



The Marshlander

Ogeechee Audubon

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OGEECHEE AUDUBON PROGRAM Feb 16th - Tim Keyes

Have you ever considered that the Painted Bunting or Swallow-tailed Kite that you saw last summer might be your last? Fortunately for us and for several threatened and endangered species of birds, the Georgia coast represents critical habitat where their populations are still "holding on."

The Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources is charged with conserving these and other avian species of concern. Please join Ogeechee Audubon on Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:00 PM, to learn more about their efforts from Tim Keyes, Wildlife Biologist for Non-game Conservation Section of DNR.

Tim will speak about "**Conserving Coastal Birds: From Bottomland Forests to Barrier Beaches.**" He will focus on the coastal birds that our non-game program works with, including Painted Bunting, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite and seabirds. He'll highlight recent efforts to monitor and conserve this diverse group of species.

The meeting will be held at the **First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.** The program is free and open to the public. For more information call Beth @ 912-658-6136. (photo by Kirk Rogers)



2009 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A big thank you to all who helped with our two CBCs this year. The weather for each count was challenging, to say the least, and we are very appreciative of the pluck you all showed in persevering through cold, wind and/or torrential rain.

Steve Calver is still working on the final tallies, but it appears that we'll have about 110 species for Harris Neck and be in the low 160s for Savannah. Highlights for the Savannah count included tundra swan, whip-poor-will and red-necked grebe.

The dates for next year's counts are already set, so please mark your calendars to save the dates:
Harris Neck -- Friday, Dec. 17
Savannah -- Sunday, Jan. 2 (we are switching to Sunday for 2011 only in order to avoid doing the count on New Year's Day).

By the end of February, the results for all of this season's counts should be viewable at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/> (click on current year results in the left hand column).

Until then, wishing you lots of good birds in 2010!

Dot Bambach, Vice President and
CBC Coordinator

Field Trips FEB - MAR 10

Feb 12 - 15 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Information can be found at www.birds.cornell.edu. Please contact Diana at 604-7539 or dichurch@bellsouth.net to join a team on Saturday, Feb. 13th. We'll meet at the Fairmont for lunch at 1 pm to compile our lists.

SAT Feb 27: Sterling Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility: Richmond Hill. Meet at the Ride-Share at I-95 and Hwy 204 at 7:30 AM length of trip approximately 4 hours. Fairly easy walking. Leader: TBA

SAT MAR 13: Glennville Water Treatment Plant, Glennville. Meet at the Ride -Share at I-95 and Hwy 204 at 7:00 AM ; arrival time at facility at 8:15. Length of trip:approximatley 5 1/2 hours (includes drive time) Leader: Gene Wilkerson of Glennville.

SAT Mar 27: Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the Ride - Share parking at I-95 and Hwy 204 at 7:15 AM for arrival at refuge by 8:00. Trip leader: TBA

Call Ken Ferm; Field Trip coordinator for more information (912) 660-4115

Bring binoculars, sun screen, snacks/lunch, water and appropriate clothing and footwear depending on the weather.

Ogeechee Audubon's 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.

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**JOIN THE FUN!
The Great Backyard Bird Count
February 12 -15th, 2010**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent and in Hawaii. Anyone can participate for as little as 15 minutes on one day. Count in your yard, neighborhood or a local green space and report your results online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. To join Ogeechee Audubon on Saturday, Feb. 13th for a team effort, contact Diana at dchurch@bellsouth.net or 604-7539. We'll meet at the Fairmont Restaurant at 1 pm for lunch and to tally our counts.

VIC'S VIEWINGS

Our past president, Vic Carpenter, and his wife are spending a year in Kenya, Africa, teaching. He sends birding notes to us as time permits. Notes from his December 2009 email (he forgot his camera!): "African birds in general are much more beautiful in real life than they are in the field guides. That goes double for the Grey-crowned Crane. I have never seen anything quite like it. We had beautiful close views (oh, for my camera!!!), and they didn't seem to show any fear of us. The crown on their heads just boggles my mind; they look (and act) like women parading around showing off their new hats. (Let's say "vain women," none of whom are reading this email.)"

A State Full of Rare Birds!

Wow, January was an exciting month for rare birds in Georgia. There has been a Buff-bellied Hummingbird visiting the home of Richard & Martha Armstrong on St. Simon's Island, a Virginia's Warbler visiting the home of John & Kate Swiderski in Valdosta, and an Ivory Gull that showed up at Lake George near LaGrange. The only sad note is that the Ivory Gull sustained an injury and has since died. For information, visit www.gos.org, click on Georgia Birders Online and search the archives.

COASTAL REFUGE VISITORS CENTER

The long-awaited opening of the new Visitors Center, located near the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge will be open to the public on March 8, 2010.



Ask "Wild Birds Unlimited"

Q: When should I put up my bluebird house?

A: Now is a good time! Many bluebirds begin scouting for nest boxes in February and early March. Give the box a good brushing out. If no birds are currently roosting in the box, you can scrub it with a 10% bleach solution to kill any leftover bacteria. Let the box dry and air out before putting it up. You may also want to rub the inside ceiling of the box with a mild soap such as Ivory to deter wasps from building their nests inside the box.

Do resist the temptation to nail your box to a tree. The best plan is to mount the box on a pole and add a predator guard to prevent snakes and raccoons from snacking on eggs and nestlings.

Make sure you use a box that can be opened for cleaning and monitoring. Bluebirds may nest two, three or even four times in a season. You will want to clean out the old nest each time a brood "fledges" as the female will start the cycle by building a new nest.



Remember that other species need nest boxes too. Brown-headed nuthatches in particular have been experiencing population declines as bluebirds out-compete them for boxes. If another species slips in ahead of your bluebirds, that is a perfect opportunity to put up another box.

Diana Churchill,
Wild Birds Unlimited

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY INFORMATION

The "Marshlander" can be emailed by contacting Sandra Morgan at sandra@levyjewelers.com with the message "email my OAS newsletter", followed by your name, mailing address and email address. Subsequent newsletters will be emailed in PDF format. Download free software at www.adobe.com if needed.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please use the form below to renew your membership with Ogeechee Audubon for 2010. Membership is for one year, from Jan-Dec. The Form below can be used for a **NEW** National & Ogeechee member or for Ogeechee Chapter renewal. The form on the web site can be printed. Send your form and funds to the address shown on the form.

Ogeechee Audubon 2010 Chapter Membership Form C0Z F020Z

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (h) _____ (w or m) _____
 e-mail _____
 May we send the newsletter to you by email? Y__ N__

Ogeechee Audubon – \$20 per household _____
(Receive "Marshlander")
 Senior (over 62)/Student – \$15 per household _____
(Receive "Marshlander")
 Joint Ogeechee & National – \$40 per household _____
(New members only. Receive "Audubon" & "Marshlander")
 Special Contribution _____

TOTAL: _____

Would you like to be notified by e-mail about upcoming meetings and events? Y_____ N_____.

Please mail this form with your check to:

Ogeechee Audubon, attn. Membership
 P. O. Box 13424, Savannah, GA 31416

Current National Audubon members should return this form to be Chapter members. Send your National Audubon renewal directly to National when you receive their notice. **Chapter Membership runs for the Calendar Year.**
Contributions are tax deductible.