ANNOUNCING The Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting 10-13 October 2014 Villas By The Sea Jekyll Island, Georgia

SATURDAY NIGHT'S KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

"My Conservation Big Year"

by

LAURA ERICKSON

http://lauraerickson.blogspot.com/ http://www.lauraerickson.com/

Laura Erickson,

recipient of the American **Birding Association's Roger Tory Peterson** Award for 2014, has been an avid birder since 1975 and has had a varied career writing and speaking about birds, counting migrating birds, and serving as a licensed wildlife rehabber. She was awarded the Frances F. Roberts Award at a joint meeting of the Wilson and Cooper **Ornithological Societies** for a paper she presented about bird migration



along Lake Superior. A columnist for BirdWatching magazine, she's served as science editor at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and has written seven books, including *National Geographic Pocket Guide to the Birds of North America* and *101 Ways to Help Birds*. Her radio program, *For the Birds*, has aired on several radio stations from New York to Wyoming since 1986. She lives with her husband and a licensed education screech-owl named Archimedes.

Friday Night's Presentation

"Ecology of MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow in Georgia: Will the Population Be Resilient to Sea Level Rise?"

by

ELIZABETH HUNTER

The University of Georgia D.B. Warnell School of Forest Resources Athens, Georgia



After completing a B.S. in Botany and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2006, Elizabeth was introduced to bird ecology and conservation in the lowlands of Louisiana during her first field job studying the ecology of the elusive King Rail. Despite finding only four King Rails in as many months. she became hooked on wetland bird ecology and management. For next couple of years she worked several field jobs across the country, but her favorite field job was working with Black Rails in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains in California. Elizabeth decided to pursue her

interests in using science to make conservation management decisions by enrolling in graduate school at the State University of New York - College of Environmental Science and Forestry. In 2012, Elizabeth received her M.S. degree in Conservation Biology for a project on using ecological replacement Galapagos giant tortoises to restore a degraded island ecosystem. For her PhD research at the University of Georgia, Elizabeth has combined her passion for wetland birds and conservation with an interest in quantitative ecological modeling to address how global climate change in the form of sea level rise will affect at-risk coastal birds. One of these atrisk species is the MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrayi*), which currently is being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Elizabeth is studying how changes to habitat structure and severity of tidal inundation will affect Georgia's population of Seaside Sparrows. She hopes that her work will be informative to conservation efforts both in Georgia and across the Atlantic seaboard as communities and management agencies prepare for sea level rise.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, 10 October 2014

First Field Trip Departs 06:30 AM

5:30 – 6:30 PM Dinner on Your Own

6:30 – 7:30 PM Registration and Flocking (w/cash bar)

7:30 – 8:15 PM Speaker: Elizabeith Hunter **"Ecology of MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow in Georgia: Will the Population Be Resilient to Sea Level Rise?"**

8:15 – 8:30 AM Discussion of Saturday Field Trips

Saturday, 11 October 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

6:30 am First Field Trip Departs

5:30 - 6:45 pm Flocking (w/ cash bar), Poster Session, and Meet and Greet with Laura Erickson 6:45 – 7:45 pm President's Address and Announcements Banquet Dinner

7:45 – 8:30 pm Keynote Speaker: Laura Erickson *"My Conservation Big Year"*

8:30 – 9:15 pm Discussion of Sunday Field Trips Species Countdown

Sunday, 12 October 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

6:30 am First Field Trip Departs

5:30 - 6:30 pm Flocking (w/ cash bar) and Discussion of Monday Field Trips

> 5:30 – 6:30 pm Dinner on Your Own

Monday, 13 October 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

6:30 am First Field Trip Departs

Hotel Details

Villas by the Sea Resort & Conference Center 1175 N. Beachview Drive Jekyll Island, GA 31527 www.jekyllislandga.com Room Rates: Studio Villa - \$99 One-Bedroom Villa - \$119 Islandside/\$129 Oceanside Two-Bedroom Villa - \$149 Islandside/\$159 Oceanside Three-Bedroom Villa - \$179 Islandside/\$189 Oceanside

The group code for these room rates is "GOS Conference".

Cut-off date for GOS rate: September 11, 2013

Call for reservations: (800) 841-6262 Monday - Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm



The Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting 10-13 October 2014 Villas By The Sea Jekyll Island, Georgia

Name(s) (for name tags, print legibly please!):

Note: Children under 16 must be registered but are charged no registration fee.	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Cell Phone:	
E-mail:	
<u>Registration for</u> GOS Member(s) @ \$25.00 per person. Note: Spouse/immediate family may register at the member rate.	\$
Non-GOS Member(s) @ \$35.00 per person	\$
Reservation(s) for banquet @ \$36.00 per person	\$
Reservation(s) for Keynote Speaker only (no banquet) @ \$10 per person	\$
Postmarked after 10/4/2013 or at the door add \$10 late fee	\$
TOTAL	6

Cut-off date for banquet reservations is October 4, 2014

Make checks payable to GOS and mail with this form to: Ed Maioriello, 340 Milledge Heights, Athens, GA 30606

Note: No portion of registration, field trips or banquet fees is tax deductible.

Registration, field trip, or banquet cancellations received AFTER October 4, 2014 will NOT be refunded. Should you need to cancel, notify Ed at 706-296-5275 or <u>edm@maioriello.com</u>

RELEASE

GOS requires registration for participation in the meeting and field trips, and also requires all registrants to sign the following release. If the participant is a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign this release.

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the GOS and its officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this meeting, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrant's participation in this meeting.

Name (print):	_Signature:
Name (print):	_Signature:
Name (print):	_Signature:

The Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting 10-13 October 2014 Villas By The Sea Jekyll Island, Georgia

FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM

FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER	
1 ST CHOICE:	
2 ND CHOICE:	
3 RD CHOICE:	
SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER	
1 ST CHOICE:	
2 ND CHOICE:	
3 RD CHOICE:	
SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER	
1 ST CHOICE:	
2 ND CHOICE:	
3 RD CHOICE:	
MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER	
1 ST CHOICE:	
2 ND CHOICE:	
3 RD CHOICE:	
TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR FIELD TRIPS (IF APPLICABLE): \$	
PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAIL THE ORIGINAI ALONG WITH YOUR MEETING REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:	FORM
Ed Maioriello 340 Milledge Heights Athens, GA 30606	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Field trips are subject to change and could be cancelled if there are not enough participants. You may combine your payment for field trips, registration and the banquet into one check. Make your check payable to GOS. You may assume that you are on your first choice of field trips if you do not hear from us before the meeting.

The Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting 10-13 October 2014 Villas By The Sea Jekyll Island, Georgia

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER

Note: All times listed are departure/return times to the Villas by the Sea unless otherwise noted.

ALTAMAHA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Chris Depkin, 7:00 am – 1:30 pm, Limit: 20 people, Cost: \$0

The 27,000 acre Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien consists of 3,154 acres of managed freshwater and brackish waterfowl impoundments, bottomland hardwoods and cypress-tupelo swamps. It is one of the premier waterfowl migrating areas in Georgia. It also provides habitat for a tremendous diversity of other birds including Wilson's Snipe, Common and Purple Gallinules, White and Glossy Ibises, numerous species of egrets and herons, Black-necked Stilts, migratory shorebirds, and a wide range of raptors, falcon and owls. Birding is from the dikes or one of the observation towers. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. Note: Each participant must purchase a GORP pass to access this WMA. Passes can be purchased online for \$3.50 for a three-day pass or \$19.00 for an annual pass. For more information, or to purchase and print your GORP pass, go to www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass.*

GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leaders: Gene Wilkinson, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, No limit, Cost: \$0

One of the best birding sites in the Coastal Plain. Meet Glennville resident Gene Wilkinson at the entrance to the water treatment facility at 11:00 am for a 2-mile hike around the impoundments at this wonderful birding site. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. No bathroom facilities.*

HARRIS NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Patty McLean, 6:30 am – 2:30 pm, Limit: 25 people, Cost: \$0

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, and mixed deciduous woods. Because of this great variety of habitats, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. Large concentrations of ducks gather in the marshland and freshwater pools. Over 15 miles of paved roads and trails provide easy access to the many different habitats. Chosen for its accessibility and bird diversity, Harris Neck is one of 18 sites forming the Colonial Coast Birding Trail, inaugurated in 2000. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy.*

JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING STATION

Leader: Evan Pitman, 7:30 am - 10:00 am, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

The Jekyll Island Banding Station is a non-profit all volunteer bird banding station operating on the south end of Jekyll Island since 1978. Dedicated licensed banders and bird enthusiasts band neo-tropical passerines during fall migration for scientific study and education. Visitors will have excellent photo opportunities and will be given a tour of mist netting operations. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy. Note: Managers of JIBS greatly appreciate donations to cover annual costs of nets and other costs.*

FRIDAY, 10 OCTOBER (cont.)

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leaders: Capt. Rene Heidt, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Limit: 12 people, Cost: \$70.00

Join Captain Rene on a boat tour of the marshes and in-shore waters out to Little Tybee Island, an uninhabited State Natural Heritage Preserve barrier island with lots of shorebirds, gulls and terns. We should also see marsh sparrows, loons, gannets, grebes and ducks. HIGH TIDE TRIP. Bring raingear, layers of warm clothing, hat, water, snacks, and a spotting scope. *Trip rigor: Easy. Note: Departure will be at 8:00 am from the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp. Directions will be available at the registration desk.*

SAVANNAH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (ONSLOW ISLAND)

Leaders: Ellie Covington and Steve Calver, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm, Limit: 20 people, Cost: \$0

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to access restricted spoil site areas of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in Chatham County on Onslow Island. Join expert birders Steve and Ellie to search for shorebirds and grassland birds. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Moderate, with quite a bit of walking.*

SAPELO ISLAND

Leaders: Malcolm Hodges and Larry Carlile, 6:45 am – 6:15 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$25

Although this island is known to birders as the only Georgia location for the much sought after (and elusive) Plain Chachalaca, this 16,000 acre, 11-mile long island has a rich history and a diverse assortment of birds within its pristine maritime forests, marshes, and beaches. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Moderate, with quite a bit of walking. Note: There is also a \$5 fee for ferry passage to the island.*

SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER

Note: All times listed are departure/return times to the Villas by the Sea unless otherwise noted.

ANDREWS ISLAND CAUSEWAY AND SPOIL SITE

Leader: Patty McLean, 7:00 am - 1:30 pm, Limit: 24 people, Cost: \$0

If time allows, Patty will also lead the group to Gould's Inlet, one of the area's most easily accessed sites for viewing hundreds of migrating shorebirds, gulls and terns, depending on the tide. Bring water, insect repellent, sun protection/hat, comfortable hiking shoes, and a scope. *Trip rigor: We are seeking permission to carpool into the Spoils Site which is quite large but walking may be necessary in some areas...come prepared.*

ALTAMAHA SOUND BOAT TRIP

Leaders: Tim Keyes, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Limit: 40 people, Cost: \$55

Join Tim and Capt. Phillips as you cruise around Wolf, Rhetts, Little Egg, and Little St. Simons Islands looking through flocks of shorebirds that roost in the Altamaha Sound. Bring water, snacks, insect repellent, sun protection/hat, adequate clothing (be prepared for rain, heat, or cold), and snacks. *Trip rigor: Easy, but be prepared for rough water. Note: The boat will depart from the Champney Island dock promptly at 10:00 am. Directions will be available at the registration desk.*

ALTAMAHA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Bob Sargent, 7:15 am - 1:30 pm, Limit: 20 people, Cost: \$0

The 27,000 acre Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien consists of 3,154 acres of managed freshwater and brackish waterfowl impoundments, bottomland hardwoods, and cypress-tupelo swamps. It is one of the premier waterfowl migration areas in Georgia. It also provides habitat for a tremendous diversity of other birds including Wilson's Snipe, Common and Purple Gallinules, White and Glossy Ibises, numerous species of egrets and herons, Black-necked Stilts, migratory shorebirds, and a wide range of raptors, falcon, and owls. Birding is from the dikes or observation towers. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. Note: Each participant must purchase a GORP pass to access this WMA. Passes can be purchased online for \$3.50 for a three-day pass or \$19.00 for an annual pass. For more information or to purchase and print the pass, go to <u>www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass</u>.*

CANNON'S POINT, ST SIMONS ISLAND

Leader: Bob Sattlemeyer, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm, limit 15, Cost: \$0

Join Bob at this newly acquired conservation area. The 608-acre tract comprises maritime forest, salt marsh, and tidal creeks and will be managed as a nature preserve. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. No bathroom facilities.*

CUMBERLAND ISLAND

Leader: Trey McCuen, 7:00 am - 6:30 pm, Limit: 20 people, Cost: \$0

Join Trey on Georgia's largest and southern most barrier island covered with pristine forests, undeveloped beaches and expansive marshes. The island has one of the largest remaining maritime forests and 9,800 acres of the island have been designated by Congress as a Wilderness Area. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Moderate, with considerable walking. Note: Advanced reservations for the ferry required. Call (877) 860-6787 to make reservations. Plan to pay the National Park Service for the day use (\$4) and ferry fees (\$20).*

SATURDAY, 11 OCTOBER (cont.)

HARRIS NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Russ Wigh, 6:30 am - 2:30 pm, Limit: 25 people, Cost: \$0

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, and mixed deciduous woods. Because of this great variety of habitats, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. Large concentrations of ducks gather in the marshland and freshwater pools. Over 15 miles of paved roads and trails provide easy access to the many different habitats. Chosen for its accessibility and bird diversity, Harris Neck is one of 18 sites forming the Colonial Coast Birding Trail, inaugurated in 2000. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy.*

JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING STATION

Leader: Evan Pitman, 7:30 am - 10:00 am, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

The Jekyll Island Banding Station is a non-profit all volunteer bird banding station operating on the south end of Jekyll Island since 1978. Dedicated licensed banders and bird enthusiasts band neo-tropical passerines during fall migration for scientific study and education. Visitors will have excellent photo opportunities and will be given a tour of mist netting operations. *Trip rigor: Easy.* Note: Managers of JIBS greatly appreciate donations to cover annual costs of nets and other expenses.

JEKYLL ISLAND WELCOME CENTER BIG SIT

Leader: Lydia Thompson, all day, Limit: no limit, Cost: \$0.00

Meet Lydia at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center observation tower. She will be there all day scanning for shorebirds, waders, gulls, terns, and songbirds. Drop in for a few minutes or a few hours. *Trip rigor: Easy.*

SAPELO ISLAND

Leaders: Malcolm Hodges and James Fleullan, 6:45 am - 6:15 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$25

Although this island is known to birders as the only Georgia location for the much sought after (and often mystical) Plain Chachalaca, this 16,000 acre, 11-mile long island has a rich history and a very diverse assortment of birds within its pristine maritime forests, marshes and beaches. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Moderate, with quite a bit of walking. Note: There is also a \$5 fee for the ferry to the island.*

SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER

ANDREWS ISLAND CAUSEWAY

Leader: Chris Depkin, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm, Limit: 24 people, Cost: \$0

Andrews Island is currently managed by the Department of Transportation and access is restricted, so take advantage of this opportunity to access the site. The causeway leading to the Spoils Site is a special treat with frequent sightings of Roseate Spoonbills, Clapper Rails, American White Pelicans, American Avocets, and *Ammodramus* sparrows. The Spoils Site serves as a depository for dredged spoil from nearby waterways and attracts a wide range of migrating, breeding, and wintering birds. When water is plentiful, shorebirds, wading birds, and ducks are present in large numbers. At high tide, many shorebirds use it as a resting site when their usual feeding areas in the surrounding channels are flooded. What to Bring: Water and repellent, sun protection/hat, good hiking shoes, field guide, and a scope). We are seeking permission to carpool into the Spoils Site which is quite vast but walking may be necessary in some areas. So come prepared.

ALTAMAHA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Leader: Joel McNeal, 7:15 am - 1:30 pm, Limit: 20 people, Cost: \$0

The 27,000 acre Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien consists of 3,154 acres of managed, freshwater and brackish waterfowl impoundments, bottomland hardwoods and cypress-tupelo swamps. It is one of the premier waterfowl migrating areas in Georgia. It also provides habitat for a tremendous diversity of other birds including Wilson's Snipe, Common and Purple Gallinules, White and Glossy Ibises, numerous species of egrets and herons, Black-necked Stilts, migratory shorebirds, and a wide range of raptors, falcon and owls. Birding is from the dikes or one of the observation towers. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. Note: Each participant must purchase the GORP pass to access this WMA. Passes can be purchased online for \$3.50 for a three-day pass or \$19.00 for an annual pass. For more information or to purchase and print the pass, go to www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass.*

CANNON'S POINT, ST SIMONS ISLAND

Leader: Gene Keferl, 7:00 am - 12:00 pm, limit 15, Cost: \$0

Join Gene at this newly acquired conservation area. This 608-acre tract of land comprises maritime forest, salt marsh, and tidal creeks and will be managed as a nature preserve. *Trip rigor: Easy, with some walking.*

HARRIS NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Marshall Weber, 6:30 am – 2:30 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

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SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER (cont.)

JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING STATION

Leader: Evan Pitman, 7:30 am - 10:00 am, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

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JEKYLL ISLAND HOT SPOTS

Leader: Diana Churchill, 7:00 am - 1:30 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

Join Diana as they visit the many hot spots of Jekyll Island. The tides will determine the order of places you visit. You'll trek out to South Beach hoping for that stray rarity among the terns, gulls and other shorebirds and maybe some cute plovers along the rack line. Hopefully you'll pick up a few migrants on the way to and from the beach. The amphitheater will be checked for night herons, waders, and passerine migrants. The group will hit Clam Creek looking for more luck with migrants and maybe a couple of raptors. You'll head out the Jekyll Island Causeway to the Visitor's Center to check the mudflats and saltmarsh for shorebirds and sparrows respectively. The trip should end by lunchtime. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy.*

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leaders: Capt. Rene Heidt, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Limit: 12 people, Cost: \$60.00

Join Captain Rene on a boat tour of the marshes and in-shore waters out to Little Tybee Island, an uninhabited State Natural Heritage Preserve barrier island with lots of wintering shorebirds, gulls and terns. We should also see marsh sparrows, loons, gannets, grebes and ducks. HIGH TIDE TRIP. Bring raingear, layers of warm clothing, hat, water, snacks, and a spotting scope. *Trip rigor: Easy. Note: Departure will be at 12:00 pm from the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp. Directions will be available at the registration desk.*

SAPELO ISLAND

Leaders: Malcolm Hodges and Nathan Farnau, 7:15 am - 6:15 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$25

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MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER

GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leaders: Gene Wilkinson, 9:00 am – 12:00 PM, No limit, Cost: \$0

One of the best birding sites in the Coastal Plain. Meet Glennville resident Gene Wilkinson at the entrance to the water treatment facility at 8:00 am for a two mile or so hike around the impoundments at this wonderful birding site. Targets are ducks, raptors and rails. Bring adequate water, bug repellent, a sack lunch, snacks, a spotting scope, and comfortable hiking boots. *Trip rigor: Easy, with quite a bit of walking. Note: No restroom facilities.*

HARRIS NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Bob Sargent, 6:30 am - 2:30 pm, Limit: 15 people, Cost: \$0

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