



Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,
 Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 PM



Speaker: Holly T. Gaboriault

A Day in the Life of a Refuge Manager...Updates from the Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex

Holly Gaboriault, Project Manager for the Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex, will provide a glimpse into the life of today's Refuge manager as well as updates on current issues at the Complex. She will also provide an update on Hurricane Matthew clean up efforts and an overview of the revised hunt plan for the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge that will go into effect in Fall 2017.



Ogeechee Audubon will be having our annual Holiday Party at the December 13th meeting. This year our party will NOT be a potluck dinner. Rather, Ogeechee Audubon will be providing "Light Refreshments" (beverages, cheese, fruit, sweets) for our celebration. So please come to share some holiday spirit and listen to our wonderful speaker!

Georgia Ornithological Society Winter Meeting

Tybee Island

Friday January 13 to Monday January 16, 2017

Keynote Presentation: "Flexible Flyers: The Comings and Goings of Turkey Vultures and Hooded Vultures"

Dr. Keith Beildstein, Sarkis Acopian Director of Conservation Sciences, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Orwidsburg, PA

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

Field Trips

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

SAT, Dec 3: **Lake Mayer**. Meet at the east end of the main parking lot at 8:00am. We'll be looking for ducks, wintering songbirds, grebes, anhingas, and more. Leader: Larry Carlile, 912-224-1796 or l.carlile259@comcast.net.

SUN, Dec. 11: **Ft. Pulaski National Monument**. Meet in the parking area before the guard house at 2pm to carpool into the Fort. We will be checking out the picnic area and walking to the new beach area to look for shorebirds now gathering there at high tide. Leader: Diana Churchill, 912-604-7539 or dichurchbirds@gmail.com.

THU, Dec 15: **Pinckney Island Bird Count**. Contact Jack Greenshields of Hilton Head Audubon at jackg308@gmail.com or 651-491-1851 to participate.

FRI, Dec 16: **Harris Neck Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Dot Bambach at dotbam@bellsouth.net or 912-604-2673 to participate.

MON, Jan 2: **Savannah Area Christmas Bird Count**. Contact Dot Bambach at dotbam@bellsouth.net or 912-604-2673 to participate.

WED, Jan 18: **Onslow Island NWR**. Meet at the entrance to Onslow Island at 8am to look for shorebirds, songbirds, wading birds and more. Be prepared for lots of walking and bring your bug spray! Leader: Larry Carlile, 912-224-1796 or l.carlile259@comcast.net.

SAT. Jan 28: **Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge**. Meet at the RideShare at I-95 & 204 at 7:45am or at the entrance to Harris Neck NWR at 8:30am. We expect to see wintering songbirds, wading birds, and a variety of ducks. Leader: Steve Fox, 912-596-4685 or sfox01@hotmail.com.

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



Ogeechee Audubon Membership Renewal

As we close this year we look ahead to our new Ogeechee Audubon Society Year. You have the wonderful opportunity to pay your 2017 membership dues before ringing in the New Year! Just complete the membership form attached and return to the address on the form. It is a great deal because your one-time payment will cover you and your family and will run through December 31, 2017. And-- you will receive the OAS newsletter, *The Marshlander* (just like the one you are reading now!!!). In addition, you are supporting important birding projects that the OAS sponsors. What a deal!

So run, don't walk to your printer and print the membership form, get a pen, fill out the form and mail it in with your dues. Better yet, at the December 13th meeting you can complete the form there and pay with cash or a check.

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

Save the Dates!

Saturday, February 11, 2017:

Beginning Birding 101 at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge – is offered in collaboration with Ogeechee Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife, and Marine Extension & Georgia Sea Grant. This is 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. On completion of this program, you will be able to operate binoculars, learn how to use a spotting scope, categorize a few birds by shape of the body and identify several bird habitats. Loaner binoculars will be available. This program is FREE and open to the public, however it is limited to 10 people. Meet at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge at 9am. The program concludes at 1pm. Registration is required: call/email Joel Vos at 843-784-9911 or joel_vos@fws.gov.

Friday, February 17 to Monday, February 20:

The Great Backyard Bird Count – a fun, free and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages. The GBBC provides a real time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days during the four day event. Report your sightings on-line at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning birders to experts, and you can participate from the comfort of your own backyard!

Field Trip Report: November 19, 2016

by Dot Bambach

On Saturday morning, twenty birders assembled inside The Reserve, a partially built-out housing development on Savannah's Hutchinson Island. The large number of undeveloped lots has been allowed to grow up into fairly dense weeds, making this area a "mini-Serengeti" for grassland species that are otherwise hard-pressed to find suitable habitat in the metro area.

Leader Steve Wagner led the group across a field of waist-high vegetation where we succeeded in flushing up house wrens, ruby-crowned kinglets, gray catbirds, palm warblers, eastern phoebes, and song and Savannah sparrows. A walk along the edge of the wooded area produced hermit thrush, many yellow-rumped and one black-and-white warblers, a loggerhead shrike, and stellar looks at several vesper sparrows, among numerous other species.

Although we searched in vain for a Lincoln's sparrow seen here on an earlier date, we were rewarded instead with two very handsome and active western kingbirds perched on street signs and busy hawking insects on the adjacent lawns. This is a species that is supposed to stay well west of the Mississippi in summer and head to Central America in winter. But apparently, these birds "didn't get the memo" and were enjoying the perfect habitat and abundant flying insects on Hutchinson Island.

Our final stop was to check the brush pile adjacent to the Hutchinson Island race course, where we discovered that Hurricane Matthew had transformed the brush PILE into a brush MILE!...to the delight of wrens, catbirds, and sparrows. Thank you, Steve, for leading a very satisfying field trip.

Special Program – Skidaway Audubon

January 22, 2017 at 2:30 to 4:00pm

Dr. Doug Tallamy – Speaker

Location: The Landings, Skidaway Island – Plantation Club

Dr. Tallamy is professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. "Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities." His landmark book, Bringing Nature Home, is all about the role that native plants play in sustaining healthy ecosystems.

Ogeechee Audubon is co-sponsoring this program.

This program is free.

Please contact Dot Bambach, 912-604-2673 by January 15th so she can get your name on the list for a guest pass in The Landings gate.

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.**