



The Fall Line

Ocmulgee Audubon Society

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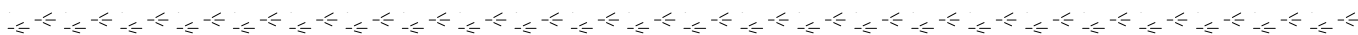
Coming Events

Monday, October 8, 7:30 PM. Meeting at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road in Macon. Bob Sargent will be our speaker and he will present a talk on "Combat Birding in the Arizona Desert."

Saturday, October 13, 7:00 AM. Field trip to Newman Wetlands Center and E.L. Huie ... In Clayton County. The group will leave at 7:00 from the K-Mart parking lot at Tom Hill Sr. Boulevard in Macon. For more information, contact Paul Hoinowski at 478-745-5174.

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 AM. Field trip to Ocmulgee National Monument. Meet in the visitors' center parking lot for a walk on monument trails in search of late fall migrants.

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

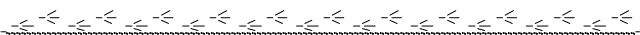
OAS hosted a field trip to Brown's Mount Environmental Education Center, a portion of the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in September. NWR staff made arrangements for the special visit and 10 visitors took the opportunity to bird this wonderful natural area. Highlights among the 32 species they spotted included great-horned owl, black-and-white warbler, hooded warbler, magnolia warbler, and scarlet tanager.

hawk flew out of a dogwood tree into the midst of a flock of crows on the ground, scattering them and chasing one particular crow out of sight. (9/25).

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.

Other sightings reported since the last newsletter include the following:



Trey McCuen reported Cooper's hawk, merlin, American coot, and spotted sandpiper from E.L. Huie in Clayton County (9/3). He also had a blue-gray gnatcatcher at his Bibb County home (9/9).

Nathan Klaus reported Tennessee and Nashville warblers in his backyard in Monroe County (9/15). Nathan saw a flock of about 12 migrating common nighthawks over Fort Valley (Peach County) and about 50 chimney swifts in Montezuma (Macon County) on the same day. His motorcycle ride for the day also yielded a sighting of an American kestrel in Fort Valley.

Jim and Sandy Gilreath observed the tables being turned on a flock of American crows. Jim noted that he often sees a murder of crows mobbing a hawk or an owl, but as they drove into their driveway in Peach County, a sharp-shinned

PROGRAM THANKS!

Various OAS members contributed to the September program, the group's annual Show-and-Tell. George and Janice Lilley offered a view of the OAS website work-in-progress; Paul Johnson sent photos of a black-hooded parakeet; Bill Flatau shared several photos; Ty Ivey and Jerry Amerson offered shots from their annual friendly competition to see who can get the best bird photo; and Paul Hoinowski shared photographs of birders enjoying OAS field trips.

Thanks to all the photographers and to everyone who cheered them on through the year and during the program.

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.

You can review results of last year's CBC at www.audubon.org and following the links for "Birds & Science" to "Citizen Science" to "CBC." There you can see that Macon had 22 participants in the field and tallied 104 species for the day. You will see notes about "HC" indicating a high count for a species and "US" noting an unusual species.

While you are at the CBC site, check the results of other Georgia counts or perhaps even locate one in a location where you might be vacationing during the CBC season. Then, you can keep an eye out for the dates of upcoming CBC's and get involved again this year.

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

CHECK IT OUT:

eBird

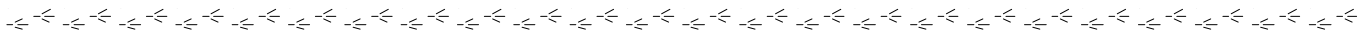
Remember to visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology's ebird.org and submit your sightings records. eBird is a real-time, online checklist program for the birding community to report information about birds. You can also read birding news and features while you are there.



Who knew?

Bald Eagles are not really bald, but where did their name come from? The word "bald" comes from an old English word, meaning "having a white spot". When Europeans came to America and saw a bird with a white feathered head shining in the sun, they naturally named it the "Bald Eagle".

This fact came from the Audubon Adventures link on www.audubon.org. Educators may want to learn more about the environmental education program designed for children in grades 3 through 5. They can order a classroom kit (with enough materials for 32 students) or an individual kit for one.



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