

LOUISIANA
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



No. 77

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1 April 1977

1977 SPRING MEETING

The 1977 spring meeting of the LOS will be in Cameron on April 23. As usual, accommodations are limited in Cameron, so make your reservations now.

Cameron

Broussard's Motel
(318) 775-5115

Gulf Motel
(318) 775-5118

Hackberry

Island Motel
(318) 762-5735

Rutherford Beach (Creole)

Rutherford Beach Motel
(318) 452-8680

Holly Beach

Tommy's Cabins
(318) 596-2127

There are numerous other places where one can stay in Holly Beach. If Tommy's is full (the only phone number I have), ask him to find a nearby vacancy.

Mrs. Eyster informs me we will have our usual informal "get-acquainted" meeting Friday night, April 22, in the Calcasieu-Marine Bank, Cameron, at 7:30 P.M.

Our regular meeting will be in Fred's Restaurant, Cameron, April 23, beginning at 7:45 P.M.

LOS 1976 FALL MEETING

The 1976 fall meeting was held in Cameron, Louisiana, November 13. Dr. Howard Kisner, M.D., of Natchez, Mississippi, gave a very interesting program on the birds of the Bering Sea area. Forty-six people signed the roster, but we had 10 or 12 more than that. The weather was the worst I've seen in 21 years of birding at Cameron. Many people left before the Saturday night meeting.

ATTENDEES - LOS 1976 FALL MEETING

Bob, Allene, & Steph Noble	Baton Rouge
H. Randolph Perry, Jr.	LSU
Ray Mule	LSU
Suzette Mouton	LSU
Robert B. Hamilton	LSU
David Valenziano	Metairie
Robert Hines	LaPlace
Ronald Stein	Reserve
Joe Kennedy	New Orleans
Lynn Hamilton	New Orleans
Margaret Fontaine	Shreveport
Ann Elston	Houston, Texas
Pat Lonnecker	Shreveport
Peggy Gray	Shreveport
Eloise Schladweiler	Shreveport
Tom Kee	Monroe
Horace H. Jeter	Shreveport
Christine Berry	Jackson, Miss.
Frances Wills	Jackson, Miss.
Harland D. Guillory	Eunice
Elias Landry	Avery Island
Doris Falkenheiner	Baton Rouge
Charles Fryling, Jr.	Baton Rouge
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Kisner	Natchez, Miss.
Mrs. P. C. Stewart	Lake Charles
Karen Norman	Baton Rouge
Hope and Hopie Norman	Alexandria
Stephen & Lisa Norman	Shreveport
Mary F. Ewing	Alexandria
Mary Frances James	Alexandria
Mariana Tamer	Cameron
Lawrence Tamer	Cameron
Bill Eley	Baton Rouge
B. G. Stewart	Baton Rouge
Tom Schulenberg	LSU
Bill Wells	NLU
Robert M. Roark	Alexandria
Patti King	Baton Rouge
Lynn Davis	Baton Rouge
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Davis	Alexandria

In spite of bad weather, LOS members in the aggregate, reported 161 bird species for November 13, 1977. Perhaps the most unusual of these were Oldsquaw, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Assistance of LOS members is needed by Harland D. Guillory and Jack H. Deshotels. Some Great-tailed Grackles from LaHaye's Lake near Reddell, Evangeline Parish, have been tagged with colored vinyl wing markers (red, green, orange or white). Anyone who sights a grackle wearing one of these tags please report the tag color, date, and location observed to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20811. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL MEETING IS IN MISSISSIPPI
THIS SPRING

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held May 18-21, 1977 on the campus of Mississippi State University near Starkville, Miss. The Wilson Society is one of the three major ornithological societies in North America. It is seldom we have an opportunity to attend a national ornithological meeting so close to home.

There will be several field trips in addition to the scientific program, movies, and banquet. Field trips include the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge (where Dr. Jackson will also surely show you a Red-cockaded woodpecker), a local heronry, and a canoe trip down the Tombigbee River (bring your own craft!).

For information on campus housing, motels, camping, meals, etc, write Dr. Jerome A. Jackson, Dept. of Zoology, MSU, Miss. State, MS 39762.

Allene, Steph, and I will look forward to seeing you there. By the way, you do not have to be a member of the Wilson Society to attend.

NEW BIRD BOOK

Herbert Clarke, a Life-Member of the LOS, and Arnold Small are the authors of a new bird book, Birds of the West. The book contains over 200 bird photographs with non-technical descriptions and interesting information on the 10 major habitats of the western U.S. Price: \$30.00 plus \$.75 shipping cost. Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Purple Martin Color-Marking

A large-scale Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1975 for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Maryland, and in 1976 for Saxis, Virginia. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (wing tags and/or plastic leg bands) Purple Martins. Please record the color of the band, which leg it is on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, or established at a nest site. We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd., #2, Laurel, MD 20811.

LOS PATCHES HAVE ARRIVED

LOS shoulder patches are now available from Grace Eyster, 226 Montaigne, Lafayette, LA 70506. Cost is \$1.00 each. The patches are bright blue with yellow printing. An Ivory-billed Woodpecker graces the words, "Learn - Observe - Save". Order yours today!

RESULTS OF 1976 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Our Vice President, Mr. Ronnie Stein, was kind enough to send me the results of the 1976 Christmas Bird Count at Reserve-Bonnet Carre Spillway, La. (Count conducted 31 December 1976.)

Total Species - 127
Total Individuals - 28,117
Total Participants - 19 in 7 parties

Unusual Observations

Greater Scaup	1
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Bald Eagle	1
American Golden Plover	1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1
Black and White Warbler	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Baltimore Oriole	1
Indigo Bunting	2

* * * * *

Common Loon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	27
Double-crested Cormorant	22
Great Blue Heron	4
Little Blue Heron	118
Cattle Egret	34
Great Egret	1,283
Snowy Egret	865
Louisiana Heron	74
Plegadis	500
White Ibis	588
Mallard	5
Gadwall	200
Northern Pintail	41
Green-winged Teal	5
Wood Duck	42
Ring-necked Duck	6
Canvasback	20
Scaup sp.	267
Greater Scaup	1
Lesser Scaup	764
Hooded Merganser	3
Duck, sp.	85

Turkey Vulture	12	Crow sp.	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Common Crow	740
Red-tailed Hawk	4	Pish Crow	394
Red-shoulder Hawk	25	Carolina Chickadee	159
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Tufted Titmouse	5
Bald Eagle	1	Northern House Wren	18
Marsh Hawk	4	Winter Wren	15
American Kestrel	25	Carolina Wren	46
King Rail	3	Marsh Wren	21
Virginia Rail	1	Sedge Wren	1
None	0	Northern Mockingbird	79
Common Gallinule	1	Gray Catbird	5
American Coot	2,785	Brown Thrasher	36
Semipalmated Plover	1	American Robin	1,316
Killdeer	1,575	Hairy Woodpecker	28
American Golden Plover	1	Eastern Bluebird	22
Greater Yellowlegs	28	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	20
Lesser Yellowlegs	21	Golden-crowned Kinglet	11
Spotted Sandpiper	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	478
American Woodcock	21	Water Pipit	686
Common Snipe	133	Cedar Waxwing	6
Peep sp.	2,300	Loggerhead Shrike	30
Western Sandpiper	3	European Starling	773
Least Sandpiper	200	White-eyed Vireo	5
Dunlin	75	Solitary Vireo	4
Herring Gull	11	Black and White Warbler	1
Ring-billed Gull	215	Orange-crowned Warbler	62
Laughing Gull	61	Pine Warbler	2
Forker's Tern	46	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1,210
Caspian Tern	1	Palm Warbler	2
Black Skimmer	5	Northern Waterthrush	1
Rock Pigeon	50	Common Yellowthroat	86
Mourning Dove	117	Wilson's Warbler	5
Common Ground Dove	1	House Sparrow	132
Common Screech Owl	1	Eastern Meadowlark	112
Great Horned Owl	1	Red-winged Blackbird	2,242
Barred Owl	21	Black-hooded type Oriole	1
Rufous Hummingbird	1	Rusty Blackbird	536
Belted Kingfisher	23	Brewer's Blackbird	1
Y-shafted type Common Flicker	61	Boat-tailed Grackle	152
Pileated Woodpecker	6	Common Grackle	1,432
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	20	Northern Cardinal	224
Ruby Woodpecker	6	Indigo Bunting	2
Downy Woodpecker	13	Purple Finch	153
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1	American Goldfinch	76
Eastern Phoebe	22	Rufous-sided Towhee	64
Tree Swallow	270	Savannah Sparrow	123
Barn Swallow	1	Vesper Sparrow	30
Blue Jay	57	Slate-colored Junco	129

Chipping Sparrow	30
Field Sparrow	6
White-crowned Sparrow	5
White-throated Sparrow	1,092
Fox Sparrow	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Swamp Sparrow	268
Song Sparrow	22

Kites, Marsh Harriers, Wood Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwits, Black-winged Stilts, Collared Crows, Tawny-flanked Prinias, Dusky Warblers and Great Reed-warblers.

The bright blue, rufous and chocolate of the Common Kingfisher and the White-throated Kingfisher provided vivid streaks of color as they noisily darted along the marsh bunds. We saw the majestic Peregrine Falcon, Common Buzzard, Chinese Pond and Purple Herons, Great Bittern, Black-headed Ibis, White-breasted Waterhen, Common Snipe, Whiskered Tern and a number of small waders and wagtails. Ducks included the Spot-billed, Common Teal, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon and Pintail.

Thirty-six of the 59 species we saw that morning were life-birds for us. It was a bird day to remember. And something else I'll not forget soon is striding into the elegant lobby of the Hong Kong Hilton with mud caked to my knees, hair flattened by a sudden rainstorm and brick-red from sunburn! I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

TRAVELING THROUGH YELLOWSTONE PARK

By
Don Norman

If you are planning a trip to Yellowstone National Park, crowds and tourist stops should not fill your itinerary. I suggest you spend two days, at least, in the park. If you are camping, spend one night in the Northeast corner; Roosevelt Lodge or Slough Creek are good camp sites. There are beautiful trails that will be filled with many lower elevation birds. Hell Roaring Creek, Howard Eaton Trail, and Slough Creek are all excellent for bird-watching.

I took a hike up Slough Creek in early June, and, while I walked near the campgrounds, there were many birds in the sloughs nearby: Swallows, Swainson's Hawk,

SIX HOURS BIRDING IN A HONG KONG MARSH

by
Doris Darden

After settling on a vacation to the Far East, my husband, Julian, and I set about our customary task of acquiring bird books for the areas we would visit. We found the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society's address and subsequent correspondence put us in touch with Michael A. Webster. Mr. Webster agreed to spend a day with us birdwatching in the crown colony.

A Britisher, Webster has been in Hong Kong for the past 15 years. He spent a number of years in other countries of SE Asia. His new field guide to the Birds of Hong Kong will be released in November, 1976. A good field guide for Hong Kong is needed because the authoritative bird guides that cover the colony are so broad in scope as to be difficult to use. We spent October 23, 1976 with Mr. Webster.

Just at dawn we approached the Mai Po marshes in the northwestern portion of the New Territories of Hong Kong. Webster had previously acquired our permit to enter the restricted area. We were surrounded by songsters before we could get out of the car (to our delight!).

Stonechat, Richard's Pipit, Light-vented Bulbul, Long-tailed Shrike and the familiar Osprey were the first birds we saw. For six hours we slipped about on the mud of the marsh banks where the Chinese "grow" oysters. The common birds of the morning were Little Egrets, Grey Herons, Black

Golden Eagle, Sora, Common Snipe and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The trail is easy walking and the best birding is along the few miles to the huge Glacier Bowl. There were Empidonax (I ventured Hammond's), Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Sharp-shinned Hawk and the ever-present Kinglets, Audubon's Warbler and Oregon Junco. Sandhill Cranes and numerous ducks were nesting in Glacier Bowl.

For beautiful scenery, I recommend the road over Dunraven Pass with a stop to walk to the top of Mount Washburn. It is about an hour's hike. The view of the Park from Mount Washburn is magnificent; Lake Yellowstone to the south, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and, on a clear day, a view of the Tetons. You might glimpse a Goshawk, and you will surely see Rosy Finche, Water Pipit, or Townsend's Solitaire. My roommate saw a cougar there last summer. Driving south you pass through Hayden Valley, where, in early morning and late afternoon, big game and waterfowl are a real spectacle. There are several hundred bison plus elk, moose, and grizzly bear. In the sagebrush are Brewer's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Sage Grouse, and Sparrows. A pair of Bald Eagles nested in the valley, and I spent hours watching them fish and make incredible yodeling noises everytime a Marsh Hawk or Red-tailed Hawk floated too close to their invisible barrier.

Yellowstone has lots of geysers. Take the hike to Shoshone Basin in the south part of the Park and really see some beautiful woods. Have lunch and wait for the Geyser to go off. You might see a Great Gray Owl, surely you'll hear Swainson's Thrush singing and, wherever there's water, you'll find Lincoln's Sparrow and perhaps MacGillivray's Warbler. There are Grouse about: Ruffed, Blue and Spruce, though the last is mostly in wet, low elevations.

The most productive place for birds, however, is not in the Park. It is in the Tetons. Along the Snake River (the raft

trip is a must for photographers) near Moose Junction and the aspen and spruce forests at the base of the mountains are great. Many migrants pass through this area in August. Hiking around Jenny or Leigh Lake is beautiful. Don't miss Hidden Falls and any willows will have MacGillivray's Warbler. Look for woodpeckers in the burn areas. The weather is often wet, especially at higher elevations, so always carry rain gear and warm clothing.

REMIT 1977 DUES

Please **submit** your dues at an early date.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE & ZIP _____

_____ Regular Member	\$2.00/year
_____ Student Member	\$1.00/year
_____ Life Member	\$50.00
_____ Patron	\$100/year

Please make checks payable to Louisiana Ornithological Society and remit to:

Mrs. Grace Eyster
226 Montaigne Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506

NEXT NEWSLETTER

News, articles, announcements, etc., for the next LOS News (to be mailed about July 15, 1977) should be sent to our Vice President, Mr. Ronald J. Stein, Rt. 2, Box 943C, Reserve, LA 70084, or to the Secretary, Mrs. Grace Eyster. Allene, Steph, and I will again be studying birds in the "Far North" this late spring and summer.

Robert E. (Bob) Noble
School of Forestry and
Wildlife Management
LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

NEW MEMBERS

Frederick M. Barry
Box 141
Gretna, LA 70054

Ms. Marion Bragg
Route 3, Box 376
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Durapau
Drawer 670
Lake Arthur, LA 70549

Arnold D. Feldman
5115 Highland Rd., No. 150
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Ms. Gigi Fontenot
322 Beverly Drive
Lafayette, LA 70501

Charles Fryling, Jr.
1068 E. Lakeview Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

John Glass Green
3942 Gourrier, Apt. 210
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Kendrick
208 Bailey Street
Haynesville, LA 71038

Pierce P. Newman
1130 Bayou Wood Ct.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

John H. Reinoehl
2939 Mexico Street
New Orleans, LA 70122

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Calvin A. Knight
425 Lee Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Mrs. David E. Mueller
14543 Breton Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Ms. Kathy Stewart
6110 Renwick, #215A
Houston, TX 77081

CHANGED TO LIFE MEMBERS

Capt. R. Martin Guidry
Qtrs. 6301 G
USAF Academy, CO 80840

Tom Hickcox
Rt. 1, Box 227, F17
Prairieville, LA 70769

Mrs. Wm. G. James
2913 Hill Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Leeper
1457 Country Club Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Jerry White
P. O. Box 217A
Castor, LA 71016