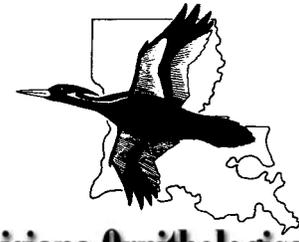


LOS

NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Louisiana Ornithological Society

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Submission Deadline
Spring LOS News is
March 1, 2009

Journal of Louisiana Ornithology
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Los-jlo@pilot.lsus.edu

2009 LOS WINTER MEETING

Money Hill Golf and Country Club

Abita Springs, LA

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, January 30 – February 1, 2009

The Northshore Bird Club invites all LOS members and guests to join us in St. Tammany Parish for winter birding! Our meeting room for Friday and Saturday night will be in the beautiful clubhouse at Money Hill Golf and Country Club in Abita Springs. We've arranged for a special group rate at the Northpark Inn Best Western in Covington, near the convenient I12/US190 interchange. A variety of field trips led by some of the area's best birders will highlight the wonderful birding habitat in St. Tammany.

Accommodations:

We've reserved a block of 25 rooms at the Northpark Inn Best Western, 625 N. Highway 190, Covington, 985-892-2681. The motel is just north of the I12/US190 interchange (*see map and directions below*). To get the special rate of \$95 per night, you must make your **reservation before January 16th** and mention the group name "LOS." Please specify either the type of room needed: two queen-sized beds (up to four people) or one king-sized bed (up to two people). Call 1-800-WESTERN (937-8376) for reservations. The Northpark Inn includes a complimentary hot breakfast, free high-speed Internet access, and a fitness room.

There are many fast food places and family restaurants in the general vicinity. Additionally, here is a list of other motels nearby:

Comfort Inn, 30 Louis Prima Dr., 985-809-1234
Courtyard Marriot, 101 Northpark Blvd., 985-871-0244
Hampton Inn, 68700 Highway 190 Service Rd., 985-809-0019
Holiday Inn, 501 N. Highway 190, 985-893-3580
Super 8, 120 Holiday Blvd, 985-892-4470

Winter Meeting at Money Hill Golf and Country Club, 100 Country Club Dr., Abita Springs (see map and directions on page 2):

Friday, January 30, 2009

6:00 pm Registration – Clubhouse at Money Hill Golf and Country Club
(Cash bar and snacks provided)

7:00 pm Meeting and Program - Robert Diehl, Ph.D. has a passion for avian migration. He teaches ecological modeling at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and is a member of the Migratory Bird Research Group. His current research explores the rhythm of migrating birds through the coastal areas of St. Tammany Parish and southern Mississippi using Slidell's NEXRAD.

Saturday, January 31, 2009

6:30 pm Registration - Clubhouse at Money Hill Golf and Country Club (Cash bar)

7:00 pm The Banquet - **Reservations MUST be received by January 21st.**

8:00 pm Meeting and Program: Donata Henry, Ph.D, of Tulane University will show us results gathered in the first four seasons of operating a MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival) station in the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. She established the

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station in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – an effort which has proven to be quite productive. With the help of local birders, hummingbird banders, and students from Tulane and UNO, she has netted nearly 1,900 individuals and 35 different species of birds. The team captures a variety of warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and even an occasional ruby-throated hummingbird and eastern screech owl.

Field Trips:

At Friday night's registration, you will choose from an assortment of half-day trips scheduled for Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. We plan to have multiple trips to each of the following venues:

- Fontainebleau State Park (Guide: Melvin Weber)
- Mandeville Lakefront, Waste Treatment Pond, and Northlake Nature Center (Guide: Bill Wayman)
- Tchefuncte Riverfront from Madisonville to Lake Pontchartrain (Guide: *pending*)
- Big Branch NWR (and possibly Camp Salmen) (Guide: *pending*)
- Abita Creek Flatwoods, and Olga and Walter Clifton's yard (Guide: Glenn Ousset)
- possibly Pine Island (private property west of Madisonville) (Guides: Mary Mehaffey and Janine Robin)
- Hummingbird Gardens (Guide: Linda Beall)

On Friday night we will have maps and other information about St. Tammany available for those who prefer to bird on their own. All organized trips will leave from northeast section of the Holiday Square Shopping Center, behind the Shell Station adjacent to the Holiday Inn (*see directions below*). Bring snacks, water, insect



Dr. Donata Henry proudly shows off her favorite swamp bird, the elusive Yellow-billed Cuckoo. These two were captured a foot apart in the same net at the same time . . . what a thrill!

repellent, rain gear, and sunscreen. Transportation on the field tips is on your own. *Please car pool if at all possible.*

Directions to Northpark Inn Best Western, 625 N. Highway 190, Covington:

From I-12 East or I-12 West, take the Covington/Mandeville Exit 63B (US190 West), **north** toward Covington. Or, from the



Causeway in Mandeville continue **north** until you pass under the I-12 interchange. Travel **north** on US190W and at the third traffic light make a U-turn at Park Place to head south for a short distance. Northpark Inn is on your right, between the Dakota Restaurant and Burger King.

Note: For those who use Google Maps, there is an error that shows an incorrect location for Northpark Inn's address.

Directions to Money Hill, 100 Country Club Drive, Abita Springs, LA:

Take I-12 East to LA59, Abita Springs/Mandeville Exit 65. Turn **left** and head north on LA59. In Abita Springs, at Junction LA59/LA36, go **left** around the Traffic Circle. Travel a short distance to LA 435 (Main St....a Catholic church is on the right corner) and turn **right**. Travel 8 blocks and at the "T" turn **left** to continue on LA435 East (Talisheek Hwy.) for 6.43 miles. Turn **left** onto Money Hill Rd. for 2.34 miles to the Clubhouse.

Directions to Holiday Square Shopping Center:

Leaving Northpark Inn, head south on US190E toward I-12. You will pass Holiday Inn, then a Shell Station. Turn right onto the service road just past the Shell station and take the first right into the parking area. We will gather in the Shopping Center's parking lot behind the Shell station.

2008 LOS New Members as of December 2008

Paul Ozio, Decatur GA

Bruce & Rebecca Cleland, Baton Rouge

Elias Landry, Avery Island

Sharon Nabours, Sulphur

BOOK REVIEW

The Louisiana Coast Guide to an American Wetland by Gay Gomez

208 pp. 182 color photos, 5 maps. Bib Index
College Station: Texas A&M University Press.
\$24.00 flexbound
Orders 1-800-826-8911

*"A Guide to the Coast
The Louisiana coast's variety, vitality, value, and
vulnerability are the inspiration for this book,
which is part field guide, part nature writing,
and part call to action on behalf of the state's
vanishing wetlands."*

LOS former board member, Gay Gomez, has produced an exceptional book on the coastal wetlands of Louisiana. Having lived in Louisiana all her life, she knows her subject well. The book covers the diverse region from the stand point of natural history and acts as a field guide to the area. The maps and photographs bring the areas flora and fauna to life, as well as its human activities.

Gay's descriptions of different parts of the southern coast are excellent and give a great understanding of the history and changes that these lands have experienced over the years. Congratulations to Gay for writing such an important guide which should be on the reading list of every birder in the state. It would make a perfect gift for the season.

LOS Membership Renewal Time

Membership renewals are due January 2009 for the coming year.

Please check your label. If it says Dec 2007 - you owe for both 2008 and 2009 (this will be your last newsletter if you do not renew this month). If it says Dec 2008, your 2009 membership is due.

Thank you for renewing your LOS membership.

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

Louisiana Ornithological Society

www.losbird.org

Louisiana Christmas Bird Count Schedule 2008-09 (109th CBC year)

Species Count

<i>Location</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>2007</i>
Bossier-Caddo-Bienville	LABC	4 Jan	Paul Dickson, paul@morrisdickson.com	126
Baton Rouge	LABR	3 Jan	Kevin Morgan, cowboyinbrla@cox.net	142
Catahoula NWR	LACA	20-Dec	Marty Floyd, Progne99@aol.com	103
Cheneyville-Lecompte	LACL	3-Jan	Marty Floyd, Progne@aol.com	107
Claiborne	LACB	16-Dec	Nancy Menasco, nmcpa@aol.com	105
Crowley	LACW	30-Dec	Marty Floyd Progne99@aol.com	134
D'Arbonne	LADA	20-Dec	Joan Brown bljnbr@colla.com	99
Grand Isle	LAGI	22-Dec	Chris Brantley chrisbrantley@charter.net	108
Johnson's Bayou	LAJB	21-Dec	Ken Sztrakyberry sheepfarm@att.net	117
Lafayette	LALA	2-Jan	Dave Patton wdpatton@cox.net	132
Natchitoches	LANA	27-Dec	Charlie Lyon lyon5516@bellsouth.net	120
New Orleans	LANO	27-Dec	Glenn Ousset gousset@bellsouth.net	148
Northshore-Slidell	LANS	5-Jan	Linda Beall lbeall@minilogic.com	144
Pine Prairie	LAPP	16-Dec	Marty Floyd Progne99@aol.com	100
Reserve-Bonnet Carre	LARB	28-Dec	Melvin Weber mweber@rtconline.com	130
Sabine NWR	LASA	14-Dec	Marty Guidry guidrym@cox.net	154
Shreveport	LASH	20-Dec	Charlie Lyon lyon5516@bellsouth.net	106
St Tammany	LAST	30-Dec	Linda Beall lbeall@minilogic.com	140
Tensas River	LATR		Dan Twedt dtwedt@usgs.gov	80
Venice	LAVE	3-Jan	Dan Purrington danny@tulane.edu	124

Notes from compilers below:

Bossier - Caddo - Bienville

The Bossier-Caddo-Bienville CBC will be held January 4, 2009 with a compiling get-together that evening at my house. If you have never participated in the BCB CBC and would like to, you are welcome and can do so with an established group or in your own territory. Please e-mail or call me to arrange beforehand. December 17. **Paul Dickson 318-797-7900.**

Baton Rouge

Welcome! Please feel free to contact me as soon as possible regarding the Christmas Bird Count in Baton Rouge. I'm in the process of building count-area packets for team leaders and will send those out before the count. We plan to meet for a count tally after sunset - location to be announced. We still need leaders (experienced birders) for some areas. Please contact me via email (cowboyinbrla@cox.net). if you want to join the count, even if you have participated before. You do not need to be an experienced birder to participate. Thanks! **Kevin Morgan**

Catahoula NWR

Catahoula NWR - Dec 20 - Most areas covered, but could always use help. **Marty Floyd, compiler - Progne99@aol.com**

Cheneyville - Lecompte

Cheneyville-Lecompte - Jan 3 - Area covered is as usual; access is always a problem (no interior roads) **Marty Floyd, compiler - Progne99@aol.com**

Claiborne

The Claiborne CBC will be held this year on Tuesday, Dec. 16. If anyone is interested in joining us for the count, please contact me. **Nancy Menasco, nmcpa@aol.com, 318.868.3255**

Crowley

Crowley - Dec 30 - Anyone interested please let me know **Marty Floyd, compiler - Progne99@aol.com**

D'Arbonne

The D'Arbonne CBC will take place Saturday, Dec. 20. Participants may count as long as they want. There are 13 areas to be counted. Each area has a leader. We need volunteers to work with leaders. You do not need to be a birding expert to help out with a CBC. At the end of the day, we gather at the home of one of the members and count the list. We enjoy good company, good food and good birding. If you are interested in counting with us, contact Joan Brown, by e-mail (bljnbr@colla.com) or voice mail at 318-355-3915.

Grand Isle

The Grand Isle CBC will be conducted on Monday December 22, 2008. As in the past, we will meet at the Sureway Grocery before dawn on count day. If you plan to participate, please contact **Chris Brantley chrisbrantley@charter.net**

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Johnson's Bayou

We will meet at the Johnson Bayou School, between the grocery store and Head-of-the-hallow Cemetery at 7am 12-23-2007. Participants that will be covering Gray Estate lands please wear Hunter-orange vests (provided by compiler, limited supply available). Please make every effort to steer clear of hunters,

Natchitoches

Compiler, **Charlie Lyon**, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net.

Pine Prairie

Pine Prairie - Dec 16 - Still have an area uncovered. Any help would be appreciated. **Marty Floyd, compiler - Progne99@aol.com**

Reserve - Bonnet Carre

We meet at the Airline Highway McDonalds in LaPlace at 5:30 to 6:00 AM. If you join us later in the day, we compile at the same McDonalds at dusk. For more info contact **Melvin Weber 985-536-2517** or **Ronald Stein 985-536-3348**.

Sabine NWR

With the recent destruction by Hurricane Ike I am not sure how much private land will be accessible. I would appreciate it if folks

who plan to make the Sabine CBC let me know as soon as possible so we can determine how we will conduct the count. Don't let age, experience or birding expertise stop you from birding this outstanding CBC. We have need for all.

A couple of reminders: I do not believe there are any accommodations in the Cameron area. I checked on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge last week and they are still closed from Hurricane Ike. Participants may need to get accommodations near I-10 and drive down early in the morning. There are very limited food concessions and gas availability at this time in Cameron Parish. You will need to be sure you have adequate gas before crossing the Intercoastal Waterway and have some food with you. Things may improve before December in this area. Oh - if anyone would like to become Compiler of the Sabine CBC, please let me know. I will help to make a seamless transition. It's an outstanding and historic CBC. **Marty Guidry**

Shreveport

Compiler, **Charlie Lyon**, 865-2674 (H), 222-8421 (W), lyon5516@bellsouth.net.

Venice

The Venice CBC will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3. We will meet at the donut shop on Belle Chase Hwy at 5 a.m.

Updated by: Jane A. Patterson Dec 7, 2008

Comments on Counting Birds and Reporting Bird Numbers

Van Remsen, Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Why bother?

Many birders are intimidated by the challenge of counting birds. Recreational birding makes no demands on birders, but contributing information to programs such as the Christmas Bird Count and Louisiana's Summer Bird Atlas and Winter Bird Atlas requires counting and estimating bird numbers. Those numbers allow comparisons among localities for estimating regional differences in bird density or among years to monitor short- and long-term numerical and distribution trends. So, if you want your field observation to count for something beyond recreation, you have to count birds.

One component of the intimidation is justified. It does not take much experience to recognize that even the best birders detect only a fraction of what is present within their radius of detection, and that the size of that fraction and the detection radius depends dramatically on a birder's abilities and experience, especially with respect to bird voices. Many more birds are seen than heard. Because of this overall inefficiency, many birders feel justified in thinking, "what's the point?" Well, despite all the gaps and inconsistencies in the data, trends emerge with respect to real differences in regional and annual bird abundance. For example, analyses of Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey data frequently reveal long-term trends that would be difficult to dismiss as "noise" given that some species' trends are up, others down, and others stable. As long as one calibrates one's estimates

by a measure of effort, typically "party hours" or "party miles," those estimates can reveal changes in distribution or abundance.

Problems in counting

The problem of estimating the number of individuals in flocks is particularly daunting, but this problem has been so well-covered recently by Brian Sullivan (*Bird Counting 101, 201*) that I don't deal with this here, other than to emphasize the point that your best, conservative estimate is better than no estimate at all. I also stress that the overwhelming tendency is to underestimate flock size particularly if the birds are densely packed. Our tendency is to underestimate increases geometrically with the dimensions of the flock. First, consider a goose flock in V-formation in flight. I predict that most observers do very well in estimating numbers when birds are arrayed in a line (counting by 10s is the typical technique). However, when that goose flock lands in a field, the flock then typically has two dimensions, length and width. Remind yourself (I have to do this myself frequently) that a 10 X 10 group, which does not occupy much space if the flock is dense, is 100 birds, and then count how many groups of 100 birds there are. Similarly you can estimate how big a group of 1000 there are and count them, etc. Beware that the natural tendency is to underestimate the amount of area needed to make up one of those

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groups with increasing depth into the flock; see Brian Sullivan's *Bird Counting 101* for a vivid visual demonstration. For a blackbird flock in flight, which typically has three rather than two dimensions, remind yourself that a 10 x 10 x 10 cube, which again occupies little space, is 1000 birds. You can count these groups as they fly by. For those massive swarms, such as a Tree Swallow "tornado," consider that a cube of "only" 100 X 100 X 100 is 1 million birds! For flocks flying by or being counted by a moving observer, the 4th dimension of time comes into play. See what I mean about us not doing well with increasing dimensions?

With small, noisy, active birds, the errors, in my experience, are in the opposite direction. My perspective comes from many years of doing plot censuses of birds in a variety of habitats to estimate breeding and winter bird density and from many studies in which I followed individual birds for as long as possible (to study feeding behavior). This provides me first-hand experience with population density and territory size of individual species and with the mobility of individuals. Therefore, I think that I have a good idea of the actual density of landbirds. Also, if one has access to the Birds of North America series, one can now see easily what is known about breeding territory size for most North American birds. I regularly see reports on LABIRD and eBird, for instance, that clearly violate everything we know on the real density of breeding or wintering birds. For example, an eBird count in California was recently removed from the database because the observer claimed to have recorded 100 Chestnut-backed Chickadees in a 0.9 mile narrow linear strip of riparian habitat, i.e., 2 individuals every 100 feet or so ... an impossibly high density for the species. I first became sensitized to the general problem of "over-counting" way back in my California birding days when I became suspicious of the landbird totals that some elite birders claimed on their day lists. For example, I was once birding the desert oases with a legendary birder (known for submitting huge totals of birds on CBCs); we split up to cover once such oasis, and he claimed that there were 25 Wilson's Warblers in a clump of a dozen small trees. Intrigued, I spent 15 minutes carefully determining that the clump held either 5 or 6 very active, vocal Wilson's Warblers. Here are more real examples. I once carefully counted the 25 individuals of a large, loose, migrating flock of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in a coastal chenier and asked a companion (who I often teased about his overestimates of individuals of landbirds) how many he thought were in the flock. His estimate was 75. Not long ago, someone claimed to have seen a flock of 25 Carolina Chickadees in Peveto Beach woods; not only is that more than have ever been recorded there combined (including the two birds known to be present that day), but the typical flock size for this species is 4-6. The source of these wild over-estimates is twofold. First, rapidly moving, noisy birds, such as chickadees, warblers, gnatcatchers, and kinglets, give the illusion that more are there than are actually present. During the breeding season, the nearly constant song of many species of territorial vireos, warblers, titmice, wrens, and others also generates overestimates of the actual density of birds. Second, reporting larger numbers than anyone else is a form of one-ups-manship, a way that some try to impress others with their bird detection skills.

I strongly recommend keeping a running tally during the day, recording birds at least after each stop if not continuously. To leave those counts to end-of-day memory produces errors, often underestimates of the common species. I used to do those tallies with a microcassette recorder, but the extra time needed to transcribe the tape along with occasional malfunctions has caused me to revert to old-fashioned pencil-checklist-clipboard "technology." Another aid for estimating numbers on long walks is to keep a running, exact count of one or two benchmark species, and then estimate the numbers of the other species relative to those totals. For example, let's say on your 2-hour walk, your tally 16 Carolina Chickadees and 12 Carolina Wrens; then you can use those totals to estimate the totals of the rest of the species, using reasoning such as "if we had 16 chickadees, then we must have had 12 titmice and 10 kinglets, and if we had 12 Carolina Wrens we must have about that many Cardinals" and so on.

Pseudoprecision in reporting numbers

Reporting bird numbers presents a chronic problem in terms of precision and rounding off. Many observers simply total the various counts and estimates of a species, and report that raw sum. In the extreme, this means that if one's tally of Red-winged Blackbirds was a flock estimated at 100,000 plus 1 solo bird seen elsewhere, then the total reported is 100,001. The problem with these sorts of sums is that it implies a disingenuous degree of precision. I recommend rounding off to a level that accurately reflects the relative precision of the individual estimates. In the above example, reporting "100,000" is the sensible solution.

But it's seldom that simple. What if the tally during the day was 100,000, 10,000, 1000, 100, 10, and 1? = 111,111? Such a report implies a misleadingly exact count. The measurement error in a flock of 100,000 is likely +/- 25% at best, but my working solution, lacking theoretical underpinnings other than intuition, is that unless the sum of all the smaller counts exceeds 10% of the largest estimate, then ignore the smaller numbers. In the case above, however, the sum of the smaller totals is greater than 10% of the largest, so I would round off to the next lowest level of resolution, in this case 10,000, and thus the report would be "110,000." But if that flock of 10,000 had not been seen, then the report would be rounded off to "100,000."

For species that do not occur in large flocks, a typical day's tally might be 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, and 2. In this case, the degree of resolution among the counts is 1 or 2, so a raw sum, "42" is what I would report, thus implying that the average individual tally was to the nearest 1-2 birds. If the tally were 12, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, and 10, then I would round the total down and report it as "60," thus implying that the average individual tally was estimated by 10s (or 20s). The guideline is that the final total should reflect the predominant degree of resolution of the subtotals. Of course an exact 1 X 1 total might also end up as 60 or 100 or some round number that implies a lower degree of resolution. But that's the way it goes ... and bird biology will nonetheless survive. Better to err on the side of avoiding pseudoprecision. Although difficult to mastermind an exact formula for reporting bird totals, just use common sense and avoid pseudoprecision by reporting numbers in a way that reflects their degree of accuracy.

Kids Who Bird!

Jane Patterson, Education Chair for Baton Rouge Audubon Society

“Birds, it must be admitted, are the most exciting and most deserving of the vertebrates; they are perhaps the best entrée into the study of natural history, and a very good wedge into conservation awareness.”

Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996) artist, author, photographer, educator

When I was asked to speak at the LOS Fall meeting in Lafayette about my bird education efforts, I began by stating that I am neither an ornithologist nor a teacher. What I am is someone who has fallen in love with birds and with birding in Louisiana. Almost from the beginning I've felt compelled to share that love with others, particularly with children. Birding has provided me with a whole new appreciation of nature and particularly of the wonderful natural resources that we have right here in Louisiana. My job is a very technical one – birding provides a wonderful counterpoint to that. As a mother of three, who are now in their twenties, I've seen children grow up in an ever more technical world, where they play in virtual reality rather than in their own backyards. As a citizen of the state, of the country, and of the world, I've come to worry that if we don't pass appreciation of nature on to our children, that the ultimate result may be devastating and irreversible.

As with any “save the world” effort, the advice is to “Think Globally, Act Locally.” I'm doing this by reaching out to kids about birds at schools, at scouting groups, in classes, and with a club. The purpose is to raise awareness in children that the birds are there – we live among the birds and they live among us, and there are some pretty cool birds in their own backyard. It's a good news story for Louisiana, and goodness knows we can always use more of those! I've found that kids are, for the most part, naturally interested in birds – you should hear the stories that 3rd graders can tell about birds they've seen, birds they've found, birds that excite them! What I'd like to do is to share some experiences that I've had getting kids interested in birds, and give you all – a community that already loves birds and birding in Louisiana – ideas about how you can do the same.

On Mother's day weekend in 2006, we visited my in-laws outside of Natchitoches. When we first arrived at their house, I heard Red-Shouldered Hawks calling very close by. My mother in law pointed out the nest in a tall pine tree right across the street from their house. I pulled out my scope and showed her the two nestlings. Other relatives arrived, including a niece and nephew who were ages 3 and 4 at the time. They were dying to see, but I was not optimistic that they'd be able to use the scope at their ages. I lowered it down to their level, which required nearly lying on the ground to focus it and instructed them to “look with their eyes and not their hands.” Amazingly, both kids saw

the baby hawks and were amazed that they could see them with the scope but not with the naked eye as they looked up into the tree. They both became my birding buddies that weekend. This year, when we returned for the Thanksgiving holidays, my now 6-year-old niece could not wait “to get up early and go look for birds” with me. She made a list of 25 species, and she is now a fledgling birder.

What I've learned from this experience is to start at home. Share the fact that you're a birder with friends and family. They may not be as gung-ho about it as you are, but that's perfectly ok. You don't have to organize field trips, or drag them into the woods. Just have your binoculars at the ready. Have your scope handy. When there's a “birding moment” hand those binoculars over to that friend or family member, or let them look through your scope. You never know but that someone might find their spark bird in that glass, and that spark may ignite a life-long passion.

I've been given the opportunity to do a series of articles about bird education for the LOS newsletter, and I'll have some other ideas to share in the future. In the meantime, please visit the website of our new bird club for kids, www.kidswhobird.org. I'm excited about what we've started here and hope it leads to a whole new generation of birders for Louisiana!

Jane started birding in 2005 as an offshoot of gardening. She is the Assistant Director for Network Services for the Louisiana Office of Telecommunications Management -- translation: computer geek. Jane is originally from Colorado, moved here from Michigan, and graduated from Northwestern State Univ. She has been married to Ned for 28 years. They have 3 wonderful kids, Daniel, an LSU graduate, web designer and musician; Adrienne, LSU graduate who lives and works in California, and works in publishing; and Nora, who attends UL-Lafayette, studies Interior Design, and is also a singer.

Louisiana Ornithological Society

www.losbird.org



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

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

- PRE-REGISTRATION FORM -
LOS 2009 WINTER MEETING – ABITA SPRINGS, LA
JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Number attending banquet _____ at \$20.00/person = \$ _____

Reservations MUST be RECEIVED by January 21!!!

2009 Membership Dues = \$ _____

Total enclosed = \$ _____

Complete form and send with check payable to LOS to:
Judith O'Neale, 504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508-6362
337-981-1011 or jloneale@aol.com