

The Georgia Ornithological Society's Winter Meeting

17-20 January 2014

**Homewood Suites by Hilton
2987 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“The Ecology of the Florida Scrub-Jay and the Evolution of the Longest Continuous Study of a Marked Population of Birds in North America”

by

REED BOWMAN

**Avian Ecology Program Director
Archbold Biological Station**



Dr. Reed Bowman is the Director of the Avian Ecology Program at Archbold Biological Station in south-central Florida, one of the oldest and most celebrated not-for-profit biological research stations in the U.S. He holds graduate degrees in wildlife and biology from McGill University and The University of South Florida. Over the last 30 years he has studied the ecology, demography, and conservation of several threatened and endangered birds, including the American Kestrel, Common Raven, White-crowned Pigeon, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, and Florida Scrub-Jay. His primary research focuses on the

comparative demography, ecology, and evolution of scrub-jays in a variety of landscapes using long-term data on marked populations. The study of scrub-jays at Archbold is the longest-running study of marked birds in North America, now entering its 46th continuous year. Dr. Bowman's is also interested in the effects of urbanization on birds. He is an author on more than 80 scientific papers and book chapters and has edited 2 books, including the acclaimed “Avian Ecology and Conservation in an Urbanizing World”. He is co-author of the forthcoming 2nd edition of “Florida Bird Species”. He's made more than 120 presentations about science, ecology, and conservation, and is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, President-elect of the Association of Field Ornithologists, and past President of the Florida Ornithological Society. He was Chairman of the Florida Ornithological Society's State Bird Records Committee, which evaluates new additions to the avifauna of the state. He is a member of the Florida Scrub-Jay Recovery Team and helped develop the soon-to-be released Recovery Plan for this species. For over 20 years he has been deeply involved in conservation, both locally and nationally. He has served on the Boards of several prominent conservation organizations, including the Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He is graduate faculty member at The University of South Florida, The University of Central Florida, and The University of Memphis, and has been the major advisor of 2 Ph.D. and 6 M.S. students.

Reed is an avid landscape and nature photographer, using his images to further education and conservation of our endangered landscapes. Reed, his wife, Charlotte, and their two children, Seth (16) and Mei (12) live on a small tract of overgrown scrub that they share with bobcats, bears, and their menagerie of dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits, snakes, and fish.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S PRESENTATION

“Why Cooperate? Costs and Benefits of Cooperative Courtship Displays in a System with Variable Cooperative Partnerships”

by

MEGAN A. JONES
Ph.D. Candidate
Florida State University

Megan is interested in many aspects of behavioral and evolutionary ecology. After completing a B.S. in Wildlife Biology at Humboldt State University, she pursued her interests in avian behavior ecology while working on field jobs around the world. Megan entered the Ph.D. program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Florida State University in 2009. In her dissertation research, she investigates the costs and benefits of cooperative courtship display to dominant individuals within the Pipridae (neotropical manakins). This project addresses a previously unexplored aspect of cooperative courtship display, and therefore represents a significant contribution to the more general understanding of the costs and benefits of cooperation. Understanding of how manakin groups or societies function cooperatively sheds light on how cooperation may have evolved in other animals, including humans. Her work combines research in Costa Rica and Panama with genetics and analytical work at FSU.



Megan's interest in the natural world goes beyond research to a passion for teaching and sharing nature with others. To support her goals of teaching alongside research, Megan is dual-enrolled in a Master's of Science-Teaching at FSU. She enjoys the opportunity to mentor undergraduate students and recent graduates during her field work. When teaching lab-based taxonomy courses, her goal is to serve as a guide while each student first learns to *see* differences and similarities, and then to identify species. Through this learning process she hopes to draw out a student's curiosity in the natural world and scientific processes. For Megan, science and natural history are not only a career but also a passion.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, January 17, 2014

8:00 am
First Field Trips Depart

5:00 pm
Last Field Trips Return

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
***“Why Cooperate? Costs and Benefits
of Cooperative Courtship Displays
In a System With Variable
Cooperative Partnerships”***
Megan A. Jones

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

Saturday, January 18, 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

5:15 am
First Field Trip Departs

5:00 pm
Last Field Trips Return

5:30 - 6:45 pm
Flocking (w/ cash bar) and
Meet Reed Bowman

6:45 – 7:45 pm
President’s Address and Announcements
Banquet Dinner

7:45 – 8:30 pm
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Reed Bowman
***“The Ecology of the Florida Scrub-Jay
and the Evolution of the Longest
Continuous Study of a Marked Population
of Birds in North America”***

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

Sunday, January 19, 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

7:00 am
First Field Trips Depart

4:30 pm
Last Field Trip Returns

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

6:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own

Monday, January 20, 2014

Breakfast on Your Own

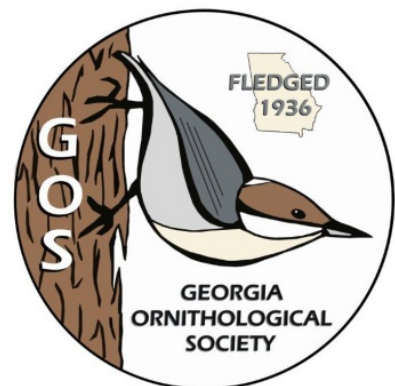
7:30 am
First Field Trips Depart

Hotel Details

Homewood Suites by Hilton
2987 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Room Rates: \$99.00

Call for reservations: 850-402-9400



**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2014 MEETING
TALLAHASSEE, FL
17-20 JANUARY 2013**

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: _____ Email: _____

_____ 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 @ \$37.00 per person \$ _____

_____ Keynote Speaker only (no banquet) @ \$10 per person \$ _____

_____ Postmarked after 10/5/2013 or at the door @ \$10 late fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Cut-off date for banquet reservations is January 13, 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 January 13th, 2014 will NOT be refunded. Should you need to cancel, notify Ed at 706-296-5275 or edm@maioriello.com

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 _____

**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2014 MEETING
TALLAHASSEE, FL
17-20 JANUARY 2013**

FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM
(ANY ENTRY FEES TO BE PAID WHEN YOU ENTER THE RESPECTIVE PROPERTIES)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

1ST CHOICE _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

1ST CHOICE _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

1ST CHOICE _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

1ST CHOICE _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS AND MAIL THE ORIGINAL FORM ALONG WITH YOUR MEETING REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:

**Ed Maioriello
340 Milledge Heights
Athens, GA 30606**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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.

GOS WINTER 2014 FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th

Note: All times listed are departure/return times to the Homewood Suites unless otherwise noted.

Recommended items to bring on your field trips: It's always a good idea to pack water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent (mosquitoes, biting gnats and flies, and ticks are always a possibility in the SE U.S.). Don't forget weather appropriate field clothes, sturdy shoes, a hat, sunglasses, binoculars, a field guide, and a scope and tripod if you're visiting sites with long vistas (others will be willing to share if you don't have a scope).

TALLAHASSEE WINTER HUMMINGBIRDS

Leader: Fred Dietrich, 8:00 am – 12:30. Limit: No limit! Cost: \$0

December and January are the best months for hummingbirds in Tallahassee. As of early December, Calliope, Black-chinned, Ruby-throated, and Rufous were making regular appearances. You can also expect to see several bird species other than hummers at backyard feeders. Leader Fred Dietrich might be able to band some hummers, too!

Trip Rigor: Easy – driving from site to site.

GREENWOOD PLANTATION

Leader: Phil Spivey, 8:00 am – 1:45 pm, Limit: 35 people, Cost: \$0. Phil will meet you at the Greenwood Gate at 9:00 am. Directions from Tallahassee - take US Highway 319 north to Thomasville, then turn left onto the 319 Bypass. Go to second stoplight at Cairo Rd. and then turn left (west). Go a short distance to Pinetree Blvd. (dirt) and turn left. The Greenwood gate is 0.3 miles south on Pinetree Blvd on the right.

Phil will introduce you to one of the largest stands of old-growth longleaf pine forests left in existence. Other natural communities include slash/pond pine flatwoods and shortleaf pine ridges. Expect to see a diverse variety of upland native groundcover species and wetland ecotonal species including flameflower (*Macranthera flammea*). Red-cockaded woodpeckers are abundant. The frequently burned wiregrass-dominated groundcover supports a diverse winter sparrow population.

Trip Rigor: Easy, but includes a hike of about 1.5 miles.

BIRDSONG NATURE CENTER

Leader: Self-guided, anytime between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Cost: \$5.00/adult and \$2.50/child. Directions from Tallahassee: Take US Highway 319 north out of Tallahassee, then turn left onto Route 93, then turn left onto Meridian Road. Drive for 3.8 miles and look for entrance on the left side of the road.

If you are planning to drive to Tallahassee on Friday, consider stopping at Birdsong Nature Center on your way to Tallahassee. Ed and Betty Komarek created Birdsong Plantation during the fledgling years of the Tall Timbers Research Station. Now known as Birdsong Nature Center, this 565-acre property consists of meadows, longleaf and old-field pine forests, ponds, and swamps. While there, visit the BNC's well-known bird window. Over 160 bird species have been seen from the bird window and surrounding gardens and water features.

Trip Rigor: Easy, but be prepared to walk trails.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th

BALD POINT STATE PARK/ALLIGATOR POINT

Leader: John Murphy, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. Limit: 10 people. Cost: \$4.00/vehicle. Meet John at the first parking lot just inside the park gate. Directions from Tallahassee: Bald Point State Park is located off of U.S. 98, one mile south of Ochlockonee Bay. Take State Road 370 for three miles to Bald Point Road.

Bald Point State Park is situated at the confluence of the Ochlockonee River/Bay and Apalachee Bay. The oyster bars there attract a number of wintering ducks (including Common Goldeneye), as well as shorebirds when tides are favorable. Alligator Point is a peninsula facing the Gulf of Mexico. Large flocks of Lesser Scaup and Redhead are common and scoter, Red-throated Loon, Northern Gannet, and Parasitic Jaeger are frequently encountered.

Trip Rigor: Easy

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION

Leader: Jim Cox, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm, Limit: 27 people, Cost: \$0

Join Tall Timbers researcher Jim Cox for a 3-hour wagon tour through the piney woods. Depending on conditions, Jim will attempt to mist net different species under study at Tall Timbers (Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and possibly Red-cockaded Woodpecker [yes, that can be done during daylight hours!]). Jim may conduct a sparrow net drive in one of the fields, but will also spend lots of time looking for Grasshopper, Lincoln's, and other winter sparrows. The trip will pass the famous Stoddard fire plots where the effects of prescribed burning can be seen and appreciated first-hand. The trip will end with a visit to the museum before heading back to Tallahassee and Homewood Suites.

Trip Rigor: Easy – riding in a wagon and walking fields and trails.

TALLAHASSEE HOT SPOTS

Leader: Elliot Schunke, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm, Limit 12 people, Cost \$0

Join Elliot in a movable feast in and around Tallahassee, which has a plethora of parks, ponds, and public natural areas to explore. Just check out the number the e-Bird Hotspots in Tallahassee for an idea of what you might see in January!

Trip Rigor: Easy – driving from site to site.

ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Don Morrow, Co-leader: Ken Blankenship, 5:15 am – 2:00 or 3:00 pm, Limit 20 people, Cost: \$5/vehicle, or use your Federal Duck Stamp for entry

Established in 1931, St. Marks is one of our oldest National Wildlife Refuges. At 68,000 acres (17,000 acres of which are wilderness area), the refuge includes fresh and saltwater marshes, islands, tidal creeks, 7 rivers, and longleaf pine forests and incredible bird diversity. Join local leader Don Morrow and GOS member Ken Blankenship and explore this national treasure. If you are a fanatical birder, you can meet Don at the Visitor's Center at 6:15 am to go after rails and owls. For the less fanatical, Don will swing back by the Visitor's Center at 9:00 am to continue the trip for ducks, shorebirds, and waders.

Trip Rigor: Easy - be prepared for short-distance hikes.

TALLAHASSEE HUMMINGBIRDS

Leader: Your GPS

Coordinates will be distributed to attendees who want to look for hummingbirds at their leisure during the course of the GOS Winter Meeting.

Trip Rigor: Easy – driving in your vehicle.

BIRDSONG PLANTATION

Leader: Self-guided, anytime between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Cost: \$5.00/adult and \$2.50/child

Birdsong Plantation was created by Ed and Betty Komarek. Ed also was a cofounder of Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida. Now known as Birdsong Nature Center, the 565-acre property consists of meadows, longleaf and old-field pine forests, ponds, and swamps. While there, visit the BNC's well-known bird window. Over 160 bird species have been seen from the bird window and surrounding gardens and water features.

Trip Rigor: Easy.

Sunday, January 19th

TALLAHASSEE HOT SPOTS

Leader: Andy Wraithmell, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm, Limit 12 people, Cost \$0. Meet Andy at the Starbucks at 3551 South Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee. Andy will lead you to the Biltmore Avenue Cow Ponds to see the 2 Whooping Cranes before they leave to forage for the day. You'll then head to Lake Lafayette Heritage Trail Park and go for a short walk to fishing finger 1 and the burial mounds. Wilson's Warbler has been present since the fall and Bald Eagles are often seen. Your last stop will be Rhoden Cove Landing to look for Limpkins and winter sparrows.

Trip Rigor: Easy – driving from site to site with short hikes at the destinations.

ST. MARKS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Leader: Bob Henderson, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm, Limit 12 people, Cost: \$5/vehicle, or use your Federal Duck Stamp for entry.

Established in 1931, St. Marks is one of our oldest National Wildlife Refuges. At 68,000 acres (17,000 acres of which are wilderness area), the refuge includes fresh and saltwater marshes, islands, tidal creeks, 7 rivers, and longleaf pine forests and incredible bird diversity.

BALD POINT STATE PARK/ALLIGATOR POINT

Leader: Larry Carlile, 7:00 am – 2:00 pm. Limit: 10 people. Cost: \$4.00/vehicle. Directions from Tallahassee: Bald Point State Park is located off of U.S. 98, one mile south of Ochlockonee Bay. Take State Road 370 for three miles to Bald Point Road.

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Trip Rigor: Easy – be prepared for walks on the beach.

WAKULLA SPRINGS STATE PARK

Leader: Dana Bryan, 7:00 am– 2:30 pm, Limit 40 people, Cost: \$6.00/vehicle, \$8.00/person for boat ride.

Wakulla Springs is one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world. Join Dana for a 3-mile boat ride in the gorgeous Wakulla River to look for limpkins, ducks, and if you're lucky, manatees. Dana will also take the group into the State Park's backcountry for views of mature and pristine hardwood forests, and fire managed longleaf pine forests. Participants may choose to have lunch at the excellent full-service dining room overlooking the springs when the birding trip concludes.

LAKE SEMINOLE

Leader: Ken Blankenship, Co-leader: Rebecca Byrd 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, Limit 20 people. Cost: \$0

Lake Seminole is a wonderful destination for ducks, other water birds, and passerines. Join Ken and Rebecca to explore the nooks and crannies of this fabulous Corps of Engineers property.

Trip Rigor: Easy

BIRDSONG PLANTATION

Leader: Helen King, 8:00 – 12:00 am, Limit: 10 people, Cost: \$0 (Helen will provide free entry tickets)

Join Helen for a tour of Birdsong Nature Center. Birdsong Plantation was created by Ed and Betty Komarek. Ed also was a cofounder of Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida. Now known as Birdsong Nature Center, the 565-acre property consists of meadows, longleaf and old-field pine forests, ponds, and swamps. You'll visit Birdsong's well-known bird window. Over 160 bird species have been seen from the bird window, surrounding gardens, and water features.

Trip Rigor: Easy.

TALLAHASSEE HUMMINGBIRDS

Leader: Your GPS

Coordinates will be distributed to attendees who want to look for hummingbirds at their leisure at any time during the Winter Meeting.

Trip Rigor: Easy – driving from site to site.

Monday, January 20th

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION

Leader: Jim Cox, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm, Limit: 27 people, Cost: \$0

Join Tall Timbers researcher Jim Cox for a 3-hour wagon tour through the piney woods. Depending on conditions, Jim will attempt to net different species under study at Tall Timbers (Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and possibly Red-cockaded Woodpecker [yes, can be done during daylight hours!]). Jim may conduct a sparrow net drive in one of the fields, but will also spend lots of time looking for Grasshopper, Lincoln's, and other winter sparrows. The trip also passes the famous Stoddard fire plots where the effects of prescribed burning can be seen and appreciated first-hand. The trip will end with a visit to the museum before heading back to Tallahassee at 12:00.

Trip Rigor: Easy – wagon ride!

GREENWOOD PLANTATION

Leader: Todd Engstrom, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Limit: 35 people, Cost: \$0. Todd will meet you at the Greenwood Gate at 9:00 am. Directions from Tallahassee - take US Highway 319 north to Thomasville, then turn left onto the 319 Bypass. Go to second stoplight at Cairo Rd. and then turn left (west). Go short distance to Pinetree Blvd. (dirt) and turn left. The Greenwood gate is 0.3 miles south on Pinetree Blvd on the right.

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Trip Rigor: Easy, but includes a hike of about 1.5 miles.

TALLAHASSEE HUMMINGBIRDS

Leader: Your GPS

Coordinates will be distributed to attendees who want to look for hummingbirds at their leisure at any time during the Winter Meeting.

Trip Rigor: Easy

BIRDSONG PLANTATION

Leader: Self-guided, anytime between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Cost: \$5.00/adult and \$2.50/child

Stop at Birdsong Nature Center on your way out of Tallahassee. Birdsong Plantation was created by Ed and Betty Komarek. Ed also was a cofounder of Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida. Now known as Birdsong Nature Center, the 565-acre property consists of meadows, longleaf and old-field pine forests, ponds, and swamps. While there, visit the BNC's well-known bird window. Over 160 bird species have been seen from the bird window and surrounding gardens and water features.

Trip Rigor: Easy.