



THE MARSHLANDER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
VOL XLVIII, ISSUE 4, AUGUST, 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, September 18th at 7:00 PM

The Accidental Birder– Birds I Saw as I Traveled
Through South Africa

Speaker: Leslie Weichsel

Leslie is the President of the Ogeechee Audubon Society. She spent her career as a nursing administrator in hospitals and hospices. She loves adventure and nature. Also Leslie enjoys photographing nature especially the birds she encounters.

Leslie and her husband traveled through South Africa in the Spring of 2017 for three weeks. As she traveled she looked for the birds of South Africa wherever she went. Leslie took many photos of these birds and will share them with us. Leslie saw 134 different species of birds during her journey. She will retrace her travels and the birds she saw along the way!



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

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



Field Trips

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

Sunday, August 12: Tybee Island North Beach. This is the time when we find the first returning shorebirds, Caspian terns, migrating black terns, and lots of begging juveniles, laughing gulls, royal terns, sandwich terns, and more, as well as a few early migrant songbirds. Meet at Jaycee Park at 8 am to carpool over to Polk Street. Leader: Diana Churchill, 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 5: Onslow Island NWR. We'll be looking for migrating shorebirds as well as wading birds and migrating songbirds. Meet at the entrance at 7:30 am. Bring water, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, and be prepared for walking. Leader: Pam Smith, 717-201-9756, pavercel@comcast.net

Saturday, September 15: Hutchinson Island. With fall migration well underway, we never know what we will find on Hutchinson, including migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors. Meet by the large white building in the center of The Reserve at 8 am. Leader Larry Carlile, 912-224-1796 or l.carlile259@comcast.net

Saturday, September 29: Lake Mayer Community Park. Lake Mayer offers interesting year-round residents as well as migratory songbirds and perhaps the first returning waterfowl of the season. Meet in the east side of the main parking lot off Montgomery Crossroads at 8:00 am. Leader Steve Fox, 912-596-4685 or sfox01@hotmail.com

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!

GOVERNOR DEAL PROCLAIMS SEPTEMBER AS GEORGIA GROWS NATIVE FOR BIRDS MONTH

News Release from Atlanta Audubon Society

(Atlanta, Ga.) July 17, 2018 – Governor Nathan Deal recently signed a proclamation designating the month of September as the inaugural **Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month**. A collaborative effort between Atlanta Audubon Society, other Georgia Audubon chapters, and the Georgia Native Plant Society, **Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month** celebrates Georgia's native plants and raises awareness about the key role they play for birds and other wildlife.

In partnership with Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society, Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, Columbus Audubon Society, Ocmulgee Audubon Society, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, Ogeechee Audubon Society, and the Georgia Native Plant Society, Atlanta Audubon Society is working to create a network of habitats filled with native plants across Georgia.

"The biggest threat to birds in Georgia is habitat loss," says Nikki Belmonte, Atlanta Audubon Executive Director. "As urbanization increases and natural habitats disappear, native plants can go a long way to restoring the habitat birds need. Fortunately, we can provide birds with high quality resources simply through thoughtful landscaping utilizing native plants. It's something that everyone can contribute to conservation."

- 🐦 **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 will also continue to sell OAS pins for \$5 each at each meeting.**
- 🐦 **There are three birding trips planned in our community in September in honor of this designation.**

[For the love of Birds please join us!!!!](#)

A Special Thank You from Pat Wolters, Nicole Janke and Orphaned Bird Care!

Pat writes to Ogeechee Audubon Membership:

Dear Leslie,

"Your Ogeechee Audubon raffle gift was a timely surprise! I had just released Little Green Herons – who consumed \$84.00 of costly tiny frozen minnows for their care.

Our operation's weekly cricket order is over \$100.00 – a necessary supplement in our birds' diet.

Please read our thanks at your next general meeting for the \$170 donation to Orphaned Bird Care."

Sincerely, Nicole and Pat

Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee Audubon Members!!!

- 🐦 Pamela Fandrich
- 🐦 Jim Smith
- 🐦 Jean Deitch
- 🐦 Mark Hyner
- 🐦 Elizabeth Cowell



Check out our website and like us on Facebook

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



Make sure your birds have fresh water this summer!

Report From the Field



Priest Landing looked 'Pretty in Pink' in June

by Pam Smith

A delightful diversity of species was observed on the June 2nd OAS trip to Priest Landing and the UGA Aquarium, which was led by Larry Carlile. Upon arrival at Priest Landing, we were quickly greeted by the sounds of Green Heron, Great Crested Flycatchers, Northern Parula, Painted Buntings, Yellow-throated Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Pine Warblers. Before traversing down the trail, we were able to get distant views of some of the wonderful species that were in store for us in the wetlands - including Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egrets, Great Egrets, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, White Ibis, Wood Storks and a Roseate Spoonbill was spotted, which generated quite a bit of excitement among the 16 birders in the group. As we progressed along the trail, we came upon a clearing where we were thrilled to find 25 Roseate Spoonbills in good view! This flock of Spoonbills contained birds of diverse ages ranging from adorable juveniles with pale pink coloration to adults with vibrant pink wing coverts who were absolutely stunning. The overwhelming consensus of the group was that Priest Landing definitely looks pretty in pink!



After birding at Priest Landing, the group traveled a short distance to the UGA Aquarium trails where we were treated to the sights and

sounds of Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Parula, Pine Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Painted Buntings, as well as Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches. There were also several Great Crested Flycatchers who put on quite a show for us as they busily searched for bugs on nearby trees. Other highlights included seeing a beautiful Osprey

on its nest as well as a male Wood Duck who flew close enough to the group that his beautiful coloration was in good view. It was a great morning of birding!

Tybee Island Birding Field Trip—June 24, 2018

By Sue DeRosa

Shortly after the first day of summer, a group of 14 birders showed up at the Jaycee Park on Tybee Island in the early evening to check out what birds were hanging out at North Tybee Beach. Shortly after beginning our stroll down Polk Avenue to the beach, a Cooper's Hawk did a fly over. Upon arriving at the beach, we saw the usual group of gulls and terns along the shore. Diana then explained how to differentiate amongst the group: Herring Gulls were much larger, the Laughing Gulls had a dark head and red bill unless their breeding plumage was changing or they were juveniles, and the Ring-billed Gulls had a ring on the front of their bill (for once an aptly named bird). The Sandwich Terns had a bit of yellow at the tip of their bills "from mustard on their sandwich", the Royal Terns had a dark Mohawk if it was the right time of year, and the Common Tern which eBird identified as a rarity was smaller with a dark cap and dark stripe on the top wing when it was folded. One of the male Royal Terns had brought a shrimp and was trying to entice a female to take his offering. We enjoyed watching his persistent courtship.



After noticing the Willet that joined the shorebirds, we began to venture back down the beach. Diana's acute hearing picked up the

song of a Painted Bunting. Promptly the scope was set up so the group could have a chance to see this colorful bird sitting in the top of a tree. We turned off to a nearby pond and saw a group of nine Wood Storks occupying the far shoreline with a couple of them actually lying down in the grass. In addition to the storks, many turtles swam around the Great Egrets and a Tricolor Heron. All in all a good birding evening, with delightful breezes, good conversation, and a great chance to learn more about the birds in our area.

Photos by Pam Smith

Coastal Connections

by Abby Sterling, Shorebird Biologist, Manomet

Summer means nesting shorebirds; however this season shorebird chicks aren't the only new additions to our coastal scenery.

In May, the Georgia Barrier Islands received new recognition from the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) as a landscape of hemispheric importance, and the 100th WHSRN site. This designation was granted because the Georgia coast supports more than 30% of the East Coast Red Knots, as well as at least



Site partners celebrate the Georgia Barrier Island WHSRN site designation at Harris Neck NWR. Photo: Laura Chamberlin, Manomet

10% of the population of American Oystercatchers, Short-billed Dowitchers, and Black-bellied Plovers, and is an important wintering site for the federally endangered Great Lakes breeding Piping Plovers. The process for a site to join this network starts with consolidating all of the monitoring data that has been collected over the years and submitting an application to the WHSRN scientists. The application was prepared on behalf of the Georgia Shorebird Alliance by One Hundred Miles. Additionally, because this site spans the entirety of the Georgia coast, partners like the National Park Service, National Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy and private island owners and managers such as St. Catherines Island, Little St. Simons Island, and Little Cumberland Island were all involved. A dedication ceremony was held at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, and in addition to local attendees, guests spanning the hemisphere from northern Canada to Mexico came to celebrate the beautiful Georgia coast! To learn more about the designation, visit <https://www.whsrn.org/georgia-barrier-islands>

Another new development for shorebird conservation is the launch of Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative. This project, under the direction Brad Winn, will be led by local shorebird biologist, Abby Sterling. By working with partners such as Tim Keyes at GA-DNR, and Felicia Sanders at SC-DNR, as well as engaging with local partners, private landowners, federal and state agencies and other non-profits, we will help

build collaborations to prioritize shorebird conservation in the Southeast. The Georgia Bight, including coastal South Carolina, Georgia and Northeast Florida, provides important habitat throughout the year to many shorebirds, but despite the ample resources it provides, there are numerous threats such as disturbance and loss of habitat that can be addressed by this collaborative approach. If you're interested in getting involved with our efforts, please feel free to contact me!



A group of nearly fledged AMOY chicks with new leg bands. Photo: Tim Keyes

Finally, a summer update wouldn't be complete without some chick news! Reports from Tim Keyes suggest a record-breaking year for the number of fledged American Oystercatcher chicks. Tim has been busy banding them all summer and is still adding more to the tally, which is approaching nearly 50 new chicks! Great job Tim and partners!

This Coastal Connections segment is intended to provide updates from Manomet's Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative for interested birders throughout the state. To learn more, please visit <https://www.manomet.org/project/shorebird-recovery/> or email Abby at asterling@manomet.org.

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 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.**