



The IBIS

Newsletter of the Orleans Audubon Society.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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February 2019/March 2019

The Photography of Walter Clifton

Speaker: **Dr. Donata Henry**

Date: Tuesday, April 16

Times: 6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. program

Location: Church Unitarian Universalist, 6690 Fleur de Lis Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124, is located in Lakeview, on the southwest corner of Fleur de Lis Drive and 38th Street. This program is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

In a fitting tribute to Walter Clifton, Tulane Professor Donata Henry will present Walter's spectacular bird and nature photographs. Many of Walter's photographs capture secretive birds nesting in the Honey Island Swamp, birds Donata knows intimately from the bird banding station she runs there.

Walter started birding and photographing birds in 1981, using a Canon Lands End 2E body coupled with a high quality 35 to 350 mm lens. He explained that he used "a \$1400 lens on a \$300 camera body," because the lens is what's important. The quality of his pictures comes not only from his technical skills but also from the patience and hard work that went into taking each photograph. Walter was an active of the Orleans Audubon Society and a founding member of the Northshore Bird Club. He passed away on April 3, 2018. Join us in celebrating and appreciating his wonderful talents.



OAS and Crescent Bird Club Spring Banquet

Cuba-Birds, People, Cars and Cigars



Speakers: Joelle Finley and Ken Harris

Date: Tuesday, May 21

Times: Cash bar 6:30 p.m., dinner 7:00 p.m. and program at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Augie's Restaurant, 6005 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123



Cost: \$25/person if received by May 13. \$30/person if received between May 11-May 15.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; NO RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER May 15.

Join Ken and Joelle on their latest adventure to a land so very close but yet so far. Old Havana is so reminiscent of our own French Quarter that you feel right at home. We will visit the Bay of Pigs in search of Cuba's 26 endemic species including the famous Bee Hummingbird, the Cuban Tody and the bird that inspired the colors of the Cuban flag, the Cuban Trogon.

Banquet reservations must be RECEIVED by May 13th

\$25/person on or before May 13th

\$30/person May 14 –May 15th

No reservations after May 15th—no exceptions



Clip and mail with check payable to Orleans Audubon Society to: Mary Joe Krieger, 3623 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125 Phone: (504) 866-3396 maryjkrieger@gmail.com

Banquet: _____ persons@\$25.00 Total: \$ _____
_____ persons@\$30.00 Total: \$ _____

Names of people attending the Banquet:

Entrée Choice: #1 Catfish Pecan _____
#2 Veal Parmesan _____
#3 Chicken St. John _____
#4 Catfish Lafitte (crawfish sauce) _____

All come with salad, bread pudding and iced tea.

Please include your e-mail address if you wish to be on our e-mail list.

OAS Birding Field Trips



Birding trips are co-hosted by Orleans Audubon and the Crescent Bird Club. All are welcome. Bring binoculars and drinking water, wear hiking shoes or boots. A hat, sun screen, other protection from the elements and insect repellent are advisable. Call the trip leader if you have questions.

Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge Half-day Trip

Date: Saturday, May 4

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Meet at Boy Scout Road parking lot. Take Hwy 190 2.7 miles east of Lacombe to Transmitter Rd; turn toward Lake Pontchartrain and drive to T-junction; turn right and go to the second parking lot on the left.

Leader: TBA

Bonnet Carré Spillway Half-day Trip

Date: Saturday, May 11

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the Norco Boat Launch. Take I-10 west, exit onto I-310 then Airline Hwy (US 61) west, turn right onto the east Spillway levee, and turn left down to the boat launch. You may need rubber boots.

Leader: Chris Brantley (985) 237-5399

Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge and Honey Island Half-day Trip

Date: Saturday, May 18

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Location: Meet at the entrance to the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, Exit 5b (Honey Island Swamp) off of I-59. Good chance to see Swallow-tailed Kite and 10 species of breeding warblers including Swainson's.

Leader: Glenn Ousset (504) 495-4284

NOTE: To bird in a Louisiana Wildlife Management Area (WMA), including the Pearl River WMA, you will need a hunting or fishing license, or a Wild Louisiana Annual Stamp (\$5.00), or a Wild Louisiana One Day Stamp (\$2.00). If you are a resident of Louisiana and are at least 60 years old, you are exempt. These stamps are sold at WalMart, Puglia's Sporting goods, 1925 Veterans Blvd., 504-837-0291 or LDWF offices (<http://www.wlf.state.la.us>).

Birding Festivals and Meetings

Great Louisiana BirdFest

Dates: April 5-8

Northlake Nature Center-Mandeville

P.O. Box 8511, Mandeville, Louisiana 70470

<http://www.northlakenature.org/>

Grand Isle Migratory Bird Celebration

Dates: April 12-14

<http://www.grandisle.btneep.org/>

For more information call: Grand Isle Port Commission: (985) 787-2229 or BTNEP 1-800-259-0869, or

Email: jlandry@TNC.ORG or sandra@btneep.org

Louisiana Ornithological Society Spring Meeting

Dates: April 26-27

Location: Cameron Parish

Check the LOS website at <http://www.losbird.org> for details or contact Joelle Finley at 504-715-2647, jjf1946@gmail.com

St. Bernard Bird Festival

Friday, May 3rd & Saturday, May 4th. The new location will be the Historic Beauregard Courthouse and grounds at 1201 Bayou Road, St. Bernard, LA, 70085. (Near the Islenos Complex on Bayou Road).

OAS ADVOCATES FOR AVIAN PROTECTION FROM ACCIDENTAL ELECTROCUTION

By Michael W. Tifft, OAS Legal Committee Chair

The Orleans Audubon Society is working with the New Orleans City Council and the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) on the implementation of electric distribution and transmission network avian protection measures by the electric utility companies regulated by the Council and LPSC.

Simple procedures designed to avoid the electrocution of birds (and other animals) include the insulation of energized contact points with guards and covers, the separation of contact points (beyond a bird's wingspan), and the redirection of birds through barriers, the marking of power lines and safer perches.

OAS has interacted with representatives of the City Council which regulates Entergy New Orleans, Inc. (ENO), meeting with the Council's advisers to encourage ENO to use these techniques in its ongoing retrofit and upgrade of its existing electrical distribution network in Orleans Parish.

OAS has also been in contact with LPSC officials to encourage similar efforts across the state. Most recently, OAS President Jennifer Coulson contacted LPSC District 3 Commissioner Lambert Boissierre, III to ask for emergency intercession with Entergy Louisiana, Inc., in order to install safeguards for distribution infrastructure near an active Bald Eagle nest in Metairie, Louisiana. Entergy responded quickly, and their Avian Coordinator visited the nest site to assess the situation. Then, on March 1st several Entergy crews insulated nearby energized surfaces which might pose a threat to the eagle family and also installed reflectors on high power lines to prevent eagle collisions. Apparently this suburban pair is truly acclimated to human activities because both parents fed the young a Black-bellied Whistling Duck while the work was in progress.

Entergy is to be commended for its comprehensive Avian Protection Plan, developed with the guidance of the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This 242-page document contains a thorough accounting of the various means by which Entergy can protect avian wildlife from contact with energized power lines, proactively, reactively and on new construction basis. It includes a list of affected species and tracking and reporting requirements. The plan covers Entergy's service territories in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Entergy has invited OAS comment and input on this plan.

OAS representatives plan to attend the APLIC meeting and workshop, hosted by Entergy in New Orleans in early April, 2019. OAS membership is encouraged to contact the City Council and the LPSC to seek support for the full implementation of Entergy's Avian Protection Plan. Contact information for the Council may be found at: <https://council.nola.gov/home/> Contact information for the LPSC may be found at: <http://www.lpsc.louisiana.gov/>



[PHOTO] The Metairie Bald Eagle nest showing 1 of the 2 eaglets on February 17, 2019. Photo courtesy of Terri Skelton.

2019 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

OAS 2019 ELECTION BALLOT

It is time to elect the Orleans Audubon Society's officers for the upcoming 2-year term. You must be a member of the National Audubon Society or the Orleans Audubon Society to vote. Please complete the ballot below and mail it to: Glenn Ousset, OAS Nominating Committee Chair, 71205 Barque Place, Abita Springs, LA 70420. You may also scan and email it to: gousset@bellsouth.net. Ballots must be mailed by April 30, 2019, to be counted. Call Glenn if you have questions regarding the election: (504) 495-4284.

Directions: Circle the candidate's name or write in a candidate's name.

OFFICE	CANDIDATE
PRESIDENT	Jennifer Coulson _____ (write in)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Joelle Finley _____ (write in)
SECRETARY	Sherry DeFrancesch _____ (write in)
TREASURER	Mary Joe Krieger _____ (write in)

Bald Eagles Nesting for the First Time at the Marguerite Moffett Audubon Sanctuary

By Jennifer Coulson

Eugene Foret lives across the highway from OAS's Marguerite Moffett Audubon Sanctuary in near Chauvin in Terrebonne Parish. He reported that Bald Eagles are nesting on the sanctuary and using the nest platform which OAS erected on January 21, 2010. Eugene first observed the pair building a nest on the platform at the beginning of 2019 and the pair had completed the nest by January 9. The female was first observed in incubation posture on January 13. On the last two days of February, the female has been spending a lot of time brooding one or more small eaglets and sheltering her young from all this rain.

If you would like to visit the Marguerite Moffett Audubon Sanctuary, directions are posted on the OAS website: <http://www.jjaudubon.net/mmoffett>. Binoculars will suffice to view the eagle nest from the observation deck at the end of the boardwalk, but a spotting scope is recommended. The boardwalk is also a great place to see Seaside Sparrows.

OAS would like to take this opportunity to thank volunteers Eugene Foret, Melanie LeBoeuf, Natalie Waters of BTNEP, Chieko Hunter, and John Conover for monitoring this nest. We thank Mrs. Billie Remson and the late Dr. Marcel Remson for their generous donation of the land. We also thank Richard DeMay and Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) for help in building the boardwalk and erecting the platform.

Please report eagle nests to: Jennifer Coulson, jacoulson@aol.com or text to my cell: 504-717-3544 or call me. Report the nest location, the date and time of your nest observation, and what you observed, such as: how many eagles did you see, are they nest-building, standing on the nest, is one sitting on the nest (which might indicate that it is incubating eggs, etc.).

Photos are helpful and appreciated.



Incubating adult at the Marguerite Moffett Audubon Sanctuary taken on January 13. Photo courtesy of Natalie Waters.

The SE Louisiana Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Orleans Audubon Society

3623 Nashville Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70125

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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New Orleans, LA

Permit No. 1435



Join or Renew with Orleans Audubon Society only:

OAS-only memberships expired on December 31. If you want all of your dues to support local conversation and education, you may select an "Orleans Audubon Society" *only* membership. In this case you will not receive *Audubon Magazine* and you will not become a member of the National Audubon Society. You will receive our newsletter *The Ibis* and may also opt to receive it electronically instead of by mail. In addition, we are currently offering a \$100 OAS-only membership. With this option along with your usual membership, you will receive a signed and numbered limited edition fine art giclée of a watercolor painting "Pelican in Couturie Forest" by Joan Garvey. To complete your renewal please clip the form below and mail to: Mary Joe Krieger, Orleans Audubon Treasurer, 3623 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125 with your check made payable to "Orleans Audubon Society."

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

☐ \$20 OAS-only membership

☐ \$100 membership with choice of print

☐ electronic copy of newsletter only