



The Fall Line

Ocmulgee Audubon Society

November 2007

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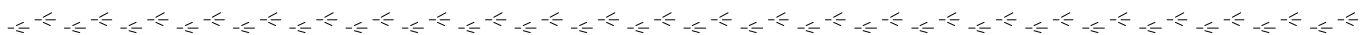
Coming Events

Monday, November 12, 7:30 PM. Meeting at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road in Macon. Stephanie Morgan Winterrowd, Instructor in Biology at Macon State College, will present "The paradox called Galapagos."

Saturday, November 17, 8:00 AM. Field trip to Lake Juliette and Plant Scherer. The group will meet at the Rum Creek WMA office at 8:00 a.m. to carpool from there. Directions: From I-75 north in Macon, take Exit #171; take highway US23/GA 87 north for 7.6 miles. Turn left (west) on GA 18 and go 3.9 miles; turn right at the WMA/Nongame sign and the office is a short distance on the left. If traveling from north of Macon, exit I-75 in Forsyth at Exit #185 and take GA 18 east for 6.2 miles. Turn left at the WMA/Nongame sign. For more information, contact Paul Hoinowski at 478-745-5174.

Saturday, December 15. Macon Christmas Bird Count. Contact Jerry or Marie Amerson at 478-746-5697 for more details.

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

OAS hosted two field trips in October. The first trip, on October 13, took the group to E.L. Huie and the Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton County. Highlights included an immature black-crowned night-heron, green-winged teal, and house wren. The group also birded various other sites on the way home and added birds such as common ground-dove, black-throated green warbler, and scarlet tanager, ending with 60 species for the day.

The second OAS field trip on October 20 was to Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon. The group found almost 50 species -- if only they could have identified that flycatcher! Highlights included osprey, hairy woodpecker, house wren, rose-breasted grosbeak, indigo bunting, several warblers including Tennessee, magnolia, yellow-rumped, and black-throated green. They also spotted red-eyed, white-eyed, and blue-headed vireos.

Other sightings reported since the last newsletter include the following:

Terry Johnson led a small group on a migration count in Monroe County on September 22. The group recorded 1,235 individual birds. Highlights of their 76 species included eared grebe (33), snowy egret (6), wood stork (1), green-winged teal (7), Forster's tern (3), Swainson's thrush (6), scarlet tanager (1), and rose-breasted grosbeak (1).

Jerry and Rose Payne have been feeding at least 7 American crows in their driveway and recently (10/12) enjoyed watching a battle between one young crow and an ambitious Cooper's hawk .

(The crow survived and the Cooper's was forced to find something else to eat.) The Payne's also reported a red-breasted nuthatch and ruby-crowned kinglet (10/20) and blue-headed vireo, palm warbler, winter wren, and golden-crowned kinglet (10/26) from their home in west Bibb County.

Chris Bryson reported 15-20 blue-winged teal on the Ocmulgee River. He spotted them as he was helping the Georgia Wilderness Society with a river clean up (10/20).

Susan Richmond returned from a long cross-country trip (during which she added 43 life birds) to her own garden in Laurens County and reported American redstart, two blue-headed vireos dipping in the bird bath, and a Swainson's thrush bathing in a drip system off the edge of her car port (9/28).

Dot Freeman reported 41 horned larks at the Perry Super Sod farm in Peach County (9/29).

Trey McCuen reported American redstart, gray catbird, wood thrush, and white-breasted nuthatch at his home in Bibb County (10/7).

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

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

BREAKING NEWS:

A young green-breasted mango was banded in Laurens County on Monday, October 29. For more information on this rare hummingbird, visit www.birdingonthe.net and click on Regional/Specialty and then Georgia.

News and Notes

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas. The National Audubon Society's 108th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place during the final weeks of December and early January. Macon's count will be held December 15 and will include the annual CBC Countdown and dinner at the Amersons' home.

To get involved in the Macon CBC, please call Jerry or Marie Amerson at 478-746-5697.

Other area counts include:

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

OPERATION MIGRATION FOR WHOOPING CRANES

Once again this year, Operation Migration is leading whooping cranes from Wisconsin to Florida. Operation Migration was founded in 1994 as a non-profit charitable organization by Bill Lishman and Joe Duff. That was five years after Bill became the first human to fly with birds, and one year after the two artists, turned biologists, used ultralight aircraft to lead a small flock of Canada geese from Ontario, Canada to Virginia, USA. The unassisted return migration of these geese the following spring garnered world-wide attention that led to the making of the hit movie *Fly Away Home* with Columbia Pictures.

In the first five years of the program, approximately 60 whooping cranes have been taught a migration route between Wisconsin and Florida. This is 4 times the number that existed in the early 1940's. Operation Migration Inc works in partnership with nine private and government agencies known collectively as the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership.

To learn more about Operation Migration, and to get the latest updates on the migration of this year's flock of 17 cranes, visit www.operationmigration.org.

PROGRAM THANKS!

Bob Sargent offered an entertaining presentation, "Combat Birding in the Arizona Desert." Bob accompanied a couple of other hardy Georgia birders on an adventure to southeastern Arizona, and from the sound of things, it was almost like work! It also sounded like he was ready to go again. Thanks Bob!

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