



State of Louisiana

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2006

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Revealing an American Wilderness: Audubon's Birds of Louisiana **Louisiana State Museum exhibition highlights naturalist's talents in art and science**

Natchitoches, LA- Arriving in the United States from France in 1803, John J. Audubon was captivated by the beauty of the unspoiled American wilderness. He documented these natural wonders in *The Birds of America*, highlighted in *Revealing an American Wilderness: Audubon's Birds of Louisiana*, and *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. In 1834 the State of Louisiana acquired a collection of Audubon's *Birds of America* prints, which later became part of the Louisiana State Museum's permanent collection.

In a cooperative with the Audubon State Historic Park, the State Museum has brought this collection to life with the exhibit *Revealing an American Wilderness: Audubon's Birds of Louisiana* at the Old Courthouse Museum in Natchitoches. The featured works are both visually stunning and scientifically valuable, sending visitors on an ecological tour of a now vanished wilderness.

An opening reception will be held on February 10 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm where Gabriela Hernandez, Curator of Education and Music Programming, Office of State Museum and David Latona, Interpretive Program Developer of Naturalist Programming, Office of State Parks, will present the lecture "John James Audubon, An American Pioneer".

The exhibit will be displayed at the Louisiana State Museum - Old Courthouse Museum, 600 Second St., Natchitoches from February 10 through August 5, 2006. The exhibit was previously on display at the Louisiana State Museum – Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans.

For more information call 318-357-2270. For more information on the Louisiana State Museum's programs and exhibitions statewide or our yearlong Centennial Celebration in 2006 call 800-568-6968 or visit <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>.

The Louisiana State Museum, an office of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism under the purview of Lieutenant Governor Mitchell J. Landrieu, consists of a statewide network of museums that include in New Orleans the Cabildo, Presbytere, Old U.S. Mint, 1850 House and Madame John's Legacy, in Natchitoches the Old Courthouse Museum, in Thibodaux the E.D. White Historic Site, the Louisiana State Museum-Patterson (formerly Wedell-Williams Memorial Aviation Museum) and the Louisiana State Museum-Baton Rouge (Opening February 1, 2006).

For high-resolution images from the exhibit visit http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/site/pr_releases/pr_releases.htm