



# THE MARSHLANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA  
VOL XLVIII, ISSUE 3, JUNE, 2018  
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, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

### Year of the Bird: Georgia Climate Change and The Future of North American Birds

Speaker: Sue DeRosa

Sue DeRosa received her BA and BS in Biology from the University of Virginia. She has worked for the EPA. Sue subsequently received her teaching certificate and her certification in Environmental Education. Since her retirement from teaching, Sue joined the Board of Ogeechee Audubon Society a year ago. Sue is involved with the Tree Commission in Thunderbolt as well as the Tybee Island Sea Turtle Project.

Sue will be speaking on climate change, the evidence that supports the changes seen over time and their impact on the environment. In addition, Sue will walk us through how climate change has impacted ecosystems and the concomitant impact on birds' range patterns and the threats posed. She will point out the importance of how we as citizen scientists and birders can participate in collecting vital data regarding bird populations and the impact of climate change on them.

This is a "not to be missed" presentation!

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

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### **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

SAT, JUN 2: Bird UGA Aquarium/Priest Landing - We will be visiting Priest Landing on the Wilmington River. This area includes a pond which may have nesting herons, wood storks, and roseate spoonbills. Marsh wrens and seaside sparrows may also be present near the marsh side. In addition, painted buntings, gulls, terns, and nesting birds may be spotted at the Aquarium forest trail. Meet at Priest Landing at 8:00 am. Leader: Larry Carlile [L.carlile259@comcast.net](mailto:L.carlile259@comcast.net) or 912-224-1796.

SUN, JUN 24: Evening Beach Walk on North End Tybee - We will be looking for gulls, terns, and other summer nesting birds at the beach. Meet at Jaycee Park at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Leader: Diana Churchill, [dichurchbirds@gmail.com](mailto:dichurchbirds@gmail.com) or 912-604-7539.

SAT, JUL 14: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge - We will be searching for fledgling gallinules, least bitterns, kites, indigo buntings, and possibly roseate spoonbills. Meet at the Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr at 8:00 am. Leader: TBA

SAT, JUL 28: Fort Pulaski National Monument - We will begin at park entrance to see if we can find marsh wrens and seaside sparrows. When driving into the park we will stop at several places looking for painted buntings, indigo buntings, northern shrikes, and oystercatchers. Meet at 8am at park entrance, gate opens at 9:00 am. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves, [marshnut@comcast.net](mailto:marshnut@comcast.net) or 912-844-8988.

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.

## 2018 Year of the Bird Celebrated!

At our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ogeechee Audubon Society will celebrate the Year of the Bird at the First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm.

OAS Board Member Sue DeRosa will be doing a special presentation about Climate Change and Birds!

We will be selling OAS pins for \$5 each at the meeting.

***There will be a raffle and refreshments!***

All proceeds from the raffle will go to Orphan Bird Care.

Please, for the Love of Birds join us!







### OGEECHEE AUDUBON NEEDS YOU!

### IT IS THE YEAR OF THE BIRD!!

### Message from Membership

Hello happy birders. We want to thank all of you who have submitted your 2018 dues for OAS. These funds support all the activities of our organization. For those of you who are wondering where is that OAS newsletter. "All of a sudden we have not gotten it!!" Well, it means we have not received your 2018 dues. Once received, you will be back on the rolls to receive the newsletter and all the announcements of special events, field trips, etc. Now the problem here is, that if you have not paid your dues, you will not be reading this reminder! So, if any of you who are reading this know someone who is wondering why they are not getting the newsletter, please encourage them to get their 2018 dues in. You will find a renewal form at the end of this newsletter which can also be shared with anyone interested in joining.

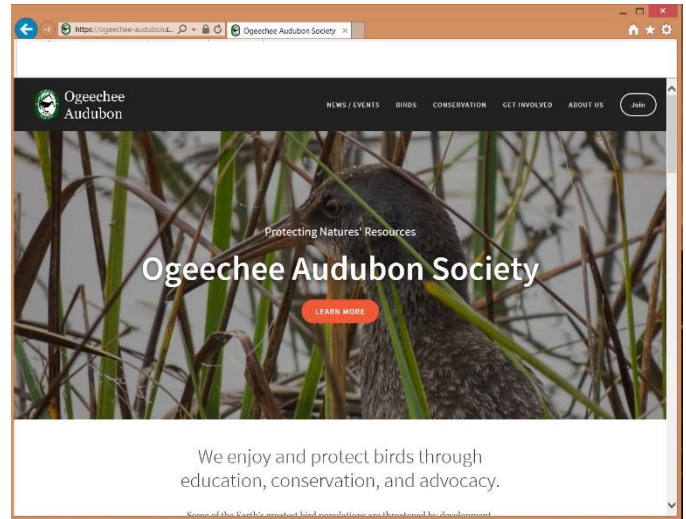
### Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee Audubon Members!!!

-  Katie Higgins
-  Vidal Huamani and Don McInnis
-  Dee McCoy-Hunter
-  Noah and Mary Rosenstein
-  Marie Rozman
-  Kathy and George Shields



Check out our website and like us on Facebook

[www.ogeecheeaudubon.org](http://www.ogeecheeaudubon.org)



### A New Look for the OAS Website!

...by Mary Lou Dickson, OAS Webmaster

I'm pleased and excited to announce that I've been working on a new look for the Ogeechee Audubon website. I was asked by Leslie, our president, to look into a brand-new website template, which was developed by National Audubon specially for the Audubon chapters.

At first, I thought it was going to be a lot of work without much benefit to the chapter. So, I thought I would try to change just a couple of pages and see how it went. Initially, it was some tough going, as the technology was very different from our current website. But National Audubon had developed this new template in collaboration with Squarespace, which provides numerous tutorials to help webmasters create beautiful websites. I also learned that several Audubon chapters volunteered to work with National to move their websites to the new template. With this help I was able to overcome my problems and I transformed those first few pages into the new look. That's when it happened, I was hooked and couldn't stop. I had to move the whole website to the new look.

So, what does this mean to you, our members? First, it means our website will have a new look, but I will take great care that we don't lose any important information during the transition. There will be some reorganizing of the information, as the template allows and supports it. You should also notice some new features making the information easier to access. We will also have the possibility for some new features in the future.

Second, we will need to change hosting companies to make the full transition, which means we change the underlying address to our website. To you, our members,

there is nothing you have to do, just keep using [www.ogeecheeaudubon.org](http://www.ogeecheeaudubon.org). What you should see is one day the current website design, then when we change, the new website design. When we make the change, it can take up to 48 hours for the change to propagate around the world so everyone points to the new underlying address.

There is one more change which will happen when we make the change. We will do away with the email address [info@ogeecheeaudubon.org](mailto:info@ogeecheeaudubon.org). We have created a new email, [ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com](mailto:ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com). This will be our go to email, if you have questions or comments. We have already started using this email address and it is actively being monitored.

We are planning to move to the new website design within the next month or so, please be on the lookout for it. If you have and questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [ogeecheeaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:ogeecheeaudubon@gmail.com).

## Report From the Field

### Spectacular Spring OAS Trips!

....by Pam Smith, OAS Treasurer

What a wonderful spring birding season it's been! First, I'd like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all our wonderful OAS trip leaders who so generously devoted their time, energy & expertise leading our spring OAS trips. Our trip leaders included James Fleullan (SNWR Onslow on 3/7); Larry Carlile (Lake Mayer on 3/10); Mary Lou Dickson (SNWR Bird-N-Ride event on 3/31); Diana Churchill (led five Migratory Bird Walks in Forsyth Park on consecutive Fridays beginning in April); Steve Wagner (Webb WMA, SC on 4/29) and Steve Fox (Sterling Creek Park, Richmond Hill on 5/5).

Diana Churchill's '**Mystery of Migration**' presentation at April's OAS meeting set the stage for our field trips by introducing the transitions we could expect this spring—i.e., Which species migrate? When can we expect our wintering species to depart and our spring migrants to arrive? Which species will nest here, and which will only pass through? Through the spring OAS trips, we were able to see these delightful transitions unfold before our eyes. On each trip we welcomed many new migratory species, witnessed the emergence of gorgeous breeding plumage and heard a rich repertoire of beautiful vocalizations. Some highlights from the spring OAS trips are described below.



On the OAS trip to **Onslow Island** led by James Fleullan in early March, we were able to see a good number of our wintering species before they departed including Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warblers, Song Sparrows, a Yellow-bellied

Sapsucker and American Pipits, as well as a few Dunlin and Stilt Sandpiper (both of which are rare for March). We also welcomed the arrival of the stunningly beautiful American Avocets on the scene.

In early March, the gorgeous Northern Parulas prominently announced their return with their buzzy ascending vocalizations on an OAS trip to **Lake Mayer** that was led by Larry Carlile. We also had the opportunity to see a few Buffleheads, Song Sparrows, a White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Palm Warbler and an American Goldfinch, all of which would soon be heading north. Yellow-rumped Warblers still remained in large numbers and were now transitioning into their beautiful breeding plumage and singing away. After spending the winter hearing the abundant call notes of the Yellow-rumped Warblers it was so nice to hear their lovely spring song!



At the end of March, Mary Lou Dickson led a unique OAS '**Bird-N-Ride**' wagon trip to **Savannah National Wildlife Refuge** where OAS teamed up with the Coastal Georgia Nature Photographers Organization so the OAS birders could help the photographers learn more about the birds they were photographing, and the

photographers could help the OAS birders improve their photography skills. It was an enjoyable collaboration with a nice diversity of species including Blue-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Wilson's Snipe and a Northern Harrier.

In addition, the group enjoyed seeing and photographing Woodstorks, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, a diversity of herons (Tricolored; Green; Great Blue; Little Blue) and egrets (Great; Snowy) and several people were fortunate to get good looks at an elusive American Bittern as well as a Sora.





The migratory birds that arrived on the scene for April's **Friday Migratory Bird Walks in Forsyth Park**, which were



led by Diana Churchill, were magnificent. We were treated to the sights and sounds of the newly arrived Great Crested Flycatchers, Northern Parula,

Summer Tanagers, Eastern Wood Pewees, Eastern Kingbirds, Chimney Swifts, Red-eyed Vireos and White-eyed Vireos. We were also fortunate to see Blue-headed Vireos and a Worm-eating Warbler that were passing through, as well as lovely Black-and-White Warblers and some Yellow-rumped Warblers who were still in the area. In addition to our migratory wonders, we were treated to show-stopping activity from some of our year-round residents – a nesting pair of Barred Owls with 2 adorable fledglings as well as a very busy nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks. If you didn't get a chance to see Diana Churchill's articles in the Savannah Morning News in April, where she featured the exciting avian happenings in Forsyth Park, I would encourage you to take a look at her wonderful articles and pictures!

Birding heaven is the best way to describe the spectacular species diversity we observed on the April 29<sup>th</sup> trip to **Webb Wildlife Management Area** that was led by Steve Wagner. Highlights included good looks at Bachman's Sparrows, Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Swallow-tailed & Mississippi Kites, Rose-Breasted & Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo & Painted Buntings, a wonderful variety of Warblers (Prothonotary, Pine, Prairie, Yellow-throated, Black & White, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat), Orchard Orioles as well as a nice assortment of vireos (Yellow-throated, Red-Eyed, & White-eyed Vireos); many of these species had only recently arrived in the area. Other migratory arrivals included Eastern Wood-Pewee, Flycatchers (Acadian & Great Crested), Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanagers. It was an amazing trip with 67 species!

In early May, OAS members had the opportunity to visit the newly opened **Sterling Creek Park in Richmond Hill**, which includes a nice diversity of forests, wetlands, and grassland habitats. On this trip, which was led by Steve Fox, OAS members gained practice exercising their aural skills as we traversed the forested trails because most of our avian friends were deeply hidden from view. Fortunately, the birds gave us better looks as we moved through the grassland and wetland habitats. Species included Mississippi Kites, gorgeous Blue Grosbeaks &

Indigo Buntings, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Purple Martins, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Vireos (Red-eyed & White-eyed), Warblers (Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, Black-and-White, & Common Yellowthroat), Summer Tanagers, Purple Gallinule, Cattle Egret, and Green Heron. It was another wonderful day of birding with 56 species observed.

Lastly, I'd once again like to thank all our wonderful OAS trip leaders who generously devote their time and energy throughout the year to help educate us about the wonderful species diversity that prevails with each changing season. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by all!



Barred Owlet at Forsyth Park Photo by Pam Smith

**Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2018**

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 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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