



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, February 20 at 7:00 PM

Overview of Bird Surveys Conducted at the Superior Landfill and the Environmental Management of the Site

Speakers: Stan Gray, Bird Surveyor, OAS member & Amanda Fairley, Sustainability Manager, Waste Management

This program should prove to be very interesting as the speakers will discuss the efforts made on the landfill property to carry out its responsibility to the environment; and the results of bird surveys conducted over the past year as one indicator of the success of the management and resource sustainability.

****As a follow up to this presentation, there will be a field trip to the Superior Landfill site on the Sunday, February 25th. This is a limited access site so it is a treat that we will be able to explore this area!**

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	Sandy Beasley

Membership Workgroup

Member Enrollment Debbie Bennett

Education Workgroup

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

Communications Workgroup

Social Media	Mary Lambright
Webmaster	Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel
Publicity	Vacant

Conservation Workgroup

Entire Board

Email: info@ogeecheeaudubon.org



Field Trips

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

SUN, FEB 11: Hutchinson Island. The habitats such as forest, and grassy fields, make an attractive area for species diversity. This site provides habitats for wintering birds such as Meadowlarks, sparrows, and possibly Western Kingbirds. We have seen several rare birds show up at this location in the past. Meet at the Reserve building at 8 am. Leader Diana Churchill, for more information call/email 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com.

SAT, FEB 17: The Great Backyard Bird Count field trip at Ft Pulaski. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual event to collect data about birds, to determine changes in populations, and migration trends. In celebration, we are offering a field trip so you can identify and see what birds are present in our area. We will be looking for spring migrants such as song birds, warblers, and shorebirds. Meet at Ft. Pulaski entrance and gate at 8:00am. Leader: Dr. Mark Welford, for more information email mwelford@georgiasouthern.edu.

****SUN, FEB 25: Superior Landfill.** This is a follow up trip to the Ogeechee Audubon presentation on February 20 about long-term bird surveys at Superior Landfill managed property. This location is restricted visitation and is not normally open to the public. Meet at scale house at 8:30 am to carpool into the survey area. Leader: Stan Gray, for more information email graysirisdgarden@comcast.net.

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED...

WED, MAR 7: Onslow Island, SNWR. Onslow Island is a valuable part of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge system and provides habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, sparrows, and warblers. It is open only on Wednesdays. There have been rare species showing up here regularly. Meet at the entrance at 8:00 am. Be prepared for a lot of walking. Wear sturdy shoes and bring bug spray! Leader: James Fleullan, jrfleullan@gmail.com or 912-433-0457.

SAT, MAR 10: Lake Mayer Community Park. We will be looking for ducks, sparrows, and wintering birds. We often see rare birds at this small lake in the middle of Savannah. Meet at the left side of the main parking lot at 8:00am. Leader: Larry Carlile, l.carlile259@comcast.net or 912-224-1796.

After this morning of birding head over to Savannah National Wildlife Refuge for Discovery Day!





SAT, MAR 31: Wagon Ride-N-Bird at Savannah Wildlife Refuge. Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, established April 6, 1927, is a major attraction for tourists visiting Savannah. The refuge encompasses over 30,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks, and bottomland hardwoods. For this unique event OAS teams, up with the Coastal Georgia Nature Photographers Association to spot spring migrants, such as warblers, herons, egrets, and ducks. **The event is open to OAS and CGNPA members only.** Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center (694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC) at 8:30 am, program ends at 12 noon. Registration is required, limited to 20 participants, please email info@ogeecheeaudubon.org to sign up. Leaders: Mary Lou Dickson and Joel Vos.

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.

OGEECHEE AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP!

We collecting membership dues for 2018. It is time for everyone to fill out the Membership form and pay dues for the coming year if you have not already done so. **We are hoping to finalize dues collection by the end of March.** If dues have not been paid by then, we will assume folks have decided not to renew and we will drop you from the list to get the newsletter and other announcements and benefits. So, don't risk forgetting to pay your dues and having time go by without being linked to all the activities supported by and information shared by OAS!!! You can find the membership form attached to this newsletter.

Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee Audubon Members!!!

-  Sue Cole
-  Wendy Walworth
-  Stephan Willis
-  Lynn Wren



Check out our website and like us on Facebook

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



Report from the Field

View from a Newcomer

...by Lynn Wrenn



On Jan 7th, a group of 15 brave souls dubbed the “Rambo Birders” by Diana Churchill met at Fort Pulaski for a field trip looking for shore birds, in particular the American Oystercatcher. We didn’t see any Oystercatchers but we did see a large flock of Ruddy Turnstones and a Bald Eagle on the beach. The cold weather and windy conditions limited our sightings and shortened our trip but the experience and camaraderie was worth it all!

I joined the OAS a few months ago totally inexperienced except for the birds in my own yard.

But the members have been so helpful and patiently answer my novice questions. I was fortunate to be included in the Annual Christmas Bird Count as an observer with Sandra Calver and Jennifer White. They were very gracious and helpful taking me “under their

wings” as they shared their knowledge with me. I learned so much that day.

It is so nice to be included in a group that makes a newcomer feel welcome from the first field trip. I look forward to many more.

There are many people with so much Birding Experience in the OAS, I hope that one day I can come close to their level of expertise. Thanks for welcoming me into your group.

Welcome Lynn – so glad you joined OAS!!



February 16 to 19, 2018

Check out our website for more information!

Join us at Fort Pulaski!

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



American Birding Association Bird of the Year

Hawaiian Honey Creeper

liwi (pronounced ee-EE-vee)

Fun Facts About liwi:

- The liwi’s feathers were highly prized by Hawaiian *ali’i* (nobility) for use in decorating *‘ahu’ula* (feather cloaks) and *mahiolo* (feathered helmets), and such uses gave the species its original scientific name: *Vestiaria*, which comes from the Latin for “clothing”
- Linguists derive the Hawaiian language word *liwi* from the Polynesian **kiwi*, which in central Polynesia refers to the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*), and in New

Zealand is the name for the endemic flightless kiwis, all of which have similar shaped bills.

- Nowadays liwi is highly associated with the nontubular flowers of ‘Ōhi’a but early accounts often noted an apparent coevolution between the liwi’s bill and the long, decurved flowers of Hawaiian lobelioids. Reduction in bill size in the past 100 years may have resulted from this shift to ‘Ōhi’a because of declines and extinctions of native lobelioids.

2018 Is the Year of the Bird!!!

IF YOU TAKE CARE OF BIRDS, YOU TAKE

CARE OF MOST OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL

PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD.

Thomas Lovejoy
Biologist and Godfather of Biodiversity

“We never need a reason to celebrate birds here at Audubon, but in 2018 we’re going to make an *especially* big deal of them. That’s because not only is it the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—a pivotal piece of legislation that continues to save countless birds’ lives—but birds are facing many new and serious threats. And so it’s with great excitement that we’ve teamed up with National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to officially make 2018 the Year of the Bird.

What exactly is Year of the Bird?

Good question! Throughout the year, all of us partners, along with more than 100 other participating organizations, will be celebrating birds while raising awareness about their troubles across all of our channels—magazines, television, social media, and more—with new editorial, content, and programs. You can find out more about how you can **#birdyourworld** this year in the note below from Audubon’s president and CEO, David Yarnold, as well as at the [official Year of the Bird website](#). You’ll also want to keep checking back here, at Audubon.org, to find new Year of the Bird-related stories every month. We have lots planned, so stay tuned!” **(National Audubon Society)**

Ogeechee Audubon will be celebrating the Year of the Bird with a variety of bird-related events and programs throughout the year. Stay Tuned especially for our Big Celebration planned for the June meeting!!

Please go to our website for more information on the Year of the Bird!

Take the Pledge!

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org

#birdyourworld

Baby it's Cold Outside!



Winter is a tough time for birds. Birds will roost in tree cavities, bird boxes or other similar shelters to stay warm at night during these cold times.

Birds are warm-blooded and have a higher temperature than humans. The average body temperature for a bird is 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Smaller birds are at higher risk as the temperature plummets in the winter.

Feathers are a great insulation for the birds! Birds will grow more feathers prior to winter as well as secrete more oil that coats their feathers.

Birds legs and feet are covered with scales that decrease the amount of heat loss. Also, birds' feet and legs have a separate blood flow and they can constrict circulation to this area and prevent heat loss.

Birds build up fat reserves that act as insulation and extra energy to generate heat during cold nights. This is why it is important to put out suet at your winter feeders.

Birds fluff up their feathers for insulation.

Birds tuck in their heads and stand on one leg to conserve warmth.

On sunny winter days the birds will sun themselves and heat up their feathers and skin.

Shivering helps birds generate heat.

Roosting helps small birds as they gather in small spaces to conserve heat as best as possible at night.

Many birds enter torpor which is a state of reduced metabolism that lowers body temperature by a few degrees. Some birds can lower their body temperatures by as much of 50 degrees in order to survive extreme cold.

What can you do:


- Offer high energy, high fat foods – suet, peanut butter
- Keep your feeders full
- Offer liquid water – if the birds can drink liquid water it prevents them from finding frozen sources which lowers their temperatures
- Provide shelter through brush piles and perhaps a roost box


Baby it's cold outside!


(taken from the Spruce – Melissa Mayntz)


Sending Out Thanks to:




 **Wild Birds Unlimited** for their generous contribution to Ogeechee Audubon!

 **James Fleullan**, who served on the OAS board. James helped set up the wonderful presentations we have offered to our membership. Thank You James for your service! James will continue to lead OAS field trips!

 **Regi Sonnen**, who served as a member of the OAS board as our publicity chair and coordinator of our holiday party. We will miss you. Thanks so much for your service!

 **Diana Churchill, Mary Lambright**, who coordinated the Harris Neck and Savannah Christmas Bird Count!

 **Larry Carlile, Stan Gray**, who compiled the data for the Christmas Bird Count!

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Several OAS members joined Nancy Fernandez from the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex to help build bird feeders from recycled plastic bottles at a Neighborhood Residents at Work (NRAW) holiday party. The refuge supplied the bottles and other feeder materials while OAS supplied the seed. Working as a team, we succeeded in arranging the adoption of all available bottle feeders. We also sent our new feeder *parents* home with a quick cheat sheet of common Georgia birds to get them started on their birding journey. Hopefully, the feeders were hung before the cold weather hit.



Ogeechee Audubon Society Holiday Party
...a good time was had by all!!

The first Ogeechee Audubon Pins were awarded at the Holiday Party in recognition of, and appreciation for the contributions of OAS volunteers. **These pins will be available for purchase at the OAS June Meeting celebrating the Year of the Bird!**

We Cannot Forget the Christmas Bird Count!!

Lunch break at Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center





Roost Count at Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge



The Count-down Dinner at The Pirates House, Savannah





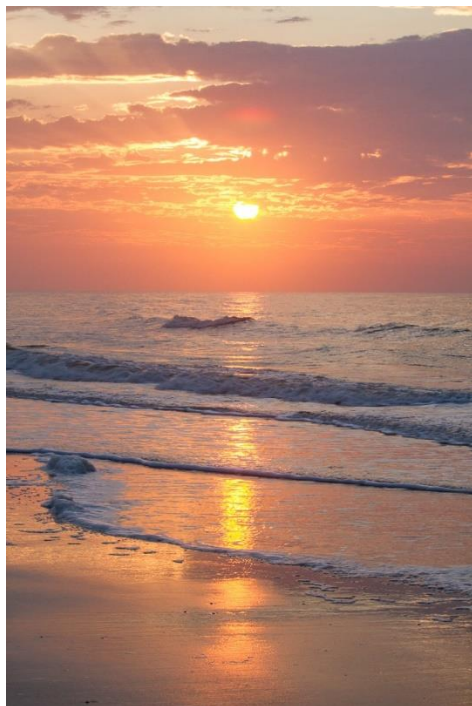
PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Annual meeting of the Ogeechee Audubon Society will be April 17, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church at 520 E. Washington Avenue, Savannah at 7 pm. This meeting will be our annual meeting of the membership. We will present a brief report on the status of the OAS prior to the annual election of the officers. If you would like to nominate someone for a position please let Leslie Weichsel know at info@ogeecheeaudubon.org by April 7, 2018. After this brief business meeting we will have our planned presentation.

Thanks to Mary Lou Dickson & Leslie Weichsel for the photos!

Ray Brown's Talkin Birds

2018 Public Meetings for Offshore Drilling Changes



Ogeechee Audubon was recently mentioned on Ray Brown's Talkin Birds radio show after he saw our Facebook page.

Talkin' Birds first hit the airwaves in 2006, broadcasting from WATD in Marshfield, Massachusetts. Nine years later, the show airs on 16 public and commercial radio stations around New England, New York, and Maryland.

Talkin' Birds is a live and interactive radio show about wild birds and the beauty of nature—attracting birds to your backyard, feeding them, and learning more about them. They feature expert guests and contests for prizes like bird feeders and other bird-related items each week.

Their mission is to encourage appreciation of our natural world and to promote the preservation and protection of our environment.

Check out Ray Brown's website: www.talkinbirds.com

Saturday, March 10, 2018 is Discovery Day at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Ogeechee Audubon needs your help to volunteer between 10:00am and 4:00pm. If you can, please email us at info@ogeecheeaudubon.org. We need your help to fulfill our mission to educate about the birds around us and have fun!!!!

Photo by Mary Lou Dickson

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is holding a series of public meetings regarding the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (OCS) [<https://www.boem.gov/national-program-participate>].

Please check out our website for more information on what you can do: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2018

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

Total: _____

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, 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*

Special Contribution _____

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.**