

LOS

NEWS



www.losbird.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Louisiana Ornithological Society

LOS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President - Linda Stewart-Knight
604 Chevelle Ct. Suite C
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225-769-0549
stewknig@bellsouth.net

Vice President - Ed Wallace
340 Audubon Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70125
504-343-1433
mottledduck@hotmail.com

Secretary - Joelle J. Finley
6654 Argonne Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124
504-488-3996
joellefinley@bellsouth.net

Treasurer - Judith O'Neale
504 Whitebark Dr
Lafayette LA 70508-6362
337-981-1011
jloneale@aol.com

Past President - Nancy Menasco
503 Haynes Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71105
318-868-3255
nmcpa@aol.com

Board Member - Christine Kooi
1965 Cherokee Ave
Baton Rouge LA 70806
225-381-3108
ckooi1@lsu.edu

Board Member - Jackie Duncan
112 Harper Ferry
Boyce, LA 71409
318-793-8064
jduncan@fs.fed.us

Board Member - Pam Smart
210 Hampton Court
Bossier City, LA 71111
318-347-7827
PGSmart@bellsouth.com

LOS News Editor - Kimberly Lanka
1732 Silliman Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-936-7941
KimberlyLanka@gmail.com

Submission Deadline
Winter LOS News
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Journal of Louisiana Ornithology
Jennifer O. Coulson
64340 Fogg Lane
Pearl River, LA 70452
Jacoulson@aol.com

2012 LOS FALL MEETING

Friday and Saturday, October 26-27

Cameron, Louisiana

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15TH

OCTOBER 26TH, FRIDAY EVENING: First Baptist Church in Cameron,
110 School Street off Marshall Street (the main street)

6 P.M.-7 P.M. Registration

Light snacks will be provided by the Cameron Parish Tourist Commission.

7 P.M.-8 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program: *Colombian Specialties*

Jane Patterson is current President of Baton Rouge Audubon Society, as well as the Education Chair. She is still fairly new to birding, with just 7 years under her belt, but has gotten into it in a big way. Jane has started a bird club for kids in Baton Rouge, and also teaches beginning bird classes for adults through the LSU Leisure Class system. During the day, she's a geek. She's Assistant Director for the State Office of Telecommunication Management and is in charge of network operations. She's found that birding is a wonderful counterpoint to her technical work, and has combined the two to become a pretty geeky birder.

Come follow the adventures of Harriett, Jane, Carol, Linda, and Eva as these 5 "ladies of a certain age" traipse into the jungles and traverse the highland paramo of Colombia with their accommodating guide Diego Calderon. Diego's company specializes in bird species that are endemic to the central and western Andes, in particular. The tour included the gamut of experiences, from laid back feeder watching from the comfort of a porch chair, to strenuous hiking up steep and rocky mountain trails at altitudes guaranteed to make flatlanders gasp for breath. They racked up over 300 species of birds on the trip, with only about 6 days of active birding....including getting very good looks at rarely seen antpittas! Come live vicariously or perhaps be inspired to book your own neotropical birding tour!

OCTOBER 27TH, SATURDAY MORNING:

7:00 A.M. Field Trip Meet in the parking lot of the Cameron Motel. Ed Wallace and Linda Stewart-Knight will lead a field trip to the Cameron Parish hot spots.

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LOS WELCOMES KIMBERLY LANKA AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

As the new Editor for the LOS Newsletter, I hope to continue a tradition of exciting and informative newsletters to interest the many different birders in our community. My life-long love of birds started as a young child when my mom frequently took us birding. I adored the Painted and Indigo Buntings in our backyard and we used to explore LSU farms along the River Road where we watched many birds such as Loggerhead Shrike catch, save, and eat all sorts of things.

Life became busy with school, sports, and jobs, then completing a Zoology degree at LSU. I worked for years in various positions, from Technical Writer to Web Designer to Stockbroker, until deciding to create my own businesses over a decade ago. Currently, when I am not birding, I run Creature Comforts, a pet sitting business, and Aquarium Solutions, an aquarium maintenance business. I used to breed saltwater fish, propagate corals, and before having my son Gavin eight years ago, I used to do some animal rescue work, including feral cat management, such as getting them altered and off the streets.

It was not until my son was four that I took him to the Kids Who Bird program, and then began birding again myself. This year I decided to start "listing" and am officially addicted to this newfound and much loved passion. I even "twitched" to see my favorite bird, a Snowy Owl, near Dallas. I've learned to more fully appreciate nature, Louisiana, and in turn, my own life experience. Birding has brought a profound enrichment to many aspects of my life.

I am most focused on my priority job of rearing a conservation-minded and well-rounded child, spending time with him, and volunteering at his school. My husband, son, and I have a house full of mostly rescued pets, we like to travel as much as possible, and we spend as much time as we can out at our rural home at Toledo Bend Reservoir. I am practicing photography, becoming an advocate of conservation, and the logical development from that, being a vegetarian. Birding seems to complement most aspects of my life, so it is an ideal hobby to have rediscovered.

WINGS OF HOPE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

by Leslie Lattimore

Wings of Hope Wildlife Sanctuary is a 501c3 organization founded in 1983 to rehabilitate injured and orphaned native wildlife and return them to their native habitat. We are solely supported by private donations and a few grants.

Wings of Hope is a small rehabilitation center on private property with a number of volunteers who provide care for over 500 orphaned and injured animals annually. The 10 acre facility receives all native species and is federally permitted for migratory birds. Our director, Leslie Lattimore, is the only bat rehabilitator in Louisiana who has been trained by Amanda Lollar of Bat World Sanctuary. WOH takes pride in having the largest divided flight cage in Louisiana that can house three different bird of prey species at once and meets federal requirements to rehabilitate bald eagles when all dividers are open.

This year alone two separate bald eagles have been brought to Wings of Hope by United States Fish and Wildlife. Neither of the eagles was releasable, due to their injuries. We are proud to say we were able to place one of them at the Baton Rouge Zoo where it is now on display. The second eagle will be transferred to West Virginia in the fall when the weather falls below 85 degrees.

At this time we are in the final planning stages of offering a professional development course. We have received approval from the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct accredited continuing education units for becoming a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. In addition, we have recently begun offering two-week externships for local veterinary technician students at approved colleges.

WOH volunteers present educational programs to schools, libraries, scout troops and larger public events reaching over

7,000 adults and children each year. To date we do not charge for any educational programs. Most of our programs are given off-site, but plans are being developed to offer more on-site tours and programs.

Occasionally, we have wildlife brought to us with injuries so severe they cannot be released back into the wild. Sometimes their temperaments qualify them to become educational ambassadors. Some of our educational ambassadors include a red-tailed hawk, barn owl, screech owls, great-horned owl, a vision-impaired and deaf albino opossum, a sugar-glider, Brazilian short-tailed opossum, green wood hoopoe, Harris hawk, barred owl, and a non-native short-eared owl just to name a few. Just recently we acquired a few non-native pythons, a crested gecko, a Brazilian red and white tarantula, and a Florida bark scorpion. We have rescued and provide sanctuary to several different species of parrots, and use a few of them in our educational programs.

One of our most memorable rehab patients was an orphaned North American river otter. Her mother was hit by a car when she was an eyes-closed kit. She was raised at Wings of Hope by Leslie Lattimore, her surrogate mother. The otter was affectionately known as Nosey Rosie. Rosie was released back into the wild about 10 years ago, yet periodically returned to Wings of Hope with her own kits showing that her rehabilitation and reintroduction was a complete success.

For more information, visit our website at www.wingsofhopesanctuary.org, or check out our Wings of Hope Facebook page.

COLOMBIA BIRDING

by Harriett Pooler

'Colombia? Are you crazy?' I heard this comment more times than I cared to. Those responses did give me pause considering they were from birding as well as non-birding friends. An international birding guide said it was safe... and then there were endemic birds, adventure, and fresh homegrown coffee. Just in case, I made sure my life insurance policy was up to snuff prior to departure.

Carol Foil, Eva Lydick, Linda Stewart Knight, and Jane Patterson also were on the May trip to Colombia. We flew into Bogota and spent the night at the Marriott where a drug sniffing dog greeted us at the entrance. The next morning we flew to Pereira, located in the area known as the coffee region of Colombia. Pereira is in the Western Andes range.

Our guide was Diego Calderon of Colombia Birding. A native Colombian, Diego is into plants and insects besides birds, so we learned a lot about Colombian flora and fauna. Diego especially loves orchids, and Colombia has orchids everywhere, in all shapes and sizes.

Thank You Steve, and Welcome Pam Smart

We wish to sincerely thank Steve Pagans for his service on the board. Steve had to resign and Linda Stewart-Knight has appointed Pam Smart to complete his term.

Pam lives in Bossier City and is the Chief District Defender of the 26th Judicial District Public Defender Office. She is married to Gary Hines who also works in a local law office. Pam grew up in Mississippi but came to Louisiana to attend school at Northwestern State University where she earned a Master of Science in Microbiology in 1983. She worked in the areas of DNA and forensics before deciding to attend law school at Louisiana State University. She was admitted to the bar in 1991 and became a licensed patent attorney shortly thereafter. Although her time is spent solely in public defense, she is very interested in conservation and environmental issues.

While on a weekend getaway at Lake DeGray, Arkansas, she discovered birds, especially eagles. She constantly looked for places to bird and found there are great places locally. She joined the Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Bossier City and enjoys the trails and the programs presented there. She is also attempting to learn to photograph birds. She is looking forward to serving on the board of the LOS to contribute and learn more about birding.

Once we reached Pereira, we birded along Carmelita and Pueblo Rico Road working our way to Tatama National Park. Highlights seen on the road area included the Dwarf Cuckoo, Spectacled Parrotlet, and Barr-crested Antshrike.

At the base of Tatama National Park is the Montezuma Lodge, an eco-lodge requiring a 4 wheel drive jeep to get there. The Montezuma Lodge is an old farmhouse that changed to an eco-lodge when the endemic Gold-ringed Tanager was discovered in the park. The accommodations are primitive but not without charm. Great food but no hot water for a shower was a challenge, which happened if you weren't the first one. At night moths flocked to the lights in the outside dining room and our bedrooms. We had to swat them away while eating and hope we got to the food before they did.

At Montezuma Lodge we saw the rare Blackish Rail come scurrying out of the reeds. The lodge owners were taking care of an injured Andean Motmot, which they hand fed earth worms to every morning.

Heading up the mountain into the park we saw the Cloud-forest Pygmy-owl calling from a tree. We also got good looks at the endemic Rusty Flowerpiercer, Violet-tailed Sylph, Brown Inca, Empress Brilliant, and the Gold-ringed Tanager! Other birds seen at different elevations included the Munchique Wood-wren, Orange-breasted Fruiteater, Lemon-browed Flycatcher, and tons of different Tanagers, all beautiful.

We birded next at the Agua Linda Reserve where our local guide, Julian Zuleta Marin, saw a Jaguarundi cross the road! It was a sore point for us trailing behind in the second jeep. However, we did see great looks at the Giant Cowbird, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Metallic-green Tanager, Yellow-headed Manakin, White-throated Spadebill, Lineated Foliage-gleaner, Collared Trogon, Greenish Puffleg, and White-tailed Hillstar. We were into serious bird overload at this point!

In the afternoon we birded the hummingbird feeders at Recinto del Pensamiento. Green Violetear, Sparkling Violetear, Tourmaline Sunangel and Buff-tailed Coronet were a few of the 13 hummers buzzing around there.

The next day we headed to the Central Andes range to the Rio Blanco Reserve. We watched the hummer activity at the feeders located around the porch. New birds in this area included the Rusty-faced Parrot, Masked Saltator, Black-collared Jay and Flammulated Treehunter.

The major highlight at Rio Blanco was seeing four Antpittas! No more of just-hearing-Antpitta-stuff, we got to see them up close and personal. Rio Blanco has feeding stations set up for small groups twice a day. It was within minutes after the worms were placed that the Bicolored, Slate-crowned, Hooded, and Brown-banded Antpittas made an appearance. It was a show to watch them chase each other off.

Continued on page 5

FALL MEETING, continued from page 1

Bring lunch, drinks, bug spray and walkie talkies if you have them. Have your car filled up with gas!

OCTOBER 27TH, SATURDAY EVENING:

First Baptist Church in Cameron, 110 School Street off of Marshall Street (the main street)

6:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M. Registration**6:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M. Dinner -**

Chicken and Sausage Gumbo

7:30 P.M. Meeting and Evening Program:***Election of officers***

Nominating committee's slate of candidates:

Ed Wallace, President
Marty Floyd, Vice-president
Joelle Finley, Secretary
Judith O'Neale, Treasurer
Jay V. Huner, Southwest Board Member

Program: I'm with the Band: Tales of Honey Island Songbirds

Donata Henry is a Professor of Biology at Tulane University, where she also completed her dissertation research on the breeding biology and habitat selection of Swainson's Warblers. She teaches a wide range of courses, from introductory biology labs to senior seminars, and continually explores new pedagogies and approaches to enhance student engagement. Luckily, she has many opportunities to bring students out into the field where much of the best learning takes place. Through a serendipitous collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, she established a bird banding station in

the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area in 2005, where she continues to receive invaluable assistance from local birders, banders, and university students. She will be reporting on the latest discoveries from those Honey Island Swamp mist-netting efforts, including the station's oldest capture records, how birds have fared post-Katrina, and how the community has changed over eight banding seasons.

Cameron Accommodations:

The phone number for the Cameron Motel is 337-775-5442. The Cameron Motel also has sites available for RV campers. Several eating places (in trailers) are open in Cameron. Other accommodations can be found in Sulphur or Lake Charles. East Jetty also has camper spaces with hook-ups.

Please pre-register by October 15th!

Fall Meeting Registration Form on page 6

LOS Awards Research Grant

LOS awarded Kristen M. Covina a \$525 research grant. She is a Master of Science graduate student working with the Migratory Bird Research Group in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Southern Mississippi. The title of her study is "Not Just a Breeding Hormone? Testosterone Production in Songbirds throughout Spring Migration." She will sample populations of songbirds at Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana where songbird migrants are captured immediately after crossing the Gulf of Mexico, and at Appledore Island, Maine where the birds will be on their breeding grounds. Her mentor is Dr. Frank R. Moore.

Make a note . . .

UPCOMING MEETINGS*

Fall Meeting	Cameron	October 26-28, 2012
Winter Meeting	Shreveport	January 25-26, 2013
Spring Meeting	Cameron	April 26-27, 2013

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

DEADLINE: Submission deadline date for Winter LOS News is December 1, 2012

COLOMBIA, continued from page 3

After dinner, left over food is put out to attract the Crab-eating Fox. Two foxes showed up, one looking like a pregnant female and both making mad dashes to grab the leftovers. It appears that chicken and rice are as good as crabs!

The next morning we headed to Los Nevados National Park and stopped at Laguna Negro to see Andean Teal and Andean Ducks. We birded up the mountain and saw the Plumbeous Sierra-Finch, Red-crested Cotinga, and Barred Becard. Driving further up the mountain to approximately 13,123 feet, we saw the Bearded Helmetcrest. He was one cute dude! We also got good looks at the Stout-billed Cinclodes and Tawny Antipitta. This Antipitta was running across the road!

We stayed at Otun-Quimbaya National Park for our last night in Colombia. It had the most beautiful rainforest where we saw the endemic Cauca Guan, Red-ruffed Fruitcrow, Multicolored Tanager and several of the elusive Chestnut Wood-Quail.

Back safely at home with my life insurance policy still intact, I would recommend a birding trip to Colombia. The country is beautiful, the birds are great, and the lack of a tourism industry is refreshing. I actually had trouble spending the cash I brought.

I would recommend Diego as a guide for Colombia birding. He works hard for his clients and he works the clients pretty hard as well. He had us up between 4 and 4:30 am every morning to start the day. I was thankful to have a cup of strong Colombian coffee to help me get going. Most days we didn't finish until 7 pm when dinner was served. If you are interested in seeing a complete list of the birds on the trip, please email me at Harriett.pooler@gmail.com.

It was a great trip with lots of endemics and gave us an appreciation of the central and western Andes ranges. We left the Pereira airport less than 24 hours before it shut down due to volcanic activity in Los Nevados National Park. Ash and sulphur was spewing from the volcano.

2012 LOS AWARDS

The 2012 LOS Awards were presented at the spring meeting in Cameron. Carol Ann Lowery Locker, daughter of the late George Lowery, presented the George H. Lowery, Jr. Award to Nancy Newfield for Nancy's extraordinary work banding Louisiana's breeding and wintering hummingbirds. Linda Stewart-Knight presented the President's Awards to Terry Davis, Jean Landry and Melanie Driscoll for their work in documenting the birds of Louisiana and preserving bird habitat. Congratulations to all of our winners.

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	*Please add \$2.00
___ Senior (over 65):	\$15.00/yr	for foreign
___ Senior Family:	\$20.00/yr	subscriptions
___ Library	\$15.00/yr*	**Installments may
___ Contributing:	\$50.00/yr	be arranged for
___ Sustaining:	\$100.00/yr	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

LOS ON FACEBOOK

Labirders: This is 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*

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 2012 FALL MEETING – CAMERON/CREOLE, LA
FRIDAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 - 27, 2012

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Number registering for Saturday's dinner _____ at \$6.00/person = \$ _____

2012 Membership Dues enclosed = \$ _____

BANQUET REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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