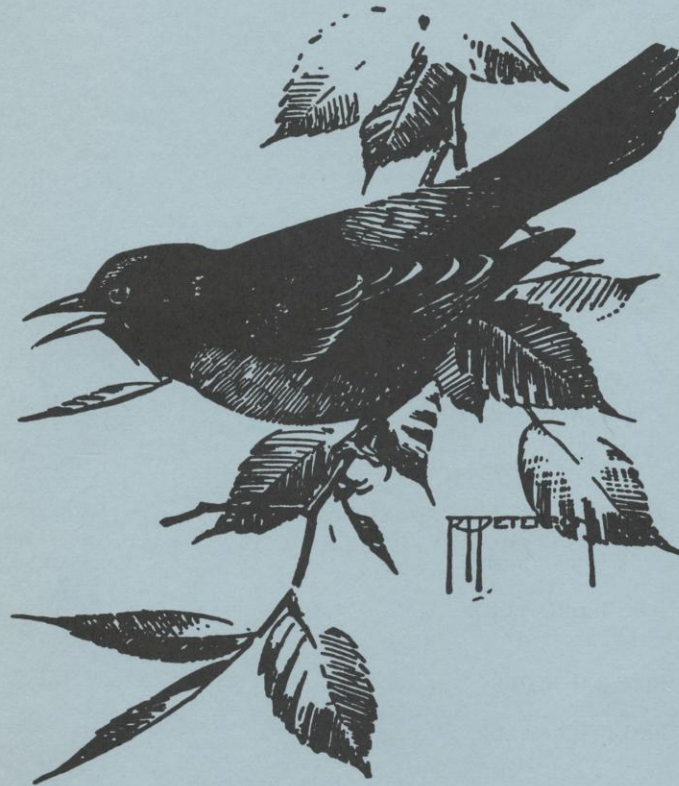


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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BREEDING SEASON RECORDS OF SEdge WRENS IN THE SOUTHEAST STATES

Douglas B. McNair

Sedge Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*) may breed from May to September in the United States and Canada south to east-central Arkansas, Kentucky, and southeastern Virginia (Walkinshaw 1935, Bent 1948, Meanley 1952, Burns 1982, A.O.U. 1983). Sedge Wrens have been described as opportunistic breeders, *i.e.*, wrens may be highly mobile during the breeding season and have low site fidelity between seasons (Burns 1982 and references therein). Some individuals may breed in May only to disappear in July, while other individuals may not breed until mid- to late July (Meanley 1952, Kroodsma 1978, Burns 1982). The height of the nesting season in Arkansas rice fields was August (Meanley 1952). Breeding males may leave nesting localities in mid- to late July even while other males remain to continue breeding activities; data on female movements during the breeding season are lacking (Burns 1982 and references therein). Not coincidentally, fall migration may begin in mid-July to mid-August and most reports of migrants are of singing males during this period, though the percentage of females is unclear (Bent 1948, Burns 1982).

Sedge Wrens are not known to breed in the Carolinas, but they are assumed to breed as close as Saxis and Virginia Beach in tidewater Virginia, though no nest has been found (Hamel *et al.* 1982). There have been several recent reports (reviewed below) of singing males during late July and August in tidewater North Carolina, which suggests the possibility of nesting. H. E. LeGrand, Jr. (in litt.) has correctly stated that singing during this period is not necessarily indicative of breeding. Nevertheless, the summer status of Sedge Wrens in North Carolina is somewhat puzzling and breeding is a distinct possibility.

The purpose of this note is to review summer records of Sedge Wren in North and South Carolina that suggest breeding and to supplement these records with other relevant observations from the deep southeast states where the species is not known to breed. I also discuss what criteria are necessary to provide proof of breeding. Finally, I briefly conjecture why these birds may arrive early in fall migration.

No spring records in North and South Carolina suggest the possibility of breeding. The latest spring migrant was a singing bird in a damp field near Selica, Transylvania County, NC, on 28 May 1978, seen by H. E. LeGrand, Jr. (*Chat* 43:23). There is one record of two birds seen at Anderson, Anderson Co., SC, on 3 June 1961, seen by A. & R. C. Tedards, but I have been unable to find any more information (S. A. Gauthreaux, Jr., pers. comm.).

Six records of singing birds in late summer in North Carolina suggest the possibility of breeding: (1) six plus in a field near Lake Raleigh, Wake County, from 6-17 August 1965 (Hader 1969); (2) "Common" at an impounded salt marsh in Pamlico County on 10 August 1965 (Holmes 1965); (3) one and two birds at Jordan Reservoir on 10, 14 August 1980, seen by D. Alwon, H. E. LeGrand, Jr., and B. Lewis (*Chat* 45:23); (4) one at North River marsh near Beaufort on 7 August 1981, seen by B. Palmer-Ball (*Chat* 46:53); (5) ten to twelve birds in Black Noddlerush (*Juncus roemerianus*) marshes at Pamlico Point on 30-31 July 1982, seen by P. Crutchfield (*Chat* 47:80); and (6) twenty plus birds at Pamlico Point on 29 July 1983 and twenty-five plus birds at James and Oyster creeks, Pamlico County, on 30 July 1983. All birds were seen in tidewater marshes by P. Crutchfield and other observers (*Chat* 48:24). Several other early to mid-August records of Sedge Wrens in North Carolina exist, but these records are without details (Pearson *et al.* 1959 and others). All the above records occurred in tidewater (brackish) marshes or moist inland meadows.

The only South Carolina report of Sedge Wrens in late summer that suggests the possibility of nesting were singing birds seen at the Savannah River N.W.R., Jasper Co., in August of 1965-1967 (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970).

There are more records of singing males from other deep Southeastern States, including Georgia (in litt.). Most reports are similar to the above and without details except to mention that males were singing in apparently suitable habitat, but several reports have more interesting information. Two reports are of males that built dummy nests, a feature of courtship behavior. Stoddard (1978) found that five wrens remained at a pond with Maidencane (*Arundinaria tecta*) in Grady County, Georgia, until 24 April 1949, and at least one male built a few dummy nests before leaving. Imhof (1976) states that a singing male built two dummy nests from 3-10 August 1963 in Talladega County, Alabama. Burleigh's (1958) observations at Athens, Georgia, from 13-17 June 1928, are the most compelling evidence that suggests breeding in the deep Southeast. A singing male and another bird, believed to be a female, were seen in reeds and marsh grass, and a partially built nest was found. This is the only report that strongly suggests a mated pair was present in suitable habitat at a most suitable date; unfortunately, the habitat was mowed and the birds disappeared, so the outcome is unknown.

In addition to all reports cited above, I have relevant observations of Sedge Wren habitat and behavior from Mississippi. At least seventeen wrens at Noxubee N.W.R., near Starkville, were watched from 10-22 August 1980 for a total of 10 hrs. Bluff Lake dam burst in April 1979 and much of the lakebed was then colonized by Red-rooted Sedge (*Cyperus erythrorhizos*), smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), and other herbaceous vegetation. This moist habitat was 1.0-1.2 m high. Scattered small (2.0-2.3 m) Baldcypress (*Taxo-*

dium distichum) were present in this moist meadow as well as less frequent small Black Willows (*Salix nigra*).

Singing from perches was the major activity, though occasional vocal and non-vocal display flights were noted. No other intraspecific interactions among singing males were observed. Flitting in the vegetation was the next most frequent activity. The majority of these activities occurred in the sedge meadow at heights of 1.0-1.2 m; birds usually sang 5-10 cm from the top of the forb selected. Some singing was seen from Baldcypress, but even here birds preferred to perch at heights of 1.0-1.2 m and close to the trunk. Black Willows were not used for any activity. Remarkably, no foraging (*i.e.*, prey capture) was seen in 10 hours of intensive observations.

I did not find any evidence of breeding, despite an intensive nest search of three plus hours. I flushed several non-singing wrens from sedges when they were 3 m ahead of me. One bird disappeared silently after flying a short distance while another flitted up to the top of sedges and uttered scold and protest notes for 2 minutes. This bird continued to utter the 'pik' protest note for 30 minutes more while I searched for a nest in the area. I found no nest and was convinced neither this nor any other wrens were actively breeding. Nonetheless, I suspect this bird was a female, though its behavior was difficult to interpret.

All these reports reviewed herein, of singing territorial males and presence of probable females in apparently suitable habitat in either late spring or late July to mid-August, is insufficient evidence to suggest probable breeding. Criteria of breeding bird atlas projects (see Laughlin *et al.* 1982) consider nest-building behavior by wrens sufficient evidence for probable breeding. This is clearly inappropriate for our area, where the Sedge Wren is not known to nest, where males who built dummy nests did not breed, and where there is no other evidence to suggest probable breeding, with the exception of Burleigh's record in June. In addition, no birds were collected to examine for other evidence of breeding (*i.e.*, condition of the testes or ovaries). Hence, nest-building behavior by Sedge Wrens should only be considered evidence of possible breeding. Proven breeding evidence for Sedge Wrens in the Carolinas and other deep southeastern states must consist of active nests with eggs or young or adults with recently fledged young at a site monitored throughout the breeding season.

The predominant behavior of Sedge Wrens in records cited herein is singing. Sedge Wrens are persistent singers on the breeding grounds, and song apparently has both a sexual and a territorial function (Walkinshaw 1935, Kroodsma 1978, and others), *i.e.*, it maintains the pairbond(s), attracts additional mates because this species may be polygynous (Crawford 1977, Burns 1982), and repels other males from their small all-purpose territories. No study has documented other types of male intraspecific aggression. The female is mainly responsible for raising the young, and only she incubates. Males occasionally feed nestlings, while continuing to sing near nests and they may also build nests during the nestling period (Mousley 1934, Walkinshaw 1935, Burns 1982). Females can raise young without male aid if the latter disappear (Burns 1982).

It is not possible to know the reasons why males decide to continue

courtship and breed at the same site, move to attempt breeding elsewhere, or begin migration early if the status of the sexes, the quality of territories, and so forth are unknown. Since male parental care is scanty or non-existent once females begin incubation, males may behave opportunistically. It is apparent in the southeast states that Sedge Wrens in July and August are usually singing males that have begun migration or dispersed early, though the possibility exists that successful breeding may occur in these months in appropriate habitat, e.g., Meanley (1952). The most likely localities for breeding are tidewater marshes of NE North Carolina.

I thank H. E. LeGrand, Jr. for reviewing this note. Records in Briefs for the Files of *Chat* are not referenced below.

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THE CHANGING STATUS OF THE BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER IN GEORGIA

Thomas K. Patterson

Burleigh (1958) took a negative view of the presence of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) in the state, surmising that "It is doubtful that it is very often found in Georgia". At that time, Burleigh had only three coastal records by Ivan Tomkins as justification for the inclusion of the species in his volume.

Twenty years later, there had been only three additional records of the species, two interior records by Hopkins near Osierfield and one by Denton near Augusta. Consequently, Denton *et al.* (1977) listed the species as "a rare fall transient on and near the coast". So unexpected was the interior observation of a single bird by Hopkins in 1957 that Tomkins is reported to have said, "Don't tell me about the bird — show it to me!". Hopkins did just that at his first opportunity, collecting a bird from a peanut field in September of 1963 (pers. comm.).

After the first record of the species in 1951, the bird was recorded only five times in the following twenty-six years. However, recent reported observations, listed chronologically below, suggest an increasing presence of the species in the state.

- 1978 — 5 and 13 August; 24 September; 28 October at Eufaula NWR (Ortego *et al.* 1979a.).
16 September at Pendergrass (DiGioia 1979).
- 1979 — 29-30 April near Dublin (Patterson 1979).
- 1980 — 6-8 September near Dublin (Patterson 1980).
- 1981 — 11 April near Duluth (LeGrand 1981).
22 August near Dublin (LeGrand 1982).
10 October on Little St. Simons Island (Lane 1983).
- 1983 — 2-3 September near Brunswick (Jackson 1983).
5 September on Jekyll Island (fide Terry Moore).
5 October near Gainesville (Paget 1983).
- Year not specified — 7 April at Eufaula NWR (Ortego *et al.* 1979b).

Additionally, my own records for the fall of 1983 add to the recent sightings: 27-28 August Hunter Patterson and I noted four birds; 11 September I observed a flock of five birds and on 17 September Allen Rhodes and I noted six of the species feeding near a flock of five Lesser Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*). These sightings were all in Jackson's pasture near Dublin in the northeast section of Laurens County.

Terres (1980) describes the Buff-breasted Sandpiper as being gregarious, often found in company with Lesser Golden-Plovers and Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) in pastures, airports, golf courses, and on grassy slopes near the coast, but rarely on the beaches. It is primarily a bird of the mid-continent in both spring and fall migration with a few in fall finding their way from their breeding grounds to the east and down the east coast.

It is those "eastern few" which apparently account for the Georgia records of the species. In some recent years, these numbers have been increasing, and have become significant. In the fall of 1980 there was an "incredible massing" of 340 birds at Chincoteague (Virginia) NWR (Armistead 1981). It was in this year that I recorded the unusually high number of eighteen birds in a single flock.

Most likely, the recent records cited herein are an incomplete listing although I have been reasonably diligent in searching the available literature and in inquiring for unpublished records. Furthermore, it is probable that many of the observations from the coastal areas, where the species can possibly be seen more readily, will go unreported.

However, the three spring records cited suggest that the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a rare transient in the interior in that season. Since there are no spring records from coastal areas, observers there should be alert in reporting its presence.

In the fall the bird has been recorded more than six times in the interior and in four of the most recent six years. This indicates that the species may have become an uncommon fall migrant throughout the state.

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1982 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Terry S. Moore

This is the first of what will hopefully be an annual summary of Georgia Christmas Bird Counts. Luckily these counts are already published (Heilbrun *et al.* (1983) but the format of the data is such that it is difficult to determine any significant trends in Georgia birdlife. Table 1 presents the data from *American Birds* in such a way that we can see the changes in species' populations within the state. The general orientation of the table is to list the counts from the northwest, starting with Dalton, and continuing through to the southeast with Glynn County. Abbreviations used in Table 1 are the following (alphabetically): ALB=Albany, ATH=Athens, ATL=Atlanta, AUG=Augusta, CAL=Callaway Gardens, CHA=Chattahoochee National Forest, COL=Columbus, DAL=Dalton, DUB=Dublin, GLY=Glynn County, MAC=Macon, PEA=Peachtree City, PIE=Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, SAP=Sapelo Island, and THO=Thomasville.

A few general comments should be made about Christmas Bird Counts. First of all they represent valuable data. This is being recognized more and more (Haney 1983). Nowhere else are so many observers involved in an ornithological endeavor as large as this. In Georgia alone almost 300 observers recorded 168,220 individual birds. Obviously this data should be used in a meaningful way. Second, Christmas Counts have been criticized for their inconsistency in coverage brought about by the differing numbers of observers covering the various Christmas Count circles. Also, the abilities of the observers will undoubtedly differ, therefore leading to further inequities. We hope in future articles to try to develop some way to "normalize" the data so that there might be some way to compare counts across the state. However, there appears to be no easy way to account for individual observer's abilities. Finally, there is often the feeling that sightings of rarities are suspect due to the pressure to increase the total species count. In Georgia it is especially unfortunate that many of the best sightings on the Christmas Counts never get properly documented. For this reason it should be pointed out that these rare sightings need to be documented so that they might become input to the state checklist committee.

Since this is the first article of this type, no comparisons will be made to previous years. It will be interesting in future articles to note the changes in Georgia birdlife indicated by these counts. For this article the interesting observations will be noted and species to monitor will be mentioned.

A total of 182 species were identified with 168,220 individuals counted. On the 15 counts 282 observers were in the field a total of 848 hours and covered 3,872 miles. Interesting sightings include almost 400 Brown Pelicans on the Sapelo Island and Glynn County counts. This species seems to be on the rebound after the DDT ban. Five Cattle Egrets wintering in the Dublin area were definitely unusual as they are rare even along the coast in the winter. The only eagle report was an adult Bald on the Columbus count. All hawk numbers should be closely followed to see how they vary from year to year.

A Whimbrel on the Glynn County count and a Marbled Godwit on the Sapelo Count were good sightings. A Pectoral Sandpiper on the Glynn County Count should be documented as Denton *et al.* (1977) lists only one previous winter record and the *A.O.U. Checklist* (1983) regards this species as casual in winter along the Gulf Coast and Florida.

Greater Black-backed Gulls appear to be showing up more frequently on the Christmas Counts. This year both Sapelo Island and Glynn County noted two each. Two Common Terns on the Sapelo Count was a good sighting. Only three Barn Owls on the 15 counts is a discouraging number for a species which may be in trouble. A Barn Swallow on the Sapelo Count is an excellent sighting of a species which only occasionally is sighted in the winter in Georgia. This was not a flight year for Red-breasted Nuthatches but they were distributed widely across the state in small numbers.

It is interesting to see how the number of Golden-crowned Kinglets decreases toward the Georgia coast whereas the Ruby-crowned seems to be fairly evenly distributed. The number of Loggerhead Shrikes observed (139) seems to be substantial but needs to be monitored as the species is in trouble in many areas of the country. Sparrows present an interesting distribution pattern. Whereas White-throat, Song and Swamp Sparrows are evenly distributed, Field and Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos rapidly decrease in numbers toward the coast. Another interesting case is the White-crowned which seems to be found in some numbers in middle Georgia but none in the SE and few in the north. Finally, House Finches continue to increase with 6 counts reporting a total of 119 birds.

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Table 1. - 1982 Georgia Christmas Counts

Species	Count Name															TOTAL
	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	THO	SAP	GLY	
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6	14
Common Loon	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Pied-billed Grebe	8	-	8	53	6	3	28	6	8	16	9	2	15	2	22	186
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	9
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	297	397
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	7	2	2	1	200	368	583
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	9	1	1	19
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	4	-	8	4	8	10	8	12	3	19	4	10	8	52	85	235
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17	-	7	11	58	174	268
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	75	83
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	14	18	37
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	13	16
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Green-backed Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	8	13
Black-cr. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	1	10	18
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	113	248
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wood Stork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Canada Goose	38	-	-	-	4	18	249	13	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	337
Wood Duck	5	-	4	-	9	4	67	2	-	14	14	2	37	10	7	175
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	29	28	2	14	75
Am. Black Duck	-	-	6	2	1	-	35	-	6	-	-	-	-	2	-	72
Mallard	15	-	8	109	15	101	270	15	27	21	11	75	-	-	54	721
Northern Pintail	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	8
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	3	-	-	-	1	35	52
Gadwall	-	-	-	12	-	-	11	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	33
American Noddy	-	-	5	-	-	-	33	-	-	142	-	15	14	14	8	231
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	22
Ring-necked Duck	80	-	200	385	-	17	105	240	3	809	12	38	10	-	13	1,912
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Lesser Scaup	-	-	1	2	-	30	-	16	-	-	2	1	1	6	191	250
Scaup (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	144	146
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	164
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Scoter (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	100
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	8
Bufflehead	-	-	18	22	-	14	-	43	-	1	-	-	-	11	146	235
Hooded Merganser	-	-	14	4	-	-	6	-	3	2	37	-	-	52	171	289
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	204	506
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	49	-	6	23	134
Duck (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	36
Black Vulture	1	-	1	10	17	10	13	4	-	-	7	41	4	27	8	143
Turkey Vulture	5	-	22	16	115	3	316	8	-	-	66	91	91	62	29	824
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Harrier	1	-	1	6	7	2	9	-	3	1	4	6	2	-	12	54
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	-	1	3	5	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	4	2	27
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1	-	5	2	2	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	5	21
Accipiter (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	12	16	8	5	5	2	18	13	9	3	6	1	4	108

Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	41	35	35	18	18	19	23	18	13	13	28	6	28	301
Buteo (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
American Kestrel	10	5	12	24	12	8	4	6	8	8	13	9	16	16	41	192
Merlin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
Hawk (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	9
Northern Bobwhite	27	-	48	29	39	16	33	9	-	-	20	26	7	-	-	254
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	105	-	148
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	-	28
American Coot	40	-	4	419	-	-	113	31	16	48	12	20	70	-	28	801
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	587	-	837
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	750	2596	-	3,346
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	14	-	23
Killdeer	4	2	37	54	102	-	2	58	86	142	46	14	428	-	45	1,020
American Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	40	-	42
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	325	-	339
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	2	10	-	19
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	313	-	357
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	298	-	598
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	8417	-	8,479
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	21	-	41
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3000	1698	-	4,698
Short-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	539	-	539
Long-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Snipe	2	-	1	1	2	4	-	-	-	10	5	-	13	3	46	87
American Woodcock	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	5
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131	1089	-	1,220
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	20
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	6	-	-	-	20	850	150	172	-	-	1	255	1378	2,832
Herring Gull	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	30	-	-	-	119	423	-	579
Great Black-b. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Gull (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	12
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	90	-	184
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	178	-	273
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	370	569	-	939
Rock Dove	85	25	95	104	549	4	4	65	903	67	79	6	23	-	118	2,127
Mourning Dove	247	127	748	255	203	34	70	85	47	85	55	121	111	106	701	2,995
Common Ground-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	25	10	-	34	72
Common Barn-Owl	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Eastern Screech-Owl	-	1	12	3	2	-	1	2	-	-	4	1	1	9	1	37
Great Horned Owl	-	1	1	-	1	-	4	2	-	8	1	5	9	6	3	41
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	1	2	6	8	-	1	24
Belted Kingfisher	11	2	20	12	8	14	9	9	13	18	7	5	11	29	61	229
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	14	-	2	2	4	2	-	2	3	4	29	1	5	68
Red-b. Woodpecker	21	2	124	45	70	27	4	13	47	23	21	25	52	57	41	572
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2	5	19	15	24	15	18	10	22	16	14	15	22	27	61	285
Downy Woodpecker	14	7	82	53	39	27	4	10	26	11	8	5	14	23	11	334
Hairy Woodpecker	3	3	13	8	2	6	1	2	4	-	1	-	3	3	-	49
Red-c. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	11
Northern Flicker	28	3	117	84	50	69	27	18	66	77	29	40	41	51	99	799
Pileated Woodpecker	3	4	21	12	11	7	6	9	8	11	1	9	18	25	31	176

Eastern Phoebe	2	1	13	29	8	5	6	5	8	14	9	4	30	4	8	146
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	570	22	592
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Blue Jay	198	42	1470	394	271	222	48	32	84	64	59	42	77	70	133	3,206
American Crow	348	635	838	531	136	546	408	71	136	38	46	68	97	38	170	4,106
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	-	-	-	617
Carolina Chickadee	106	99	389	182	110	74	33	17	100	64	67	30	42	122	89	1,524
Tufted Titmouse	74	31	188	85	98	52	15	46	104	14	31	8	35	-	31	812
Red-br. Nuthatch	2	-	4	-	4	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	21
White-br. Nuthatch	16	-	9	-	3	-	-	10	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	46
Brown-h. Nuthatch	3	-	124	113	23	33	28	8	19	7	11	9	9	91	4	482
Brown Creeper	3	3	16	11	7	4	1	3	6	5	1	-	1	1	-	62
Carolina Wren	38	6	190	131	66	27	10	19	59	28	39	20	66	25	111	835
House Wren	-	-	5	4	1	-	2	-	-	2	2	42	16	23	97	9
Winter Wren	1	2	7	5	16	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	39
Sedge Wren	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	6	3	12
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	35	41	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	29	374	71	25	2	7	7	3	7	5	1	-	-	3	537
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	11	15	406	277	91	33	36	22	84	88	113	23	113	193	107	1,612
Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	4	6	16
Eastern Bluebird	85	37	275	273	77	117	132	33	30	14	29	8	113	103	19	1,345
Hermit Thrush	1	1	27	50	17	17	3	3	5	14	5	2	15	20	9	189
Thrush (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Robin	79	2	405	549	44	4274	180	1600	647	84	104	155	150	355	748	9,376
Gray Catbird	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	13	16	39
Northern Mockingbird	57	15	193	112	94	102	21	26	46	50	26	31	40	33	114	960
Brown Thrasher	28	1	103	39	32	18	1	2	22	7	18	-	29	5	21	326
Water Pipit	-	-	-	214	-	30	-	-	-	16	47	-	1	-	-	308
Cedar Waxwing	254	12	666	73	20	694	131	300	450	186	60	33	10	5	104	2,998
Loggerhead Shrike	5	1	12	16	7	13	4	4	7	2	17	9	17	1	24	139
European Starling	925	310	2822	499	6322	343	112	1200	2287	346	58	12	192	3	1131	16,562
White-eyed Vireo	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	4	6	12	28
Solitary Vireo	1	-	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	7	17	14	51
Orange-cr. Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	7	7	15	35
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	2	149	335	97	156	10	165	161	278	31	19	253	875	3003	5,542
Yellow-thr. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	6	16
Pine Warbler	5	-	87	127	24	28	60	21	9	3	55	17	71	64	52	623
Palm Warbler	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	3	5	-	27	30	10	80
Blk-and white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	1	5	6	15	34
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	4	43	18	8	84
Warbler (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Northern Cardinal	122	35	326	199	140	167	57	36	125	95	86	106	101	125	128	1,848
Rufous-sided Towhee	46	8	271	141	76	45	43	15	56	37	25	25	75	60	103	1,026
Bachman's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	5	-	320	491	106	77	299	32	107	75	95	165	44	19	1	1,836
Field Sparrow	111	39	832	365	190	48	18	12	37	19	124	5	10	5	-	1,815
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	1	4	18	-	-	-	11	25	6	31	5	-	6	107
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	127	265	40	10	-	-	16	62	128	14	48	37	46	780
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	9
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	28	31
Fox Sparrow	1	-	6	44	1	6	-	6	-	1	3	-	1	4	-	73
Song Sparrow	107	50	647	494	270	81	129	15	51	-	46	16	69	42	77	2,094
Swamp Sparrow	6	3	205	98	22	25	45	3	9	13	4	8	56	65	42	614
White-thr. Sparrow	161	99	980	575	691	239	227	21	199	247	173	59	187	107	277	4,242
White-cr. Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	10	2	-	21	-	-	37
Dark-eyed Junco	70	529	1562	561	455	772	216	155	143	45	135	1	2	42	-	4,688
Sparrow (sp.)	15	-	-	-	-	-	282	-	46	123	-	-	-	-	-	466
Red-winged Blackbird	13	-	354	324	829	636	1184	340	61	101	938	11538	1500	90	1229	18,597
Eastern Meadowlark	156	24	281	360	84	531	375	31	203	73	41	34	18	88	96	2,395

Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	29	4	-	13	20	150	13000	-	-	-	50	5	13,272
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	108	-	-	-	-	109
Boat-tailed Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	1701	2,301
Common Grackle	26	8	1181	51	776	653	1	210	78	391	924	379	71	215	1721	6,485
Brown-h. Cowbird	-	-	3	7	331	30	-	18	45	-	75	130	47	-	2	688
Blackbird (sp.)	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	169	1000	740	-	-	-	-	-	1,959
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Purple Finch	47	35	121	125	38	154	1	46	30	23	12	-	1	-	142	775
House Finch	5	-	2	19	67	-	-	12	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	119
Pine Siskin	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	18	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	45
American Goldfinch	42	31	121	315	153	337	8	130	66	53	56	38	171	110	92	1,723
House Sparrow	117	80	236	56	231	44	7	165	133	7	26	3	20	-	83	1,208

Total Individuals	4,023	18,092	13,468	5,894	8,133	3,821	5,142	35,061	168,220
	2,376	10,523	11,120	7,492	17,621	13,835	11,619		

Total Species	70	48	86	85	81	69	76	88	71	86	88	77	96	127	150	182
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Number of Observers	19	10	55	18	25	23	10	10	19	12	13	7	5	12	44	282
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Number of Parties	6	4	16	6	9	10	6	7	6	5	5	2	4	6	14	106
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Party Hours	40	37	164	83	74	45	32	37	54	35	37	23	34	51	102	848
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Party Miles	217	202	828	410	306	325	196	129	187	164	233	99	140	110	326	3872
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Date of Count	12/19	1/2	12/19	12/18	1/2	12/20	12/19	12/18	12/23	12/18	1/2	12/21	1/1	1/1		
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GENERAL NOTES

A NEW HERON NESTING SITE IN JENKINS COUNTY, GEORGIA — On 7 May 1983 the writers made an aerial survey of the heron nesting area near McKinney's Pond, Emanuel County, Georgia and the Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) colony in Big Dukes Pond, Jenkins County, Georgia. During these flights the senior author spotted a previously unknown heronry in a small sag pond near Buckhead Creek in Jenkins County. The location is approximately 1.6 km E of Buckhead Church and 12.2 km NW of Millen, GA on the north side of Buckhead Creek. Aerial observation could only reveal numbers of white herons nesting in a circular pond less than 1.5 ha in size.

Later that day we were able to enter the heronry on foot and find 150 nests of Cattle Egrets (*Bulbus ibis*) all with eggs and about 50 nests of Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*) all with young one to four weeks old. One Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) was brooding three week old young.

An unusual feature of this heronry was that most of the nests were in Overcup Oaks (*Quercus lyrata*) with some few in Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). In other heronries in this area (at least four) the oak does not occur and nesting occurs in Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*). Ogeechee Lime (*Nyssa ogeche*), Cypress (*Taxodium* sp.) and Buttonbush.

The site was visited again on 26 June 1983 and the Cattle Egrets had increased to about 200 nests, a few yet with eggs but most with three to four week old young. The Little Blues had not changed but had young just beginning to fly from tree to tree. The Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and young were not evident. Four Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) were present but no nests identified. As is common in this area, a six-foot alligator now resided in the pond.

Robert L. and Susie D. Humphries, 1597 Milford Church Rd., Marietta, GA, Franklin and Mary Andrew, Birdsville, GA and Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Osierfield, GA.

TWO SEPARATE SIGHTINGS OF THE REDDISH EGRET ON THE GEORGIA COAST — Prior to this report there have been but four records of the occurrence of the Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) in Georgia. On 17 October 1981 a Reddish Egret was observed in a shallow tidal pool on the beach of Little St. Simons Island, Georgia. The occasion was a field trip to the island sponsored by the Georgia Conservancy and under the direction of John Crawford, at that time the biologist stationed on the island. The bird was seen by various members of the party and in particular by our immediate party consisting of Mr. Crawford, Dr. Donald C. Scott and me. The bird possessed the typical feeding characteristics of the species and was observed in immature plumage.

Approximately two years later, on 12 October 1983 I sighted another immature Reddish Egret feeding in a shallow pool on the tidal flats of East Beach on St. Simons Island, Georgia. When initially observed (0700) the bird allowed me to approach to approximately 25 m. Later on the bird became

typically shier and one could not get closer than 35-40 m. I observed this bird almost daily for the next 10 days and did manage to get some photographs. It was always by itself and appeared only when the ebbing tide resulted in the formation of shallow pools on the beach flats. There were usually other herons on the flats but they were always some distance from the Reddish Egret. I reported this finding at the 20 October meeting of the Coastal Audubon Society, however, I do not know whether anyone from the society came to East Beach to observe the bird. A group of birders from Atlanta did see the bird on 15 October (pers. comm.).

Both of these birds were in immature plumage, that is, the head and neck feathers were not as dark, nor as shaggy as in the adult. The light (flesh colored) to dark demarcation of the bill was not distinct as in the adult. On the other hand, all of the usual Reddish Egret feeding display characteristics were observed. The typically energetic dancing and lurching, running and hopping with wings outstretched were there.

The Reddish Egret is much less common than most of the heron family. I have observed a few birds all told from along the Texas coast, Louisiana coast, at Dauphin Island, Alabama and at Ding Darling NWR, Sanibel, FL. They occur sparsely east of the Mississippi River with most birds found in Florida and along the Gulf Coast. It is not difficult to spot the Reddish Egret because of its distinctive color combinations, its habit of feeding in shallow pools along the beach, and its showy and energetic feeding movements.

Recorded appearances of the Reddish Egret in Georgia are extremely rare. Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958) reported the occurrence of an immature at St. Marys on 20 April 1877. *The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) reported sightings on Little St. Simons Island on 14 September 1967 and in the Okefenokee NWR on 25 June 1971. Another immature was found by Brent Ortego at Eufaula NWR from 12 November 1978 to 22 April 1979 (*American Birds* 33: 166, 272, 760). It is of interest that all of the birds observed were immature which would be expected since these are the birds that normally wander the farthest from the breeding areas.

Albert L. Kleckner, 530 Riverhill Drive, Athens, Georgia 30606.

SURF SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS NEAR DUBLIN — On the morning of 23 December 1983, T. K. Patterson and I were birding in the Buckeye Militia District in northeast Laurens County. At the county's two largest impoundments, there was an assemblage of species which are uncommon to the interior of Georgia. Among this group, representing new county records, were a pair of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta fusca*) and a single Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*).

The two White-winged Scoters were on Ben Hall Lake, which encompasses about 75 ha, in company with four Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*), swimming near the western bank. The Surf Scoter was about one km distant on Thundering Springs Lake, which is adjacent to the older lake and about twice its size. It was first seen in the center of the lake with its bill tucked under its wing as it repeatedly circled a stump, while in the "at rest" position. After a

few minutes, the bird proceeded to swim uplake with its head erect. Satisfied with our identifications, we departed the area.

At 1500 hrs., I returned to the lakes with Allen Rhodes. Using our binoculars and a 20x-40x telescope, we were able to observe the birds even more closely. The White-winged Scoters were at the same place, and we watched them carefully from a distance of about fifty m. The white wing patches on both birds were clearly visible most of the time. One bird was very dark in color, with a small white eye patch. The other, brown in color, had a light patch at the base of the bill and another behind the eye. Using the new *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society, 1983), which we found best among the guides available to us in identifying the immatures of the species, we determined that one bird was an adult male in nearly all respects; the other bird was either a female or a first year male.

We then moved to the larger lake, where we found the Surf Scoter associating with a pair of Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). When we approached, the Mergansers flushed; and the scoter raised and flapped its wings, displaying a complete absence of patches. As the bird sat on the water, for several minutes we were able to note the field marks from a distance of about 40-60 m. The bird was dark brown above, somewhat lighter below, and almost white underneath. The bill was orange and white with a grayish spot. There was a light crown patch, but no white on the nape. Instead, there was a light patch behind the eye. We concluded that the bird was a first year male.

The bird departed toward the lower lake and turned downlake toward the other two birds. We followed, and found the three birds together. The Surf Scoter was noticeably smaller.

Also present on the two lakes in the afternoon were two Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), seven Horned Grebes, thirteen Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), two Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) and several species of ducks. Undoubtedly, the presence of these birds was a result of the approaching frigid air. The day, foggy and misty, with the temperature around 40 degrees F, had been preceded by four days of intermittent rain and fog. The frontal system with the Arctic air began to arrive in the night. In freezing temperatures, with winds gusting to 40 MPH, the lakes were checked again on the morning of 24 December. Only the winter resident American Coots (*Fulica americana*) and Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*), and a single Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*) were present.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) lists the White-winged Scoter as a rare winter visitor and the Surf Scoter as accidental in the interior of the state. The inland observations of the former were cited recently by Patrick Brisse (*Oriole* 47: 17). The Surf Scoter has been reported in the interior on four previous occasions: 18 May 1976 (*Oriole* 42: 47) at Lake Chatuge; 22 October 1979 (*Am. Birds* 34: 151) at Pendergrass; 4 November 1979 (*Oriole* 45: 21) on the Savannah River in Screven County; and 17 October 1982 (*Am. Birds* 37: 168) on Lake Oconee.

J. Hunter Patterson, 1409 Edgewood Drive, Dublin, Georgia, 31021.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITES ALONG THE LITTLE SATILLA — The Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) appears to be making a comeback in Georgia. *The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) lists this species as an uncommon summer resident in river swamps of the Coastal Plain. During the past 10-20 years the species seemed to be less common than this as there were few records and seeing one was indeed a red-letter day.

While on a canoe trip along the Little Satilla River in Brantley, Glynn and Camden counties, Bran Ritchie, Doris Cohrs and I saw and heard a total of nine Swallow-tailed Kites as we paddled downstream on 4 July 1983. Although there is a possibility of some duplication, we saw five birds at one time so that would be the minimum number.

There are a number of river systems below the fall line which should support this species. Georgia observers are encouraged to visit these areas and report on the presence of this species.

Don Cohrs, 2446 Jefferson Terrace, East Point, Georgia 30344.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS IN OKEFENOKEE SWAMP — On 22 April 1983 at about 1500, while canoeing Billy's Lake enroute to Billy's Island, we observed three sandpipers approaching from ahead, flying low over the water. As they passed the canoe about 10 m away and began flying up the lake, it was evident from the clear view of the solid white rumps that the birds were White-rumped Sandpipers (*Calidris fuscicollis*). A short time before we had seen several Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) sitting and flying back and forth along Billy's Lake and on the boat run to Minnie's Lake.

We realize the difficulty in identifying the species when it is still, but the swift, undulating flight and the conspicuous white completely across the upper tail coverts distinguishes the bird from any other small streaked sandpiper. *The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) gives 7 May as the earliest spring arrival date for the state.

Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Route #5, Osierfield, Georgia 31750 and Betty G. Stewart, M.D., P. O. Box 1804, Valdosta, Georgia 31601.

A RUFFED GROUSE AT ROSWELL — A Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) was brought into the Chattahoochee Nature Center near Roswell, Georgia on 26 October 1983. The bird had flown into a brick wall hidden by shrubs and suffered a concussion and broken neck. The Georgia Game and Fish Department was contacted to discount the possibility that the bird may have been a recent release or an escapee. The specimen was sent to the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of Georgia for a thorough crop examination and measurements.

The bird turned out to be an adult male and is now catalog # 5240 at the University of Georgia Museum of Natural History. It had evidently been feeding on food items growing in the general vicinity of the house where it was found in Roswell. The most recent record of a Ruffed Grouse from the

Piedmont was one at Athens on 6 December 1977 (*Oriole* 43: 55-56).

Nannette Hutchison, Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, Georgia 30075.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER IN THE ATLANTA AREA — The Clayton County Water Treatment Plant about 20 miles south of Atlanta has been the best discovery in years for observing shorebird migration in the Atlanta area. Seventeen species have been seen there during the 1983 spring and fall migrations. The Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) was added to the Atlanta checklist when a single bird was seen at the treatment plant on 30 May 1983 by Robert Manns, Terry Moore and the author (*Oriole* 48: 40-41).

I was very surprised to find that species again on 8 October 1983. That day Hugh Garrett and I were checking the five impoundments. The largest one was empty of water except for a big puddle of rain water. A few birds were feeding actively. We identified Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), Pectoral (*Calidris melanotos*) and Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*) and a dowitcher not identified as to species. After a short while, around 1130 we noticed a different bird closer to us. It was smaller than adjacent Pectoral Sandpipers, but larger than the peeps. The wings were longer than the tail and the bird had a rather horizontal posture (the latter field mark noticed on the bird seen in May). The face and slightly streaked breast were buffy compared to the grayer back. The white edging of the back feathers gave the bird a scaly appearance. We identified the bird that time as a juvenile Baird's Sandpiper. The bird was located no further than 30 m away and was observed through 7X35 binoculars and a 15-60 zoom telescope.

Satisfied with the identification, we decided to walk closer to the sandpiper. Slowly, very slowly, we were able to approach to within 6-7 m and at that time were able to see the cinnamon, gray and white color of the feathers very well. We still wanted to check the rump pattern so we flushed the bird and saw a white rump divided by a broad dark line. The bird flew a few m away, landed, sat immobile for a short while and then resumed feeding not at all disturbed by our presence.

The bird was seen again the next day by Paul Raney and the author in another pond about 200 m from the original sighting. Also worth mentioning that day was a Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) which was only the fifth sighting of the species in the Atlanta area.

Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.

TRYNGITES SUBRUFICOLLIS IN BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA — On 3 September 1983 at approximately 1630, my husband, Vince, and I were birding along Riverside Drive, near the saltmarsh in Brunswick, Georgia. We saw shorebirds on a lawn near the intersection of Talahi Drive and Riverside and stopped the car to see what they were. The first bird observed was a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). A second bird feeding on the short grass lawn along with the Killdeer was identified as a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). The bird was easily identified as the various field marks were

obvious. The bird took flight and vocalized. When it flew, we were able to see the contrasting buff body and the white winglinings.

Other Atlanta Audubon birders were in the area for a pelagic birding trip and either found the bird independently or from our directions. Seven or more persons corroborated the sighting of this individual. *The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) lists this species as a rare transient in the state during the fall migration. For additional observations of this species see Patterson and Paget in this issue.

Trina S. Jackson, 1990 Palifox Drive, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

A BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER IN THE UPPER PIEDMONT — On 5 October 1983 I was birding the Gainesville Airport in Hall County. My primary reason for being there was to check on the status of a mixed flock of Black-bellied Plovers (*Pluvialis squatorola*) and Lesser Golden-Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) that had been there since 21 September.

The Golden Plovers were present but the Black-bellied Plovers were not. Accompanying the Golden-Plovers was a small "plover-like" bird with light buff underparts. After flushing it and observing the white winglinings, I knew that the bird was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). The Golden-Plovers were gone the next day but the Buff-breasted Sandpiper was observed daily through 13 October.

The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) states that the Buff-breasted is a rare fall transient on and near the coast. It lists two inland locations but Gainesville is much more inland than the two mentioned. Also, the latest fall date mentioned by the Checklist is 29 September 1951. For additional observations see Patterson and Jackson in this issue.

John Paget, 1530 Vine Street, NE, Gainesville, Georgia 30501.

JAEGER OBSERVATION FROM SAPELO ISLAND — At approximately 1600 on 3 December 1983 at least 3 jaegers, presumably Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), were seen by Liz and Hugh Garrett and Peggy and Terry Moore near the Cabretta Inlet of Sapelo Island. All three jaegers were moving on a parallel course with the shoreline about 300-400 m offshore. There were several shrimp boats working in the vicinity but farther offshore. Winds at the time were from the SE at about 15 mph. Positive identification as to species could not be made due to the brevity of the observation, the difficulty of positively identifying jaegers and their distance offshore. However, the assumption was made that they were probably Parasitic due to their proximity to the shore and their size which was close to that of a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). All three birds were at one time or another seen chasing and harassing Laughing Gulls and/or Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*). No field marks were noted which would have made us consider a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) or a Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*).

The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (GOS Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) regards this species as a rare visitor offshore. This observation in addition to

an observation of 5 just offshore at Jekyll Island by the author during the 1977 Glynn County Coastal Christmas Count (31 Dec. 1977) probably indicates that the species is more common along the Georgia coast than previously believed. The birds can often be seen following the shrimp boats and pirating the large flocks of gulls and terns which congregate around the boats as the shrimpers tend their nets.

Terry S. Moore, 3086 River Oaks Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30339.

PAINTED BUNTING BANDED IN GEORGIA RETRAPPED ONE YEAR LATER IN CUBA — On 7 October 1982 a Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) was banded at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The bird was green, therefore of unknown age and unknown sex; it could have been an immature or adult female or an immature male. It was banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife band # 950-97159 during the course of a fall migration banding operation which a group of Atlanta birdbanders has conducted at Jekyll Island since 1978.

On 28 October 1983 this same Painted Bunting was trapped at a banding operation at Caletones Beach, Cuba and subsequently released. Communication with the person who trapped and reported the bird determined that it was still green and therefore it was a female.

To date, this is the first of our approximately 4500 birds banded at Jekyll Island since 1978 to be encountered by anyone else. Since the majority of the birds we band are migrating warblers and vireos, this small recovery rate is not surprising.

Should you ever find a banded bird, please note the species, all digits of the band number, when and where the bird was found and under what circumstances (e.g., dead along the roadside, flew into window, caught by cat, etc.). Send this information along with your name and address to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, MD 20708. Later you will receive information on when, where and by whom the bird was banded. If the bird is alive, do not attempt to remove the band. To do so would injure the bird and would defeat the purpose of its being banded.

Doris Cohrs, 2446 Jefferson Terrace, East Point, Georgia 30344.

FROM THE FIELD

July – September 1983

- COMMON LOON** – Unusual in the summer was a bird reported by Robert Loftin on 2 July from Lake Chatuge. A bird on 17 Sept. on Lake Lanier by Robert and Didi Manns was a very early migrant or a possible summering bird. The species has been found previously during the summer on Lake Lanier.
- PIED-BILLED GREBE** – Early migrants were 4 on 7 Sept. (Patrick Brisse), 18 on 8 Sept. (Dennie and Pam McClure) and 7 on 14 Sept. (Terry Moore) all from the Atlanta area.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL** – Chris Haney reported 6 birds during a trip he took off the Georgia coast between 11-15 July.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER** – During the same trip Chris found 530 Cory's Shearwaters. This represents the highest count for the state. He also noted the species during Aug. and Sept. in smaller quantities. In addition to these records the 4 Sept. Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip yielded 10 birds.
- GREATER SHEARWATER** – Fifty birds was a very good count for Georgia during the period from 11 to 15 July as reported by Chris Haney. He found only 3 more birds later during the fall.
- MANX SHEARWATER** – On 14 Aug. Peter Stangel collected the first Georgia specimen about 142 km east of St. Catherine's Island. This represents only the second state record.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** – Sixteen birds were reported by Chris Haney during his offshore trip in July and an additional 4 were seen off Jekyll Island on 4 Sept. during the Atlanta Audubon pelagic trip.
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** – Uncommon in Georgia waters, 51 were reported by Chris Haney from 11-15 July and only 12 more later during the fall. The 4 Sept. trip previously mentioned yielded only 4 individuals.
- BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL** – A new species was added to the statelist when one bird was noted by Chris Haney on 12 July about 146 km ESE of St. Catherine's Island. The bird was observed for over an hour as it was feeding in company with 8 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Additional single sightings were also reported by Chris on 30 Aug. and 4 Sept.
- MASKED BOOBY** – A sub-adult on 30 Aug. off St. Simons Island provides Georgia's second record. The bird was studied as close as 50 m from the boat by Chris Haney.
- ANHINGA** – The only inland reports came from Augusta on 9 Aug. (Clarence Belger) and from Dublin where 12 on 7 Sept. was a good count (Tom Patterson).
- GREAT EGRET** – Anne Waters reported a post-breeding high of 56 birds near Augusta on 19 Aug. Along with the Great Egret on the same day 289 Little Blue Herons, 6 Tricolored Herons, 1894 Cattle Egrets and 39 White Ibis were seen. The high for the Atlanta area was 5 on 31 July (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett).
- SNOWY EGRET** – Always worth mentioning inland was a bird in Augusta on 9 July during an Augusta Audubon Society field trip.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON** – An excellent Piedmont count was 45 in south Atlanta on 31 July (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett).
- TRICOLORED HERON** – A bird found by Billy Pulliam in late Aug. and seen through 14 Sept. (Terry Moore) provided Atlanta with its first record in a number of years.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** – Five reports from Atlanta was about average for the area between 4 July (Donna and Patrick Brisse) and 19 Sept. (Patrick Brisse). The 4 July sighting involved one adult and two immatures on a small pond in the north part of the city.
- GLOSSY IBIS** – In the Augusta area, two were seen on 9 Aug. (Clarence Belger) and 19 Aug. (Anne Waters) for a rare inland record.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** – A female with 3 immatures on 1 July near Augusta suggested a possible nesting (Anne Waters) but could not be confirmed.

- RING-NECKED DUCK** – For the third consecutive year this species summered in the Atlanta area. At least 12 birds were noted on 3 separate lakes (Dennie and Pam McClure, Patrick Brisse). Worth mentioning was another one at Lake Chatuge from 24-31 July as reported by Robert Loftin.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** – A very noteworthy count of 9 birds was reported on 1 July along the Little Satilla River by Don and Doris Cohrs.
- BALD EAGLE** – Three reports were received: 2, 9 and 18 July in the National Hill area near Augusta (Clarence Belger), 2 adults on 14 Aug. at Lake Jackson (Bill Shipper) and an immature on 17 Sept. at Commerce Lake (John Paget).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** – Frank McCamey reported one of the highest counts for the state when on 23 Sept. he saw 1100+ in just a few hours on the west side of Lake Lanier. Another hundred were noted in less than 15 minutes the next day by Terry Moore *et al.* along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta. The 25 Sept. Atlanta Audubon Society hawkwatch on Grassy Mountain in NW Georgia yielded 133 birds.
- PEREGRINE FALCON** – An early individual was noted on 17 Sept. at Buford Dam by Robert and Didi Manns.
- KING RAIL** – For the first time in a number of years the species was found along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta by Jack Carusos on 18 Sept.
- COMMON MOORHEN** – Rare inland and early was a bird in south Atlanta on 7 Sept. (Patrick Brisse).
- AMERICAN COOT** – Dan Cohan reported the species from Toccoa on 18 July and for the fourth consecutive year the species was found summering south of Atlanta (Patrick Brisse).
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER** – As usual they were reported from Dublin by Tom Patterson from 7-25 Sept. with a high count of 5 on 17 Sept. Up to 6 were at Gainesville from 21 Sept. to 5 Oct. observed by John Paget.
- PIPING PLOVER** – Robert Loftin reported one from Lake Chatuge on 29 July for a very rare inland sighting and the first area record.
- AMERICAN AVOCET** – Two south of Atlanta on 31 July by Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett provided only the second Atlanta record – both within the past two years.
- WILLET** – Tom Patterson reported a single bird on 27 Aug. near Dublin for a first county record.
- MARbled GODWIT** – A few birds at the inlet between St. Simons and Sea Islands on 5 Sept. were early (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Peggy and Terry Moore).
- RUDDY TURNSTONE** – Always noteworthy was a bird near Cartersville on 11 and 18 Sept. (Hugh Garrett *et al.*).
- LEAST SANDPIPER** – Tom Patterson reported a rather early individual near Dublin on 9 July. The first one for Atlanta was not noted until 22 July (Patrick Brisse).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** – The first fall migrant was noted as early as 24 July in south Atlanta by Patrick Brisse.
- STILT SANDPIPER** – Single individuals on 31 July, 1 Aug. and 1 Sept. provided Atlanta's third through fifth records. They were reported respectively by Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett, Hugh Garrett, Peggy and Terry Moore.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** – Four to six birds were found off and on between 27 Aug. and 17 Sept. by Tom Patterson near Dublin. Other birds were one in Brunswick on 3 Sept. (Vince and Trina Jackson) and 2 on Jekyll Island on 5 Sept. (Jack Carusos, John Paget, Anne Wyand).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** – Extremely early were 5 birds reported in late July from Jekyll Island by Anne and Vernon Waters.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** – Mark McCandless reported a far out of range bird along the Chatooga River in NE Georgia for a very rare inland record on 4 Sept. The bird was studied at close range from a canoe. In a more expected place were 3 birds seen during the Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip off Jekyll Island the same day.
- POMARINE JAEGER** – During the same pelagic trip one Pomarine Jaeger was seen by most participants. Also seen the same day were one Parasitic Jaeger and 2 jaeger (sp.).

- SKUA (sp.) — Worth mentioning was an individual found by Chris Haney 143 km east of Sapelo Island on 12 July which could only be identified as Skua (sp.). There has only been one previous sighting of a Skua in Georgia and that was a South Polar Skua on 18 June 1983.
- RING-BILLED GULL — Two birds in south Atlanta on 22 July provided Atlanta's first summer record (Patrick Brisse).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL — Georgia's sixth record was an adult reported by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Peggy and Terry Moore from Jekyll Island on 3 Sept.
- CASPIAN TERN — Two were seen near Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 17 Sept. for a rather rare inland record (Robert and Didi Manns).
- COMMON TERN — Dennie and Pam McClure recorded two individuals on 5 Sept. for Atlanta's second record.
- FORSTER'S TERN — Singles were reported twice inland: on 31 July in south Atlanta by Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett and on 25 Sept. on Lake Allatoona by Herb Wollner.
- BRIDLED TERN — This species was especially numerous offshore with 50+ on many days during Aug. and Sept. (fide Chris Haney). The Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip on 4 Sept. off Jekyll Island also produced 50+ birds.
- SOOTY TERN — Chris Haney reported a few birds during his offshore trip from 11-15 July and an additional 2 on 11 Aug. off St. Catherine's Island.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER — This species is becoming a rare but regular fall migrant in the Atlanta area. This year one was seen by Dennie and Pam McClure on 3 Sept. and another one was noted along the Chattahoochee River from 25-29 Sept. (Atlanta Audubon Society).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER — Gregory Valpey-Toussignant reported an individual near Albany on 17 Sept.
- CLIFF SWALLOW — Rare along the coast were birds seen at Jekyll Island on 3 and 5 Sept. by Terry Moore *et al.*
- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET — Early birds were noted in Albany on 25 Aug. by Rip Holman and in Dawson Forest north of Atlanta on 27 Aug. by Patrick Brisse.
- SOLITARY VIREO — Georgann Schmalz reported an early bird from Decatur on 8 Sept.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO — The fall of 1983 will be remembered as one of the best in years for this species. Six different reports came from Atlanta alone. The first one was a bird which ran into a window on 3 Sept. and died (Lee Gilman) and the last ones were along the Chattahoochee River on 2 Oct. (Atlanta Audubon Society). In addition about a dozen birds were sighted on 25 Sept. in the Cohuttas around Grassy Mountain by Patrick Brisse, Peggy and Terry Moore.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER — Jerry Brunner noted an early migrant in Alpharetta on 14 July.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER — In Atlanta this species is being noted more often than in the past with 8 reports this fall. In Sept. Paul Raney saw one on 22 Sept. and Robert and Didi Manns saw another on 28 Sept.
- CERULEAN WARBLER — Fifteen reports were received from Atlanta from 9 Aug. (Peggy Moore) to 22 Sept. (Richard Parks). Worth mentioning from the Coastal Plain was one reported by Anne Waters on 28 Aug. from Augusta.
- WILSON'S WARBLER — Also rare in the Coastal Plain was an individual seen during an Augusta Audubon Society field trip on 17 Sept.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW — One to two individuals were seen in Atlanta from 12-18 Sept. which provided the fourth Atlanta record (Patrick Brisse *et al.*).
- LARK SPARROW — Hugh Garrett spotted an immature on Jekyll Island on 3 Sept. This species has been seen at least once every fall for the past few years and is probably more regular than suspected.
- SONG SPARROW — Rather unusual for the month of Aug. in the Piedmont were 40+ birds in an area in Atlanta where the species breeds sparingly (Patrick Brisse).
- ORCHARD ORIOLE — Rather late was one near Conyers on 27 Aug. as mentioned by Francis Michael.

NORTHERN ORIOLE — An immature male "Bullock's" Northern Oriole was found by Anne and Vernon Waters on 11 Aug. in Augusta for a rare report of that subspecies in Georgia.

RED CROSSBILL — Harriett DiGioia was the only person to report the species. She found about 10 birds around Lake Conasauga on 16 July and heard a few more there on 14 Aug.

CORRECTIONS — In the FROM THE FIELD: 1982 (Oriole 48: 12-18) the following corrections have been noted. For the Fulvous Whistling-Duck the date should be 28 Nov. and not 29 Nov. The Lesser Golden-Plover at Dublin were noted from 22-29 Sept. and not from 1-29 Sept. The Lesser Yellowlegs date was 26 May and not 24 May and was the latest spring departure date for the state. For the Willet the day of 17 May should be 17 Aug. and the date of 17 Sept. should be 7 Sept. For the Upland Sandpiper the date of 28 Sept. should be 28 Aug. The Wilson's Warbler in Marietta should have been 6 Oct. rather than 7 Oct.

Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.

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