



THE MARSHLANDER
NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA
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WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG

Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,
 Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 PM

Speakers: Diana Churchill, Dick and Gayl Glover

Panama Birding

In January, 2016, five Savannah area birders joined a group for a week-long birding trip to Panama.

Dot Bambach, Matt Ryan, Diana Churchill, & Dick & Gayl Glover spent a week at the Canopy Camp in the Darien region of Panama. The trip also included a reunion and birding with one-time Ogeechee Audubon member Darien Montanez, and for the Glovers, a day trip through the Panama Canal.

Diana, Dick & Gayl will share some of the sights, sounds and birds of this special country.

**We meet at the First Presbyterian Church,
 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.
 The program is free and open to the public.**

For more information call James Fleullan at 912-433-0457.

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member

Rudy Reyes is our newest board member. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Rudy graduated from Arizona State University and Harvard Divinity School before moving to Savannah.

He enjoys immersing himself in nature, whether it is the Sonoran Desert of his childhood or in the marshes of the Low Country. He has both a reverence for nature and an understanding of the need to protect it.

His experience in the nonprofit sector and website development will be an asset for the Ogeechee Audubon Society.

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.

2016-2017 Officers and Board Members

President	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Vice President	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Secretary	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
Treasurer	Sandy Beasley	912-354-6475
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Programs	James Fleullan	912-433-0457
ARK Coordinator/Conservation	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Membership	Debbie Bennett	912-897-1601
Webmaster	Rudy Reyes	480-516-5971
Newsletter	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Publicity	Regi Sonnen	912-398-1943
Education	Vacant	

Board Members: Beth Roth; Diana Churchill, Larry Lynch



Field Trips

BRING BINOCULARS, HAT, SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, WATER AND SNACKS

OR LUNCH FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

SAT, OCT 15: Ft Pulaski National Monument. We will take advantage of the 8.8 ft high tide to look for marsh sparrows, drive and hike through areas of the park searching for migrating birds then to the newly formed beach to check for shore birds, tagged oystercatchers, and other migrants. Meet at the bridge to Ft. Pulaski at 8 am. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves, msweeney@uga.edu or 912-844-8988.

SAT, OCT 29: Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens. We will stroll through the park-like setting of the beautiful 51-acre gardens looking for migrating birds, early arriving winter residents, and even some interesting butterflies, all drawn by the diversity of the floral plantings. As the Gardens grow and develop, variations in habitats are attracting a wide assemblage of species. Recently designated an eBird Hotspot, 128 species have been reported on the grounds to date. Help us add to that list. Meet inside the Canebrake Road entrance in the Andrews Visitor and Education Center parking lot at 8:00am.

Leader: Stan Gray, graysirsgarden@comcast.net or 912-659-5020.

SAT, NOV 12: Beginning Birding 101 at Savannah Wildlife Refuge – Ogeechee Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife, and Marine Extension-Sea Grant.

A new program to introduce those who are interested in birding but do not know where to start. There will be experienced birders to assist with bird guides, identification apps for cell phones, binoculars, and spotting scopes. After this program, you will be able to operate binoculars, learn how to use a spotting scope, categorize a few birds by the shape of the body, and identify several bird habitats. Loaner binoculars will be available for those who do not have their own. The program is free and open to the public, but limited to 15 people. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at 9:00 am.

Registration is required, call/email Joel Vos (843) 784-9911 x112, or email him at joel_vos@fws.gov.

SAT, NOV 19: Hutchinson Island. 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. Meet at the white building (community center) at 8 am.

Leader: Steve Wagner sjwgnr@hotmail.com.

All field trips are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted!



Ogeechee Audubon



2016-17 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The 117th Christmas Bird Count will take place this winter. During the CBC, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas participate in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn - to survey wintering bird species in a sector of their town's 15-mile diameter "count circle". Each of the citizen scientists who often braves winter weather to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide future conservation action. From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

Our local counts are scheduled as follows:

Friday, Dec. 16 – Harris Neck CBC, covering an area from Midway to Shellman's Bluff.

Monday, Jan. 2 – Savannah CBC, covering most of greater Savannah and the southern part of Jasper County, SC.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with these important citizen science efforts. In addition to skilled birders, we need drivers and list-keepers who can give us the better part of their day to be out in the field. We are also looking for folks who will watch their backyard feeders for a portion of the day and report their sightings to us. If you would like to participate, please contact Dot Bambach at dotbam@bellsouth.net or 912-598-3764.

Ogeechee Audubon Membership

Not yet a Member of Ogeechee Audubon? Join now for the regular 1-year cost and your new membership will run for 15 months, through Dec. 31, 2017.

Update on the Landings Bird Cam - Savannah

On August 26, a large perching branch on the nest tree broke off and took the approach camera (cam 2) with it. That camera continued to work but was hanging by its cables and pointed to the sky. Arrangements were made to get a lift truck to retrieve the dangling camera and see about finding a way to reattach it. However, before that could happen, tropical storm Hermine came through!

After the storm, the tree was evaluated by experts and it was determined that the tree and nest would last for at least one more season.

Once the lift truck arrived, both cameras were removed while plans were made to put them back where they would be safe, and still give us great views of the nest. As of now (Sept. 12), the approach camera is back up on an artificial support attached to the nest tree. And the other camera is ready to be mounted on a living pine tree next to the nest tree. There will also be a 3rd camera, mounted in the live pine. This should give us excellent viewing of the nest in the coming year!
...by Mary Lambright



Check out Landings Bird Cam on Facebook

Non-Audubon Events of Interest:

- **Mon. Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.:** Local historian **Buddy Sullivan** talks about the colorful history of Blackbeard Island. Location: Southwest Chatham Library (at the Savannah Mall, 14097 Abercorn St., Savannah). Free and open to the public.
- **Oct. 7-10:** **Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting** on Jekyll Island. Great field trips and speakers. See www.gos.org for details.
- **Sat. Oct. 8:** **US Fish & Wildlife celebrates Refuge Week** with half day boat trips to Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge. Advance registration (\$10 adults, \$5 children) required. Call [843-784-2468](tel:843-784-2468) to reserve a place.
- **Sat. Oct. 22 Skidaway Marine Science Day** from 12:00pm to 4pm. This event gives visitors an opportunity to visit the Marine Science Campus on Skidaway Island. Visitors can view labs, learn about the animals at touch tanks, learn about reptiles, and view behind the scenes at the UGA MAREX Aquarium. The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography will have labs open for viewing, ask scientists questions about research, and tour RV Savannah. NOAA Grays Reef will demonstrate the Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicle.
- **Sat. Oct. 29: Bat Spooktacular** from 1 to 4 pm at Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Live bats and family-friendly activities. Free and open to the public.

Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2017

New membership _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (c) _____

e-mail* _____

*** Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail**

Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Yes ___ No ___

Please mail this form with your check to:

**Ogeechee Audubon, att 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 membership dues* directly to National.

***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 have no other way to receive the Newsletter except printed mail we will be happy to send you a printed copy.**