



The Fall Line

Ocmulgee Audubon Society

December 2007

Volume 35, Issue 11

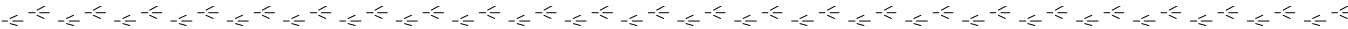
Coming Events

Monday, December 10, 7:30 PM. Meeting at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road in Macon. Jerry Amerson will present the annual Christmas Bird Count Preparation Quiz. Come and enjoy the fun of identifying birds and hear details about the upcoming Macon CBC.

Saturday, December 15. The annual Macon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will serve as the December field trip. Teams will be assigned areas within a 15-mile radius of PioNono and Montpelier Avenues in Macon. Contact Marie or Jerry Amerson at 478-746-5697 if you would like to participate on one of the teams.

Saturday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.. Macon Christmas Bird Countdown Dinner. After a day of counting birds, OAS members will convene at the home of Jerry and Marie Amerson to share a meal and tally the results of the CBC. All OAS members are invited to the dinner -- just bring some food to share. Contact Marie or Jerry at 478-746-5697 for more details or to let them know you will be attending.

NOTE: Ocmulgee Audubon Society requires that children and youth 15 years of age and younger be accompanied by a parent or guardian on all OAS field trips.



Field Notes and Sightings

The OAS field trip in November was led by Terry Johnson who took the group, including several Atlanta area visitors, from the Rum Creek WMA Nongame Office to Lake Juliette in Monroe County (11/17). The group found 49 species, with highlights including more than 30 eared grebes, a large number of great egrets, Bonaparte's gull, red-breasted nuthatch, blue-headed vireo, and pine siskin.

Other sightings reported since the last newsletter include the following:

A green-breasted mango was banded in Dublin at the end of October. This exciting rare hummingbird continued through November visiting the homes of Marshall and Laurie Jackson and their neighbor Rose Rhodes. These OAS members had the added bonus of a rufous hummingbird coming to the feeders as well (11/21).

Cliff Gibbons reported his first-of-the-season dark-eyed juncos in Dublin (11/6) and red-breasted nuthatch as well (11/23). Cliff noted that his mother-in-law, who lives about 2 miles from him, has had white-breasted nuthatches in her yard.

Trey McCuen reported dark-eyed juncos and white-throated sparrows at his home in Bibb

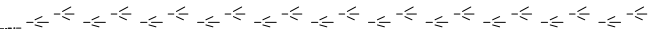
County (11/2) and brown creeper and sharp-shinned hawk (11/8). He also had brown creeper at Dauset Trails in Butts County (11/4). Trey and his dad watched 500 or more black and turkey vultures fly over their home (11/27), just a bit early for a spooky Halloween treat.

Hal Massie reported about 120 sandhill cranes flying over his home in Crawford County, "the last hundred yards of the Piedmont" (11/6).

Jerry and Marie Amerson were among the birders who ventured to Laurens County for the green-breasted mango. They also spotted a northern harrier and 37 Wilson's snipe in Emanuel County (10/12). From their home in Jones County, the Amersons reported brown creeper (10/21); golden-crowned kinglet, magnolia warbler, and bay-breasted warbler (10/26); and red-breasted nuthatch and dark-eyed junco (11/2).

Please forward your local sightings to the editor by sending email to jaamerson@cox.net.

Rare bird reports may be made to RBA Statewide: 770-493-8862.



News and Notes

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

There are several opportunities in addition to the Macon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) to spend a day in the field counting birds. The National Audubon Society's 108th Christmas Bird Count will take place during the final weeks of December and early January. There is a \$5 per person fee to participate.

Other area counts include:

Piedmont/Rum Creek	Monday, December 17
(Terry Johnson)	478-994-1438)
Dublin	Friday, December 28
(Bob Sargent)	478-397-7962)

You can also learn more about the Audubon's Citizen Scientist effort known as Christmas Bird Counts by visiting www.audubon.org, or go to www.gos.org/cbc/108schedule.html for a schedule of CBCs in Georgia.

PROGRAM THANKS!

Stephanie Morgan Winterrowd, Instructor in Biology at Macon State College, provided us with a fascinating view of the Galapagos Islands. Stephanie did field work for her thesis and showed an alternative side of the islands not seen by ecotourists. Thanks Stephanie!

OPERATION MIGRATION FOR WHOOPING CRANES

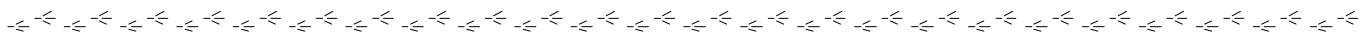
There is still time to track the southward migration of whooping cranes from Wisconsin to Florida with Operation Migration. As of press time, the birds and their ultralight aircraft escort were grounded by weather in Washington County, Kentucky.

To learn more about Operation Migration, and to get the latest updates on the migration of this year's flock, visit www.operationmigration.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The May meeting of the Ocmulgee Audubon Society will feature a special guest: ornithologist Geoffrey E. Hill. Dr. Hill, a professor of biology at Auburn University, has worked with a team to search the swampy forests along the Chocktawatchee River in Florida for the ivory-billed woodpecker. He has written a book, *Ivorybill Hunters: The Search for Proof in a Flooded Wilderness*, and will present a program about the follow-up to stumbling on what may be a breeding population of ivory-billed woodpeckers in Florida.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us on Monday, May 12, 2008, for what is sure to be an enlightening evening.



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