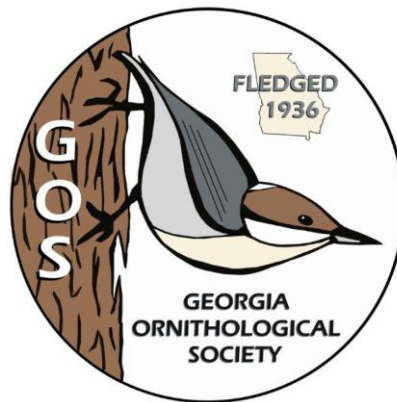


*The Georgia Ornithological Society's
Spring 2013 Conference*



May 3-5, 2013

The Ridges Resort and Club
Lake Chatuge
Hiawassee, Georgia

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, May 3, 2013

5:30 – 6:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Registration,
“Flocking” (with cash bar)

7:30 – 8:15 pm
Gabrielle Robinson
“*Least Tern Conservation in Georgia:
Contamination and Predation*”

8:15 – 8:30 pm
Saturday field trips discussion

Saturday, May 4, 2013

Breakfast at the hotel at 6:00 am

6:15 – 6:50 am
Field trips depart

3:00 pm
Field trips return

5:30 – 7:00 pm
Poster session
“Flocking” (with cash bar)

7:00 – 8:00 pm
Banquet dinner

8:00 – 9:00 pm
Larry Carlile
Chief, Planning and Monitoring Section
Fish and Wildlife Branch
Fort Stewart
“*Boxes, Burning, and Birds*”

9:00 – 9:30 pm
Sunday field trips discussion
Countdown

Sunday, May 5, 2013

Breakfast at the hotel at 6:00 am

6:15 – 7:00 am
Field trips depart

Conference Hotel Details:

The Ridges Resort and Club
Lake Chatuge
3495 U.S. Highway 76 West
Hiawassee, GA 30546
www.TheRidgesResort.com

Room Rate: \$109 single or double

Rate includes: parking, wireless internet,
and continental breakfast

Cut-off date for GOS rate: April 3, 2013

Call for reservations: 888-834-4409

**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2013 MEETING
HIAWASSEE, GA
MAY 3-5, 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: _____ e-mail _____

_____ Meeting Registration(s) @ \$25.00 per person (member*) \$ _____
*Member rate includes member and immediate family members.

_____ Meeting Registration(s) @ \$35.00 per person (non-member) \$ _____

_____ Reservation(s) for banquet @ \$37.00 per person \$ _____

_____ No meal, Saturday presentation only @ \$10 per person \$ _____

_____ Postmarked after April 26, 2013 or at the door @ \$10 late fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Cut-off date for banquet reservations is April 26, 2013

**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 April 29, 2013 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
SPRING 2013 MEETING
HIAWASSEE, GA
MAY 3-5, 2013**

Roster of Field Trips

Saturday, May 4th

Chestnut Mountain and the Coleman River Scenic Area

Leaders: Ken Blankenship and Rebecca Byrd

Depart time from hotel: 6:15 am

Return time to hotel: 2:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Target species: An informative birding walk-n-talk with a discussion of an innovative Department of Natural Resources project to attract Golden-winged Warblers to carefully-managed habitat. Starting in high elevation open oak woods, fields, and thickets, we hope to find Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and more. After an early lunch, we'll change gears, descending into lush white pine-hemlock-deciduous ravines along the river for Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Swainson's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and others. Golden-crowned Kinglets nest here in very small numbers, so we'll keep our ears open and fingers crossed!

Difficulty: Moderate; carpooling in high-clearance vehicles is required.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, snacks, box lunch, and strong bug repellent (chiggers are present)

Hale Ridge and Overflow Creek Roads

Leader: Krista Gridley

Depart time from hotel: 6:20 am

Return time to hotel: 2:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Beginning at the intersection of Hale Ridge and Bald Mountain Roads, we will stop and listen for the nesting Least Flycatchers around the Christmas tree farm. We will then travel down Hale Ridge Road to Overflow Creek Road passing through a number of different habitats. The mountain species found here include Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Swainson's, Kentucky, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Worm-eating Warblers, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanagers.

Difficulty: Easy.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, and snacks.

Tray Mountain Wilderness

Leader: Charlie Muise

Depart time from hotel: 6:25 am

Return time to hotel: 2:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Tray Mountain, with an elevation of 4,430 ft. (1,350 m) is the seventh-highest peak in Georgia. The boundary line between White and Towns Counties bisects the mountain, but leaves the summit in Towns County. Tray Mountain is within the borders of the Chattahoochee National Forest and is part of the Tray Mountain Wilderness. The mountain is referred to by some as the grandstand for viewing the Nantahala Mountains in North Carolina and the rest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Georgia. This trip will feature migrant and nesting warblers, vireos, thrushes and grosbeaks, in addition to great views, wildflowers and other flora and fauna.

Difficulty: Moderate. It does require a rather rough drive (passenger cars should be able to do it at a slow speed) and it includes a somewhat short but steep hike up and down on the same trail. The area where we park is very good for birding, so participants may choose to hike only part way up. Due to the length of the drive, the small parking area, and the condition of the US Forest Service road, we need to bring as few cars as possible.

What to bring: Dress for cooler weather up top than in town, wear good sturdy hiking shoes/boots, and bring water and lunch. Spotting scopes are not very useful on this trip.

Roster of Field Trips (cont'd.)

Burrell's Ford Road

Leader: James Fleullan

Depart time from hotel: 6:30 am

Return time to hotel: 2:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Burrell's Ford Road gives easy access to the Chattooga River in Sumter National Forest. This 7-mile road traverses through an exciting riverside forest, with lots of white pines and eastern hemlocks. A number of mountain species are found here—Ruffed Grouse, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco, and maybe even a Red Crossbill.

Difficulty: Easy. This trip is mainly birding from the vehicles (high clearance recommended) as we will stop numerous times on our way down to the river and back.

What to bring: Water, snacks, and a box lunch.

Brawley Mountain

Leaders: Patty McLean/Kathy Miller

Depart time from hotel: 6:35 am

Return time to hotel: 3:00 pm

Participant limit: 10

This is a 4-mile hike (round-trip) that meanders up and down Brawley Mountain and follows a U.S. Forest Service Road through the Cohutta National Forest. Migrants and breeding birds are abundant, including numerous warbler species, thrushes, tanagers and hawks. Some of the key target birds include Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet and Summer Tanager, and Broad-winged Hawk. A Ruffed Grouse or two along the trail is also possible.

Difficulty: The hike is somewhat strenuous.

What to bring: Good hiking boots, water and snacks. A walking stick is a good idea for those who may need it.

Ivy Log Gap and Gumlog Roads

Leader: Bill Lotz

Depart time from hotel: 6:40 am

Return time to hotel: 1:00 pm

Participant limit: 10

This trip will start at the eastern entrance to Ivy Log Gap with stops along Byers Creek Road, Ivy Log Gap, Ravencliff Road and Gumlog Road, where we hope to encounter numerous migrants and breeding birds. Some of the key target species include Kentucky Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, migrating thrushes, both tanagers, broad-winged hawks and a Ruffed Grouse doing its characteristic drumming. The dirt roads are easily driven with several stops to enjoy the species that depend on this section of national forest.

Difficulty: Easy. Carpooling may be necessary to reduce the number of cars on the narrow and winding roads.

What to bring: Good hiking shoes, water and snacks.

Brasstown Bald

Leader: Jim Ferrari

Depart time from hotel: 6:45 am

Return time to hotel: 1:00 pm

Participant limit: 10

Brasstown Bald is the tallest mountain in Georgia, with an elevation of 4,784 feet. The high elevation lends a more northerly flavor to the flora and the fauna alike. The vegetation, for example, is characterized by rosebay rhododendron, mountain laurel, yellow birch, mountain maple, and white pine; in addition, the botanically inclined may spy lingering sprouts of blight-stricken American chestnut trees. Target bird species, many at the southern limit of their breeding range, include Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Veery, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Difficulty: Moderate.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, snacks, box lunch. Be prepared for potentially chilly, changeable weather at the top of the mountain. Parking Fee required.

Roster of Field Trips (cont'd.)

Sosebee Cove and Popcorn Overlook

Leader: Josh Spence

Depart time from hotel: 6:50 am

Return time to hotel: 1:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Sosebee Cove is a picturesque high-elevation north facing cove forest covering 175 acres. Due to its north facing orientation, Sosebee Cove has a rich diversity of shade tolerant trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. The forest is a maturing second growth forest, although to many a visitor the area has a feeling of being old-growth. The cove is a breeding ground for many of the mountain species we will look for, such as Wood Thrush, Veery, Chestnut-sided, Canada and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

Difficulty: The walking trail is moderately difficult but fairly short in duration.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, snacks, and a box lunch.

Sunday, May 5th

Chestnut Mountain and the Coleman River Scenic Area

Leaders: Ken Blankenship and Rebecca Byrd

Depart time from hotel: 6:15 am

Return time to hotel: 2:30 pm

Participant limit: 10

Target species: An informative birding walk-n-talk with a discussion of an innovative Department of Natural Resources project to attract Golden-winged Warblers to carefully-managed habitat. Starting in high elevation open oak woods, fields, and thickets, we hope to find Chestnut-sided Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwing, Prairie Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and more. After an early lunch, we'll change gears, descending into lush white pine-hemlock-deciduous ravines along the river for Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Swainson's Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and others. Golden-crowned Kinglets nest here in very small numbers, so we'll keep our ears open and fingers crossed!

Difficulty: The trip is moderately difficult and carpooling in high-clearance vehicles is required.

What to bring: Please bring hiking boots, water, snacks, box lunch, and a strong bug repellent (chiggers are present).

Brawley Mountain

Leader: Charlie Muise

Depart time from hotel: 6:30 am

Return time to hotel: N/A

Participant limit: 10

This is a 4-mile hike (round-trip) that meanders up and down Brawley Mountain and follows a U.S. Forest Service Road through the Cohutta National Forest. Migrants and breeding birds are abundant, including numerous warbler species, thrushes, tanagers and hawks. Some of the key target birds include Golden-winged Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Scarlet and Summer Tanager, and Broad-winged Hawk. A Ruffed Grouse or two along the trail is also possible.

Difficulty: The hike is somewhat strenuous.

What to bring: Good hiking boots, water and snacks. A walking stick is a good idea for those who may need it.

Roster of Field Trips (cont'd.)

Ivy Log Gap and Gumlog Roads

Leaders: Patty McLean/Kathy Miller

Depart time from hotel: 6:40 am

Return time to hotel: 1:00 pm

Participant limit: 10

This trip will start at the eastern entrance to Ivy Log Gap with stops along Byers Creek Road, Ivy Log Gap, Ravencliff Road and Gumlog Road, where we hope to encounter numerous migrants and breeding birds. Some of the key target species include Kentucky Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, migrating thrushes, both tanagers, broad-winged hawks and a Ruffed Grouse doing its characteristic drumming. The dirt roads are easily driven with several stops to enjoy the species that depend on this section of national forest.

Difficulty: Easy. Carpooling may be necessary to reduce the number of cars on the narrow and winding roads.

What to bring: Good hiking shoes, water and snacks.

Brasstown Bald

Leader: Bill Lotz

Depart time from hotel: 6:45 am

Return time to hotel: N/A

Participant limit: 10

Brasstown Bald is the tallest mountain in Georgia, with an elevation of 4,784 feet. The high elevation lends a more northerly flavor to the flora and the fauna alike. The vegetation, for example, is characterized by rosebay rhododendron, mountain laurel, yellow birch, mountain maple, and white pine; in addition, the botanically inclined may spy lingering sprouts of blight-stricken American chestnut trees. Target bird species, many at the southern limit of their breeding range, include Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Veery, Canada Warbler, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Difficulty: Moderate.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, snacks, box lunch. Be prepared for potentially chilly, changeable weather at the top of the mountain. Parking Fee required.

Birding Around the Ridges Resort Property and Blairsville Hot Spots

Leader: Ed Maioriello

Depart time from hotel: 7:00 am

Return time to hotel: N/A

Participant limit: 10

Target species: Leisurely stroll around the Audubon-certified wildlife sanctuary, then drive to Blairsville to look for nesting Willow Flycatchers

Difficulty: Easy.

What to bring: Hiking boots, water, and snacks.

**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING 2013 MEETING
HIAWASSEE, GA
MAY 3-5, 2013**

Field Trip Reservation Form

Saturday, May 4TH

1ST Choice _____

2ND Choice _____

3RD Choice _____

Sunday, May 5TH

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 (if applicable), 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.