



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, September 17th at 7:00 PM

Back to School Special

We have a two for one deal!

First, **Isaiah Scott**, who was awarded a scholarship supported jointly by Georgia Ornithological Society and Ogeechee Audubon Society, will present his experiences this summer at the birding camp for teens at Audubon's Hog Island in Maine.

The second part of our September meeting will be a brief instruction on **eBird – the Basics**. We will cover how to use eBird and Merlin ID apps. Bring your smart phones and please download the apps prior to the meeting. We will practice using these apps. This presentation is for novices to learn these apps.

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



SUN, AUG 11: Tybee Island North Beach Field Trip and Shorebird Survey 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. 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 5:30pm to carpool over to Polk Street. Leader: Diana Churchill, 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com. Trip Rigor: Easy flat surface with walking on sand.

SUN, SEP 8: Celebrate World Shorebird Day at Fort Pulaski 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM We will be mainly tracking shorebirds but counting other fall migrants during this field trip at high tide. Our data collection for this count will be added to data collected by **scientists monitoring shorebirds worldwide**. These counts carried out by thousands of volunteers and professionals reveal distribution, population trends and/ or abundance of any species. This data collection is fundamental to the assessment of their status. Meet at 3 PM at park entrance. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves, marshnut@comcast.net or 912-844-8988. Trip Rigor: Easy with path and beach walking.

For more information about the worldwide count go to: <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/beginners/helping-birds/celebrate-world-shorebirds-day/>.

SAT, SEP 28: Savannah Christian Preparatory School 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We will explore this restricted access area surrounded by countless acres of freshwater wetlands, ponds, and hardwood forests on the school's private property. Welcomed by the school administration to bird this private school property, Ogeechee Audubon will explore the nature sanctuary affectionately known to the school as "Eden". Ogeechee Audubon looks forward to forging a joint relationship with the school to conduct

periodic bird surveys on the property on a scheduled basis. Meet at school parking at 8 AM. The gates will be opened at that time. Leader: Stan Gray, graysirsgarden@comcast.net. Trip Rigor: Moderate walking on varied terrain.

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.

****Please note – OAS field trips will go on as scheduled in a drizzle but will cancel with a downpour or thunder and lightning at the start of the field trip.**

August 10, 2019 – Saturday – 12 noon to 3 pm
Backyard Birding Day at Savannah
National Wildlife Refuge

Join us at the Savannah National Wildlife Visitor's Center to learn about birds. There will be crafts, bird walks, games, refreshments and so much more fun for children and families!

August 23rd and 24th

The University of Georgia Extension Service will conduct a statewide Pollinator Census on August 23rd and 24th. It is modeled after the Great Backyard Bird Count that you are already familiar with. Just spend 15 minutes on one of those 2 dates identifying pollinating insects on your favorite garden plant and upload the information. You can make your identification anywhere there are plants in bloom.

Please go to the following website for more information:
<https://ggapc.org/>

Message from Membership



Hello all OAS Members!
Thanks to all of our members – old, new, (and those to be). We thank you for your support through your annual dues and your participation in activities (even if it is just reading the OAS Newsletter or checking out our website). This is a great organization supporting our birds and birders and you are part of that. If you know someone who would like to join please share the attached membership application.

Debbie Bennett, Membership Chair

Please Welcome our Newest Ogeechee
Audubon Members!!!

-  John Galvani
-  Marge Innes



Check out our website and like us on Facebook

www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



***Please note if you Unsubscribe from the Ogeechee Audubon email list you will not receive our notices nor the Newsletter.**

Field Notes

Chatham County Limpkin - an extraordinary backyard visitor!

~By Pam Smith

On June 20th, I was stunned to see an unlikely visitor to the lagoon in my backyard - a Limpkin! After reviewing eBird, I learned this is the first Limpkin reported in Chatham County, which was very exciting. Limpkins are wetlands birds that are commonly found in freshwater swamps, ponds



and marshes in Florida, the Caribbean Islands, as well as Central and South America. Over the past year, I've made several birding trips to Sweetwater Wetlands Park in Gainesville, FL so I could view this beautiful species along with other Florida specialties (e.g., Snail Kites). The preferred diet of Limpkins is apple snails, but they will eat

other species of snails as well as freshwater mussels. Limpkins have a uniquely adapted bill that allows them to readily extract snails and mollusks from their shells. As described on The Cornell Lab of Ornithology website: "The closed bill has a gap just before the tip that makes the bill act like tweezers. The tip itself is often curved slightly to the right so it can be slipped into the right-handed curve of the snail's shell. To extract the mollusk from its shell, Limpkins place the forceps-like tip of their bill into the snail or mussel to cut the adductor muscle, using scissoring motions."

My wonderful Limpkin visitor snacked on snails and freshwater mussels at the edge of the lagoon for about 3-hours before leaving when a severe storm moved in... it was such a spectacular sight to see!

Summer birding at Lake Mayer....

By Pam Smith

Following an initial storm delay, Larry Carlile led an enjoyable morning of birding on the June 22nd trip to Lake Mayer. Despite the fact it was a hot summer morning, we had a wonderful diversity of species (38 species in all). We observed many busy parents gathering food to feed



hungry, begging babies. Special highlights included seeing nice-sized families of Eastern Kingbirds and Loggerhead Shrikes, the latter were bringing

anole lizards to their young. In addition, there were beautiful soaring Osprey, an acrobatic Mississippi Kite, diving Royal Terns, rowdy Red-winged Blackbirds, adorable Muscovy ducklings, spirited Northern Parula, as well as an abundance of ever-vocal Carolina Wrens – all of which contributed to the delightful sights and sounds around Lake Mayer on this beautiful summer morning.

Save-the-Date: Registration for the fall meeting of The Georgia Ornithological Society, 11-14 October 2019 on Jekyll Island, is now open! Diana Churchill, author of a biweekly column in the *Savannah Morning News* ("Birder's Eye View") and of 2 books (*Birder's Eye View: Savannah & the Low Country* and *Birder's Eye View II: The Low Country*) will deliver the Friday night presentation. Well-known birding author Kenn Kaufman will deliver Saturday's keynote address. Great coastal birding trips led by dedicated GOS volunteers will be available Friday through Monday. Register now at <https://www.gos.org/2019FallMeeting>.

Duck Stamp



Among the easiest ways anyone can support conservation is by buying Federal Duck Stamps, which are among the most successful conservation tools ever created to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife. Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps produced annually by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Nearly all of the purchase price goes directly to help protect wetlands and associated habitats through fee acquisition, lease and conservation easements. The habitat acquired with Federal Duck Stamp dollars becomes part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of U.S. lands and waters set aside specifically for wildlife conservation.

The new 2019-2020 federal duck stamp went on sale Friday, June 28. The stamps, which cost \$25, are valid from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Congratulations!!!

At the Georgia Press Association's 133rd annual convention the first place honor for a Lifestyle Feature Column was awarded to our very own Diana Churchill for her Birder Eye View column in the Savannah Morning News. **Congratulations Diana!** We all enjoy reading your weekly stories and insights into birding!!



Weather and OAS Field Trips

Please note – OAS field trips will go on as scheduled in a drizzle but will cancel with a downpour or thunder and lightning at the **start of the field trip.



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.**