

THE MARSHLANDER

OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June, 2020, Volume L, Issue IV

50th Anniversary Edition of the Marshlander



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.

Ogeechee Audubon Society continues in Flockdown!



Ogeechee Audubon Board meets via Zoom for our May Meeting!

We hope you are staying safe and perhaps doing a little birding in your backyard or at a safe place where you can social distance (but not from the birds). Ogeechee Audubon Board has decided to continue in Flockdown. We will not have our public meeting in June and at this time, we will still hold off on conducting field trips. The logistics of having these events in light of the CDC guidelines is difficult. In addition, one of our primary concerns is the health and safety of our members. The Board will meet again in July to discuss if, when and how we can safely “reopen”. Please be patient knowing our caution is for your wellbeing. We will bird together again.

Our April meeting is the time designated in the By Laws for our Annual Meeting and the election of officers. We are postponing the Annual Meeting until the next meeting of the membership which is to be determined based on the timeline dictated by the virus. Our By Laws do not specifically address a pandemic situation so we believe since our activities are suspended, at the first opportunity when we can safely reconvene we will have the Annual meeting and hold the elections. In the meantime, the present officers have agreed to continue to serve.

-OAS Board of Directors

Ogeechee Audubon Society Officers and Board	
<u>Administrative Responsibilities</u>	
President	Leslie Weichsel
Vice President	Mary Lambright
Secretary	Marty Foxx
Treasurer	Pam Smith
<u>Education Workgroup</u>	
Education Outreach	Diana Churchill,
Sue DeRosa, Rose Talbert	
Field Trips	John Williamson
Programs	Lynn Wrenn
<u>Communications Workgroup</u>	
Social Media	Mary Lambright
Webmaster	Mary Lou Dickson
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel
Publicity	Matt Tozar
<u>Historian</u>	
Sandy Beasley	
<u>Conservation Workgroup</u>	
Entire Board	

<p>Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop</p>	<p>Fresh Seed NO Fillers!</p>	<p>Bird Feeders Birdbaths Pole Systems And The Freshest Seed in Town!</p>	<p>8108 Abercorn Street Mon-Sat 10-6 Sunday 12-5 Next to Home Goods (912) 961-3455</p>	
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This publication of the Marshlander will be a bit different. It is the third “Flockdown” edition! We will be presenting stories and photographs as well as activities and links to keep you connected with birds and with Ogeechee Audubon Society. I hope you enjoy it!

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Ogeechee Audubon’s Annual Meeting will be scheduled for the next public meeting. At this meeting we will elect Officers for the Board. If you have any nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer please contact the Nominating Committee (Diana Churchill, Mary Lou Dickson, Marty Foxx) at ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com. Thank You.



Membership

A gentle reminder to all who have yet to renew your 2020 dues to please do so at your earliest convenience. We will be back and you do not want to miss out on what we have in store once activities resume! Please use the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter. If you are unsure of your membership status, please email us at OgeecheeAudubon.help@gmail.com to check.

Thank You!

50 Years of Ogeechee Audubon! Wow!

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ogeechee Audubon Society! The members of the Board of Ogeechee Audubon will be planning celebratory events to mark fifty years of fulfilling our mission to educate adults and children about birds, wildlife, and the environment.

Throughout 2020 Ogeechee Audubon will look back on our history here in Savannah and the surrounding low country. Periodically we will be sharing our 50-year history by sharing from our archived documents and notes. We plan to conclude the year with a special banquet celebrating our Golden Anniversary with all who have supported us and our mission over the past 5 decades. **As such we would like to ask each of you if you have a story to share about Ogeechee Audubon from your first hand experiences?** If you remember a particular field trip, a person or a time when you spotted a sought-after life bird. Or if you have any photographs of OAS members in action, particularly from our early days. Ogeechee Audubon has a long history in our community and any anecdotes shared by folks like you will help weave a beautiful picture of the story of Ogeechee Audubon Society over these 50 years. Please send these to ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com.

From the Ogeechee Audubon Archives - 1972

An article from the Volume III, Number 1 Marshlander, November/December 1972

Savannah Refuge 1972 Nesting Report

Preston Lane, Manager of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge and the satellite refuges of Harris Neck, Wassaw, and Wolf, reports that the 1972 nesting season was a spectacular success for some species while disastrous for others. The wood ducks hatched bumper crops of ducklings on all refuges— 669 hatched at Harris Neck, 319 at the Savannah Refuge, and

the first nesting on Wassaw produced 24 woodies. The Canada geese at Harris Neck made 45 nesting attempts and hatched 161 goslings though 7 nests were destroyed by bobcats and raccoons.

The wading birds fared well at all refuges. There was a veritable population explosion on Blackbeard where 6770 birds hatched. The Savannah Refuge placed second in the wading bird division with 3178 hatched from 1281 nest attempts.

The bad news came from the least terns, osprey, and loggerhead sea turtles. All least tern nests, totaling 163, were destroyed by high tides. The osprey pair which nested in Woody Pond at Harris Neck also fell victim to the elements: high winds blew the nest down resulting in the drowning of one of the 3 fledglings. The loggerhead sea turtles were the victims of raccoons which completely wiped out the nests on Wassaw Island and destroyed many nests on Blackbeard and Wolf Islands. Raccoons destroyed a total of 165 turtle nests, each nest averaging 100 eggs, or 16,500 eggs! It may be time to revive the coon-skin hat fad.

A Story of Interest and a Photo Gallery of Birds

May Birding at Onslow Island, Savannah National Wildlife Refuge ~ by Pam Smith

Onslow Island at SNWR (open to the public on Wednesdays only) is a great place for socially distanced birding because there are seldom any people there. Over the past few years, the conditions at Onslow Island have been very dry (no standing water; sparse vegetation), which has reduced the species diversity at this site. However, when birding at Onslow Island on May 6th, I was pleasantly surprised to find not only a fair amount of water in the back corner of the left impoundment (approx. 1-mile walk from the parking area), but also a healthy amount of vegetation throughout the entire site. Needless to say, the water and vegetation were quite conducive for attracting a wonderful diversity of species! Favorites included Black-necked Stilts, Gull-billed Terns, Spotted Sandpipers, Black-Bellied Whistling Ducks, an abundance of



Swallows (Tree, Barn, and Bank Swallows), as well as a wide assortment of beautiful wading birds. In the grasslands, there were numerous Indigo Buntings, Painted Buntings and Bobolinks singing away. I was especially happy to find my key targets for the trip - Bobolinks and Bank Swallows that were migrating through. Happy birding to all!



Photo Gallery



Wild Turkey - Mary Lou Dickson



Father/Daughter Portrait - Larry Carlile



Immature Greater Flamingo – Leslie Weichsel



Grey Crowned Crane – Leslie Weichsel

Nesting and fledging birds - photos by Matt Tozar



Swallow-tailed Kite with nesting material – Matt Tozar



Acadian Flycatcher on nest – Matt Tozar



Red-shouldered Hawk nestling – Matt Tozar



Recently fledged Tufted Titmouse – Matt Tozar



Recently fledged Northern Parula – Matt Tozar



Recently fledged Common Grackle – Matt Tozar



Adult and recently fledged Eastern Bluebirds – Matt Tozar

How to Make These Next Few Weeks a Little Easier, Courtesy of Birds

Bird Up Your Zoom Calls With These Audubon Backgrounds

Spread the joy of birds—and native plants—at your next friendly gathering or weekly meeting.

<https://www.audubon.org/news/bird-your-zoom-calls-these-audubon-backgrounds>

You could pull one of the photos from the page and add it to the link information in the newsletter.

Follow this link to a myriad of activities to do while you are social distancing and home bound:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds>

Some internet sites to explore while you are home in flockdown:

Team eBird – ebird.org

Cornell Ornithology Lab - www.birds.cornell.edu

National Audubon Society – www.audubon.org

Live Bird Cams – www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/

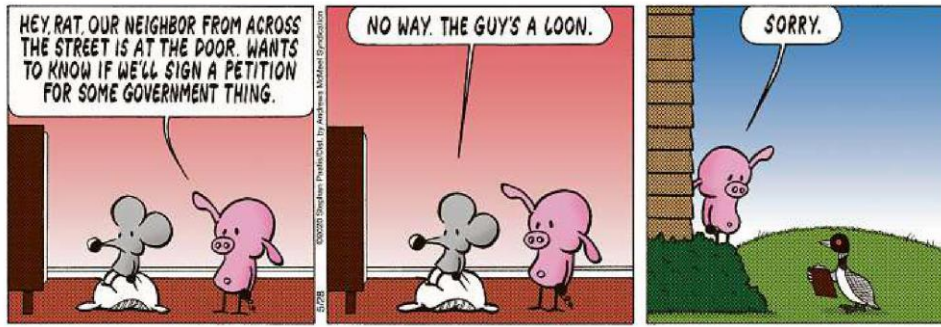
Bird Academy at Cornell Lab - <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/>

Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex website - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/savannah/>

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Friends Group – <https://www.coastalrefuges.org/>

Audubon for Kids! – A National Audubon Society Program — check out www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kid

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS

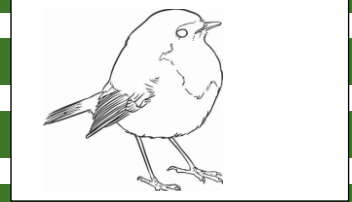


Contact:

Facebook: [Ogeechee Audubon](#)

Email: Ogeecheeaudubon.help@gmail.com

Website: www.ogeecheeaudubon.org



New Opportunity for Young Birders: Fledgling 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

_____ 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.