



THE MARSHLANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
VOL XLVII, ISSUE 4, AUGUST, 2017
WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG

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.

Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society

Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Tim Keyes

Title: **Georgia's Year-Round Importance to Migratory Shorebirds**

Tim Keyes is a wildlife biologist with the Nongame Conservation section of Georgia's DNR. Tim got hooked on birds during a trip to Newfoundland during college and has worked with birds in one capacity or another for the past 23 years. Tim received his Master's Degree from the University of Georgia in 1999 studying forest songbirds in the southern Appalachians.

We meet at the First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.

Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and Board

Administrative Responsibilities

President	Leslie Weichsel
Vice President	Mary Lambright
Secretary	VACANT
Treasurer	Sandy Beasley

Membership Workgroup

Member Enrollment	Debbie Bennett
Holiday Gathering	Regi Sonnen

Education Workgroup

Education Outreach	Diana Churchill
Field Trips	Mary Sweeney-Reeves
Programs	James Fleullan

Communications Workgroup

Social Media	Mary Lambright
Webmaster	Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel
Publicity	Regi Sonnen

Conservation Workgroup

Entire Board

Other Board Members: Larry Lynch, Sue DeRosa, Marty Foxx

Email: info@ogeecheeaudubon.org



Field Trips

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

SAT, Aug. 26: Tybee Beach Walk at High Tide: Meet at Jaycee Park on Tybee Island at **10:00 am**. Bring money for parking. We will look for terns, gulls and the first returning shore and songbird migrants.
Leader: Larry Carlisle, L.carlisle259@comcast.net or 912-224-1796.

SAT, Sep 9: Hutchinson Island: Fall migration is underway. This location provides a diverse habitat especially for migrants. Rare birds have shown up here at different times of the year. If time permits, we will be stopping by the SCAD equestrian center where unexpected birds have appeared. Meet at the white building (community center) at **8:00 am**.
Leader: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com.

WED, Sep 27: Onslow Island, SNWR. This is a *follow-up field trip to the Shorebird Presentation given by Tim Keyes* at the OAS September meeting. This part of the SNW Refuge is a recent addition and has been a valuable stop-over for shorebirds. We have spotted rare species here, so you never know what you will see. Meet at the entrance at **7:30 am**. Need sturdy shoes for walking and bug spray for sure.
Leader: James Fleullan, jrfleullan@gmail.com.

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

OCT 6-SUN OCT 9: Georgia Ornithological Society. Fall meeting with field trips and other birding opportunities, check out registration at www.gos.org.



Welcome to OAS Newest Board Members

Susan DeRosa

Sue grew up in northern Virginia outside of Washington, DC, spending much of her time outside enjoying nature. She received her BA and MS in Biology from the University of Virginia. Afterwards Sue worked briefly in the Department of Physiology, UVA and then the EPA in Cincinnati. Sue, her husband and son moved to Maine for 1 ½ years where she worked at University of Maine at Orono, running the Electron Microscopy Lab.

Sue and her family returned to Cincinnati then, after ten years (and three additional children), they moved to Atlanta. Once the youngest was in school, Sue started to help as a science lab aide, later becoming the Middle School Science teacher for four years. After obtaining her teaching certificate, she switched to a Cobb County high school for eight years.

While teaching, Sue earned her Advanced Training in Environmental Education certificate. One criterion was to participate in a birding workshop which reawakened Sue's curiosity about avian species. In 2013, she decided to move to Savannah and began working at Johnson High School. As providence would have it, Sue met Mary Lambright who encouraged her to participate in the numerous OAS field trips. Then OAS sponsored Sue and Rose Talbert for a trip to Hog Island Maine Audubon Camp which further increased her interest of birds. Since then, Sue has retired from teaching last May so she has even more time to get involved with those wonderful birds and OAS. We are looking forward to Sue sharing her wonderful skills and talents with OAS. Join me in extending a warm welcome to Sue as one of our newest Board members!

Marty Foxx

Marty Foxx, a retired school teacher, may be forgiven for not knowing when she joined the Ogeechee Audubon Society since it was so long ago. At 73, remembering historical details about herself is limited to a short list. Marty came to Savannah to teach in 1967 fresh out of Valdosta State College; she taught social studies at Groves High School, then at Bartlett Middle School. She married Doyle Foxx in 1968, had a daughter (Shannon) in

1970 and a son (Scott) in 1972. After teaching middle grades at St. Paul's Lutheran Day School (1974-1979), she reentered the Savannah Chatham Public School system as a fifth grade teacher at Gould Elementary. She received her Master's Degree from Georgia Southern College in 1984.

Gould Elementary ten year olds held her interest from 1980 until her retirement in 2003. They taught her to love science and being outside where they developed an organic school garden and a great nature trail through the woods at the back of the school property. Overnight field trips to Oatland Island and Tybee's 4-H camp were annual events with her students; truth be told, she enjoyed these environmental learning experiences more than the students. Staff development courses related to science were always Marty's first choice. Birds have always received her devoted attention, but she does not claim any expert knowledge of them by any means.

After retiring from the classroom, she had more time to study nature's treasures. In 2005 she received her certificate as a Master Naturalist from the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, completing sixty fascinating hours of environmental education with David Moulder. What a wonderful experience that was!

Marty's volunteer work since 2003 has placed her with the United Way Grant committee for three years, Court Appointed Special Advocate for children for four years, and classroom assistant at Charles Ellis Montessori School where her grandsons were students. She served as treasurer on the board for the Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association from 1999-2013; Marty survived polio at age six in 1950. Her right arm and left shoulder are paralyzed as a result. She continues to be an active member of this support group and advocates for disability issues.

We are happy to welcome Marty as one of our newest board members!

Ogeechee Audubon Society is fortunate to have such qualified and interested members of our community become part of Ogeechee Audubon's leadership!!!

Ogeechee Audubon Meetings for 2017-18 @ 7PM

- October 17, 2017
- December 12, 2017 – Holiday Social
- February 20, 2018
- April 17, 2018 (annual meeting)
- June 19, 2018



Update from the OAS Board

On two consecutive Sundays in June the OAS Board met at Oatland Island Wildlife Center for Strategic Planning. Our focus was to find ways to continue to meet our mission and to set goals for 2017-2018. The Newsletter reflects a few of the changes: First, we are placing our Mission on the front of the Newsletter, secondly, OAS is organized a bit differently in that it has identified in addition to the administrative functions, four main areas of focus: Membership; Education; Communication; and Conservation. These areas have always been an integral part of OAS and we felt it important as we planned to explore ways to continue this commitment. We have also structured it in this fashion to include as needed OAS members on any of these workgroups.

In the future, the OAS Board will be seeking specific opportunities for the membership to more fully participate in activities related to these focus areas. One example of this that we presently have is the Oatland Island Bird Feeder Project. We have a number of volunteers who go to Oatland Island on a rotating basis to fill the bird feeders. This is part of our conservation and education mission.

If you have any ideas or thoughts that you feel we could do differently or activities that you would like to see as part of OAS, please let any one of our Board Members know. We need your suggestions and input.

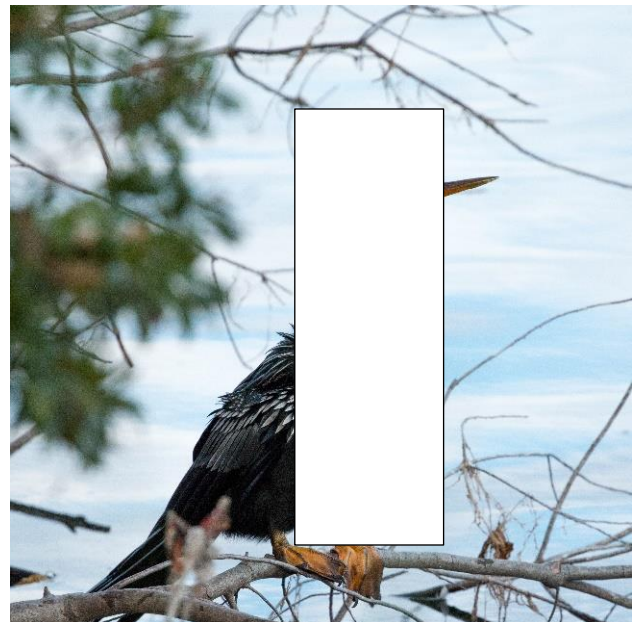
How to Help Birds – What Can You Do?

- Buy shade grown coffee
- Keep your cat indoors
- Bird proof your windows
- Keep your feeders clean
- Put up a bird house
- Put up a bird bath
- Plant native plants
- Reduce pesticide use on your lawn

What else can you add to this list?

Message from Membership

As a reminder to our members who have not submitted 2017 dues, the membership form is attached to this Newsletter and can be printed and submitted with your dues. For those who have not become a member but enjoy receiving our Newsletter and participating in Ogeechee Audubon events, please consider becoming a member and contributing to the organization with annual dues. There are a number of activities that we support with our dues that go beyond our field trips and meetings that support birds, the environment, wildlife in general, and our community. So please renew if you haven't yet done so and join if you are not a member so you can help support the work of this wonderful organization!



Can you guess who I am? Picture taken at Lake Mayer OAS Field Trip

You should get this one BUT future photos will be more challenging

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS AND UP-TO-DATE NEWS

ogeecheeaudubon.org



Spreading their feathers. Allows circulating air to reach their hot skin.

You can help the birds stay cool – bird baths, misters, water. Even put on your sprinkler. Provide shady landscapes. --(adapted from: Melissa Mayntz, "How Do Wild Birds Keep Cool in Summer?" *The Spruce*.)

Here is an interesting website to explore: hotbirdsproject.com

"Climate change is relentless and ongoing, and the world's deserts are heating up. Desert species already live life on the edge and can give us early warning of the impacts of change.

The Hot Birds Project studies the behavior and physiology of desert birds to understand and predict their responses to climate change."

The Hot Birds Project research is examining the vulnerability to heat stress in birds and testing predictions related to heat dissipation and hydration. This is worth a look see. Some very interesting research papers. This is a group from South Africa, USA and Australia.

Baby, It's Hot Outside!

How do Birds Keep Cool in This Unbearable Heat?!

Birds do not have sweat glands but they will increase their respiratory rate to allow greater heat dissipation – they pant or simply open their bills.

Any of the bare skin that a bird has can help dissipate heat – legs, eye rings. Some birds swell these bare skin areas to cool off more quickly.

Slow down their activity during the hottest times of the day.

Seek shade – near water and low to the ground.

Soar at higher attitudes where it is cooler.

Bathing – bird baths, they love sprinklers. Water, water, water.

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2017

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

* Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail

Ogeechee Audubon-\$20.00/household _____

Includes the *Marshlander*

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

Includes the *Marshlander*

Special Contribution _____

Total: _____

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

Send your *National membership dues* directly to National Audubon.

Please mail this form with your check to:
**Ogeechee Audubon, att Membership, PO Box 13424,
Savannah, GA 31416**
Contributions are tax deductible.

***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.**