

**GOS WINTER 2012 MEETING
FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE
JANUARY 13-16, 2012
TYBEE ISLAND, GA**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leaders: Capt. Rene Heidt & Deb Barreiro, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Maximum 12. Cost \$60.00 per person.

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. Easy.

GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leader: Gene Wilkinson, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, No maximum. Note: Meet Gene at the entrance to the water treatment facility at 11:00 AM.

One of the best birding sites in the Coastal Plain. Meet Glennville resident Gene Wilkinson for a two mile or so hike around the impoundments at this wonderful birding site. Targets are ducks, raptors and rails. Moderate, with quite a bit of walking. Wear comfortable shoes/boots and a hat, bring water, snacks, and a spotting scope. NO BATHROOM FACILITIES.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Bob Sargent, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Maximum 20 people. Note: Meet Bob at the entrance to the refuge at 11:00 AM.

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and cropland. Because of this great variety in habitat, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. In the winter, 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 it's accessibility and bird diversity, Harris Neck is one of 18 sites forming the Colonial Coast Birding Trail, inaugurated in 2000. Bring water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leaders: Capt. Rene Heidt & Deb Barreiro, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Maximum 12. Cost \$40.00 per person.

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. LOW TIDE TRIP. Bring raingear, layers of warm clothing, hat, water, snacks, and a spotting scope. Easy.

ST.CATHERINES ISLAND (overnight trip)

Leaders: George Archibald, Jennifer Hilburn, & Steve Holzman, Departs from SCI Foundation Dock at 4:30 PM

Thursday Jan. 12, returning to Tybee Island at 4:00 PM on Friday. Auction/raffle winners only. Overnight stay on the island, including meals, water and soft drinks, as well as boat transportation to/from this private island, not to mention birding with George Archibald on Friday morning. Bring toiletries, hat, change of clothes, layers of warm clothing, scope, and raingear. **Trip participants will be selected via an auction (4 slots) and a raffle (2 slots) on 15 December. If you are interested in going on this trip, you must get your auction bid and/or raffle check to Steve Holzman (steve_holzman@yahoo.com or 706-296-2862) before that date. Please note that you must also register for the meeting if you win.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

FORT STEWART

Leader: Larry Carlile, 6:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Maximum 20 people; 5 SUV-type vehicles.

Known for its mission of conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining biological diversity and the ecosystem viability upon which fish and wildlife depend, Fort Stewart is home to more than 350 species of wildlife including a thriving colony Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Join us as we get up-close and personal with this endangered species. Other target species include Bachman's and Henslow Sparrows. Bring water and snacks. Moderate.

SAVANNAH SPOILS SITE (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Steve Calver, 6:20 AM – 2:00 PM, Maximum 20 people; 5 SUV-type vehicles.

The Savannah River Dredge Spoil Site is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge spoil containment facility located in Jasper County, SC. The property is owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT). The site covers over 5,100 acres with seven diked areas. Wear hiking boots and bring scope, water and snacks. **NO BATHROOM FACILITIES.** Target species: Shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl. Moderate. A separate waiver will need to be signed on-site.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Joel McNeal, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and cropland. Because of this great variety in habitat, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. In the winter, 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 water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

SAVANNAH NWR (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Bill Lotz, 6:40 AM – 12:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

The Savannah NWR consists of over 29,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge is located in the heart of the Low Country and is known for its diverse wildlife population. The variety of birdlife is enhanced by its location on the Atlantic Flyway. During the winter months, thousands of ring-necked, teal, pintails, and as many as ten other species of ducks migrate into the area, joining resident wood ducks on the refuge's 3,000 acres of impoundments. These flocks of waterfowl are but one of the highlights seen on the 4-mile Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Bring water, hat, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

PELAGIC – Near Shore

Leader: Malcolm Hodges, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Maximum: 12 people Cost: Approximately \$135.00 per person. Equipment needed: seasickness medication, small cooler w/ water, snacks & lunch; a hat and rain/cold weather gear. Target species: Manx Shearwater, Razorbills, sea ducks, loons, gulls and terns. Strenuous. Weather date – Sunday.

SKIDAWAY ISLAND

Leader: Russ Wigh, 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Maximum 15 people; 4 vehicles.

Explore The Landings with a resident of this gated community on Skidaway Island. 130 species of birds have been found on the 100+ lagoons, wetlands, and marshes during the month of January. Bring water and snacks. Target species: waterfowl, sparrows, and waders. Easy.

ELBOW SWAMP WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (formerly Richmond Hill)

Leader: Dot Bambach, 7:10 PM – 12:00 PM, Maximum 15 people; 4 vehicles. Every birder knows that a sewage treatment facility represents *nirvana* to birds. So join us for an outing to this state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, where wet fields, freshwater marshes, ponds and cypress swamps offer a chance to glimpse a great variety of birds. We should, at a minimum, see pipits, rails, wrens, snipe, meadowlarks, warblers, vireos, ducks and raptors. We will take a 1/2-mile walk around the spray fields before driving out to the pond and swamp areas. Walking is on flat, level ground. Expect a one-hour drive from Tybee to reach the facility. Bring snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one.

SAVANNAH HOT SPOTS

Leader: Nathan Farnau, 7:15 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Bird some of the best sites around Savannah. Possible locations that we will visit include the Savannah Airport Ponds, the Solomon Tract of the Savannah NWR (Chatham Co., GA), and Lake Mayer. Bring water, snacks and your marsh boots. Moderate.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14 (cont.)

FORT PULASKI & TYBEE ISLAND NORTH BEACH

Leader: Diana Churchill, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Wear waterproof shoes and/or bring a pair of muck boots, and bring water, snacks, spotting scope, and a hat. We will explore the marshes at the fort for sparrows, and will also explore Tybee Island's North Beach and jetty for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper), as well as doing some sea watching for divers, waterfowl, gannets and more. Moderate.

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leaders: Capt. Rene Heidt & Deb Barreiro, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$60.00 per person.

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. Easy.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

SAVANNAH SPOILS SITE (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Steve Calver, 6:20 AM – 2:00 PM, Maximum 20 people; 5 SUV-type vehicles.

The Savannah River Dredge Spoil Site is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge spoil containment facility located in Jasper County, SC. The property is owned by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT). The site covers over 5,100 acres with seven diked areas. Wear hiking boots and bring scope, water and snacks. **NO BATHROOM FACILITIES.** Target species: Shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl. Moderate. A separate waiver will need to be signed on-site.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Ed Maioriello, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and cropland. Because of this great variety in habitat, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. In the winter, 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 water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

SAVANNAH NWR (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Joel McNeal, 6:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

The Savannah NWR consists of over 29,000 acres of freshwater marshes, tidal rivers and creeks and bottomland hardwoods. The refuge is located in the heart of the Low Country and is known for its diverse wildlife population. The variety of birdlife is enhanced by its location on the Atlantic Flyway. During the winter months, thousands of ring-necked, teal, pintails, and as many as ten other species of ducks migrate into the area, joining resident wood ducks on the refuge's 3,000 acres of impoundments. These flocks of waterfowl are but one of the highlights seen on the 4-mile Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive. Bring water, snacks, scope and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl and waders. Easy.

SKIDAWAY ISLAND

Leader: Russ Wigh, 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM, Maximum 15 people; 4 vehicles.

Explore The Landings with a resident of this gated community on Skidaway Island. 130 species of birds have been found on the 100+ lagoons, wetlands, and marshes during the month of January. Bring water and snacks. Target species: waterfowl, sparrows, and waders. Easy.

ELBOW SWAMP WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (formerly Richmond Hill)

Leader: Dot Bambach, 7:10 PM – 12:00 PM, Maximum 15 people; 4 vehicles. Every birder knows that a sewage treatment facility represents *nirvana* to birds. So join us for an outing to this state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, where wet fields, freshwater marshes, ponds and cypress swamps offer a chance to glimpse a great variety of birds. We should, at a minimum, see pipits, rails, wrens, snipe, meadowlarks, warblers, vireos, ducks and raptors. We will take a 1/2-mile walk around the spray fields before driving out to the pond and swamp areas. Walking is on flat, level ground. Expect a one-hour drive from Tybee to reach the facility. Bring snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one.

SAVANNAH HOT SPOTS

Leader: Diana Churchill, 7:15 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Bird some of the best sites around Savannah with a local birder. Possible locations that we will visit include the Savannah Airport Ponds, the Solomon Tract of the Savannah NWR (Chatham Co., GA), and Lake Mayer. Bring water, snacks and your marsh boots. Moderate.

FORT PULASKI & TYBEE ISLAND NORTH BEACH

Leaders: Rachel Cass & Steve Holzman, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Wear waterproof shoes and/or bring a pair of muck boots, and bring water, snacks, spotting scope, and a hat. We will explore the marshes at the fort for sparrows, and will also explore Tybee Island's North Beach and jetty for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper), as well as doing some sea watching for divers, waterfowl, gannets and more. Moderate.

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 7:30 AM – 2:00 PM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$60.00 per person.

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. **LOW to HIGH TIDE TRIP.** Bring raingear, layers of warm clothing, hat, water, snacks, and a spotting scope. Easy.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leader: Gene Wilkinson, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, No Maximum.

One of the best birding sites in the Coastal Plain. Meet Glennville resident Gene Wilkinson at the facility at 8:30 AM for a two mile or so hike around the impoundments at this wonderful birding site. Targets are ducks, raptors and rails. Moderate, with quite a bit of walking. Wear comfortable shoes/boots and a hat, bring water, snacks, and a spotting scope. **NO BATHROOM FACILITIES.**

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Dan Vickers, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

Harris Neck's 2,762 acres consists of saltwater marsh, grassland, mixed deciduous woods, and cropland. Because of this great variety in habitat, many different species of birds are attracted to the refuge throughout the year. In the winter, 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 water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

SAVANNAH NWR (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Bob Sargent, 6:45 AM – 12:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

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FORT PULASKI & TYBEE ISLAND NORTH BEACH

Leader: Ed Maioriello, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Wear waterproof shoes and/or bring a pair of muck boots, and bring water, snacks, spotting scope, and a hat. We will explore the marshes at the fort for sparrows, and will also explore Tybee Island's North Beach and jetty for shorebirds (including Purple Sandpiper), as well as doing some sea watching for divers, waterfowl, gannets and more. Moderate.

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SAVANNAH HOT SPOTS

Leader: Steve Wagner, 7:15 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 15 people.

Bird some of the best sites around Savannah with a local birder. Possible locations that we will visit include the Savannah Airport Ponds, the Solomon Tract of the Savannah NWR (Chatham Co., GA), and Lake Mayer. Bring water, snacks, and your marsh boots. Moderate with a lot of walking (3+ miles).