As I write it is mid March. The cherry laurels are in bloom, the trees are budding and the first rubby-throats have already been reported. Can the warblers be far behind? Hopefully, they will be streaming into Cameron Parish as the LOS holds its 2005 Spring Meeting on April 22-24. For a change of pace, Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Creole Fire Station, which is located ¼ mile east of the one and only traffic light in Creole. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and a hospitality table full of Ecuadorian “travel food” will be set up so you can come and enjoy a snack before the evening program begins at 7:00 pm. For an explanation of Ecuadorian “travel food,” I refer you to the Friday night program description. Please complete the registration form on page 7 and return it, along with your registration fee, to Marianna Tanner-Primeaux at the address listed on the form.

Note change of meeting location: The Creole Fire Station is approximately 15-20 minutes from the Cameron Motel. Head east on LA 27 until to reach the Creole traffic light. At the intersection LA 27 goes north and LA 82 goes south. You should continue east through the traffic light 1/4 mile on Parish Rd. 1143 and the fire station will be on the right. Registration for the Saturday evening meeting will also begin at 6:00 pm. This year we are very pleased to have the chef at the “new” restaurant, Stell’s, to cater our Saturday buffet. The meal will feature delicious pork roast with mashed potatoes and spicy shrimp etouffee with rice and green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and tea all for the modest price of $12. Please add that cost to your $5 registration fee if you plan to take advantage of this great bargain. The buffet will open at 6:30 pm and food will be served until 8 pm. The program and business meeting will get started once we reach the dessert stage. Pre-registration for this meal is critical, so don’t wait until you get to Creole to decide you are hungry after you spent all those extra minutes trying to find that Cape May in. You can be sure the pickings will be mighty slim (read not too darn likely) for those who do not plan in advance.

Friday night presentation: “Southern Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands” by Joelle Finley, of New Orleans, LA and Karen Fay, of Star Hill, LA

Last spring, our featured speaker was a tour operator and guide who specializes in birding trips to Ecuador. Joelle and I were part of a group that summer to join Juan Carlos and Paul Greenfield on a tour of the southern regions of Ecuador, from the arid scrubby habitat of Loja to the montane forests of Podocarpus National Park. One of the primary focuses of the trip was to see the recently discovered Jocotoco Amazita at one of Ecuador’s newest lodges, Tapichala Lodge, which was established to help protect the habitat of this wonderful amazita. Did we see it? And just what is an amazita feeder? Get the rest of the story after you taste the culinary treats inspired by Juan Carlos Calvache’s roadside dishes, and we take you on a trip through southern Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (now, that is a medium to large-Small Ground-Finch or a small to medium Medium Ground-Finch? Where’s Paula?)

Saturday night presentation: “Birds of New Zealand – species survival at the mercy of man.” by Dr. Lee Ellis of New Orleans, LA

Keeping with our Southern Hemisphere theme, we will now travel across the Pacific to the land of Wandering Albatross, Kiwi and Yellow-eyed Penguin: the enchanting archipelago of New Zealand. Stunning scenery and lots of enabemck makes this a special birding destination. Lee will share his adventures on the islands and discuss the many problems facing New Zealand’s endemic birds and other wildlife. Like most island ecosystems, New Zealand endemics and seabirds continued on page 4
Minutes of the LOS Winter Meeting
Lafayette - February 18, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Fay at 7:00 P.M.

Karen welcomed new members, out of state members and guests. Doc and Matilde Smith, Eloise Mullen, Jeannette Robideaux, Joseph Vallee, Bob Jumonville, Joelle Finley, and Judith O’Neale were thanked for their work on organizing the meeting and for working at the registration table. Dave Patton was recognized for organizing the field trips and all of field trip leaders were asked to stand.

Karen introduced the evening speakers. Donata Roome Henry presented an update on her Swainson’s Warbler research. Donata received a PhD from Tulane University. Clay Green, a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at ULL, presented his research on the Reddish Egret which was undertaken at Laguna Atascosa in Texas.

Seven door prizes were awarded to lucky members. The LOS officers and Board Members were introduced: Karen Fay, President, Bill Fontenot, Vice President, Joelle Finley, Secretary, Judith O’Neale, Treasurer, Rosemary Seidler, Past President and Board member Joan Brown. LOS News editors Dennis Demcheck and Kay Radlauer were introduced.

Announcements:
2004 Parish List Contest: Rosemary Seidler was the top ticker with 4779 ticks. Jay Huner was second with 4044; Jean Trahan was third with 2054. Jean Trahan and Rosemary Seidler visited all 64 parishes, Jay Huner visited 62, Hubert Hervey visited 36.

Minutes of the LOS Winter Meeting
Lafayette - February 18, 2005

Five door prizes were given out to lucky winners. Dave Patton announced the field trips for Sunday. Meet in the parking lot of the hotel at 6:45 A.M. Trips will depart at 7 A.M. Breakfast in the hotel beginning at 6 A.M.

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Five door prizes were given out to lucky winners. Vice President Bill Fontenot and Zachery Richard introduced Alain Clavette from Canada. Alain's presentation was “The Natural World of New Brunswick.”

Los Angeles Audubon Society

Lafayette - February 18, 2005

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Submitted by Joelle Finley, LOS Secretary

New Members as of March 2005

Robert Dobbs, Fort Collins, CO
Pat Domingue, Scott, LA
Feliciano Nature Society, St. Francisville LA
Najundiah Giridhar, Lafayette LA
Kim Golden, Monroe, LA
Clay Green, Lafayette, LA
James Henderson, Baton Rouge, LA
Charlie Hohorst, Lafayette LA
Bob Jumonville, Lafayette LA
Brian Leonard, Hackberry LA
Cham & Mary Mehaffey, Folsom
Charles Pfeifer, Metairie, LA
Jed Pire, Thibodaux, LA
Mike Tifft, New Orleans, LA
Barry & Teri Tillman, Natchez, MS
Jerry & Maleta Walls, Bunkie LA

LOS Grant Committee

Thank you to Mac Myers for accepting an appointment to the Los Angeles Audubon Society’s Grant Committee.

LOS Newsletter
March 2005

Address: _______________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Accommodations now available at the Grosse Savanne Lodge

Accommodation charges are now available at Grosse Savanne Lodge at a reduced rate for LOS members. The lodge is located at Big Lake about 25 miles west of Creole. The place is absolutely wonderful. The normal birding stay is $150/night per person including three full meals. However, the management will offer a significantly reduced price for LOS participants. $78/night per person. For Group rates, $78/night per person. For Group rates, $78/person for an overnight stay and a continental breakfast during the weekend of the LOS meeting. Karl Zimmerman is the marketing person for the company and Alan Menard is the lodge manager. For more information, go to www.grossesavanne.com.

Submitted by Jay Huner

– America’s WETLAND Birding Trail Update –

The booklets for the America’s WETLAND Birding Trail in the Louisiana Great Gulf Coast will be available to all by the end of March 2005 at 33 Resource Centers along the Louisiana Gulf Coast. Resource Centers are tourist information centers and whose staff will distribute the booklets to the public. The booklets contain a coastal map showing all 12 birding trails listed on the America’s WETLAND Birding Trail’s website. The Louisiana Gulf Coast includes some of America’s best birding sites with contact information, and a list of birding resources. The Resource Centers will distribute these booklets using new America’s WETLAND Birding Trail brochures.

The location of the 33 Resource Centers will be available on the America’s WETLAND Birding Trail website: www.americaswetland.com

– Karen Fay, President

LOS Newsletter
March 2005
A Garden Affair

“A Garden Affair” presented by the Washington Garden Club, Inc. in Washington, LA on Saturday, April 30, 2005 features Birding on Bayou Courtableau or Thistlethwaite Wildlife Management Area (WMA) after a 6:30 AM breakfast at the Steamboat Warehouse Restaurant. Departure is scheduled for 7:00 AM boarding of boats for bayou or bus for WMA. Return will be at approximately 10:30 - 11:00 AM. Mr. S. Sorenson of LDWF will give a presentation on birding in this area in the early afternoon. Other events of the day at historic St. John’s Episcopal Church grounds are: Cajun food concession, authoritative speakers on gardens, landscaping, LA rises and historic plants brought over by steamboats; antique car display, vendors of gardening, birding, natural items and gifts; tours of the town and High Tea (by ticket only) at the Steamboat Warehouse Restaurant.

Prices: Bayou or WMA Bird Watching Tour (tickets) $20.00 Town and Speaker on Birds (package) $35.00 Ask about fees for other events.

Many B & B’s are available for accommodation in Washington.

For more information or tickets call: 337-826-5049, 337-826-7362, 337-826-7516, 337-826-5677

Audubon Coastal Bird Conservation Program seeks assistants.

FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANTS – The National Audubon Society’s Coastal Bird Conservation Program is seeking two field research assistants for census and monitoring work of beach-nesting bird species and nests on the Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf coasts and islands.

Work will begin the first week of April and continue until August 1. Housing, a weekly stipend of $150- $175 and all necessary field vehicles will be provided. The focus of the work will be locating beach-nesting bird species and nests, especially Snowy and Wilson’s Plovers. Data will be collected on habitat selection, hatching success, breeding biology and behavior. Individuals must be comfortable riding in small boats in order to access islands. There will also be camping on some of the gulf islands. Surveys will be conducted on foot. Research assistants will work long hours, usually 6 days a week, weather permitting. Strong work ethic required. Individuals must be self-motivated, responsible, adventurous, in good physical condition, like working independently, enjoy walking many miles at remote locations, and be able to tolerate biting insects and hot summer temperatures on the Gulf of Mexico. Individuals will be required to keep organized field notes and complete various data forms. Research assistants will receive training in census and monitoring techniques, GPS use, digital photography and boating skills. Plover/tern/shorebird experience preferred. Must have binoculars and good bird identification skills. One research assistant will be assigned to each state. (MS or LA)

Send 1 letter of interest 2 a resume 3 the names, email addresses and phone numbers of 3 references to: mzdravkovic@audubon.org. Deadline April 5 or until position is filled.

Make a note...

Upcoming Meetings
April 22 - 24, 2005 • Cameron
October 28-30, 2005 • Cameron

Deadline
Submission deadline date for Fall LOS Newsletter is September 16, 2005

Contribute to LOS WINTER MEETING
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2005

SPONSORS:
J.D. Guillory
Dave Patton
Judith O’Neale

DOOR PRIZES:
Blue Dog Café
Gulf members
Koriko Rice
Lafayette Convention & Visitor Commission
Lafayette Public Library
Lafayette Natural History Museum & Planetarium
Louisiana Lottery
North America Ornithological Society Meeting
Wild Birds Unlimited — Jack & Rose Must

New Brunswick Canada tourism (www.tourismNewBrunswick.ca/dvd)
Joy Hunter
Josephine Nixon
Judith O’Neale

DITTY BAG GOODIES:
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Tabasco
Mid South Bank
Iberia Parish Tourism Commission
Lafayette Convention & Visitor Commission
Lawry’s Printing
Wild Birds Unlimited
Leica
Teche Federal Bank
Riviana Foods

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Doc Smith
Matilde Smith
Joseph Vallee
Eunice Muller

Bill Vermilion
Jim Whelan
Elias Landry – Avery Island
Wayne Sweeney – White Lake
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March 7, 2005 Update: SW LA

- 71 female mallards were radio-marked in SW LA. All were marked on Cameron Prairie NWR and White Lake Reserve.
- 39 females were alive and still within the core area (80 km radius of the trap sites).
- 11 females have left the core area and are known to be alive elsewhere in Louisiana (3 in the NELA study area; 3 on Catahoula Lake; 1 near Henderson Lake in the Atchafalaya basin; 1 on Muddy Bayou SE of Catahoula Lake; 1 near Opelousas; 2 north of Alexandria).
- 16 females were confirmed dead (9 hunting related; 2 avian predator kills; 4 mammalian predator kills; 1 "unknown" was found fully intact and will be sent to health lab to assess possible disease, etc) - 2 of these mortalities are the only mortalities that occurred since the end of the hunting season.
- 5 females cannot be located - Some are probably radio failures or some have moved outside the airplane flight areas.
- Habitat use during day and night appear similar now, and all marked females are moving just after sunset and also at sunrise. All the birds are in the air about 0.5 hr after sunset, with most on the ground again by 1 to 1.5 hr after sunset. Similar flight patterns are observed at sunrise.
- One take-home message is that these mallards came late and are staying late.

March 6, 2005 Update: N E LA

- 91 mallards were radio-marked between 27 November 2004 and 15 December 2004. 61 were adults, 30 were juveniles. All were marked on Upper Ouachita NWR, NW of Bastrop.
- There have been 16 mortalities. Of these, 5 died during the post hunt period, all others died during the 2nd hunting period.
- 61 mallards are in the NE tracking area (91, -16 mortalities, -1 trap area).
- Of the 15 gone from the NE core area, 8 have been located further north in the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley. The predominant habitat used is bottomland hardwoods.

Spring Meeting - continued from page 1

are threatened by man, but also depend on man for their survival. Dr. Ellorat earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina. He has held teaching or research positions at the University of South Carolina, Iowa State University, The College of William and Mary, and the University of New Orleans. Dr. Ellis is currently an Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry at Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans. Most of Dr. Ellis's research has been in the area of oyster cell biology, but he has also conducted research in a wide range of biological systems including birds, salamanders, crabs, protozoa, fungi, and bryophytes.

Last spring the birding around Cameron was extraordinary. Let's hope for a repeat performance! Come join the fun!

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- 61 mallards are in the NE tracking area (91, 16 mortalities, -1 between here and the gulf coast, +3 from coast, -1 coastal bird moved on north, -15 NE LA marked birds are gone from core area).
- Of the 15 gone from the NE core area, 8 have been located further north in the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley. The predominant habitat used is bottomland hardwoods.

Spring Meeting - continued from page 1

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Submitted by Karen Fay, President

March 2005

Parish Lists Contest 2004

The beginning of 2004, David Muth proposed a Parish Year List Competition. The goal was to see as many species as possible in a given parish.

In addition, the total statewide parish lister would be honored as a winner. Here are the results of the 2004 competition.

Submitted by David Muth, New Orleans

Total Ticks:
First 4779 Rosemary Seidler, Second 4044 Jay Huner, Third Jean Trahan 2054

Most Parishes Visited: (tie) First Jean Trahan, Rosemary Seidler 64; Second Jay Huner 62; Third Hubert Hervey 36

Most Parishes Won: First 21 Rosemary Seidler, Second 18 Jay Huner

Most Ticks:
Acadia 83 Huner, Jay
Allen 51 Seidler, Rosemary
Ascension 131 Huner
Assumption 82 Seidler
Avoyelles 92 Huner
Beauregard 65 Caillouett, Winston
Bienville 103 Seidler
Bossier 122 Seidler
Caddo Parish 207 Seidler
Carlisle 93 Seidler
Caldwell 136 Quann, John
Cameron 258 Conover, Paul
Catahoula 62 Willis, Beth
Claiborne 135 Lewis, Mary Ellen
Concordia 72 Huner, Jay
Desoto 168 Hervey, Hubert
East Baton Rouge 154 Caillouett
East Carroll 62 Hiner
East Feliciana 51 Seidler
Evangel 69 Huner
Franklin 52 Seidler
Grant 99 Huner
Iberville 82 Harbor
Iberville 123 Huner
Jackson 55 Seidler
Jefferson Davis 85 Seidler
Jefferson 178 Muth
Lafayette 176 Conover
La Fourche 163 Robichaux, Lisa
LaSalle 134 Willis, Hubert
Lincoln 54 Seidler
Livingston 64 Brantley, Christopher
Madison 147 Sommeger, Scott
Marion 98 Overby
Natchitoches 137 Seidler
Orleans 283 Muth
Ouachita 112 Seidler
Plaquemines 153 Muth
Pointe Coupee 88 Huner
Rapides 166 Huner
Red River 128 Seidler
Richland 55 Seidler
Sabine 65 Seidler
St. Bernard 133 Muth
St. Charles 179 Touschard, Matt
St. Helena 50 Seidler
St. James 66 Huner
St. John the Baptist 78 Seidler
St. Landry 104 Huner
St. Martin 169 Huner
St. Mary 64 Huner

St. Tammany 178 Branley
Tangipahoa 120 Mahoney, Rusty
Tensas 89 Sommershe
Terrebonne 172 Mendenhall, Warren
Union 79 Seidler
Winn 58 Seidler

State 318 Muth

Second 4044 Jay Huner, Warren

This beautiful pen-and-ink by Donna Dittmann of an adult male Calliope Hummingbird depicts a territorial dispute on Jan. 7th, 2005 with a newly arrived adult male Rufous Hummingbird. The Calliope is exhibiting an aggressive "starburst display". Adult male Callipes can raise the gorget feathers, which stand out against the white background of the throat. The Callipe was first observed in Baton Rouge on November 8, 2004. He was unable to defend his preferred feeder and Sasanqua Camelia against the more aggressive Rufous, but continued to be present daily in the yard as of March 14th, 2005.
**A Garden Affair**

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Submitted by Margo Zdravkovic

**Make a note...**

**Upcoming Meetings**

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- October 28-30, 2005 • Cameron

**Deadline**

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Lafayette - February 18, 2005

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Karen introduced the evening speakers. Donata Roome Henry presented an update on her Swainson’s Warbler research. Donata received a PhD from Tulane University. Clay Green, a Post-Doctoral Research Associate at ULL, presented his research on the Reddish Egret which was undertaken at Laguna Atascosa in Texas. Seven door prizes were awarded to lucky members.

The LOS officers and Board Members were introduced. Karen Fay, President, Bill Fontenot, Vice President, Joelie Finley, Secretary, Judith O’Neale, Treasurer, Rosemary Seidler, Past President, and Board Members Joan Brown (NE) and Lee Ellis (SE). LOS news editors Dennis Demcheck and Kay Radlauer and JLO editor, Jim Ingold (not present) were introduced.

Announcements:
1. Those wishing to go on field trips need to sign up at the back of the room. Meet in the parking lot in front of the hotel at 6:45 A.M. Trip leaders will have signs designating their trip. Trips will leave at 7 A.M.; car pool if possible. For White Lake participants, a voluntary $5 fee is recommended to compensate the boat drivers who are working on their day off. A release form must be signed for those going to Palmetto State Park.
2. Lacinasse has restored a prairie and needs volunteers to do a breeding bird survey.
3. Kay Radlauer announced that maps for the America’s WETLAND Birding Trail will be available at State Welcome Centers, 33 Resource Centers along the trail.

Karen introduced Alain Clavette from New Brunswick, Canada who will be the speaker Saturday night. Alain’s presentation was “The Natural World of New Brunswick.”

Announcements:
1. The booklet for the America’s WETLAND Birding Trail on the Louisiana Great Gulf Coast will be available to the public by the end of March 2005 at 33 Resource Centers along the coast. The Resource Centers will distribute the booklets to the public. The booklets contain a coastal map showing all 12 birding trail sites with contact information, and a list of 33 Resource Centers. The Resource Centers will distribute the booklets using new America’s WETLAND kiosks.
2. The location of the 33 Resource Centers will be listed on the Americas Wetland website: www.americanswetland.com.

Lafayette - February 19, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Fay at 7:40 P.M.

Karen welcomed new members, out of state members and guests. Doc and Matilde Smith, Eloise Mullen, Jeanette Robideaux, Joseph Vallee, Bob Junamong, Joelie Finley and Judith O’Neale were thanked for their help with the meeting. Dave Patton was thanked for organizing the field trips and all field trip leaders were also thanked.

Five door prizes were given out to lucky winners. Vice President Bill Fontenot and Zachery Richard introduced Alain Clavette from Canada. Alain’s presentation was “The Natural World of New Brunswick.”

LOS officers were introduced: Karen Fay, President, Bill Fontenot, Vice President, Joelie Finley, Secretary, Judith O’Neale, Treasurer, Rosemary Seidler, Past President and Board member Joan Brown. LOS News Editors Dennis Demcheck and Kay Radlauer were introduced.

2004 Parish List Contest- Rosemary Seidler was the top ticker with 4779 ticks. Jay Huner was second with 4044; Jean Trahan was third with 2054. Jean Trahan and Rosemary Seidler visited all 64 parishes, Jay Huner visited 62, Hubert Hervey visited 36.

Bill Fontenot called the check list. A total of 144 species were seen on Saturday!

Five door prizes were given out to lucky winners. Dave Patton announced the field trips for Sunday. Meet in the parking lot of the hotel at 6:45 A.M. Trips will depart at 7 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Submitted by Joelie Finley, LOS Secretary

New Members as of March 2005

Robert Dobbs, 1705 Heritage Rd. H-201, Fort Collins, CO 80526 970-482-3524 elena@ecomail.org
Pam Domingue, 114 Voorhees Rd. 70503 337 225-6131 petra39@bellsouth.net
Felician Nature Society, P.O. Box 2866, Francisville LA 70737 925-721-0476 prs@felicianbookstore.com
Nancy Jackson Gridley, P.O. Box 41745, Lafayette 70504 337-897-3204 gridley@louisiana.edu
Ken Golden, 1170 Fink Hideaway Rd, Monroe 71203 318-343-1527 kgolden@pjhmaza.com
Clay Green, 402 Dailey Drive, Lafayette 70503 337-988-9844 mgp575@louisiana.edu
James Henderson, 195 W. Littlejohn Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-231-4722 heaneyl@verifilms.net
Charlie Richbourg, 182 Bretoned Blvd #F, Lafayette 70503 337-280-7059 charlie@ajagicom.com
Charles R. Hughes, II, ULX Box 2854, Monroe LA 71219 318-245-1654
Bob Junamong, 100 Bering Circle, Lafayette 70506 337-988-6114 bjyunyam@bellsouth.net
Billy Lassend, 3000 Hollybeach Hwy, Hackberry LA 70415 337-632-8792 gar2003@yahoo.com
Cham & Mary Nehofsky, 40905 Calabastin Dr, Sulphur 70663 985-796-3340 methylxy_myxy@bellsouth.net
Charles Pfister, 4916 Zenith #2 P.O. Box 282, Metairie, LA 70001 504-760-8889 cgppapaw@esol.com
Jed Pike, 1501 Ridgefield Ave, Thibodaux 70301 rcaunger@internet8.net
Wade Tift, 417 18th St., New Orleans, LA 70124 504-868-8641 mwtf7@col.com
Barry T. Tillman, 314 North Rainier St., Mathews MS 33720 401-442-7001 bthib@bellsouth.net
Jerry & Marie Wolfe, 466 Hwy. 3041 Bokoo LA 71322 310-346-4464 gretter@pysig.net

Accommodations now available at Grosse Savanne Lodge

Accommodations are now available at Grosse Savanne Lodge at a reduced rate for LOS members. The lodge is located at Big Lake about 25 miles west of Creole. The lodge is absolutely wonderful. The normal birding stay is $150/night per person including three full meals. However, the management will offer a significantly reduced price for LOS participants, $75/person for an overnight stay and a continental breakfast during the weekend of the LOS meeting. Karl Zimmerman is the marketing person for the company and Olaf Menard is the lodge manager. For more information, go to www.grossesavanne.com.

Submitted by Kay Huner

America’s WETLAND Birding Trail Update

The booklet for America’s WETLAND Birding Trail on the Louisiana Great Gulf Coast will be available to the public by the end of March 2005 at 33 Resource Centers along the coast. The Resource Centers are tourist information centers and nature sites whose staff will distribute the booklets to the public. The booklets contain a coastal map showing all 12 birding trail loops, a list of 115 birding sites with contact information, and a list of 33 Resource Centers. The Resource Centers will distribute the booklets using new America’s WETLAND kiosks.

The location of the 33 Resource Centers will be listed on the America’s Wetland website: www.americawetland.com.

The La. State Office of Tourism will host the birding trail with detailed site descriptions on their official website: www.LouisianaTravel.com/birding

Both sites are currently under construction.

LOS Grant Committee

Thank you to Mac Myers for accepting an appointment to the LOS Grant Committee. Mac will join Jim Ingold and Paul Dickson in evaluating grant proposals.

- Karen Fay, President

Submitted by Kay Radlauer
As I write it is mid March. The cherry laurels are in bloom, the trees are budding and the first ruby-throats have already been reported. Can the warblers be far behind? Hopefully, they will be streaming into Cameron Parish as the LOS holds its 2005 Spring Meeting on April 22-24. For a change of pace, Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Creole Fire Station, which is located ½ mile east of the one and only traffic light in Creole. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and a hospitality table full of Ecuadorian “travel food” will be set up so you can come and enjoy a snack before the evening program begins at 7:00 pm. For an explanation of Ecuadorian “travel food,” I refer you to the Friday night program description. Please complete the registration form on page 7 and return it, along with your registration fee, to Marianna Tanner-Primeaux at the address listed on the form.

Note change of meeting location: The Creole Fire Station is approximately 15-20 minutes from the Cameron Motel. Head east on LA 27 until to reach the Creole traffic light. At the intersection LA 27 goes north and LA 82 goes south. You should continue east through the traffic light 1/4 mile on Parish Rd. 1143 and the fire station will be on the right. If you drive to the Cameron Motel, leave LA 27 at the intersection, head north on LA 27 and the fire station will be on the right.

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Make check payable to: LOS

Send to: Judi O’Neale, LOS Treasurer
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506-6362

2005 LOS SPRING MEETING
Town of Creole, Cameron Parish, Louisiana
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 22-24, 2005

As I write it is mid March. The cherry laurels are in bloom, the trees are budding and the first ruby-throats have already been reported. Can the warblers be far behind? Hopefully, they will be streaming into Cameron Parish as the LOS holds its 2005 Spring Meeting on April 22-24. For a change of pace, Friday and Saturday evening activities will be held at the Creole Fire Station, which is located ½ mile east of the one and only traffic light in Creole. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday and a hospitality table full of Ecuadorian “travel food” will be set up so you can come and enjoy a snack before the evening program begins at 7:00 pm. For an explanation of Ecuadorian “travel food,” I refer you to the Friday night program description. Please complete the registration form on page 7 and return it, along with your registration fee, to Marianna Tanner-Primeaux at the address listed on the form.

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Friday night presentation: “Southern Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands” by Joelle Finley, of New Orleans, LA and Karen Fay, of Star Hill, LA

Last spring, our featured speaker was a tour operator and guide who specializes in birding trips to Ecuador. Joelle and I were part of a group that summer to join Juan Carlos and Paul Greenfield on a tour of the southern regions of Ecuador, from the arid scrubby habitat of Loja to the montane forests of Podocarpus National Park. One of the primary focuses of the trip was to see the recently discovered Jocotoco Antpitta at one of Ecuador’s newest lodges, Tapichalaca Lodge, which was established to help protect the habitat of this wonderful antpitta. Did we see it? And just what is an antpitta feeder? Get the rest of the story after you taste the culinary treats inspired by Juan Carlos Calvachi’s roadside recipes, and we take you on a trip through southern Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (now, is that a medium to large Small Ground-Finch or a small to medium Medium Ground-Finch? Where’s Paul.....?)

Saturday night presentation: “Birds of New Zealand – species survival at the mercy of man.” By Dr. Lee Ellis of New Orleans, LA

Keeping with our Southern Hemisphere theme, we will now travel across the Pacific to the land of Wandering Albatross, Kiwi and Yellow-eyed Penguin: the enchanting archipelago of New Zealand. Stunning scenery and lots of endemics makes this a special birding destination. Lee will share his adventures on the islands and discuss the many problems facing New Zealand’s endemic birds and other wildlife. Like most island ecosystems, New Zealand endemics and seabirds continued on page 4