



Please Join Ogeechee Audubon Society,
 Tuesday, June 21st at 7:00 PM

Birding Mongolia

For more than three decades, a birding trip to Mongolia had been on Dot Bambach’s “bucket list.” She finally visited that destination in June 2016. From windswept steppes to snowy mountain lakes and the Gobi Desert, Mongolia is a country with a great variety of both habitats and birds. It also has a long and fascinating history and a rich cultural tradition, all of which will be addressed in Dot’s slide presentation.

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 Beth Roth [912-658-6136](tel:912-658-6136)



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.

2015-2016 Officers and Board Members

President	Leslie Weichsel	914-466-9689
Vice President	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764
Secretary	Mary Lambright	912-257-5703
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Board Members: Regi Sonnen; Beth Roth; Diana Churchill



Field Trips

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

SAT JUN 4: Ft Pulaski National Monument: Meet by the Pulaski Bridge at 8:00 am to look for marsh wrens, painted buntings, shrikes, white pelicans, whimbrels, and other shorebirds. Leader: Mary Sweeney-Reeves with UGA Marine Extension and Sea Grant, msweeney@uga.edu, or [912-844-8988](tel:912-844-8988).

MON, JUN 20: North end Tybee trip, meet at Jaycee Park at 6:45 pm, we will be looking for painted buntings, gray kingbirds, gulls, terns, and other summer nesting birds. Leader: Diana Churchill, dichurchbirds@gmail.com, or [912-604-7539](tel:912-604-7539).



Dickson Images - Onslow

WED, JUL 6: Onslow Island, SNWR-We always see a diversity of species at this location, focus will be shorebirds and more. Meet at the entrance at 8:00 am. Be prepared for a lot of walking. Wear sturdy shoes and definitely bring bug spray! Leader: Dot Bambach, dotbam@bellsouth.net, or [912-433-0457](tel:912-433-0457).

SAT, JUL 23: Savannah Wildlife Refuge trip-We will be searching for fledgling gallinules, least bitterns, kites, indigo buntings, and possibly roseate spoonbills. Meet at Laurel Hill Wildlife Dr at 8:00 am. Leader: Larry Carlile, L.carlile259@comcast.net, or [912-224-1796](tel:912-224-1796).

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



Islands High School Science Projects

Thank you, Ogeechee Audubon, for contributing to the education of future birders and scientists at Islands High School! The nest boxes you donated have been a huge success and 89 students are already the proud aunts and uncles to 17 fledglings and 4 eggs as of May 10th!

So far this spring, we have had 4 successful nests and currently have one with eggs. Of the four successful nests, 3 belonged to Eastern Bluebirds and 1 belonged to Carolina Chickadees.

Every Tuesday and Friday, students take turns doing nest checks and observing adult birds in the area. These students have never before seen songbird eggs or nestlings and watching their faces light up, their chins drop, and hearing the ooohs and aaahs is amazing! They are in awe of the birds and the energy cost of raising nestlings. The students are realizing that “nest building and feeding frequency is so much work!” and “the nestlings grow so fast!”

One of our research groups is studying the materials used in the nest and the thermal properties of the nest. To do this, they wait until the nest is no longer in use, then they bring it into the lab, weigh it and take measurements, then pull it apart - one piece at a time. They are comparing the materials used between various species as well as calculating the volume of the nests with a mathematical formula.

Another group is studying the effects of anthropogenic noise and how it impacts nest site selection. To do this, they record noise levels at each nest box, then determine if birds have a preference when selecting their nest site.

We also have a group studying bird preference of nest box orientation. The direction of the nest box opening is recorded and students will determine if birds exhibit a preference or if specific orientations result in greater success.

The students are learning so much as a result of these nest boxes. They are becoming more aware and appreciative of nature around them. The educational opportunities are endless as they are learning environmental stewardship, ecological and conservation concepts, scientific research procedures, and even incorporating mathematics!

...by Megan M. Heberle
Scientific Research Specialty Program
Islands High School



Horseshoe Crabs, Shorebirds, Biologists, and Teachers Gather on Cabbage Island

By Mary Sweeney-Reeves

On April 23, 2016, the University of Georgia Marine Extension (UGA MAREX) hosted a “Green Eggs and Sand” teacher workshop on Skidaway Island in partnership with Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR). The “Green Eggs and Sand” workshops are held annually at sites from Massachusetts to Georgia, during horseshoe crab spawning season. These workshops provide training for teachers so they can educate their students about the ecological and economical importance horseshoe crabs are to humans and the ecology of coastal ecosystems, especially their role in bird migration.

While at Cabbage Island (in Wassaw Sound), teachers participated in three stations or outdoor labs. One station led by horseshoe crab expert, Dr. Jane Brockmann, from the University of Florida with Dodie Sanders (UGA MAREX) observed form and function of the horseshoe crab body. Biologist Dr. Al Segars from South Carolina Department of Natural Resources led another station, extracting blood from horseshoe crabs and demonstrating how it is used for medical purposes. A third station led by Adam Mackinnon of (SINERR) with Mary Sweeney-Reeves (UGA MAREX) identified shorebirds feeding on horseshoe crab eggs.

The group spotted red knots, whimbrels, short-billed dowitchers, western sandpipers, and black-bellied plovers. As the tide crept up the beach, the feeding shorebirds concentrated within feet of the teachers.

Several weeks after the workshop, there were reports from Georgia Department of Natural Resources of up to 4,000 red knots at coastal Georgia beaches. Researchers are now beginning to understand how important the coastal Georgia islands have become as a feeding ground for migrating shorebirds. In fact, there is now evidence that the red knots fly in from South America, stay in Georgia, and fly straight up to the Arctic, (rather than up towards the eastern seaboard then to the Arctic).



Adam Mackinnon identifying shorebirds as teachers use spotting scope at Cabbage Island, Wassaw Island in the distance, photo credit, Mary Sweeney-Reeves.

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.

***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.**