

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

Please Note: Participants must register. Tickets are required for All Friday Workshops & All Saturday Seminars. Tickets are non-transferable for there may be a waiting list. Thank you for your cooperation.

Friday Workshops: 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

Shorebird Identification

Presenters: *Brad Winn*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$20

Georgia DNR's shorebird expert, Brad Winn, will give an introduction to the shorebirds that frequent the Georgia coast. After this workshop, consider taking the Altamaha Delta Cruise to see some of Georgia's amazing shorebird areas.



Friday Workshops: 2:15PM – 4:45 PM

The Art of Pishing

Presenter: *Pete Dunne*

Limit: 50 participants

Fee: \$30

"In the long history of human/bird interaction there have been two traditional ways in which birders have gained intimacy with birds. You can approach them (in which case they fly away), or you can wait for them to approach you (and then they fly away). There is a third alternative. By mimicking the scolding notes of birds, you can entice them to get up close and personal. Care to learn how? Attend this brief workshop by the person who (literally) wrote the book on pishing where you will learn to wheeze, shush, and squeak your way into spiritual enlightenment (and a few good birds). Those easily embarrassed need not apply."

The Digital Darkroom - Photoshop & Related Applications

Presenter: *John Reed*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$25

This workshop covers the use of basic image adjustment tools common to most of the available photo processing softwares including all versions of Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Corel Paint Shop Pro and others. All of these applications vary in what they do but since this is a basic introduction, the tools covered are basic and included in all of them. Attendees will learn how to adjust brightness, contrast, color correct, color saturation, sizing and sharpening. Resolution and image sizing will also be covered. If anybody wants to bring a laptop to follow along, they may find that useful but it is NOT required. Those without a laptop should not be discouraged because they can still learn and take advantage of the lessons absolutely fine without one.

Bird Migration for Birders- Living on the Wing

Presenter: *Giff Beaton*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$25

It has been said that migratory birds live in eternal spring. This idea of living on the wing has inspired birders to study why and how birds can do this amazing feat. Giff Beaton has followed bird migration for over thirty years. Come hear some of his insights on birds in Living on the Wing.

Secrets of Digiscoping

Presenters: *Clay Taylor (Swarovski) & Stephen Ingraham (Zeiss)*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$10

Most birders have dreamed of being able to take a photo of what they see through their binoculars or scope. Now, with the advent of digital cameras and appropriate adaptors, it is finally possible, without investing in the heavy and expensive equipment professional bird photographers use. Come to this informal workshop to find out what digiscoping is all about; get questions answered by the experts in optics and pick up tips and tricks. Then take to the field for a little practice. Attendees are encouraged to bring their scopes and cameras to the workshop. This is the first of a two-part workshop. The second session will be an optional field trip offered Saturday morning (see Field Trips).

NEW Friday Workshops

Friday Workshops: 2:15PM – 3:45 PM

Make Your birdJam iPod Sing!

Presenter: *Denese Van Dyne*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$10

BirdJam created a revolution in bird song identification by making bird songs—and their photos—fast and easy to access on Apple iPods. Now, birders have been freed from tape and CD players and are quickly finding birds of North America, Costa Rica, and Sonora, Mexico. Bring your birdJam to this hands-on workshop to learn how to really make your iPod sing. If you don't have a birdJam iPod, come learn what this easy-to-use yet innovative bird identification tool is all about. We'll start with the basics to take your birding to a whole new level with birding-by-ear techniques for learning at home and using birdJam in the field.

Friday Workshops: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

A Visual Tour of Georgia's Birding Hotspots

Presenter: *Ken Blankenship*

Limit: 30 participants

Fee: \$10

Presented by Ken Blankenship, creator of the Georgia Online Birding Guide www.wingsoverga.com, this session will teach participants about the physiographic regions of Georgia, their habitats, and the bird species that may be found in each. The second half of the seminar will focus on Ken's website, showing users how to navigate its web pages to find hundreds of places to go birding in the state. Included will be how to find birding sites by county, region, or alphabetical listing; how to use DeLorme Atlas coordinates; becoming familiar with the website's legend of symbols; and a quick tour of the Google Earth feature on the website.

Saturday Seminars 2:00PM-3:15 PM

Basic Nature Photography

Presenter: *John Reed*

Limit: 30 participants

This is a very basic session. In the time available, we will cover the most critical aspects of light, exposure, "seeing", and composition. Examining the nature of light, its characteristics and how to recognize them serves to build the foundation for understanding exposure. We will learn about determining correct exposure and how aperture, shutter speed and digital ISO settings all work together to establish exposure. Then, there will be an overview of metering and how camera meters really work. Time permitting, we will examine examples of concepts of composition that make for more pleasing nature images.

Gardening for Wildlife: Creating Magic Gardens

Presenter: *Jerry Hightower*

Limit: 30 participants

From birdseed to butterflies and from chipmunks to chickadees; Jerry will demonstrate how to develop a beautiful wildlife garden right in your own backyard. This workshop covers evaluating, planning, and developing your "magic garden". Feeders, nesting boxes, birdseed selection, and simple solutions for adding food and shelter are discussed. Flowering vines, arbors, and living walls easily add beauty and utility to the habitat. Discover how to create more magic with butterfly gardens and water features. Each participant will receive a complimentary copy of the book *Attracting Wildlife to Your Backyard*, published by the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

The Georgia Coast: A Bird Magnet!

Presenter: *Georgia Graves*

Limit: 30 participants

The Georgia Coast is approximately 100 miles long and comprises 14 barrier islands, 5 major river systems, and a half million acres of marshlands all working together to form one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. It is a nursery for fish and shellfish, and provides staging and nesting areas as well as an abundance of food for year-round resident and migratory water birds. Tides play a tremendous role along the Georgia Coast, availing food, nesting and staging areas. They serve as a gauge for best birding times. Learn how tides, currents, location, and sand (plus a few other secrets) have created our beautiful barrier islands!

Pelagic Birds on the South Atlantic Bight

Presenter: *Russ Wigh*

Limit: 30 Participants

Pelagic means living on the ocean. What are the pelagic birds off Georgia's coast? How do these birds spend months and yes, even years living well out of sight of land? Learn about these special birds, their habits, and the fascinating adaptations they have made to live at sea.

Simplifying Sparrow Identification

Presenter: *Adam Kent*

Limit: 30 Participants

This workshop introduces the basics of sparrow identification in the Southeast. Even though most North American sparrows lack the bright colors of many warblers, sparrows' distinctive shapes, interesting behaviors and subtly beautiful patterns can allow us to identify them with often only a quick glance. Sure, sparrows and their often-secretive behaviors can present identification challenges in the Southeast in winter. The trick is being prepared. Once you understand the basics of the combination of shapes, behaviors and patterns, you, too, can do away with the term "Little Brown Job." You may even find yourself saying you are going "sparrowing" instead of birding this winter!

Saturday Seminars: 3:30 PM– 4:45 PM

Birding Essentials

Presenter: *Gene Keferl*

Limit: 30 participants

This seminar is for beginning birders or individuals who are curious about bird watching and what is involved. This seminar will cover binocular basics, identification books, basic identification skills, and the code of ethics for birders. As time allows we will discuss when and where to watch birds. Information will be distributed on good websites and methods for keeping track of what you see.

Birds, Tides & Marshes:

Presenter: *Dorset Hurley*

Limit: 30 participants

Why is it that sometimes you go to the beach and there are no birds? While other times the same beach is a birder's delight? Did you know that Georgia has some the highest tides south of Massachusetts? Those tides have a big influence on birds. Discover how these tides affect the birds themselves whether they using the beach and marsh for nesting, foraging or just resting.

Birds of Georgia with notes on Conservation of Southeastern Kestrels

Presenter: *Dr. John Parrish*

Limit: 30 participants

Come hear Dr. John Parrish, co-author of "Birds of Georgia," talk about which birds are found in Georgia's various habitats. A discussion of his 15-year study of the Southeastern American Kestrel is a fascinating portion of this workshop.

Shorebird Identification

Presenter: *Dr. Steven Wagner*

Limit: 30 participants

Dr. Steven Wagner will give an introduction to the shorebirds that frequent the Georgia coast. After some classroom instruction, join Steve in the field to search out some of these long-distance flyers.

They Sing About Pizza and Beer, So Why Aren't You Listening?

Presenter: *Chuck Saleeby*

Limit: 30 participants

People usually tune out bird songs because they're essentially a foreign language. Think about it. When you're sitting in an airport and the couple next to you starts conversing in French, aren't you inclined to block out their conversation because it's meaningless to you? Learning the songs of most birds isn't really that hard. You just need to learn some of the tricks of the trade and, of course, a little bit of practice certainly couldn't hurt. Chuck's presentation will explain why and how birds sing, and will get you started on learning a beautiful new language. Once you really start listening, you'll discover that a window has been opened to a fascinating new world.