



**THE MARSHLANDER**  
 NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA  
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 WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG



**Field Trips**

**BIRDING BY EAR**

*featuring Georgann Schmalz  
 President and Ornithologist  
 Birding Adventures, Inc.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2016  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 520 E Washington Ave., Savannah  
 7:00pm

Our speaker will be ornithologist and educator Georgann Schmalz, who has helped many hundreds of people learn to improve their bird identification skills, both visual and auditory. Birding by ear adds a totally new dimension to birding, but it isn't always an easy skill to acquire. This presentation will explore that skill by examining the characteristics of bird songs, what to listen for, and how to hear birds better.

**ANNUAL ELECTIONS COMING IN APRIL**

Ogeechee Audubon will hold its annual election of officers (President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer) at our regularly scheduled bimonthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m. All members of Ogeechee Audubon may vote in the election and may nominate candidates. Please send the names of nominees in advance of the meeting to Dot Bambach at [dotbam@bellsouth.net](mailto:dotbam@bellsouth.net) or via phone at [912-598-3764](tel:912-598-3764).

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**Ogeechee Audubon Mission**

*Ogeechee Audubon educates adults and children about birds, wildlife, and the environment. We provide opportunities to enjoy the world around us, and advocate for responsible public policy and legislation for the conservation of our natural resources.*

**2015-2016 Officers and Board Members**

President	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Vice President	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Secretary	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
Treasurer	Sandy Beasley	912-354-6475
Field Trips	Mary Sweeny-Reeves	912-844-8988
Programs	Beth Roth	912-598-1980
ARK Coordinator/Conservation	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Membership	Debbie Bennett	912-897-1601
Webmaster	Loran Bruce	912-667-3024
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Publicity	Larry Lynch, MD	912-656-1434
Education	Vacant	

Board Members: Regi Sonnen; James Fleullan; Diana Churchill

**BRING BINOCULARS, HAT, SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, WATER AND SNACKS  
 OR LUNCH FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**FRI, FEB 12 – SUN, FEB 14:** Georgia Ornithological Society Winter Meeting on Tybee Island. Visit [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org) for information about registration and a wide assortment of great field trips. **Keynote Speaker Stephen Kress, Project Puffin**

**FRI, FEB 12 – MON, FEB 15:** The Great Backyard Bird Count. Ready, set, go! Count the birds at your feeders or in your neighborhood. Submit your results on eBird and contribute to this late winter bird census. **Go to [www.gbcbirdcount.org](http://www.gbcbirdcount.org) to learn how to participate.**



**SAT, FEB 27: Hutchinson Island.** We have had an exciting year with several rare birds at this location recently. The habitats – forest, grassland, and shoreline – make an attractive area for species diversity. Meet inside the Reserve at the Community Center building at **8am**. Leader: Diana Churchill, [dichurchbirds@gmail.com](mailto:dichurchbirds@gmail.com) 912-604-7539.

**SAT, MAR 12: Ft Pulaski National Monument.** Meet by the Pulaski Bridge at **8am** to look for spring migrating song birds, warblers, and shorebirds. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves, [marshnut@comcast.net](mailto:marshnut@comcast.net) 912-844-8988.

**WED, MAR 23: Onslow Island, SNWR.** Onslow Island is a newly refurbished part of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge system - open only on Wednesdays. There have been rare species showing up here, so you never know what you will see. Meet at the entrance at **8am**. Be prepared for a lot of walking. Wear sturdy shoes and definitely bring bug spray! Leader: James Fleullan, [jrfleullan@gmail.com](mailto:jrfleullan@gmail.com) or 912-433-0457.

**SAT, APR 2: Lake Mayer Community Park.** We will be looking for ducks, sparrows, and migrating songbirds. We never know what we will see at this small lake in the middle of Savannah. Meet at the left side of the main parking lot at **8am**. Leader: Larry Carlile, [L.carlile259@comcast.net](mailto:L.carlile259@comcast.net) or 912-224-1796.

**All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted!**



Ogeechee Audubon

**A Special Lowcountry Birding Event:  
The Narrow Edge -- A Tiny Bird, An Ancient Crab & An  
Epic Journey**

*featuring scientist and author DEBORAH CRAMER*

February 24th, 2016

At Magnolia Hall in Sun City

2:00 to 4:00 PM

Don't miss this fascinating presentation. Each year red knots undertake a near miraculous 19,000 mile journey from one end of the earth to the other and back. In her book The Narrow Edge, Deborah Cramer accompanies them on their extraordinary odyssey along the length of two continents, tracking birds from remote Tierra del Fuego to the icy Arctic, and walking moonlit beaches to find ancient horseshoe crabs, whose eggs fuel shorebird migration and whose blue blood safeguards human health. Join Cramer on the journey, to examine the critical role the Georgia and South Carolina coasts play in this story, and to explore what's at stake, for shorebirds, horseshoe crabs, and for us.

Pre-registration is required for entrance at the Sun City security gate. Participants should register in advance by emailing Noah Rosenstein of the Sun City Bird Club at [nbrosenstein@gmail.com](mailto:nbrosenstein@gmail.com).

**Sign Up For Georgia's Youth Birding Competition**

Registration Opens Online for Popular Conservation Event. It's time for young birders to begin honing their bird-identifying skills as they prepare for the 11th annual Georgia Youth Birding Competition, set for April 22-23. Registration is open and, for the first time, online at [www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC).

The competition and an accompanying T-shirt Art Contest are sponsored by DNR's Wildlife Resources Division, The Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN) – friends group of the Nongame Conservation Section – and others including the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies. A banquet and awards ceremony will be held April 23 at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield.

If you have not so done please renew your Ogeechee Audubon Membership

**Thanksgiving Trip to Belize – A Brief Bird Report**

I had the good fortune to spend 4 days in the heart of the Belizian jungle at Black Rock Lodge over the Thanksgiving holiday. Black Rock Lodge is located on the Macal River in the Mayan Mountains of Belize. Our rustic cabin was one of 14 situated along a rim overlooking the river and the mountains! What a breath-taking view! Black Rock boasts that one can see over 200 species of birds on the property.

The first day I had the special treat of seeing a nesting pair of Orange Breasted Falcons. Black Rock is one site that is being used to study this endangered falcon by the Peregrine Project.

During one early morning walk while enjoying the singing of the Melodious Black Birds, I spied a White Hawk soaring over the mountains, sighted a Slaty-tailed Trogon, spotted many Montezuma Oropendolas flying high in the trees and had the thrill of seeing all three species of Toucans: Collared Aracari, Emerald Toucanet and the Keel-billed Toucan! I also watched a pale-billed woodpecker work diligently to hollow out a tree for its nest.

The next day canoeing down the Macal River I added a number of birds to my life list including a Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Amazon Kingfisher, Groove-billed Ani, and a Yellow-faced Grassquit!

After birding early each morning, while enjoying a hearty breakfast on the deck, I reveled in watching many Red-legged Honeycreepers, Baltimore Orioles, Black-cowled Orioles and Olive-backed and Yellow-throated Euphonias at the fruit-filled bird feeders. Black Rock is a birders paradise!

I am already planning my return to the rain-forest of Belize!

...Leslie Weichsel



**Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2016**

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail

Member of National Audubon Society? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check to:

**Ogeechee Audubon, att Membership, PO Box 13424,  
Savannah, GA 31416**

*Contributions are tax deductible.*

Ogeechee Audubon-\$20.00/household \_\_\_\_\_

Includes the *Marshlander*

Senior (over 62) or Student - \$15/household \_\_\_\_\_

Includes the *Marshlander*

Joint Ogeechee & National - \$40/household \_\_\_\_\_

(new members only) Includes *Audubon and Marshlander*

Special Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ogeechee Audubon membership is based on the calendar year – January to December.

Send your *National membership* renewal directly to National when you receive notice.

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\*Please help us save the trees. If you receive the Newsletter by printed mail and can receive it electronically via e-mail let Debbie Bennett (mburdsal@comcast.net) know so we no longer print it, mail it and use paper unnecessarily. Audubon cares about the environment and also about you. Therefore if you have no other way to receive the Newsletter except printed mail we will be happy to send you a printed copy.