2012 LOS WINTER MEETING
Friday and Saturday, January 27-28, 2012
Lake Charles

The Gulf Coast Bird Club of Lake Charles will host the LOS Winter Meeting. Coastal Cheniers, marshes and flooded rice fields make for wonderful birding opportunities. Our programs will feature two endangered birds, the Red Cockaded Woodpecker and the Whooping Crane. Two Saturday field trips are planned: one to the coast and one to Lacassine Pool and the rice fields of the Thornwell area.

Meeting Location: LaQuinta, 101 W. Prien Lake Road, Lake Charles 337-478-9889. A block of rooms has been reserved. Breakfast will be served from 7-10 AM. The meetings will be held in the Contraband Room next door to the hotel. Please book early. Rooms are $114 (excluding tax). There is a Springhill Suites by Marriott next door and a Wyndham Place down the road.

Friday, January 27, 2012
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration in the Contraband Room. Light snacks will be provided by the Gulf Coast Bird Club.

7:00 - 8 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program - Eric Baka is the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Coordinator for the LA Wildlife and Fisheries. He will give us an overview of the program and an update on the woodpeckers.

Saturday, January 28, 2012
7:30 a. m. - Field Trips: Bring lunch, drinks and Walkie Talkies! Meet in LaQuinta parking lot.
Cameron field trip led by Ed Wallace.
Lacassine Pool/Thornwell rice field trip led by Gene Barnett and Bill Gover.

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Registration in the Contraband Room

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Dinner - $21 includes Baked Chicken, Shrimp Alfredo over Pasta, Tossed Green Salad, Pasta Salad, Mashed Garlic Potatoes, Rice Dressing, Asparagus with Cheese Sauce, Mixed Vegetables, Praline Cheesecake and Mississippi Mud Cake.

BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012!

7:30 p.m. Meeting and Evening Program - Carrie Salyers from the LWL&F will talk on the “Reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Southwestern Louisiana.”
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

WOW, the LOS fall meeting could not have hit at a better time - sort of like the lining up of the stars and the planets: the “perfect storm,” so to speak. A cool front blessed us, sweeping down into Cameron on Thursday. Lots of eyes and ears (you LOS members) and many others in the area, to raise the total number of birds seen on Saturday (Oct. 29) to over 180, a very high number for a fall meeting. Then there were the rarities that were duly noted: Back-headed Grosbeck, Bullock’s Oriole, Yellow-headed Blackbird, for example. These are the great moments of coming to Cameron Parish to bird. You may ask yourself (I know I did for years) WHY bird in a group? More eyes, more opportunity to see a new bird for you or for me. I started as a solo birder; binocs and book in hand, traveling and casually birding across the country. Heaven knows what I missed seeing - just me, my book, and my binocs. I’ll never know. Suddenly I discovered the benefits of birding in a group or cluster, at an event. However you want to look at it, if I’m in the vicinity of a group and hear about a bird somewhere nearby, there’s a much better chance I’ll see the bird.

LOS also offers me an opportunity to go into areas that may be restricted at other times of the year. I know where I can go and what is off limits. (Believe me, I don’t like being in the wrong place at the wrong time!)

At the meeting, Phil Stouffer covered a very critical topic on Louisiana’s Grassland Birds - the good, the bad, and the ugly facts of what may lay ahead for all of us who love to try to see the lbjs (little brown jobs, i.e. sparrows). Wrapping up the Saturday day of excellent birding of course, the Cameron area folks (Cameron Parish Tourist Commission, Sammy Faulk, Joann Nunez, Cyndi Sellers, and the Cameron 4-H Foundation) kept us well fed.

Our next LOS meeting will be Jan 27-29, 2012, in Lake Charles. Come join us. It should offer great opportunities.

Linda Stewart Knight, LOS President

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOS BYLAWS
OCTOBER 29, 2011

The current Bylaws read:
ARTICLE VII: FUNDS
Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Finance Committee but shall be limited to investments on the “Legal List” (Louisiana Revised Statutes 1950 9:2061), mutual funds, or any other investments which may be made legal and available.

Because the “Legal List” was abolished in 1962 and replaced by the “prudent man rule,” our Bylaws need to be revised to eliminate this phrase.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

Article VII: Funds
Section 2 Investment of the Capital Fund shall be determined by the Board with recommendations from the Treasurer. Funds should be invested to produce maximum total return consistent with prudent risk limits.

LOS Bylaws may be amended by a (2/3) vote of members present at any legal meeting.

LOS LOGO-IMPRINTED MERCHANDISE

We now have available customized Louisiana Ornithological Society merchandise with personal choice of • LOS logo/logo • size and placement of the logo/logos • color • size • personalization

To order, go to our LOS web site – losbird.org and click on “LOS shop online” and then “LOS Imprint store.”

Judith O’Neale, LOS Treasurer
jloneale@aol.com

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Christine Kooi has replaced Curt Sorrel as the SE Board Member.

UPCOMING MEETINGS*

Spring Meeting: Cameron LA April 27-29, 2012
Fall Meeting: Cameron LA October 26-28, 2012

*More information will be posted on the LOS website as it becomes available. www.losbird.org

DEADLINE
Submission deadline date for Spring LOS News is March 1, 2012
### LOS FALL MEETING BIRDS, OCT 2011

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Raptor</th>
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**RESOURCE USE AND STOPOVER ECOLOGY OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS**

T.J. Zenhal, Migratory Bird Research Group  
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi

My graduate research focuses on the stopover ecology and resource of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (RTHU) at a coastal stopover site in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The narrow woodlands (cheniers) along the Louisiana gulf coast are thought to provide valuable habitat for migratory birds before and after crossing the Gulf of Mexico. RTHUs face challenges during stopover, including the need to acquire resources to meet energetic/nutritional demands in a short period, cope with competition from other migrants and residents, and face the threat of predation. My research focuses on how RTHUs respond to variation in the

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From Alex Haun, 2011 Ted Parker Award Winner

I am a proud member of the following birding clubs and organizations: Kids Who Bird, BRAS, LOS, National Audubon Society, and ABA. From June 25 to July 2, I got the special opportunity to attend the 2011 Young Birders’ Camp in Woodland Park, Colorado, sponsored by ABA. My trip was possible because of the generous grants from BRAS and LOS.

Our group was made up of about 10 boys and girls from around the U.S. and one from Costa Rica. We had three highly trained counselors, Jennie Dubester, Bill Schmoker, and Chip Clouse. We camped each night at the Catamount Institute’s Mountain Campus in tents. We bird watched in many unique places like Chico Basin Ranch, Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs, Hayman Fire of 2001, Arkansas River Valley, Nature Conservancy’s Medano-Zapata Ranch, Pueblo Reservoir and others. I saw a total of 151 species of birds on this trip. About 70 of which I had never seen in the wild before. I can’t list them all in this article but my favorites were the Scaled Quail, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, Black Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Green-tailed Towhee, Curve-billed Thrasher, Chihuahuan Raven, Pinyon Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Burrowing Owl, Flammulated Owl, Prairie Falcon, and a Golden Eagle.

I hope many birders get to see the beautiful birds that I and the other campers saw. It was fun to make new friends and share all our pictures and memories with others. I am really happy I got the chance to go on this trip and look forward to going on another birding camp adventure next summer!
THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE DISTURBANCE ON MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS DURING SPRING STOPOVER IN A LOUISIANA CHENIER

Emily J. Lain, Migratory Bird Research Group
Department of Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi

The goal of my graduate research is to examine the effects of hurricane disturbance on the habitat relations of migratory songbirds. For this project, I am using nearly 20 years of bird banding data collected on the stopover biology of migratory birds in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. About two-thirds of eastern North American forest-breeding songbird species migrate twice annually between temperate breeding areas and subtropical and tropical wintering grounds. Many of these migrants stop to rest and refuel along the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. In southwestern Louisiana, coastal beach ridge forests called cheniers are the only forested habitat in the region, and they serve as important stopover sites for migrant songbirds. Because cheniers serve as critical stopover habitat for migratory birds, the disturbances that alter them may affect the ability of migrants to rest and replenish important fuel stores. With two major hurricanes severely impacting this region since 2005, an opportunity was presented to examine the impacts of these disturbances on habitat and migrant-habitat relations during spring migration.

My research consists of assessing changes in two main components after hurricane induced habitat changes: (1) bird species assemblages, and (2) stopover biology (e.g. habitat use, stopover length, mass gain, and change in body condition). For pre-hurricane data on both components, I am using long-term banding and transect survey datasets collected in a chenier forest site in Johnson Bayou, Louisiana, to address the research questions posed for this study. I am also using detailed vegetation survey data collected pre- and post-storm to determine the degree and amount of storm damage from Hurricanes Rita and Ike on chenier forest habitat.

I am thankful to the Louisiana Ornithological Society for providing funding for obtaining several new mist nets, which helped to ensure a safe and smooth operation of our long-term bird banding migration station in Johnson Bayou. Upon completion of my project, I look forward to sharing the results of my findings with LOS as well as communities in Cameron Parish.

EFFECTS OF HABITAT-EDGE AND NEST-PATCH CHARACTERISTICS ON THE NESTING SUCCESS OF PAINTED BUNTINGS

Phillip L. Vasseur and Paul L. Leberg
Department of Biology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The suppression of natural disturbance events, such as fire and grazing, has considerably altered much of the U.S. landscape, negatively affecting the biotic communities dependent on early successional, scrub-shrub habitat. Populations of many species of shrubland birds have been declining primarily due to the loss of this habitat type on their breeding grounds. Significant rates of decline have been detected for the Painted Bunting, a migratory songbird that often breeds in shrubby areas or forested areas with substantial edge and grassy openings. Understanding their habitat use and reproductive success are essential accurately evaluate habitat quality and make proper management decisions to conserve this species.

In 2010 and 2011, we monitored a population of Painted Buntings on reforested agricultural land on a portion of Indian Bayou Recreation Area in the Atchafalaya River Basin. Our main objective was to collect breeding productivity data and identify factors associated with Painted Bunting nest survival. A secondary objective was to determine if nests on habitat edges were less productive than nests in more continuous scrub-shrub habitat. We conducted daily nest searches and checked nests every few days until their fate was determined. We also conducted vegetation surveys to quantify the plant community structure and composition at nest sites and at random sites within territories. Territory size and habitat use was assessed by observing color-banded individuals whose locations were mapped on aerial photos of the study site. We conducted point counts to determine avian nest predator and nest parasite (cowbird) abundance. In addition, we monitored some nests in 2011 with video surveillance equipment to determine female nest visitation rates, as well as to identify predation and parasitism events.

We are currently analyzing the data to examine the habitat features and other variables that influence nest success and intend to present our results at an upcoming LOS meeting.

This study was made possible through research grants awarded in 2010 by LOS, the Eastern Bird Banding Association, and the ULL Graduate Student Organization. Funding in 2011 was provided by LDWF and the Coypu Foundation. Additional support was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the USGS National Wetlands Research Center, and the Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with data collection in the field.
LOS ON FACEBOOK

Labirders: This just to let you know that those of you who are LOS members and are also on Facebook may be interested in “liking” LOS’s new Facebook page. Just type in “Louisiana Ornithological Society” in the FB search box, and you’ll find it.

Good birding.

Christine Kooi
Baton Rouge

Continued from page 3

abundance, availability and quality of resources, with a focus on sex-dependent differences. RTHUs provide an attractive model to answer questions that would be difficult to answer with other migratory species because they are attracted to feeders where resources can be experimentally manipulated. During the course of my study, information will be obtained on resource use, stopover duration, use of space, and pattern of passage in relation to sex.

As a way to investigate resource use, I set up five stations, each with two hummingbird feeders; one feeder had a 25% sugar solution and the other had a 50% sugar solution. Each feeder was connected to a radio frequency identification (RFID) device and had an electronic balance with perch, in order to weigh the birds when they landed to feed. Each captured RTHU received a passive integrated transponder tag that when detected by the RFID device records a unique ID number. This allows me to identify the individual tagged birds when they visit the various feeders.

I also made foraging observations in order to obtain information on competition as well as foraging behavior.

I would like to thank the Louisiana Ornithological Society for providing funding which was used to purchase ten hummingbird feeders and the equipment to build ten RFID devices. I would also like to thank Dave Patton who not only provided advice and support but also had visited my study site and observed the research first hand. I look forward to continuing to work in Cameron Parish, LA.

NEW MEMBERS
Dan & Laurie Mooney, Plaquemine, LA
Mary Frances Stayton, Leeds, AL
Marianne Thompson, New Orleans, LA

LOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

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**  **Installments may be arranged for Life memberships
___Life:  $300.00**
___Family Life:   $500**

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

eBird, A USEFUL TOOL

Below is the first paragraph of an announcement made about recent improvements in eBird, an online tool used by many of our members and others for entering data into an international database of bird observations. In Louisiana, eBird is being used to enter data for the Louisiana Breeding Bird and Winter Bird Atlases and other projects. Many use it to store their personal bird observations. Check it out! [Editor]

Check out eBird Version 3: The ultimate birding tool
October 27, 2011
Dear eBird user,
If you haven’t been to eBird (www.ebird.org) in a while, it’s time for another look. Over the past few months we’ve updated eBird so that it’s easier to use and more useful than ever to the birding community. eBird can help you find birds through our “Alerts” or by exploring our newly revised mapping tools and bar charts. Recording and keeping track of your birds is easier than ever with a completely redesigned data entry system and our automated listing pages (My eBird). Most importantly, you’ll become part of a growing community of tens of thousands of birders around the world whose data are now being used in real science and conservation. Best of all – it’s free!
– PRE-REGISTRATION FORM –

LOS 2012 WINTER MEETING – LAKE CHARLES, LA
FRIDAY – SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 - 28, 2012

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: _______________________________________________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________________________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Number registering for meeting _________ at $15.00/person = $ _____________
Number registering for Saturday’s dinner _________ at $21.00/person = $ _____________
2012 Membership Dues = $ _____________

BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012! = $ _____________ Total enclosed

Please complete form and send with check payable to LOS to:
Judith O’Neale, 504 Whitebark Drive, Lafayette LA 70508
jloneale@aol.com • www.losbird.org

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