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Submission Deadline Date for
Spring LOS News is
March 23, 2007

Journal of Louisiana Ornithology
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2006 LOS Fall Meeting
Grand Isle, Louisiana
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 27-29, 2006
Grand Isle Community Center

Come share the excitement of great birds, beautiful beaches, wonderful food and fantastic hospitality in Grand Isle, Louisiana for the LOS 2006 Fall Meeting October 27-29. Our Spring Meeting was such a huge success we decided to do it all over again! You can bird the “Sureway Woods,” the Exxon fields and the beaches. Who knows, there may be another Gray Kingbird or black-whiskered Vireo to find!

Friday Evening, October 27
6 P.M. Registration will be at the Grand Isle Community Center located on Hwy.1 about ¼ mile past the water tower on your left (bay side). Snacks will be provided.

7 P.M. Bill Vermillion will present the evening program. Bill, a Lafayette native, received his college degree in Wildlife Management. He has worked at the Acadiana Park Nature Station, the LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is currently with the Gulf Coast Joint Venture. He is responsible for developing habitat and population objectives for priority waterbird, shorebird and land bird species. His talk, Integrated Bird Conservation in the Gulf Coast Joint Venture should provide us with a wealth of information on the current status of our birds.

Saturday, October 28
8:00 A.M. President Bill Fontenot will lead a field trip around the Grand Isle area. Meet in the parking lot of the Sureway Supermarket in Grand Isle located on Hwy.1 at Post Lane.

5:30 P.M. Registration in the Grand Isle Community Center

6:30 P.M. The Banquet will be provided by the Grand Isle Community Development Team. If it is anything like the Spring Meeting, it will be fantastic!

Please make your reservation before October 15. The cost of the banquet will be $15.

7:30 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program. The memory of Hurricane Katrina will be imprinted on our minds forever. Chris Brantley will bring us up to date on the Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Birds in Southeastern Louisiana. Chris is a USACE biologist, long time birder and Grand Isle CBC compiler.

Grand Isle Restaurants and Accomodations:
Check the Grand Isle website at www.grand-isle.com for a list of restaurants and motels or call or e-mail the Grand Isle Tourist Commission at 985-787-2997 or tourism@grand-isle.com

Submitted by Joelle Finley, Secretary
Spring Meeting Report

The LOS spring meeting was a great success with lots of good birding, visiting with friends and wonderful Grand Isle hospitality.

Josie Cheramie and the ladies of the Grand Isle Community Development Team put out a very nice spread for us Friday night and then a variety of wonderful food on Saturday night. Thank you ladies!

Seventy four people registered for the weekend and a total of 134 birds were tallied Saturday night. Trond Nilsen, our newest life member, came all the way from Norway.

Friday evening, Dr. Jack Isaacs, an economist with the LA Wildlife and Fisheries, spoke about their study, A Travel-cost Analysis of A Birdwatching Festival: The Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration and Audubon Country BirdFest 2004 Birdwatchers Survey. He along with his assistant, Yeong-Nain Chi, presented an overview of the participants of the Grand Isle celebration: 60% female, average time birding-13 years, 95% LA residents, average spending of $157 per person.

On Saturday night our guest speaker was Margo

AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION CONVENTION
APRIL 23-28, 2007
LAFAYETTE, LA

Lafayette is honored to be the site of the 2007 ABA Convention. The meeting, to be held at the Hilton Hotel, will feature well-known speakers, workshops, field trips and exhibitors. The recent convention in Bangor Maine hosted over 600 birders from across the nation, Canada, and South and Central America.

This meeting normally starts with registration on Monday with a meal and speaker introducing Louisiana and its birds that evening. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are scheduled field trip days and Wednesday and Friday are workshop days.

Numerous optical exhibitors will show their wares and it’s a great time to see what’s new in binoculars and scopes. They are very generous with their time and equipment, answering a myriad of questions. They also give away lots of birding goodies. A drawing for some very nice prizes will be held on Saturday night. Jean Trahan won a trip to Panama at the Bangor meeting.

Dave Patton and Judith O’Neale are in charge of field trips and they will be calling on the birders around the state to help as field trip leaders. Incentives for area birders to sign up to help as field trip leaders include a full convention package which include meals and a shared room. If you can only help out for one day, there is still the benefit of that convention day and a room for two nights. Please let Dave (wdpatton@cox.net or 337-232-8410) or Judith know if you are interested in helping out. We’ll be contacting lots of people across the state in the next few months to firm up commitments.

We’ll be posting additional details about the meeting as they are distributed by ABA. So mark you calendar for April 23 through 28 next year.

You do not have to be a member of ABA to attend but I would encourage you to join, especially if you do any traveling. The directory of members is a wonderful resource for birding in other areas. For more information on joining ABA and receiving a nice gift, contact Judith O’Neale 337-981-1011 or jaloneal@aol.com.

Submitted by Judith O’Neale, Treasurer

Make a note ...
Upcoming Meetings 2007
Winter Meeting – La Place February 2-4, 2007
Spring Meeting – Lafayette April 23-28, 2007
in conjunction with ABA Convention

DEADLINE
Submission deadline date for Spring LOS News is March 23, 2007
The Sensors
As Hurricane Rita approached the Louisiana and Texas coasts, the U.S. Geological Survey deployed an experimental monitoring network consisting of 47 pressure sensors at 33 sites to record the timing, extent, and elevation of inland hurricane storm surge and flooding. The study area covered approximately 4,000 square miles, mainly in southwestern Louisiana.

Of the 47 sensors deployed for this study, 7 sensors (5 for storm surge and 2 for barometric pressure) were deployed on September 22, 2005 at 5 sites, including Constance Beach (figure 1), Holly Beach (figures 2 and 3), Cameron, Creole, and Grand Chenier, Louisiana. Two sensors were lost to Hurricane Rita - a barometric-pressure sensor at Cameron, Louisiana and a storm-surge sensor at Holly Beach, Louisiana.

The Storm Surge
The 40-mile section of coast from Constance Beach to Grand Chenier, Louisiana experienced the greatest storm surge in the study area. The greatest storm surge was recorded near the coast and lesser effects were recorded inland. Peak storm-surge elevations of nearly 15 feet above sea level were recorded by sensors at Constance Beach, Creole, and Grand Chenier, Louisiana, about 20 miles, 48 miles, and 54 miles east of Sabine Pass, Texas. The storm-surge peaks occurred at these sites within a 30-minute period from about 2:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. on September 24, 2005 and preceded the landfall of Hurricane Rita by as much as an hour.

Based on hydrographs of the storm-surge data at these sites, the duration of the storm-surge event recorded by the sensors varied, but generally were less than 24 hours from pre-storm conditions to the storm-surge peak and back. The maximum 1-hour water-level change ranged from about 1.6 to 2.5 feet per hour at these sites.

The short storm-surge event duration, rapid water-level change, and peak storm-surge levels recorded at these sites may have been exacerbated by the natural cheniers existing along the Louisiana coast in this area.

As a result of the storm surge, saltwater from the Gulf of Mexico was pushed inland over the coastal cheniers into many saltwater, brackish, and freshwater areas, causing salt burns on vegetation (figure 1) and damaging marsh, wetland, and forest habitats. Substantial land loss due to erosion, also caused by storm surge, occurred along the coast of southwestern Louisiana.

The data recorded by the experimental monitoring network of surge sensors can be used for computer modeling and simulations. For example, on September 24, 2005 at 3 a.m., a flood wave (dark red area in figure 4) is evident inland of the coast and along Louisiana Highway 82 from sites located near Constance Beach to Grand Chenier, Louisiana.
Figure 4 - Storm surge simulation at 3:00 am on September 24, 2005 in southwestern Louisiana

(View looking from the northeast toward the southwest)
Spring Meeting Report continued from page 2

Zdravkovic, field director of the Coastal Bird Conservation Program sponsored by the National Audubon Society. She spoke about the exciting research that she did in 2005 counting plover nests along the Louisiana Gulf Coast including Grand Isle.

Congratulations to the following people who received annual LOS awards.

President’s awards were presented to: Hubert Hervey for his studies on Least Terns on the Red River. Linda Beall and Dave Patton for their hummingbird banding and studies in Louisiana. The George H. Lowery, Jr. award was given to Dr. John O’Neill for his work with the LSU museum.

At the Board of Directors meeting on Friday night, the board voted to donate $500 to Cameron Parish as an acknowledgement of our support for the rebuilding of Cameron. We received a very nice thank you letter from the Cameron Police Jury. Officers and Board Members attending the meeting: LOS: President Bill Fontenot, Vice-President Nancy Menasco, Treasurer Judith O’Neale, Secretary Joelle Finley, Past-President Karen Fay and SE board member Ed Wallace. Also attending were Kay Radlauer and Dennis Demcheck, the editors of LOS News.

Special thanks to all who helped at the meeting: Jean Landry-Louisiana Nature Conservancy, Kay Radlauer, Joelle Finley, Joseph Vallee and Elouise Mullen and Judy Fall for collecting the door prizes, gift bags and more. Thanks to all our members and guest who attended the meeting.

We will be looking forward to the fall meeting which will be held again in Grand Isle, October 28-30, 2006.

Submitted by Judith O’Neale, Treasurer

LOS New Members
Anne Bechard, Baton Rouge, LA
Melanie Driscoll, Baton Rouge, LA
Berlin A. Heck, Jr., Broken Bow, OK
Charles Heck, Monroe, LA
John and Anne Rigby, Washington, DC
Sherry Tuminello, Stonewall, LA

New Life Member:
Trond Nilsen, Norway

2007 LOS Membership Renewal Time
Membership renewals are due January 2007 for the coming year. Please check your label. If it says Dec 2005 - you owe for both 2006 and 2007 (this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew this month). If it says Dec 2006, your 2007 membership is due.

Thank you for renewing your LOS membership.

2007 LOS MEMBERSHIP FORM
Please join today!
Dues are payable January 1st of each year;
Please check your mailing label for expiration date.

Renewal  New Member

Name:___________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:___________________________________________
Phone:(______)_____________ E-mail:_______________________

DUES STRUCTURE:
___Regular:  $20.00/yr
___Family:  $25.00/yr
___Junior (under 14):  $7.50/yr
___Student:  $10.00/yr
___Senior (over 65):  $15.00/yr
___Senior Family:  $20.00/yr
___Library  $15.00/yr*  *Please add $2.00 for foreign subscriptions
___Contributing:  $50.00/yr
___Sustaining:  $100.00/yr
___Life:  $300.00**  **Installments may be arranged for Life memberships
___Family Life:  $500**

Make check payable to: LOS
Send to: Judith L. O’Neale, LOS Treasurer
504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508-6362

Festivals and Birding Club Field Trips
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

2006 FALL MEETING – GRAND ISLE, LA
OCTOBER 27-29 • Grand Isle Community Center
PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE OCTOBER 15!

Name(s): ________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________

Number registering for meeting _____ at $10.00/person = $ __________________
Number attending buffet _____ at $15.00/person = $ __________________
Total = $ __________________________

Complete form and send with check payable to LOS by October 15 to:
Judith O’Neale
504 Whitebark Drive
Lafayette, LA 70508-6362

JLONeale@aol.com