

THE MARSHLANDER

OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November, 2020, Volume L, Issue IX

50th Anniversary Edition of the Marshlander



Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and Board

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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.

Greetings,

Ogeechee Audubon continues to offer all its members opportunities to participate either in-person or virtually with a variety of birding activities. Recently all members were sent by email a PowerPoint program (with a YouTube link) that was previously offered both in-person and via Zoom in October. We are trying to maintain a connection with all our members through various strategies while adhering to and respecting the CDC guidelines of safety. This approach hopefully is offering something that allows each member a chance to stay in touch and participate with Ogeechee Audubon during the pandemic. Ogeechee Audubon appreciates everyone's patience and support as we journey together through these uncharted waters. Next week you will receive a brief survey in your email (via MailChimp). Please take a few minutes to complete it. This feedback will better help us plan for the coming months. In this Newsletter you will find some activities that offer a range of participation options. We invite you to partake in the way you feel most comfortable.

Thank You!

-OAS Board of Directors

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

**Fresh Seed
NO Fillers!**

**Bird Feeders
Birdbaths
Pole Systems
And
The Freshest
Seed in Town!**

8108 Abercorn Street
Mon-Sat 10-6
Sunday 12-5
Next to Home Goods
(912) 961-3455

This publication of *The Marshlander* is the ninth edition this year of the pandemic!
We will be presenting articles, stories and photographs to keep you connected with birds and with Ogeechee Audubon Society during the time.
I hope you enjoy it!
November 1, 2020 will be the last edition of *The Marshlander* for 2020.
Please keep your eyes open for emails over the next month for any up-to-date information.

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Ogeechee Audubon Public Zoom Meeting

December 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Place – Zoom Meeting

Topic: *Holiday Celebration of Birds with Games and Fun*

An email will be sent to each member via MailChimp on December 7th with the link for the Zoom Program.

I hope to “see” you there! We should have fun!

Field Trips – in a Pandemic World



Ogeechee Audubon is going to begin to very carefully conduct bird walks again – you must walk before you can run! There will be strict guidelines to keep us safe. We are all in this together as we adapt to the new “normal”. These walks are for OAS Members only.

November 14 – Saturday – Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens – 8:00am (<https://coastalbg.uga.edu/>).

We will stroll through the park-like setting of the beautiful 51-acre gardens looking for recently arrived overwintering species, as well as year-round residents. As an added bonus, we will likely see some interesting butterflies, moths, and other pollinating insects, all drawn by the diversity of the extensive floral plantings. As the Gardens grow and develop, variations in

habitats are attracting a wide assemblage of species. Designated an eBird Hotspot, 146 species have been reported on the grounds to date. Help us add to that list.

In order to participate you must sign up at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com – space is limited to a total of 12 birders divided into 2 groups of 6 each.

Meet inside the Canebrake Road entrance in the Andrews Visitor and Education Center parking lot at 8:00 am.

Leaders: Stan Gray, graysirisdgarden@comcast.net or 912-659-5020; and Pam Smith, pavercel@comcast.net or 717-201-9756.

We will divide up into two teams of 6 people each in order to maintain social distancing and to keep groups small. The \$5.00 entrance fee is being covered by Ogeechee Audubon Society.

Please read the guidelines below this announcement. Everyone is expected to follow these requirements in order to participate in the Field Trips.

Guidelines to participate in Field Trips by Ogeechee Audubon:

- Birding groups are limited to 6 members each plus a leader.
- If you show up without a reservation you will not be allowed to join the group – we will not have more than a total of 7 in each group.
- You **MUST** wear a face mask and practice social distancing while on the field trip to protect yourself and others in the group.
- Do not share binoculars, scopes or other equipment.
- Car pooling with participants outside your household is strongly discouraged.
- By signing up for the field trip sponsored by Ogeechee Audubon Society, you acknowledge that these activities can be hazardous to you and your health. You agree voluntarily to participate.

Rusty Black Bird Survey Opportunity

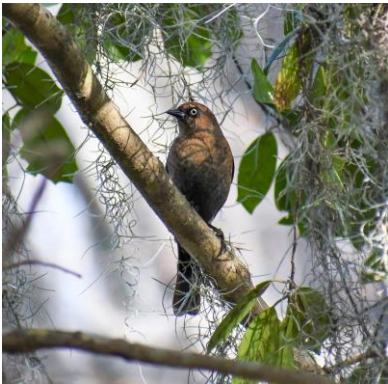


photo by Pam Smith

Each Sunday beginning November 1st through December 27th meet at the Savannah Christian Preparatory School – 1599 Chatham Parkway.

- Meet at the gate at 3 pm.
- Please adhere to the Guidelines above. Bring a Scope for your own use.
- Typically, the survey team is there until 5 pm.



Membership

Hi! I am Mary Lambright, Vice-president of OAS and the person who keeps track of membership. Fall is in the air and it is time to think about renewing your membership in Ogeechee Audubon for 2021. Did you know? Ogeechee Audubon Society membership is for one-year, starting January

Some of you have not yet renewed for 2020 and a couple of you have already renewed for 2021 (yay for you!). If you aren't sure what your current membership status is you can send an email to ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com and I will be happy to let you know. At the end of this newsletter you will find a membership form so you can choose which membership level is best for you and then fill out the form and send it in with your dues. Our treasurer, Pam Smith, will take care of your money and I will make sure that you continue to receive our newsletter, *The Marshlander*, and other important info via MailChimp.

Disclaimer: Membership to Ogeechee Audubon Society does **NOT** include membership to National Audubon Society with its subscription to the magazine, *Audubon* but you are encouraged to join both organizations. For more information about National Audubon Society, visit audubon.org Thank You!

The Obsession That Grew From a Few Sunflower Seeds

...by John Williamson

It was Saturday morning, August 12, 2018. My interest in birds had been skyrocketing since May of that year. It started with one simple, “squirrel proof” (yeah right), birdfeeder, and a cheap bag of sunflower seeds. By August, I was obsessed – more feeders, specialty foods, YouTube videos, podcasts, as well as multiple books and field guides. I was beginning to feel like I might be on my way to a seat in Birders Anonymous? My friends predicted it would be the latest passing fad, but I suspect they were secretly starting to worry.

In June, I had come across eBird online and had started a list. I felt like I was getting the hang of it. I mean, how complicated could this be. You see a bird. You find it's picture in the book. You add it to your list, and you're done. On to the next. Simple, right? It certainly seemed that way to me! So with my new found confidence, I was ready to take the show on the road. Everything I read said if you wanted to take your skill to the next level, find experienced birders and learn from a mentor. I doubted all that would really be necessary, but it would make it more fun and certainly couldn't hurt. Ogeechee Audubon here I come!

Which brings us back to that late summer Saturday morning. After sacrificing few hours of precious sleep, I left my house at seven to be out on Tybee Island by eight. It was my first Ogeechee Audubon Society fieldtrip. It was an eclectic group of men and women, some younger and some older. One couple had a child with them that was definitely getting an earlier start at this than I was. As we walked to the North Beach, my confusion started to grow. Our leader Diana, pointed to a medium sized white wading bird and said “Little Blue Heron.” But wait, the bird was white!?! Before I could get my mind around a white bird that was called blue, I heard “3 MODOs” shouted from one of the other participants. And before I could ask “What's a”, I started hearing some of the more seasoned members using terms I had no clue about. Eye-ring, wingbar, and lifer were all terms that I clearly needed to learn if I was going to be successful at my new hobby. As I considered this, “Painted Bunting” was shouted out by someone up ahead, but before I could get my binoculars up and focused, it was gone.

Finally, out on the beach, I felt a sigh of relief. Seagulls! I knew what those were. But then I learned that they were gulls, not seagulls, just gulls, and that there were several kinds. And, mixed in with the gulls were Terns and Skimmers. Initially I thought “they all looked the same”, but then came the shorebirds. Don't get me started. Apparently, even if I learned how to identify them now, they were just going to change their look in the spring. Breeding and nonbreeding plumages – two more terms for me to understand. But who could really tell? I mean, they wouldn't stand still long enough for me to get a good look anyway. How happy I was when that long string of Brown Pelicans flew lazily across the waves. Big brown beautiful birds, flying slowly in a nice single file line. Easy to see and easy to count. Thank God for Brown Pelicans!

And so, my obsession continued. I survived my first fieldtrip and learned more than I thought. Patience, curiosity, and a good sense of humor are three indispensable traits of a baffled beginning birder. Field marks, behaviors, plumages and terminology can all be learned. As I gave myself a break for what I didn't know, I remembered why I was there. I love birds.

Bird Walk at Lake Mayer

...by Lynn Wrenn (photo by Pam Smith)



On Saturday, October 17th, Ogeechee Audubon met at Lake Mayer in two teams of six birders each. I was a member of team two, led by Larry Carlile. With face masks and social distancing in place, we set off to the center island. We saw the ever-present Muscovy Ducks, Canada Geese, Mallards, Herons, Egrets, White Ibis, Coots, Anhingas, Double-crested Cormorants, and a single beautiful Wood Duck. After fifteen minutes a light rain started but we kept going until it became a heavy downpour at which point, we took shelter under the eaves of the nearest building. We were treated to a show from a Belted Kingfisher that flew back and forth several times. We watched the fifth of five Pied-billed Grebes disappear under the water for what felt like a very long time. After the rain stopped, we started off again, seeing a Loggerhead Shrike on top of a light pole. Smaller birds observed were twenty Fish Crows, Tree Swallows, eight European Starlings, Northern Mockingbirds, Grackles and Common Yellowthroat to name a few.

Our final treat was the discovery of fourteen American Redstarts. Even though we sheltered from the rain for awhile and ventured out in a pandemic, we had a successful and enjoyable outing. We had thirty-seven species for our effort!

You are invited:

The Rookery Collection

Dedication & Ribbon Cutting
Nov. 12th 5:30-7:30
The Effingham Herald
Conference Center
1204 N. Columbia Ave.
Rincon, Ga.
presented by
Effingham Strong

Isaiah E. Scott

The Rookery Collection
Art and Decor
By Isaiah E. Scott



Contact:	
Facebook: Ogeechee Audubon	
Email: Ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com	
Website: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org	

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2021

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Membership – please check level of membership

- _____ Individual Adult older than 18 years - \$20
- _____ Household/Family - \$20
- _____ Senior – individual (62 and older) - \$15
- _____ Student – individual (13 years old to 18 years old) - \$15
- _____ Fledgling Birder – individual (12 years old and younger) - \$5

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Name: _____

If household or family, additional names: _____

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 to individual or household/family.

Please mail this form with your check to:
Ogeechee Audubon, Attn Membership
PO Box 13424,
Savannah, GA 31416
Contributions are tax deductible.