOS Board has been able to eliminate the difficult and lengthy layout process. For a small fee, the printer will assume this responsibility; however, because the printer will be doing the layout, he will be able to reduce the actual costs to print the *LOS News*. The result is a very minimal increase in costs to LOS.

The job of the Newsletter Editor will be to secure articles for the *LOS News* and e-mail them to the printer approximately ten days before publication date. *LOS* publishes a minimum of four newsletters annually with a goal of six newsletters a year. Almost all articles in the newsletter are written by *LOS* members and outside invitees. The editor may write an occasional short article on *LOS* business or news. Several articles in each newsletter are 'standard' such as summaries of past meetings, introduction to the next meeting and welcome to new members. The editor would need to secure contacts for one or two articles of interest to *LOS* members for each newsletter such as an interesting birding trip report, birding identification articles, birding hotspots in Louisiana and environs, etc.

If you would like to help *LOS* and edit the *LOS News*, please contact Marty Guidry (225-755-1915 or guidrym@cox.net) or Judith O'Neale (337-981-1011 or jloneale@aol.com). If you are not sure, but won't to learn more about editing the *LOS News*, please contact one of us.

Thanks and please consider participating in your Society.

Table 1. Status of Louisiana's List of Accepted Bird Species from 1955 through 2001; Species Number Does Not Necessarily Indicate Exact Chronological Order of Acceptance.

Year	No. Species	Comment	New Species	LBRC* Report	Reference
1955	377			-	Lowery (1955)
1960	388	added 11 species; 2nd edition <i>Louisiana Birds</i>		-	Lowery (1960)
	387	deleted 1 species (Spotted Towhee demoted to subspecies status)		-	"
1970	408	added 21 species (including elevation of Great-tailed Grackle to species status)		-	Lowery (1970)
	403	deleted 5 species (Snow Goose, Harlan's Hawk, Red-shafted Flicker, Audubon's Warbler & Bullock's Oriole demoted to subspecies status)		-	"
1974	411	added 8 species; 3rd edition <i>Louisiana Birds</i>; base list for this article		-	Lowery (1974)
1982	412	added 6 species:	Mongolian Plover	1st	Anonymous (1982)
	413		Ruff	"	"
	414		Anna's Hummingbird	"	"
	415		Allen's Hummingbird	"	"
	416		Blue Bunting	"	"
	417		McCown's Longspur	"	"
	417	Tropical Kingbird split into Tropical & Couch's	Couch's Kingbird	"	"
1983	416	deleted 1 species (Junco's demoted to subspecies status)	delete 1 junco species	"	"
1984	417	added 4 new species	Great Black-backed Gull	2nd	Anonymous (1984)
	418		Lesser Black-backed Gull	"	"
	419		Thayer's Gull	"	"
	420		Townsend's Warbler	"	"
1984	421	added 4 species	Eurasian Wigeon	3rd	Schulenberg (1984)
	422		Sabine's Gull	"	"
	423		Williamson's Sapsucker	"	" & Remsen (1991)
	424		Hepatic Tanager	"	Schulenberg (1984)
1985	425	added 1 species	Lazuli Bunting	-	Purrrington (1985) & Remsen (1985)
	424	deleted 9 species from Lowery (1974)	(Greater Shearwater)	-	Schulenberg (1985)
	423		(White-tailed Tropicbird)	-	"
	422		(Greater Flamingo)	-	"
	421	deleted 9 species from Lowery (1974) (continued)	(Harlequin Duck)	-	Schulenberg (1985)
	420		(Harris' Hawk)	-	"
	419		(Black Francolin)	-	"
	418		(Smooth-billed Ani)	-	"
	417		(Connecticut Warbler)	-	"
	416		(Snow Bunting)	-	"
1986	417	added 7 species	Zone-tailed Hawk	4th	Schulenberg (1986)
	418		Calliope Hummingbird	"	"
1986	419		Tropical Kingbird	"	"
	420		Rock Wren	"	"
	421		Varied Thrush	"	"
	422		Tropical Parula	"	"
	423		House Finch	"	"
1988	424	added 2 species	California Gull	5th	Schulenberg (1988)
	425		Antillian Nighthawk	"	"
1990	426	added 3 species	Arctic Tern	6th	Dittmann (1991)
	427		Virginia's Warbler	"	"
	428		Hooded Oriole	"	" & Cardiff et al. (1991)
1995	429	added 3 species	Cave Swallow	7th	Dittmann (1995)
	430		Red-faced Warbler	"	"
	431		Shiny Cowbird	"	"
	430	deleted 1 species	(Roseate Tern)	"	"
1998	431	added 14 species	Red-billed Tropicbird	8th	Dittmann et al. (1998)
	432		King Eider	"	"
	433		Harris' Hawk	"	"
	434		Black-tailed Godwit	"	"
	435		Eurasian Collared Dove	"	"
	436		Broad-billed Hummingbird	"	"
	437		Blue-throated Hummingbird	"	"
	438	added 14 species (continued)	Red-naped Sapsucker	8th	Dittmann et al. 1998)
	439		Fork-tailed Flycatcher	"	"
	440		Pacific-sloped Flycatcher	"	"
	441		Cordilleran Flycatcher	"	"
	442		White Wagtail	"	"
	443		Clark's Nutcracker	"	"
	444		Connecticut Warbler	"	"
	445	added 4 species (subspecies elevated to species status)	Plumbeous Vireo	"	"
	446		Cassin's Vireo	"	"
	447		Spotted Towhee	"	"
	448		Bullock's Oriole	"	"
2001	449	added 6 species	Cory's Shearwater	9th	Dittmann, in preparation
	450		**Greater Shearwater	"	"
	451		Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	"	"
	452		Kelp Gull	"	"
	453		Green Violet-ear	"	"
	454		Ringed Kingfisher	"	"

*Louisiana Bird Records Committee

**Accepted previously by the Louisiana Bird Records Committee, but not published.

TWO LOS MEMBERS HONORED BY LWF

On March 2, 2002 two Louisiana Ornithological Society members received distinguished conservation awards from the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) at its 63rd Annual Meeting in Marksville, LA. **Bill Fontentot** (Lafayette, LA) garnered the 2002 Professional Conservationist of the Year Award while **Elmer V. "Tiny" Moore** (Alexandria, LA) received the Arthur Van Pelt Lifetime Conservationist Award. Wow - what an honor to these deserving conservationists who have spent most of their lives working to conserve our natural resources.

Bill received the 2002 Professional Conservationist of the Year Award for his continuing efforts to conserve bottomland hardwood habitat in Lafayette Parish; his development of the first, college-level 'Naturalist' course in Louisiana, his widely-read weekly conservation column in "The Daily Advertiser" newspaper and his recent co-authorship of a highly acclaimed book on the seasons of birds along the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

Although Tiny was nominated for 2002 Volunteer Conservationist of the Year Award, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation selected Tiny to receive the very prestigious Arthur Van Pelt Lifetime Conservationist Award. Contributing thousands of volunteer hours over many years to his passion - conserving and improving the vital resources of the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, Tiny also devotes many hours toward educating the public on the value of our natural resources to wildlife and our future generations. Tiny has been very active behind the scenes ensuring the birders enjoy the special places that Central Louisiana has to offer and was one of the key organizers of the outstanding 2001 LOS winter meeting in Alexandria, LA.

Congratulations to both of these fine gentlemen for their well-deserved recognition.



AUDUBON'S BIRD CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

The *Bird Conservation Newsletter* is an electronic periodical published quarterly that provides information on National Audubon Society's Bird Conservation Program.

To view the latest edition of this excellent publication, visit the web at:

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/news.html>

Highlights of the Winter edition include IBA Program updates as well as policy, sanctuary and educational news. Upcoming meetings and special events related to bird conservation are highlighted in the newsletter.

Welcome New LOS Members!

New Members:

From 2001:

Lake Arthur Chamber of Commerce, 5006 Hwy 26 Jennings, LA
70546 jmfh@cfweb.net

New Life Members:

Dennis Demcheck, Baton Rouge
Mark Hefter, Dobbs Ferry NY
Linda Stewart Knight, Baton Rouge

New Members:

Estelle, Shelley & Shannon Antoine, Lacombe LA

Rick Begneaud, Mill Valley, CA

Katherine Brooks, New Orleans, LA

David Cagnolatti, Baton Rouge, LA

Jane Connelly, Austin TX

Kreg D. Ellzey, Hornbeck LA

Donna LaFleur, Baton Rouge, LA

Eric M. Lyman, Baton Rouge, LA

Beth & Sammy Maniscalco, Thibodaux, LA

Nancy Menasco & Jerry Bertrand, Shreveport LA

Sarah Pearce, Iowa, LA



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

PRSR STD.
U.S.
POSTAGE
PAID
Lafayette, LA
Permit No. 507

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL. IF THE YEAR IS NOT 2001 OR LATER, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. PLEASE RENEW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewal: _____ New Member: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular...\$15.00/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Student...\$7.50/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing...\$25.00/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Family...\$20.00/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (>65)...\$10.00/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining...\$50.00/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior (<14)...\$7.50/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Family...\$15.00/yr	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron...\$100.00/yr
<input type="checkbox"/> Library...\$10.00/yr*		<input type="checkbox"/> Life...\$250.00

*Please add \$1.00 for foreign subscriptions

Make check payable to: LOS
Send to: Judith L. O'Neale, LOS Secretary/Treasurer
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508-6362 (337) 981-1011

Dues are payable in January of each year; Please check your mailing label for your dues status and renew promptly if you are in arrears.