



**Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,  
 Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**Speaker: John Kricher, Professor of Biology at Wheaton  
 College, Norton, Massachusetts**



**Field Trips**

**BRING BINOCULARS, HAT, SUNSCREEN, BUG SPRAY, WATER AND  
 SNACKS OR LUNCH FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**SAT, FEB 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 10 people. Meet at the Refuge Visitor Center at  
 9:00 am to 12noon. Registration is required call/email Joel Vos  
 at [\(843\) 784-9911](tel:8437849911) ext or Joel [joel\\_vos@fws.gov](mailto:joel_vos@fws.gov).

**WED, MAR 1:** Onslow Island, SNWR. Onslow Island is newly  
 refurbished part of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge system -  
 open only on Wednesdays. There have been rare species  
 showing up here, you never know what you will see. Meet at  
 the entrance at 8:00 am. Be prepared for a lot of walking. Wear  
 sturdy shoes and **definitely bring bug spray!** Leader: James  
 Fleullan, [jrfleullan@gmail.com](mailto:jrfleullan@gmail.com) or [912-433-0457](tel:9124330457)

**SAT, MAR 12:** Ft Pulaski National Monument. Meet by the  
 Pulaski Bridge at 8am to look for spring migrating songbirds,  
 warblers, and shorebirds. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves,  
[marshnut@comcast.net](mailto:marshnut@comcast.net) or [912-844-8988](tel:9128448988).

**WED, MAR 25:** Lake Mayer Community Park. We will be  
 looking for ducks, sparrows, and you never know what we will  
 see at this small lake in the middle of Savannah. Meet at the  
 left side of the main parking lot at 8:00 am. Leader: Larry  
 Carlile, [L.carlile259@comcast.net](mailto:L.carlile259@comcast.net) or [912-224-1796](tel:9122241796).

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



Ogeechee Audubon

**“The Trade Off”**

In this wide-ranging talk, John Kricher will contrast the lives,  
 ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine  
 birds, the orioles, tanagers, flycatchers, and wood-warblers,  
 with passerines that are permanent residents of lowland  
 tropical forests. John will discuss factors that have likely  
 resulted in some species adapting to long-distance migration  
 and the costs and benefits that ensue.

Characteristics such as life span, clutch size, foraging behavior,  
 habitat choice, and wing shape, all vary between long-distance  
 migrants and tropical resident species. This lively, thought-  
 provoking, and thoroughly illustrated talk will explain why.

**2017 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT  
 February 17 – 20!**

Get your binocs ready! The 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count  
 begins on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and continues for four days  
 through Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Ogeechee Audubon asks all  
 its members to help put Chatham County “on the map” for the  
 number of species tallied versus other locations across the U.S.  
 Here’s how the count works. Count birds in your backyard or  
 anywhere for as little as 15 minutes and enter your count data  
 on the Great Backyard Bird Count website: [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org).

If you have not done so in prior years, you will have to create  
 a free GBBC account in order to enter your bird lists. The Great  
 Backyard Bird Count data are integrated with eBird – a  
 worldwide bird data collection program used for keeping track  
 of your personal bird records and bird lists.

...by Dot Bambach, Conservation Chair

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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.*

**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
Field Trips	Mary Sweeny-Reeves	912-844-8988
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

## Attention Ogeechee Audubon Membership Renewing and New Members!

Each and every member of Ogeechee Audubon is important and valued. The dues each one contributes is used in a variety of ways to support our mission: *to educate about birds, wildlife and the environment* and to advocate for the same when needed.

The following is a sampling of some of the many ways your dues are used to accomplish this mission:

Support for two teachers to attend an Educators Week at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine.

Support to finance bluebird nest boxes for Islands High School Science Research Program.

Oatland Island Bird Feeders, to provide for seed, fill feeders, maintain feeders so the children visiting Oatland can see the birds at the feeders.

Support to the Orphaned Bird Care to help injured birds and nurse them back to health and release.

Support the production of *The Marshlander*, our newsletter published six times a year.

Support the ability to bring in speakers six times a year for our Programs which are free and open to the public.

Support our annual holiday party.

Support and volunteerism with the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges.

All funds go directly to support these activities. Ogeechee Audubon is run by an all-volunteer Board. In addition, all our field trips are led by volunteers and are free and open to the public. Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting boxes located in three areas of Chatham County are monitored by volunteers during nesting season.

**Please join us or renew your membership!** We need you and more importantly the birds need you! We cannot do any of this without you!

Also, if you would like to volunteer for any of the OAS activities please let Leslie Weichsel know – 914-466-9689.

**If you have any questions about membership please contact Debbie Bennett, [912-667-7256](tel:912-667-7256)**

...by Debbie Bennett, Membership Chair

## April 18, 2017 Ogeechee Audubon Annual Meeting

The April meeting is our annual elections for officers. Please submit nominations to either Dot Bambach (912-598-3764) or Leslie Weichsel (914-466-9689), our nominating committee.

Thank You.

## Update from the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge

For visitors to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), there was an opportunity on January 14<sup>th</sup> to hear from Supervisory Biologist Chuck Hayes about the management of the lands they manage. Mr. Hayes will be presenting quarterly as part of the Savannah Coastal Refuges Complex's new "Second Saturday" programs. This new speaker series provides the public a free opportunity to hear more about activities, news, and partners which assist the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

January's program was the first of this year's presentations about the Savannah NWR management, and Mr. Hayes discussed how, when, and why they mow, flood, drain, and more to manage for wildlife at the popular Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. As of January 22, all pools that will be filled for migrating waterfowl have been filled. This includes pools 2-8, and 10-16. Pools 1, 17, and 18 will remain dry this year in preparation for repairs, invasive species treatments, and to continue to provide habitat for the diverse species that frequent the Refuge.

For most of this fall and winter, duck numbers have been down. This is mostly "due to the warm temperatures north of us," Mr. Hayes stated. Wintering ducks only migrate as far as they need to each season, and open water to our north has kept those waterfowl "grocery stores and hotels" open for business. As temperatures ebb and flow, we see lots of movement of waterfowl species into and out of the Lowcountry. Numbers of waterfowl has been steadily increasing over the last couple of weeks, and everyone should be reminded that birding is often best by foot or bicycle along the marked trails and away from the main road of the wildlife drive.

For up-to-date information and event announcements for the Refuges of the SCRC, be sure to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SCRC) (<http://bit.ly/2iqvjRM>), and mark your calendars the Second Saturday series each second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm at the Savannah NWR visitor center (694 Beech Hill Lane, Hardeeville, SC 29927)! The next biology update is scheduled for April 8, 2017.

-Joel Vos, Education Coordinator ([Joel\\_Vos@fws.gov](mailto:Joel_Vos@fws.gov))



**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.

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**\*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.**