



**THE MARSLANDER**  
**NEWSLETTER OF THE OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**  
**VOL XLV, ISSUE 4, AUGUST, 2016**  
**WWW.OGEECHEEAUDUBON.ORG**

Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,  
 Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Norman Winter, Executive Director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens  
 "Blooms, Birds, and Butterflies"

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.

**2016-2017 Ogeechee Program Schedule**

Tuesdays at 7 pm

- September 20, 2016
- October 18, 2016
- December 13, 2016
- February 21, 2016
- April 18, 2016
- June 20, 2016

*If you have any ideas for future programs or speakers please contact James Fleullan – 912-433-0457*

**Georgia Ornithological Society Fall Meeting**

Our Fall meeting will be at Villas by the Sea from October 7-10. We are happy to have Dr. Peter Marra, Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center as our keynote speaker.

Registration and field trip info is not available yet, but you can reserve your hotel room now.

That information is available

here: <http://www.gos.org/2016MarkDate>

Hope to see you there.

Steve Holzman, President

Georgia Ornithological Society

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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	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
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**



Dickson Images - Onslow

SAT, AUG 20: **Tybee Beach Walk**. Meet at Jaycee Park on Tybee Island at 8:00 am. Bring money for parking. We will look for terns, gulls, and the first returning shore and songbird migrants.

Leader: James Fleullan, [jrfleullan@gmail.com](mailto:jrfleullan@gmail.com) or [912-433-0457](tel:912-433-0457).

WED, SEP 7: **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 7:30 am. Be prepared for a lot of walking. Wear sturdy shoes and definitely bring bug spray.

Leader: DotBambach, [dotbam@bellsouth.net](mailto:dotbam@bellsouth.net), or [912-433-0457](tel:912-433-0457).

SAT, SEP 24: **Hutchinson Island**. Fall migration is underway and this location provides a diverse habitat especially for migrants, many rare birds have shown up here this year and last. Meet at the white building (community center) at 8 am.

Leader: Diana Churchill, 912-604-7539 or [dichurchbirds@gmail.com](mailto:dichurchbirds@gmail.com)

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



Ogeechee Audubon

## New Compilers/Coordinators needed for our Christmas Bird Counts.



After many, many years of service, Steve Calver is stepping down as Compiler for the Harris Neck and Savannah CBCs. Dot Bambach will also soon phase out as the Coordinator who recruits and assigns volunteers for the counts. SO...we are looking for some folks with good administrative skills to volunteer to take over these responsibilities so that we can continue to run these counts without interruption this winter. One person could do it all (set up and compile both counts), but it would also work to have as many as four people involved – one each to set up Harris Neck and Savannah, and one each to compile the same. The dates for this winter are as follows: Friday, Dec. 16 for Harris Neck; Monday, Jan. 2 for Savannah. You do not have to be physically present on count day to help with the set up and/or reporting.

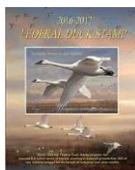
Please help if you can. **The CBC one of the most important and best established citizen science projects in the nation and deserves our full support.** If you can consider lending a hand, please contact Dot at [912-598-3764](tel:912-598-3764) to discuss what's involved.

## 2016 Duck Stamp

The 2016-2017 Duck Stamp is now available. Although purchase of the stamp is required only for hunters, we also recommend that every birder buy one because 98% of the \$25 stamp price goes directly towards the purchase or lease of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The seven national wildlife refuges in the Low Country provide habitat for more than just ducks and offer great birding opportunities. Isn't \$25 a small price to pay to add to the protected lands set aside for wild things? So buy one soon and display it proudly to let everyone know that birders support their refuge system.

The new Duck Stamps can be purchased in person at the Visitor Center of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. They are also available on line via Georgia Ornithological Society at <http://www.gos.org/itemsforsale>.



## Membership

**Note our membership chair will be sending reminders for this year's dues by e-mail. Thank You!**

## Field Trip to Onslow, July 6, 2016

*By Sue DeRosa*

I got out of my car and started heading down the mowed main path towards the rise in the distance. Up went the cry from Diana Churchill, "There goes a King Rail". Of course a discussion ensued regarding bill length and other pertinent features. The group of ten hardy souls continued on, enjoying the pleasant breeze and company, surrounded on either side by fields of cattails, other low growing greenery, and Red-winged Blackbirds. We stopped just before the rise in the path and in a nearby tree Dot spotted a Painted Bunting which of course promptly flew off when the spotting scope was set up.

After climbing the slight rise to the top of the dike, we were greeted with a view of the two retaining ponds. Joel Vos, the education director from Savannah NWR, told us the one on the right could still be used for dredge spoils while the one on the left was permanently set up to go from shallow to deep areas. Within the right area, I spotted my first Black-bellied Whistling Duck, a resplendent reddish brown back with black underbelly plus a pinkish orange bill. Maybe, I thought, I'll recognize this bird when I see it again. As we walked to the left down the path, we saw Black-necked Stilts with their pinkish legs just ambling around searching for delicious morsels. Some stood on one leg, seeming to have mastered Tree Pose very well. Along with the stilts, the avocets, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Glossy Ibis enjoyed feeding on whatever invertebrates and fish they encountered—just a lazy summer morning. All the wildlife, though, seemed oblivious to the huge pulp and sugar factories that were in the distance across the river plus other influences of humans. Onslow and the entire refuge complex are such special places to observe this precarious balance. Every time I pass through these areas, I gain a deeper appreciation of how these places must be protected to offer a sanctuary for this unique wildlife. I am glad that I was able to spend my summer morning here, which I didn't get to do during the school year since Onslow is accessible only on Wednesdays. So go out and enjoy the wildlife. Happy birding.

## Oatland Bird Feeders

We need more volunteers to go to Oatland Island to fill the feeders. We have recently lost several dedicated volunteers. Please if you can help once a month or every other month let me know. We will train you. It is simple and the birds appreciate it! Call me – Leslie Weichsel - 914-466-9689.

**Ogeechee Audubon Chapter Membership Form – 2016**

New membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Our newsletter is delivered by e-mail

Member of National Audubon Society? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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*

Joint Ogeechee & National - \$40/household \_\_\_\_\_

(new members only) Includes *Audubon and Marshlander*

Special Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Ogeechee Audubon membership is based on the calendar year – January to December.

Send your *National membership* renewal directly to National when you receive notice.

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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.**