

The Fall Line

Ocmulgee Audubon Society

September 2007

Volume 35, Issue 08

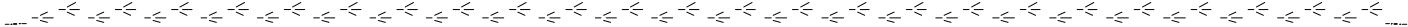
Coming Events

Monday, September 10, 7:30 PM. Meeting at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Road in Macon. The program will be the annual "Show-and-Tell" photography presentation by OAS members. If you would like to include some of your photographs in the program, please contact Jerry Amerson at 478-746-5697 prior to the meeting.

NOTE: Picnic at 6:30 PM Everyone is invited to come early and bring a picnic supper to enjoy before the start of the annual Show-and-Tell meeting.

Saturday, September 15, 7:30 AM. Field trip to Brown's Mount Environmental Education Center. Meet in the parking area at the entrance. Directions: I-16 East to Exit 6; travel south 1.3 miles and turn right onto Bondview Road; turn left onto Joe Brown Drive, and then left into the entrance of the center. For more information, contact Paul Hoinowski at 478-745-5174.

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

Since this is the first newsletter after our summer break, sightings from late May and June are included.

OAS took a rolling field trip on Saturday, August 18, in search of migrating shorebirds. The day started with a brief visit to the brickyards in Macon, continued to the Peach County sod farm near I-75, and then on to sod farms in Macon County. Fifteen participants tallied 54 species including snowy egret, wood stork, white ibis, Mississippi kite, short-billed dowitcher, upland sandpiper, and buff-bellied sandpiper. After lunch, a small group ventured on to Lee County for purple gallinule and returned through Americus to be entertained by hummingbirds in Phil Hardy's yard.

Other sightings reported since the last newsletter include the following:

In early August, Debbie Menard reported 43 ruby-throated hummingbirds at four main feeders at her home in Forsyth. She noted there were actually many more buzzing around in the yard.

Walt Chambers from Columbus, Georgia stopped at a farm pond on Highway 96 in Twiggs County and noted 3 wood storks, 7 blue-winged teal, and 2 lesser yellowlegs (8/27).

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.

And now, a sighting of a different sort ...

George and Janice Lilley from Warner Robins offer a live "feeder cam" view on their website. During the day, the video shows birds visiting the feeder in the Lilley's yard; at night, the camera switches to a monochrome view of the night sky where the telescope is pointed. Check the website at:
<http://members.cox.net/nightstars/k9live.html>

If you have questions or need assistance in viewing the site, send an email to George at nightstars@cox.net.

George also started a Yahoo Group for Ocmulgee Audubon to share items of interest and photos. You can read posts and view the site at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/oas_group/.

PROGRAM THANKS!

Carolyn Johnson provided an update on the changing landscape at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge because of pine beetle infestations. She also talked about the expansion of Bond Swamp NWR and efforts to open the Brown's Mount Environmental Education Center. Thanks, Carolyn!

News and Notes

BOND SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PLANNING

The Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1989 to protect a biologically diverse system of wetland and upland habitats on the Ocmulgee River floodplain. The refuge is managed to provide public access to traditional, wildlife-dependent outdoor recreational activities. The refuge is completing a "Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP) Process" and invite the public to comment on issues relevant to planning for the future of the refuge.

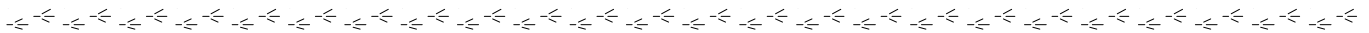
If you have ideas or comments about the Bond Swamp NWR, please send your comments to Carolyn Johnson, Assistant Refuge Manager, Piedmont and Bond Swamp NWR, 718 Juliette Road, Hillsboro, GA 31038. You may also send comments to Carolyn_johnson@fws.gov.

CHECK IT OUT: eBird

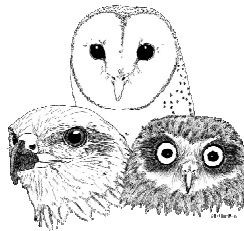
eBird is a real-time, online checklist program for the birding community to report information about birds. The program was launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society with a goal to maximize the utility and accessibility of the vast numbers of bird observations made each year by recreational and professional bird watchers. Observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of eBird users. In 2006, participants reported more than 4.3 million bird observations across North America.

When you visit ebird.org on the web, you can read birding news and features, submit observations, view and explore data. Registered users simply enter when, where, and how they went birding, and then fill out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. Local experts review unusual records flagged by filters within the program.

While you are at the site, be sure to link to "Bird Counting 201." After all, Christmas Bird Count season is not too far away.



Ocmulgee Audubon Society
Phone: 478-745-5174



Board of Directors:

- *President - Paul Hoinowski*
478-745-5174
- *President-Elect - Jim Gilreath*
478-923-7151
- *Treasurer - Ty Ivey*
478-474-5911
- *Membership - Jerry Amerson*
478-746-5697
- *Editor - Marie Amerson*
478-746-5697

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Macon GA
PERMIT # 371

Ocmulgee Audubon Society
2210 Plantation Drive
Macon GA 31211