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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE MUSEUM

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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

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 will bring this collection to life with the exhibit *Revealing an American Wilderness: Audubon's Birds of Louisiana*, opening April 14 at the Old U.S. Mint. The featured works are both visually stunning and scientifically valuable, sending visitors on an ecological tour of a now vanished wilderness.

"Once visitors and locals view this world-class exhibit at the Mint, I believe they will be inspired to follow in the steps of John Audubon in Louisiana's own backyard," said Angèle Davis, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. "Our beautiful state provides several opportunities to enjoy and appreciate birds of the state and beyond through the America's Wetland Birding Trail, which offers world class bird watching."

"Our ability to contribute the expertise we have acquired over the years to the State Museum enables us to assist in presenting his works as it relates to the scientific value, history and culture of Louisiana," said Stuart Johnson, Assistant Secretary for the Office of State Parks.

The exhibit will be displayed at the Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans. An opening reception will be held April 14 from 6-8pm, hosted by the Friends of the Cabildo. For more information or to make reservations for the opening, call 800-568-6968 or 504-568-6968. For more information on the Louisiana State Museum's programs and exhibitions 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 Patterson the Louisiana State Museum-Patterson, in Thibodaux the E.D. White Historic Site, and the Louisiana State Museum-Baton Rouge opening soon.

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