

THE MARSHLANDER

OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October/November, 2019, Volume XLIX, Issue V



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 15th at 7 pm

Speaker: Jake Henry is new to the Savannah area, working as the Field Manager for the Savannah Tree Foundation since August of 2018. In this position, Jake focuses on coordinating tree planting and volunteer events, as well as maintaining trees after planting. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences from Cornell University, and his Masters in Forestry from Mississippi State University. Jake's experience with non-profit conservation organizations has helped shape how he not only conserves natural resources, but engages the community. Most recently, Jake also became an ISA Certified Arborist.

Title: Right Tree, Right Place: The Savannah Tree Foundation has a history of preserving, protecting, and planting trees across Chatham County since 1982, and one of the most important components of this work is identifying the right tree for the right place. In this presentation by STF Field Manager Jake Henry, we will learn about all of the factors that should be considered when planting a tree, and why many trees struggle in our urban environment. How big will your tree grow? What is its rooting behavior like? Is the soil of your planting site appropriate for your preferred tree species? Learn about all of this and more at the October 15th presentation!

**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	



Bird Walks, Field Trips, Surveys, Counts

Ogeechee Audubon Society offers four kinds of opportunities for members to participate in birding in the field:

Bird Walks

Bird Walks will be held monthly at various locations to provide an opportunity for birders of all levels to come together. This **self-directed** activity and has no defined leader. Everyone is expected to help each other out as one hone one's birding skills and identifies birds in the area. Sometimes when you have to figure it out for yourself – you learn more. Also, it is a chance to help others learn and to share your joy of birding! Bird Walks are open to public and birders of all skill levels and ages are welcome. Length of time about an hour to an hour and a half.

****THU, OCT 10: Second Thursday of the Month Bird Walk 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** University of Georgia Aquarium, Jay Wolf Nature trail on Skidaway Island. The Jay Wolf nature trail is adjacent to the Skidaway River in a maritime forest habitat with beautiful views of the salt marsh. The 0.3 mile trail includes a boardwalk over the salt marsh. Meet at Aquarium entrance. **Trip Rigor:** Easy, gravel trail is wheelchair accessible.

****THU, NOV 14: Second Thursday of the Month Bird Walk 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.** Forsyth Park. Take a short walk in this urban park to study the trees and upper canopy for migrants and wintering resident bird species. **Trip Rigor:** Easy, terrain is sidewalk, grass, and dirt.

Field Trips

Field trips are planned **leader-directed** birding opportunities. A knowledgeable and experienced leader will assist in spotting and identifying birds in a precise habitat selected for that particular field trip. The habitat and target birds for the particular area will be outlined in the field trip description. Field trips provide not only a birding opportunity but present learning opportunities for all, especially beginning birders. Field Trips are open to the public and birders of all skill levels and ages. Length of time 2 to 3 hours.

****SUN, OCT 27: Fort Pulaski National Monument 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.** We will search for marsh wrens, seaside sparrows, nelson sparrows, and shorebirds during a high tide. When driving into the park we will stop at several places. Meet at 9 am at park entrance, Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves, marshnut@comcast.net or 912-844-8988. **Trip Rigor:** Easy, with varied terrain.

****SAT, NOV 16: Chatham County Wetlands Preserve 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.** This is a beautiful site featuring wetlands and river setting. We will search for wading birds, raptors, woodpeckers, and various sparrows. Leader: Larry Carlile, 912-224-1796, or l.carlile259@comcast.net

****SAT, NOV 23: Hutchinson Island 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.** By this date, fall migration is in its last weeks and many winter residents have already settled in. This location provides an interesting mix of birds due to a diverse habitat that includes grasslands, wooded areas, and wetlands. Several rare species have shown up here this year and last. All beginners and families with children are welcome. Meet at the white building (community center) at 8 am. Leader: Steve Wagner, siwgnr@hotmail.com. **Trip Rigor:** Easy, walking in varied terrain.

Surveys

Surveys are conducted to gather data regarding bird populations at a defined time, in a defined area for a defined purpose. Surveys are more rigorous than bird walks or field trips. Surveys are conducted with a **specific purpose in mind and the data that is collected will be submitted by the survey leader only and shared with the participants**. These surveys are led by a core survey team. Ogeechee Audubon members are invited to participate in survey activity as citizen scientists and expected to stay for the length of the survey. Surveys are **only open to Ogeechee Audubon Members**. Length of time will vary but typically as long as 4 hours.

Waste Management - Superior Landfill Survey - 3001 Little Neck Road

SUN, OCT 6 and SUN NOV 17. Meet at gate at 8:30am sharp. Restricted area. Must be there by 8:30am. Join the survey team members to assist in data collection of the bird population. ***Ogeechee Audubon Society Members only.***

Savannah Christian Preparatory School – 1599 Chatham Parkway – Property Survey

SUN, OCT 27 and SUN NOV, 24. Meet at gate at 8:30am sharp. Restricted area. Must be there by 8:30am. Join the survey team to collect data regarding the bird population on the property. ***Ogeechee Audubon Society Members only.***

Savannah Christian Preparatory School – 1599 Chatham Parkway – Rusty Blackbirds

SUN, NOV 3, Nov 10, NOV 17, DEC 1. Meet at gate at 3pm. Restricted area. Join the survey to collect data about numbers of Rusty Blackbirds on the school property. **Ogeechee Audubon Society Members only.**

International Shorebird Survey

TBD - Currently Ogeechee Audubon contributes data to these surveys by conducting 3 surveys in the spring and three in the late summer and early fall on the north beach of Tybee Island, each during a specified 3-week window. These surveys have been completed for 2019. We will provide information on the 2020 survey dates in our spring newsletter. The ability to walk about a mile in soft, uneven sand is required. These surveys when they resume can accommodate 12 people and beginners are welcome. **Ogeechee Audubon Society Members only.** Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

American Oystercatcher Surveys at Fort Pulaski

TBD - The Georgia DNR has recently received a permit to conduct Oystercatcher Surveys at Fort Pulaski on the beach on the north side of Cocks spur Island. We are waiting to get specific details from Tim Keyes and Abby Sterling on the exact protocol of these surveys, though they generally involve surveying the birds at high tide on 2 successive days. Participation in these surveys will be limited to no more than 4 people as risk for disturbing the birds and causing them to flush is high. Participants need to be able to walk on soft sand. Help with carrying a spotting scope and recording data is essential. It is useful to have a good camera capable of photographing banded birds. **Ogeechee Audubon Society Members only.** Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

Counts

Basic bird counts are a good way to estimate population size, detect changes in population size or species diversity. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is **a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere**, performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birdwatchers and administered by the National Audubon Society. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology, though many people participate for recreation.

Ogeechee Audubon participates each year in the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The two CBC areas that OAS is responsible for are Harris Neck and Savannah. Harris Neck survey occurs in late December while the Savannah survey is at the beginning of January. The public, no matter what birding skill level, is welcome to participate in both surveys.

Harris Neck Christmas Bird Count

FRI DEC 20 – All are welcome to join us in this bird count. Please email us at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com with your name and contact information.

Savannah Christmas Bird Count

SAT Jan 4 - All are welcome to join us in this bird count. Please email us at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com with your name and contact information.



Project Feeder Watch – Saturday November 9, 2019 to Friday April 3, 2020

Join Project FeederWatch! Anyone in the U.S. with an interest in birds and a feeder to watch is welcome to join. Help scientists monitor winter bird populations while you learn more about the birds in your neighborhood. To join, contact the FeederWatch office. United States Cornell Lab of Ornithology 159 Sapsucker Woods Road Ithaca, NY 14850 1-800-843-BIRD (2473) <https://feederwatch.org>

Georgia Ornithological Society

FRI, OCT 11 – MON, OCT 14 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. Kenn Kaufman and our own Diana Churchill are speakers.

Marine Science Day – Join Ogeechee Audubon

SAT, OCT 19 – Join Ogeechee Audubon for an afternoon of activities, tours and talks that will make Skidaway Marine Science Day a can't-miss event for all ages. Saturday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the **University of Georgia Skidaway Marine Science Campus**, located on the north end of the Skidaway Island (10 Ocean Science Circle, Savannah, Ga. 31411). Stop by our table!!

eBird – October Big Day – October 19, 2019

Get an eBird Account; Report all birds you see on eBird; the Big Day runs from midnight to midnight anywhere in the world. www.ebird.org for more information!



Membership

Hi All,

It is that time of year - again!!! Can you believe it is approaching the beginning of our cycle for collecting membership dues for 2020. It's a little bit like seeing Holiday items in the stores 3 months ahead of time, but we like to give everyone the opportunity to pay dues and not have to put it on the To-Do list for 2020. We have a meeting in September, October, and December, and hope you can attend each of them; but **we will begin to collect 2020 dues at the October and December meetings.** So bring your dues. If you do not have a membership form we will have them for you to complete at the meetings. Thanks again for your continued support of Ogeechee Audubon. Debbie Bennett

FIELD NOTES

The Girl Scouts teamed up with the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge and the Ogeechee Audubon Society on August 10th to complete a Bronze Award Project for Brittany Harris. It was a Birding Day complete with various activities to learn about birds and do a little birding. Volunteers joined Brittany and the Girl Scouts to provide a bird-filled day!

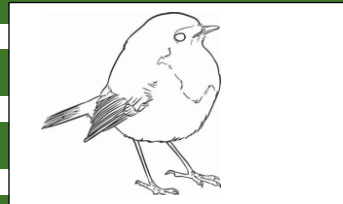


Contact:

Facebook – Ogeechee Audubon

Email – Ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com

Website: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



New Opportunity for Young Birders: Fledging Birder age 12 years and younger. \$5 membership fee.
All benefits of Adult Membership. Each Fledge will receive a special sticker.

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2020

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Membership – please check level of membership

_____ Household - \$20

_____ Senior (62 and older) - \$15

_____ Student (13 years old to 18 years old) - \$15

_____ Fledging Birder (12 years old and younger) - \$5

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (mobile) _____

Email: _____

Ogeechee Audubon membership is for a calendar year – January to December. OAS Chapter renewals are accepted until March 31st.

All meeting information, events and important conservation issues will be communicated by email.

Ogeechee Audubon Newsletter – The *Marshlander* is sent by email.

Please mail this form with your check to:

Ogeechee Audubon, Attn Membership

PO Box 13424,

Savannah, GA 31416

Contributions are tax deductible.