



THE MARSHLANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
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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, October 16 at 7:00 PM

Recovery of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Speaker: Larry Carlile

Larry Carlile is a graduate of the University of Georgia, D.B. Warnell School of Forestry (MS). He has been a Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Defense at Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield for the past 24 years. Larry supervises a staff of nine wildlife biologists and is responsible for the management and monitoring of state and federally protected rare, threatened, and endangered species including the smooth coneflower, bald eagle, wood stork, eastern indigo snake, frosted flatwoods salamander, and red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as game species and sport fish within an active and dynamic military landscape. Larry's presentation will discuss the recovery of the Fort Stewart red-cockaded woodpecker population and management activities that support other rare species on the Installation. Larry is an avid birder, is a member of Ogeechee Audubon Society, and is President of the Georgia Ornithological Society.

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	Marty Foxx
Treasurer	Pam Smith

Membership Workgroup

Member Enrollment	Debbie Bennett
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Education Workgroup

Education Outreach	Diana Churchill, Sue DeRosa
Field Trips	Mary Sweeney-Reeves
Programs	Lynn Wrenn

Communications Workgroup

Social Media	Mary Lambright
Webmaster	Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel
Publicity	Sandy Beasley

Conservation Workgroup

Entire Board	
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Field Trips

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

OCTOBER 5-8 Georgia Ornithological Society fall meeting on Jekyll Island. Register at www.gos.org for a variety of field trips, including excursions to some islands only accessible by boat.

SAT, OCT 13 Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens

(<https://www.facebook.com/BambooFarmCoastalGardens>). We will stroll through the park-like setting of the beautiful 51-acre gardens looking for migrating birds, early arriving winter residents, and even some interesting butterflies, moths, and other pollinating insects, all drawn by the diversity of the floral plantings. As the Gardens grow and develop, variations in habitats are attracting a wide assemblage of species. Designated an eBird Hotspot, 135 species have been reported on the grounds to date. Help us add to that list. Meet inside the Canebroke Road entrance in the Andrews Visitor and Education Center parking lot at 8:00 am. Leader: Stan Gray, graysirirsgarden@comcast.net or 912-659-5020.

SAT, OCT 27 Ft. Pulaski National Monument

Meet at Parking Area before Guard House at 8:45 am to carpool into the Fort. We will be checking for the elusive marsh sparrows, visiting the picnic area, and the Savannah River beach to look for shorebirds, terns, and particularly banded American Oystercatchers. The Oystercatchers at this location are being monitored by Georgia Department of Natural Resources because of population declines. The park provides needed habitat for the local population especially through the winter. Leader: Diana Churchill, [912-604-7539](tel:912-604-7539) or dichurchbirds@gmail.com.

Field Trips Continued on Next Page!

SAT, NOV 3 Savannah Wildlife Refuge Year of the Bird

Program Please join Savannah National Wildlife Refuge and Ogeechee Audubon Society for a special program celebrating the Year of the Bird! The morning will begin with a presentation of The Migratory Bird Treaty Act. After the brief presentation, we will assemble four Barn Owl Boxes to be hung in Harris Neck and Pinckney Island Wildlife Refuges. Come ready to work to help our birds! Meet at the SNWR Maintenance Shop located across Rt. 170 West – across from the entrance to the Wildlife Drive at 9:00am. Program ends at 12:00 noon. This program is limited to 20 individuals. If you are interested please sign up at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com by October 20, 2018. Sign up early to reserve your place!

(In December, Ogeechee Audubon members will be invited to a special trip to Pinckney Island to hang the owl boxes and do some birding)

SAT, NOV 10 Chatham County Wetlands Preserve [6811 Basin Rd](#), Sav 31419. This site offers a mix of habitats where we may see a diversity of fall migrants, wading birds, and hawks. Meet at park entrance at 8:00 am. Leader: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com.

Other events

SAT, OCT 6 October Global Big Day

Every year for the last four years Global Big Day has set new heights for a single day of birding worldwide. No matter where you are you can find some birds! Go to the website: <https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-6-october-2018> to find out more information on how to participate.

SAT, OCT 13 Skidaway Marine Science Day 11am-3pm tours and talks will make a can't-miss event for all ages on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the University of Georgia Skidaway Marine Science Campus, located on the north end of the island ([10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, Ga. 31411](#)). The campus-wide open house will be presented by the UGA Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted! *Please be sure to check OAS website or our Facebook page prior to each field trip to be sure there are no changes to the scheduled field trip.



You can add to a century of citizen science data by signing up for a count near you!

Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers like you. Ogeechee Audubon Society manages the following CBC circles:




Harris Neck – Friday December 14, 2018

Savannah – Saturday January 5, 2019

Join the fun by signing up!






Send an email to ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com and let us know which circle you wish to join.

2018 Year of the Bird Celebrations Continue!

-  Ogeechee Audubon Society will continue to celebrate the Year of the Bird at each public meeting until year end by offering bird related items to be raffled in support of Orphaned Bird Care.
-  We are planning a year end Year of the Bird celebration on December 11, 2018. We will do a warm up for the Christmas Bird Count as well as some games to test our birding skills! Everyone who attends will receive a special gift!
-  We will also continue to sell OAS pins for \$5 each at each meeting.

For the love of Birds please join us!!!!

Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee Audubon Members!!!

-  Joanne Bovey
-  Kim Traub Ribbens
-  Jan and Jenni Turner
-  John R. Williamson
-  Judy and Buddy Sharpton



Message from Membership!

Hello All!

I'm back...It is OAS Membership renewal time, again. Can you believe it. It has been a whole season of spring and summer birding (and other activities and life events) since we were asking each of you to submit your annual OAS dues. We are offering you an opportunity to begin to pay your dues for 2019 now. You will find attached to this newsletter the 2019 membership form with the OAS mailing address. We will also have membership forms at all OAS meetings to make it easy for you to renew while participating in the very informative presentations. By joining as a new member or renewing your membership, you are supporting a great organization that provides great birding field trips, wonderful presentations, promotes activities that support our world of nature, and offers opportunities to meet and get to know other birders. So, we hope you take this opportunity to renew your membership and bring a friend to join. If they join now (2018) we will credit your membership for 2019. Please remember your membership assures that you are sent our Newsletter as well as other notifications of events and activities (some of which are for members only). We run our membership drive through March of each year and if you have not renewed by then, your name is removed from the list to receive these notices and newsletters until we receive your renewal dues. I do want to say thank you for becoming a member and supporting this great organization. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me (912-667-7256).

Debbie Bennett



Check out our website and like us on Facebook

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



Report From the Field

August Birding at Harris Neck NWR

...by Pam Smith



On the August 25th trip to Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, we were treated to the sights and sounds of 50 different bird species, which was noteworthy given the fact it was a hot summer morning in late August! The wonderful abundance of wading birds at the Bluebill Pond, Woody Pond, and Snipe Pond within the Refuge was clearly a highlight for the 15 birders on the trip. We saw more than 250 Wood Storks, 300 White Ibis, as well as lower numbers of Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egrets, Glossy Ibis, and both Black- and Yellow-Crown Night-Heron. Other highlights included the sights and sounds of a Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Summer Tanagers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-eyed Vireos, and a Painted Bunting, along with a good showing of woodpecker species (Red-Headed; Red-bellied; Downy; Pileated). Last but not least, we were very pleased to see that Blue-Winged Teal, an early fall migrant, had returned at the Snipe Pond. We were so fortunate to have had such a delightful diversity of species, as well as a wonderful group of birders, on this hot summer morning!

Bird Banding and Ogeechee Audubon Society Field Trips

...by Leslie Weichsel

Bird banding is an important part of bird conservation and contributes in a significant way to bird research. A bird band may take several forms from a small metal or plastic band around the bird's leg to neck collars and wing clips. Bird banding has been used for centuries in order to identify birds with a unique number. Some bands are brightly colored. Birds such as geese or swans wear collars and large raptors have wing clips instead of bands for their legs.

So why do we band birds? The bands allow researchers to track birds' movements and migration. Bird ranges can be determined by tracking from where the bird was banded to where it travels. Additionally, longevity can be determined as well as bird behavior.

Ogeechee Audubon has contributed to this body of knowledge by periodically reporting sightings of bird bands and reporting them. Here are examples of three different field trips with three different species of birds that the bird's band was identified during the field trip and subsequently reported!

On March 25, 2017 Mary Lambricht reported a Double-



Crested Cormorant band information that she saw on a field trip at Lake Mayer. This bird was banded on July 9, 2007 in Burlington, New York according to the certificate of

appreciation Mary received.

On our field trip to Priest Landing on June 2, 2018 we spotted a Roseate Spoonbill who was banded. Mary Sweeny-Reeves reported the identification and received a certificate indicating that this bird was banded on April 28, 2016 near St. Augustine, Florida.

Lastly on August 9, 2018 on our field trip to North Beach of Tybee Island we spotted several Piping Plovers with bands. Diana Churchill reported the bands noted on several of the birds. Here is the email Diana received when she reported the bands:

Diana,

Good to hear from you again. Not to be greedy, but these are all ours. All are this summer's chicks from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Good to see them looking



healthy. Nice to hear that they made it to GA. Let us know if you continue to see them. May we use your photos with credit? I'd embed your name or whatever you choose into the photo.

#1. O,O/Y:X,Y hatched on North Manitou Island.

#2. O,-:X,Y/O/Y hatched on the Dune Plateau

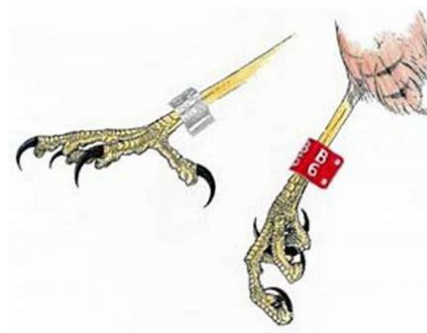
#3. O,b:X,b/O also hatched on North Manitou Island.

Alice Van Zoeren

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is in Maple City, Michigan!

Ogeechee Audubon Field trips are fun, educational and contribute to bird research!

If you find a band or see one on a bird, you can report your information online by going to reportband.gov or pwrc.usgs.gov. Follow the instructions for reporting the information from the band, where you found it, the date you found it and the numbers and/or letters on the band and colors. You will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for reporting the bird band information. The certificate will tell you when and where the bird was initially banded and by whom.



Conservation Issues

Ogeechee Audubon Society has joined the Southern Environmental Law Center in supporting the opposition of two recent proposals put forth by the government.

First: Offshore drilling. “The undersigned organizations are strongly opposed to U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement’s proposal to weaken the Well Control Rule as the agency, at the same time, attempts to open the Mid- and South Atlantic to offshore drilling, putting our prized natural resources and thriving coastal economies at risk. BSEE was created to *promote safety* and *protect the environment* during outer continental shelf (“OCS”) operations, and it is obliged under OCSLA to *prevent the risk of blowouts* through *strict regulation and enforcement*. BSEE must not sacrifice its public trust obligations in favor of enhancing industry profits.”

Second: Endangered Species Act. The Southern Environmental Law Center submitted comments regarding the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s and the National Marine Fisheries Service’s proposed revisions to the Endangered Species Act implementing regulations. The proposed changes would impact changes to the species listing, certain prohibitions regarding threatened species, and change designations of critical habitat regulations for threatened species. These proposed changes would impact birds in our area.

The Southern Environmental Law Center is a non-profit group of attorneys and staff who champion environmental issues in the Southeast, including the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.



Federal Duck Stamps

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or Duck Stamp Act), and an increasingly concerned nation took firm action to stop the destruction of wetlands vital to the survival of migratory waterfowl. Under the act, all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over must annually buy and carry a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp - better known today as a Federal Duck Stamp.

Ninety-eight cents of every duck stamp dollar goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase or lease wetlands and wildlife habitat for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System. This ensures there will be land for wildlife and humans that will be protected for generations to come.

Buying Federal Duck Stamps is among the simplest ways that anyone can participate in wildlife and habitat conservation. Duck Stamps are a required annual purchase for waterfowl hunters 16 and older, and a current duck stamp grants the bearer free entrance into any National Wildlife Refuge that charges an entry fee. But whether you are a hunter, birder or other outdoors enthusiast or you simply want to help preserve our natural resources for future generations to enjoy, you can contribute to conservation by buying Duck Stamps.



Duck Stamps are available for purchase from The Gator Hole at Savannah Wildlife Refuge.

(source www.fws.gov/birds)

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2019

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

*** Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail**

As a member, you will be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings, events and important conservation issues.

Please mail this form with your check to:

**Ogeechee Audubon, Attn 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*

Special Contribution _____

Total: _____

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

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

OAS Chapter renewals are accepted until March 31st.

***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 do not have access to email we will be happy to send you a printed copy.**