

The Georgia Ornithological Society's



WINTER 2013 Meeting
January 18-21, 2013
Ocean Plaza Beach Resort
Tybee Island, Georgia

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JULIE ZICKEFOOSE



Julie Zickefoose is a widely published natural history writer and artist. Educated at Harvard University in biology and art, she worked for six years as a field biologist for The Nature Conservancy before turning to a freelance art career. Her observations on the natural history and behavior of birds stem from more than three decades of experience in the field. She has presented illustrated lectures for nature organizations and festivals across the country, and exhibited her paintings at universities, museums, galleries, and in juried shows. Illustration credits include *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian*, *Spider*, *Cricket*, and *Ladybug*. She has written and illustrated articles for *Country Journal*, and *Bird Watcher's Digest* has published more than 30 of Julie's articles and 17 of her cover paintings since 1986.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“LIFESTYLES OF THE SMALL AND COLORFUL: THE EASTERN WOOD WARBLERS”

Wood warblers are tropical birds that, over eons, learned to fly farther and farther north to breed. While it may spend three months on the breeding grounds, a wood warbler spends the other nine in transit and residing on the wintering grounds. In this illustrated lecture, Julie explores the enormous importance that migration has in shaping warbler lifestyles, foraging strategies, and even physiognomy.



Workshop:

Enjoy Bird Feeding More

Julie Zickefoose



This short indoor workshop presents how to set up the ideal feeding station. Profiling many different feeders and foods, from hopper to hummingbird feeders, and sunflower seed to crushed eggshells, Julie will show us how to attract and keep the greatest diversity of birds in our yards and gardens.

The workshop will be held on Friday, January 18th at 4:00 to 5:30 pm in the Conference Center. The cost for this workshop is \$10. Advanced registration is required.

Photo Contest

Again this year GOS is sponsoring a photo contest at our Tybee Island Meeting in January.

There are four categories to choose from:

Birds from East of the Mississippi
Birds from Outside North America

Birds from West of the Mississippi
Real Life Angry Birds

Meeting attendees will vote on a winner in each category, and Julie Zickefoose, our keynote speaker, will select a Best in Show from all categories. So get out there and shoot some photos, or go through your files and select the best. Entries must be received no later than January 6, 2013. For entry information, please contact

ellen.miller@allscripts.com.

Entries will be auctioned off with proceeds going to benefit the Youth Birding Competition.

Conference Hotel Details:

Ocean Plaza Beach Resort
1401 Strand Avenue
Tybee Island, GA 31328
www.oceanplaza.com

Room Rate: \$79 Inland, \$99 Oceanside

Tell the hotel you are registering for the GOS Winter Conference to get the special rate.

Cut-off date for GOS rate: 12/18/2012

Call for reservations: (912) 786-7777

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, January 18, 2013

Field Trips to:
Harris Neck NWR
Little Tybee Island
Glennville Water Treatment Facility
Elbow Swamp Water Treatment Facility

4:00 – 5:30 pm
“Workshop: Enjoy Bird Feeding More”
Julie Zickefoose

5:30 – 6:30 pm
Dinner on Your Own

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Registration,
Social Hour (with cash bar) and Photo Contest

7:30 – 8:15 pm
Speaker:
Abby Sterling
Little St. Simons Island

“*Nesting Dynamics of Wilson’s Plovers
and American Oystercatchers*”

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

Saturday, January 19, 2013

Breakfast at the hotel at 5:30 am

5:15 am
1st Field Trip Departs

3:00 pm
Field Trips Return

5:30 - 6:45 pm
Flocking (w/ cash bar), Poster Session and
Book Signing with Julie Zickefoose

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

Saturday, January 19, 2013 (cont.)

7:45 – 8:30 pm
Keynote Speaker:
Julie Zickefoose

“*Lifestyles of the Small and Colorful: The Eastern
Wood Warblers*”

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

Sunday, January 20, 2012

Breakfast at the hotel at 5:30 am

5:15 am
1st Field Trip Departs

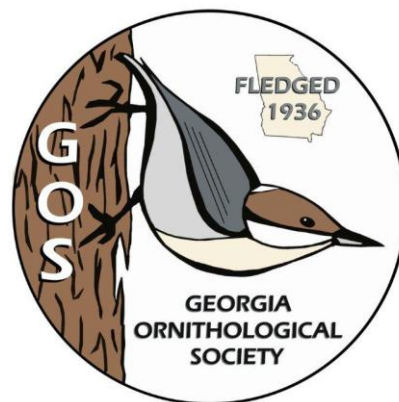
3:00 pm
Field Trips Return

4:30 – 6:00 pm
Social (with cash bar)
Monday Field Trips Discussion
Species Countdown

Monday, January 21, 2013

Breakfast at the hotel at 5:30 am

6:30 am
1st Field Trip Departs



**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
WINTER 2013 MEETING
TYBEE ISLAND, GA
January 18-21, 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 \$ _____

_____ Bird Feeding Workshop (Friday) @ \$10.00 per person \$ _____

_____ Reservation(s) for banquet @ \$36.00 per person \$ _____

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

_____ Postmarked after 1/11/2013 or at the door @ \$10 late fee \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Cut-off date for banquet reservations is January 11, 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 January 11, 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
WINTER 2013 MEETING
TYBEE ISLAND, GA
January 18-21, 2013**

FIELD TRIP RESERVATION FORM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

1ST CHOICE _____ COST (IF APPLICABLE) _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

1ST CHOICE _____ COST (IF APPLICABLE) _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

1ST CHOICE _____ COST (IF APPLICABLE) _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

1ST CHOICE _____ COST (IF APPLICABLE) _____

2ND CHOICE _____

3RD CHOICE _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR FIELD TRIPS (IF APPLICABLE) _____

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 2013 MEETING
FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULE
JANUARY 18-21, 2013
TYBEE ISLAND, GA**

Note: All departure times listed are from the Ocean Plaza Resort unless otherwise noted.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

ELBOW SWAMP WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leaders: Patty McLean/Kathy Miller, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Maximum 15 people; 4 vehicles. Note: Meet Patty at the entrance to the facility at 11:00 AM. 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.

GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leaders: Ellen Miller with Gene Wilkinson, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, No maximum.

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.

Note: Meet Gene at the entrance to the water treatment facility at 11:00 AM.

NO BATHROOM FACILITIES.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Malcolm Hodges, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Maximum 20 people. Note: Meet Mal 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 its accessibility and bird diversity, Harris Neck is one of 18 sites forming the Colonial Coast Birding Trail. Bring water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 10:00 AM – 2:00 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.

Note: Meet Capt. Renee at the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp at 9:45 AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

ELBOW SWAMP WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leader: Dan Vickers, 7:00 AM – 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.

FORT PULASKI & TYBEE ISLAND NORTH BEACH

Leader: Ed Maioriello, 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.

FORT STEWART

Leader: Larry Carlile, 5:15 AM – 1:30 PM, Maximum 20 people; 5 SUV-type vehicles.

Fort Stewart is known for its mission of conserving, protecting, restoring, and sustaining biological diversity and the ecosystem viability upon which fish and wildlife depend. Their recovery plan for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers surpassed the USFWS recovery standard of 350 groups in 2012. Join us as we get up-close and personal with this endangered species. Other target species include Bachman's and Henslow's Sparrows. Bring water and snacks. Moderate.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Jim Ferrari, 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. Bring water, snacks, scope, and comfortable hiking boots. Target species: Raptors, waterfowl, and waders. Easy.

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$50.00 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.

Note: Meet Capt. Renee at the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp at 7:45 AM

LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$50.00 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.

Note: Meet Capt. Renee at the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp at 11:15 AM

PELAGIC – Near Shore (10-20 miles out)

Leader: Ken Blankenship, 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Maximum: 12 people Cost: Approximately \$140.00 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, Jan. 20th.

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 with a lot of walking (3+ miles).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 (cont.)

SAVANNAH NWR (JASPER CO., SC)

Leader: Malcolm Hodges, 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.

SAVANNAH SPOILS SITE (JASPER CO., SC)

Leaders: Ellie Covington, 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.

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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

ALTAMAHA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Leaders: Nathan and Joyce Klaus, 5:15 am – 2:30 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.

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.

ELBOW SWAMP WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leader: Dan Vickers, 7:00 AM – 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.

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.

HARRIS NECK NWR

Leader: Nathan Farnau, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Maximum 20 people.

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LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$50.00 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.

Note: Meet Capt. Renee at the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp at 11:45 AM

SAVANNAH SPOILS SITE (JASPER CO., SC)

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

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SAVANNAH NWR (JASPER CO., SC)

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

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 (cont.)

SKIDAWAY ISLAND

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

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MONDAY, JANUARY 21

FORT PULASKI & TYBEE ISLAND NORTH BEACH

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GLENNVILLE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Leader: Ken Blankenship/Rebecca Byrd with 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.

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LITTLE TYBEE ISLAND

Leader: Capt. Rene Heidt, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Minimum/Maximum 12. Cost \$50.00 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.

Note: Meet Capt. Renee at the Lazaretto Creek public boating ramp at 8:45 AM

SAVANNAH HOT SPOTS

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

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