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The Oriole, a quarterly journal of Georgia ornithology, publishes original articles that advance the study of birds in the state of Georgia and adjoining regions. *The Oriole* welcomes submission of articles describing the occurrence, distribution, behavior, or identification of birds in Georgia, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology.

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"RED-SHAFTED" NORTHERN FLICKER IN GRADY COUNTY, GEORGIA

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The purpose of this paper is to document four sightings of a "Red-shafted" Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus cafer*) at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady County, Georgia, between 6 January and 23 March 2001.

On 6 January 2001, while walking along the edge of the Ginhouse Field at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady County at about 0930 h, I observed a woodpecker clinging to the trunk of a pine tree. I watched the bird with 8x42 binoculars at a distance of approximately 30 m for 20 sec. Although the bird was obviously a flicker, it was unusual for several reasons. Most strikingly, the bird had no red on its nape, a distinguishing feature for both sexes of "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flickers (*C. a. auratus*). Also, the crown was light brown, contrasting with a gray face. There were no markings on the malar feathers, indicating the bird was a female. It did not immediately occur to me that this bird was a "Red-shafted" Northern Flicker because this taxon was unfamiliar to me. However, I was struck by the deep, salmon-red color of the underwings as the bird flew across the field into a wooded area about 100 m away. During the time that I watched the bird, the sun was behind me, and the skies were cloudless. As I continued across the field, I observed six or seven Northern Flickers take flight from the ground; all had yellow underwings. I was unable to relocate the Red-shafted Flicker that day.

Matt Morris, the naturalist at Birdsong Nature Center, reported seeing a Red-shafted Flicker in the Ginhouse Field on about 16 January 2001. He described the bird as having salmon-red underwings. I returned to the nature center on the afternoon of 20 January to look for the bird, and at about 1500 h I found seven or eight flickers foraging on the ground near the site of the original observation. Another flicker, one that appeared to lack red on the nape, was perched about 100 m away in a dead tree. As I approached, the bird flew and revealed

salmon-red underwings. I returned to Birdsong several times the following week and, although I saw and heard several flickers, I did not see the Red-shafted Flicker again. However, on 23 March 2001 Kathleen Brady, the executive director at Birdsong, did observe the bird, which she described as having coral-pink underwings, flying at close range.

The Northern Flicker is a polytypic species comprising five subspecies groups, each readily distinguished by plumage coloration and also differing in size (Moore 1995). In North America, the Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker is found in the east and the north, whereas the Red-shafted Northern Flicker is generally found in the west.

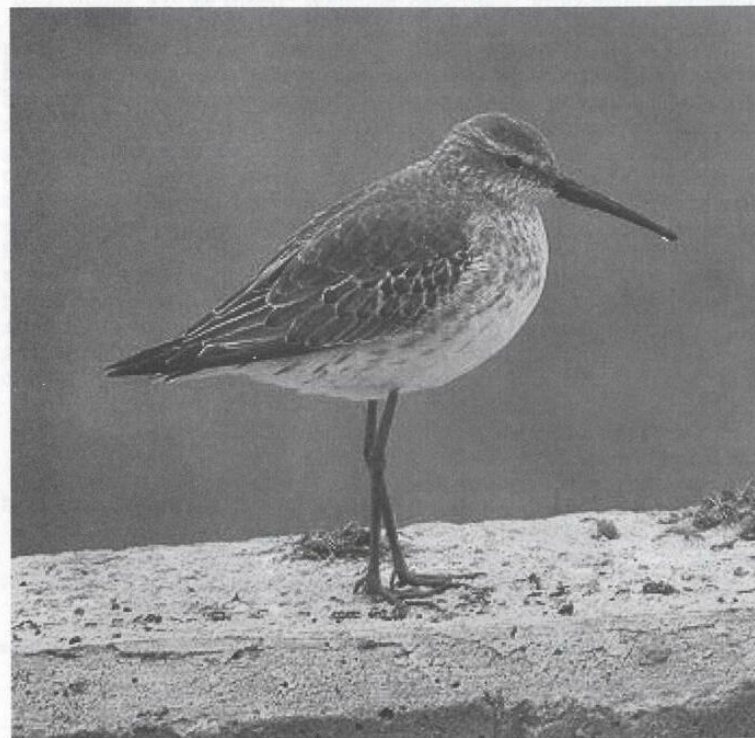
I am unaware of any previous records of Red-shafted Flickers in Georgia. This form is not mentioned in *Georgia Birds* (Burleigh 1958), although at the time of that publication the Red-shafted Flicker was afforded full species status (American Ornithologists' Union 1957). There are no records listed by Haney et al. (1986), nor did I find any documented records in *The Oriole*. There is no mention of the Red-shafted Flicker in *Alabama Birds* (Imhof 1976), and there are only two undocumented sightings listed in *The Birdlife of Florida* (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Robinson (1990) lists an "apparent hybrid" of the Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flicker in Memphis, Tennessee (25 December 1959–1 January 1960), and two Red-shafted Flickers, also in Memphis, on 18 December 1983.

While some Yellow-shafted Flicker populations are strongly migratory, Red-shafted Flickers often migrate shorter distances, moving southward and from higher to lower elevations with some spreading eastward into the Great Plains in winter (Kaufman 1996). The two forms intergrade broadly in the Great Plains and western Canada (Sibley 2000), so it is probably impossible to determine whether any bird seen out of range is a "pure" Red-shafted Flicker, although the bird seen at Birdsong Nature Center did not exhibit any traits that would suggest it was an intergrade. Also, it should be noted that subspecies are typically under-reported. However, with the striking plumage difference and the fact that Yellow-shafted and Red-shafted Flickers were formerly considered separate species, the absence of any documented records for Georgia suggests that these sightings of a Red-shafted Flicker in Grady County are particularly noteworthy.

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Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*), 23 October 2002, Tift County, Georgia. Photo by Giff Beaton.

BIRDS OF THE FLOYD COLLEGE AREA

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The marsh at Floyd College consists of 10.1 ha (25 acres) of beaver-engineered wetlands sandwiched between a partially developed industrial park and a small semi-rural campus, 9.7 km south of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. The Floyd College campus (34°10' N, 85°12'W) occupies 91 ha (225 acres) of relatively flat land with an elevation of approximately 213 m and is surrounded by hills rising to elevations of 305 m, a landscape typical of the ridge and valley physiographic region. The campus comprises, in addition to the marsh, numerous single-story landscaped buildings, stands of old pines, areas of open grassland and athletic fields, strips of shrub-scrub, and the 26.7-ha (66-acre) impoundment known as Prentis Lake. The adjacent industrial park has its own small marshy areas, wet and dry fields, and a pond that serves as a feeding area for a variety of wintering waterfowl. The industrial park's fields are separated from the Floyd marsh by an old railroad berm running north to south along the marsh's eastern boundary. Prior to the inception of the college in 1970, the land was the site of a dairy farm with a number of springs scattered across the property. Beaver activity has been evident in the area for several decades. The marsh and surrounding area serve as feeding, resting, and breeding grounds for a wide variety of bird species. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to document the avifauna of Floyd College and vicinity as indicated by regular visits over a one-year period.

Methods

I visited the marsh area on an approximately biweekly basis for one year from October 1999 through September 2000. In general, species were recorded only as to presence/absence, and visits were typically made in the late afternoon for periods of 0.5–1.0 hr. Occasionally visits occurred in the early morning and/or lasted for more extended time periods. Summer months are under-reported with only one visit each for July and August and no observations for the month of June.

Results

Over the course of the year (observations for 11 different months), I recorded 101 species of birds in or over the marsh itself (Appendix). Five additional species were noted in casual observation during the previous year, with a further 10 species seen only on the main campus and still others noted in the fields, marsh, and ponds immediately adjacent to the industrial park (Appendix). I observed the greatest

number of species in Floyd marsh in April (60), followed by October (43), September (41), and January (39). A high percentage of the birds recorded were potential breeders (58); 30 species were confirmed breeders (Appendix) and 14 were listed as probable breeders.

Migrants are apparent in the spring and fall, and there are doubtless far more species in summer than I have observed.

Some particularly interesting observations include a surprising 55 Gadwall in the marsh on one December day, an American Bittern that visited for a few days in April of 1999, a Merlin that showed up in November of 1998, and the wintering or very early Prairie Warbler seen over a three-week period from 11 February–4 March 2000. Rusty Blackbirds were regularly seen in winter, and a Sedge Wren was detected in December 1999 and January 2000. Virginia Rail probably bred in the marsh having been documented in all months of the year.

Discussion

Floyd marsh serves as valuable habitat for a variety of birds, providing nesting sites and material, as well as food, water, and shelter. Fortunately, the wetlands have been designated a preserve, and a 366-m boardwalk with observation platforms was built in 1995 as a result of a cooperative effort between Floyd College and a number of private and governmental agencies. The presence of the boardwalk makes the area readily accessible to birders and to educational groups, and its status as an academic facility helps to ensure its conservation, though by no means guarantees it. Fed by Prentis Creek to the north and by spillover from the lake to the southwest, the marsh is succeeding from forested wetland to willow swamp. The willows are growing up fairly rapidly, but extensive areas of tangled brush and smaller shrubs remain as well as several zones of open water. There are no plans to manage the area, and it will be informative to follow any changes in avian composition over time as the marsh undergoes succession.

Acknowledgments

I thank Leigh Callan for her kind cooperation in providing historical and areal data for Floyd College.

Appendix. Bird species documented from Floyd College and vicinity (c = campus, i = industrial park, and m = marsh).

| Species | Recorded Species | Confirmed Breeding |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | c | |
| Horned Grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i> | c | |

Appendix. Continued.

| Species | Recorded Species | Confirmed Breeding |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> | m | |
| Great Blue Heron <i>Ardea herodias</i> | m | |
| Great Egret <i>Ardea alba</i> | m | |
| Green Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i> | m | m |
| White Ibis <i>Eudocimus albus</i> | m | |
| Turkey Vulture <i>Cathartes aura</i> | m | |
| Snow Goose <i>Chen caerulescens</i> | c | |
| Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i> | m | m |
| Wood Duck <i>Aix sponsa</i> | m | |
| Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> | m | |
| American Wigeon <i>Anas americana</i> | m | |
| Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | m | m |
| Blue-winged Teal <i>Anas discors</i> | m | |
| Northern Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> | c | |
| Redhead <i>Aythya americana</i> | i | |
| Ring-necked Duck <i>Aythya collaris</i> | m | |
| Lesser Scaup <i>Aythya affinis</i> | c | |
| Bufflehead <i>Bucephala albeola</i> | c | |
| Hooded Merganser <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> | m | |
| Common Merganser <i>Mergus merganser</i> | c | |
| Red-breasted Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> | c | |
| Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | c | |
| Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | m | |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i> | m | |
| Cooper's Hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | m | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk <i>Buteo lineatus</i> | m | |
| Red-tailed Hawk <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> | m | |
| Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> | m | |
| Northern Bobwhite <i>Colinus virginianus</i> | m | |
| Virginia Rail <i>Rallus limicola</i> | m | |
| American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i> | m | |
| Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> | m | m |
| Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | m | |
| Solitary Sandpiper <i>Tringa solitaria</i> | m | |
| Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i> | m | |
| Wilson's Snipe <i>Gallinago delicata</i> | m | |
| American Woodcock <i>Scolopax minor</i> | i | |
| Rock Dove <i>Columba livia</i> | i | |
| Mourning Dove <i>Zenaidura macroura</i> | m | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> | m | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl <i>Otus asio</i> | c | |
| Great Horned Owl <i>Bubo virginianus</i> | c | c |

Appendix. Continued.

| Species | Recorded Species | Confirmed Breeding |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| Common Nighthawk <i>Chordeiles minor</i> | m | c |
| Chimney Swift <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> | m | m |
| Ruby-thr. Hummingbird <i>Archilochus colubris</i> | m | |
| Belted Kingfisher <i>Ceryle alcyon</i> | m | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes carolinus</i> | m | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker <i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> | m | |
| Downy Woodpecker <i>Picoides pubescens</i> | m | |
| Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i> | m | m |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee <i>Contopus virens</i> | m | |
| Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i> | m | m |
| Great Crested Flycatcher <i>Myiarchus crinitus</i> | m | |
| Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i> | m | |
| Loggerhead Shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> | m | |
| White-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo griseus</i> | m | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo <i>Vireo flavifrons</i> | m | |
| Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> | m | |
| Blue Jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i> | m | |
| American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> | m | |
| Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> | m | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow <i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i> | m | |
| Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | m | |
| Carolina Chickadee <i>Poecile carolinensis</i> | m | |
| Tufted Titmouse <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i> | m | |
| Brown-headed Nuthatch <i>Sitta pusilla</i> | m | |
| Carolina Wren <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> | m | m |
| Winter Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | m | |
| Sedge Wren <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> | m | |
| Marsh Wren <i>Cistothorus palustris</i> | m | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus satrapa</i> | m | |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i> | m | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila caerulea</i> | m | |
| Eastern Bluebird <i>Sialia sialis</i> | m | |
| Hermit Thrush <i>Catharus guttatus</i> | m | |
| American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i> | m | m |
| Gray Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> | m | m |
| Northern Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> | m | m |
| Brown Thrasher <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> | m | m |
| European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | m | m |
| Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i> | m | |
| Tennessee Warbler <i>Vermivora peregrina</i> | m | |
| Orange-crowned Warbler <i>Vermivora celata</i> | m | |

Appendix. Continued.

| Species | Recorded Species | Confirmed Breeding |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i> | m | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler <i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> | m | |
| Magnolia Warbler <i>Dendroica magnolia</i> | m | |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i> | m | |
| Pine Warbler <i>Dendroica pinus</i> | m | |
| Prairie Warbler <i>Dendroica discolor</i> | m | |
| Palm Warbler <i>Dendroica palmarum</i> | m | |
| Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i> | m | |
| American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> | m | |
| Northern Waterthrush <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> | m | |
| Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> | m | m |
| Canada Warbler <i>Wilsonia canadensis</i> | m | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat <i>Icteria virens</i> | m | |
| Summer Tanager <i>Piranga rubra</i> | m | |
| Scarlet Tanager <i>Piranga olivacea</i> | m | |
| Eastern Towhee <i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> | m | m |
| Chipping Sparrow <i>Spizella passerina</i> | m | |
| Field Sparrow <i>Spizella pusilla</i> | m | m |
| Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> | m | |
| Grasshopper Sparrow <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> | i | |
| Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i> | m | |
| Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i> | m | m |
| Swamp Sparrow <i>Melospiza georgiana</i> | m | |
| White-throated Sparrow <i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> | m | |
| Northern Cardinal <i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> | m | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak <i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i> | m | |
| Indigo Bunting <i>Passerina cyanea</i> | m | |
| Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> | m | m |
| Eastern Meadowlark <i>Sturnella magna</i> | m | c |
| Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> | m | |
| Common Grackle <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> | m | m |
| Brown-headed Cowbird <i>Molothrus ater</i> | m | m |
| Orchard Oriole <i>Icterus spurius</i> | m | m |
| Pine Siskin <i>Carduelis pinus</i> | m | |
| American Goldfinch <i>Carduelis tristis</i> | m | |

GENERAL NOTES

HOUSE WREN NESTS AT THE FALL LINE – Clarence Belger and I heard a House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) singing in his backyard near downtown Augusta on 8 May 2000. The bird was singing in a tree just above a bird house. We were surprised when the bird later entered this house with some grasses; we also noted other nesting material already in the box. Clarence continued to watch the box over the next few days as the wren took a variety of nesting material into it. At times he could see a second House Wren in the tree above the box singing.

I visited again on 17 May 2000 and observed one House Wren going into the bird house. When we got within 9 m (30 ft) of the box, the bird popped out and fussed at us. We surmised that the bird was incubating eggs. A few days later, Clarence observed both birds visiting the nest box much more often. In late May or early June, Clarence saw two smaller birds come out of the nest box and disappear into the grass under the box. Their behavior indicated they were young birds. During the next few days, he saw one of the adults three times but never saw the young again.

Haney et al. (1986. *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occasional Publ. No. 10) states that the House Wren is an uncommon summer resident in the eastern part of the upper piedmont and mountain region, nesting south to Royston, Greensboro, and McDonough. Giff Beaton (pers. comm.) indicated that the House Wren is considered to be an uncommon breeder down to the fall line, becoming very local in the southern piedmont; there are a few breeding records for the lower piedmont in Georgia. Our record in Augusta is just below the fall line.

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NIGHTHAWK NOTES FROM COFFEE AND JEFF DAVIS COUNTIES — A review of my notes for about the past decade reveals more than 30 records of spring arrivals, as well as nesting and migratory observations of Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) along the sandstone outcrops in northeastern Coffee and northwestern Jeff Davis Counties. Spring arrivals are usually in mid-April, with my earliest record being 18 April 1996.

A nesting pair was observed in early June 1994, near the flat roof of Peterson Hall at South Georgia College. They were harassing a large owl as they flitted about making a growling-like sound. I suspect that owls were preying on young nighthawks on the roofs of campus buildings. For several evenings around 24 July 1990, I had observed nighthawks swooping down to the flat roof of Davis Hall on campus and suspected that they were nesting there. This was confirmed when, as I was working in the archaeology lab in Peterson Hall with the side

door open, a young nighthawk flew in and crash-landed behind me at my feet. I picked up the bird and released it outside where it flew off, showing no ill effects from the encounter. In addition to the usual roof-top and sandstone outcrop nestings in the area, one pair also nested on ballast stones of an abandoned railroad track on the South Georgia College campus, and another pair nested beneath tall pines on bare soil on campus.

I have observed a number of migratory flocks of nighthawks during the fall. A flock of more than 30 nighthawks was observed 31 August 1990 in the northern part of Coffee County. I watched another flock of 64 nighthawks head southward over Douglas on the evening of 9 September 1994. I observed my largest migratory flock of nighthawks while working in South Georgia College's pitcher-plant bog on the evening of 14 September 2000. I counted 316 nighthawks pass over in a steady southward direction; 299 well-spaced nighthawks flew over during the first 15 min of observation at an altitude of 60–90 m. Occasionally one would dip erratically as if catching an insect, and only rarely was a sound heard coming from the flock. As darkness approached, a trailing group of 17 birds was recorded at a lower altitude of about 45 m. I have several records of nighthawks flying overhead in the evening from late October 1997, including 4 October (one bird), 7 October (one), 10 October (one), 13 October (one), 14 October (two), and 16 October 1997 (two). The latter represents my latest nighthawk departure from Douglas.

One memorable nighthawk record was an encounter with a young nighthawk on a sandstone outcrop on the Coffee/Jeff Davis County line on 5 July 1987. While doing an archaeological survey I walked out on the outcrop and was struck on the leg by what I feared might have been a rattlesnake. Looking down, I saw a recently fledged nighthawk running from beneath my feet and across the outcrop at top speed with out-stretched wings. The adjacent archaeological site was named the Goatsucker site (9JD97) in reference to this startling encounter.

Frankie Snow, *Science/Math, South Georgia College, Douglas, Georgia 31533-5098*

WINTER RECORD OF AN OVENBIRD IN DEKALB COUNTY – On 20 January 2001, I observed an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) foraging under the feeders at my home in Decatur, Dekalb County, Georgia. Identifying marks included a russet stripe, bordered by black, running lengthwise on the crown, black stripes on a white breast, a bold white eye-ring, and a tail held upright as it walked, rather than hopped or fluttered, on pink legs. The Ovenbird was foraging on suet crumbs below a suet feeder. It continued to forage regularly for suet on the ground for several weeks. When not feeding, the Ovenbird usually retreated to the cover of a nearby boxwood or a tangle of vines in a heavily wooded ravine. As the weather warmed the Ovenbird

became a less frequent visitor and was last seen on 18 February. According to Giff Beaton (pers. comm.), the only other winter record of an Ovenbird in the Georgia Piedmont is that of two birds in Atlanta from 12 November–24 December 1987.

Kate MacQueen, *514 Tuxworth Circle, Decatur, Georgia 30033*

A WINTER BALTIMORE ORIOLE FLOCK IN VALDOSTA, GEORGIA – On 30 December 2000, Kate Swiderski and I visited Bill and Virginia Culpepper at their home in Valdosta. Shortly after we arrived, we were called to the kitchen to see some “golden” birds in the back yard. There we discovered a flock of a dozen Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) using the bird baths about 4.5 m (15 ft) from the kitchen windows. Of these, five were adult males.

The flock of orioles remained in the vicinity of the Culpepper yard at least until 2 January 2001. They were feeding in the numerous trees with berries including a camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and Howard Holly (*Ilex opaca*). The orioles were feeding in competition with numerous American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) and Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). I placed some orange slices on the feeder tray but these were ignored by the orioles.

This seemed to me to be an unusual record. Haney, et al (1986, *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occasional Publ. No. 10) indicates that this species is a casual or rare winter visitor in Georgia, mostly in the southern part of the state. Winter distribution maps based on Christmas Bird Census data from 1959 to 1988 indicate that the species is found in small numbers in Florida and on the coastal plain from Georgia to North Carolina (<www.mbr.nbs.gov/cbc/cbcnew.html>, John R. Sauer, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center). Articles by Robert L. Crawford and others in report similar records of flocks of this species from Thomasville and adjacent areas (Crawford, 1973, *Oriole* 38:13–27; Crawford and Neel, 1976, *Oriole* 41:1–7; Crawford and Dozier, 1997, *Oriole* 63:1–27). In addition, Crawford had written an article describing a 1971 feeder study when the species was appearing in some numbers at feeders in the Thomasville vicinity (Crawford, 1973, *Oriole* 38:6–9).

From the Crawford articles it can be seen that oriole flocks did appear in the winter with some regularity up until the mid 1970s, but virtually always were confined to feeders. Since that time the numbers have declined and by 1997, Crawford considered the species to be a rare winter visitant. Crawford (pers. comm.) considered this Valdosta occurrence of interest because the birds were feeding naturally rather than being associated with feeder offerings, including fruit and glazed donuts. It will be interesting to see if we will once again enjoy this ornithological treat with some regularity.

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FROM THE FIELD AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2001

Georgia's first Broad-billed Hummingbird spent much of the month of November frequenting a feeder in Macon, unbeknownst to most of the birding community. Not until the bird, a beautiful adult male, was banded the following month did word get out about this exciting visitor. A few Snowy Owls were reported from across the Southeast this fall, and one was found in Walker Co. toward the end of the period, providing a fourth state record. Unfortunately it died at a rehabilitation center a few days later. Another fourth state record, if accepted, would be that of a Sabine's Gull seen close to shore near the end of a pelagic trip. Either a Tropical or Couch's Kingbird was reported from the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. during September. One of the observers, who has some experience with this difficult to distinguish pair, was inclined to believe the bird was a Couch's, but it was not heard vocalizing. Neither species has been recorded in the state previously. Other outstanding rarities reported included Ruff, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Limpkin, Alder Flycatcher, Black-legged Kittiwake, Warbling Vireo, Golden Eagle, Black-billed Cuckoo, Connecticut Warbler, and Shiny Cowbird.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986, Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; CRNRA - Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Cobb Co.; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; Kennesaw Mt. - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; MBBP - Merry Bros. Brickyard Ponds in Augusta; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; Oxbow Meadows - Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in the Columbus area; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- COMMON LOON - One was found at Lake Juliette in Monroe Co. on 16 Aug (Terry Johnson et al.). The best count was 130+ at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 6 Nov (Walt Chambers).
- HORNED GREBE - The best count of this species also came from West Point Dam, with 100 on 6 Nov (Walt Chambers).
- EARED GREBE - One was present at the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. from 20 Sep through at least 13 Oct (Paul Champlin). Another single was seen at Rum Creek WMA on 13 Nov (Terry Johnson).
- CORY'S SHEARWATER - Four were observed on a pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - One was observed on the same pelagic trip on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - One was seen at Harris Neck NWR on 5 Aug (Michael Beohm), 12 were at the St. Marys River on 12 Oct (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle), one remained at Reynoldsville Park in Seminole

Co. from 10 Nov (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm) through 12 Nov (Michael Bell), two were found along Andrews Island Causeway on 13 Nov (Gene Keferl), 18 were at Andrews Island on 23 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba), and 38 were counted at Sterling Creek Wastewater Treatment Center in Richmond Hill on 24 Nov (Diana Churchill).

- AMERICAN BITTERN - The first report from the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. was of two birds on 22 Sep (Earl Horn). One to two were reported from the same location through the end of the period (various observers). Singles were seen at Harris Neck NWR 21 Oct (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), and at MBBP on 25 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- LEAST BITTERN - One was found at the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 20 Oct (Anne Waters).
- GREAT BLUE HERON - Four were seen flying in a southerly direction about 80 km offshore on the pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- GREAT EGRET - Good numbers were reported from the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co., with over 100 being counted on 1 Sep (Anne Waters). Several lingered into late fall in north Georgia, including two at Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co. on 23 Oct (Stephen Stewart), and singles at Lullwater Estate on 19 Oct (Eran Tomer), at Lake Shamrock in Clayton Co. on 2 Nov (Carol Lambert), and in Gordon Co. on 30 Nov (John Gatchet).
- TRICOLORED HERON - Inland reports included two in Tift Co. on 26 Aug (Giff Beaton), one in Dodge Co. on 31 Aug (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba), one at the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 22 Sep (Earl Horn) and 29 Sep (Anne Waters), and four at Reynoldsville Park in Seminole Co. on 10 Nov (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- REDDISH EGRET - There were several reports from along the coast, with the best count being three at Sapelo Island on 18 Sep (Doris Cohrs).
- CATTLE EGRET - Ten were a good find in Bartow Co. on 19 Aug (Chris Loudermilk). One seen at MBBP on 25 Nov was late (Paul Champlin).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - A good count of 46 was made at Harris Neck NWR on 7 Oct (Jim Flynn et al.).
- WHITE IBIS - One was reported at Tribble Mill Park in Gwinnett Co. on 11 Aug (Russell Judd) and 12 Aug (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- GLOSSY IBIS - Six were counted at Jekyll Island on 3 Sep (Bruce Dralle et al.), and one was observed at the Pinizy Swamp on 20 Sep (Paul Champlin).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The high count was 60 at Andrews Island on 28 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm). One was also noted at Skidaway Island on 10 and 11 Nov (Beth Roth, Russ Wigh).
- WOOD STORK - Eight were unusual for northern Greene Co. on 16 Sep (Paul Sykes).
- TURKEY VULTURE - Good counts of migrating birds over the Atlanta area were 140 on 30 Oct (Eran Tomer), and 88 on 3 Nov (Jerry Brunner, Georgann Schmalz).
- BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - One was found at Andrews Island on 15 Sep (Brad Winn).

- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - About 50 were a great find at Harris Neck NWR on 6 Oct (various observers). These birds were seen during a field trip organized as part of the GOS annual meeting.
- SNOW GOOSE - There was a major influx toward the end of October, with some notable counts of 250+ over DeKalb Co. on 25 Oct (Jerry Brunner), 45 in Oconee Co. on 25 Oct (Paul Sykes), about 150 over Forsyth Co. on 26 Oct (Jim Flynn), 40 in Pike Co. on 27 Oct (Mark Beebe), and about 100 in Baker Co. on 31 Oct (Robert Lane).
- GADWALL - A good count of 102 was made at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 6 Oct (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- AMERICAN WIGEON - A male that was found at Lullwater Estates in Atlanta during the summer was last reported on 4 Aug (Wendy West). Sixty were counted at Garden Lakes in the Rome area on 27 Oct (Marion Dobbs).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL - Singles were observed at MBBP on 3 Nov (Anne Waters) and at Garden Lakes in Rome beginning on 16 Nov (Marion Dobbs).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL - Ten seen at the ELHLAF on 12 Sep were the first ones reported for the season (Giff Beaton).
- CANVASBACK - Six were observed at West Point Dam on 6 Nov (Walt Chambers), and one was at Garden Lakes in the Rome area also on 6 Nov (Marion Dobbs).
- REDHEAD - Sixty were reported from West Point Lake on 21 Nov (Walt Chambers, Lorna West).
- GREATER SCAUP - One was seen at the Phinizy Swamp on 17 Nov (Anne Waters) and 25 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- SURF SCOTER - One to two were seen at West Point Dam beginning on 6 Nov (Walt Chambers et al.), and a single was found at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 24 Nov (Chris Loudermilk). The best count from Jekyll Island was four on 24 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Three were reported from Jekyll Island on both 9 Nov (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and 24 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba). An immature was a good inland find at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center from 13 to 27 Nov (Tim Keyes).
- BLACK SCOTER - One was a rare inland find at West Point Dam in Troup Co. from 6 Nov (Walt Chambers) through 17 Nov (Malcolm Hodges). The best count from the coast was 260+ at Jekyll Island on 9 Nov (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Two hundred was a good count at West Point Dam on 21 Nov (Walt Chambers, Lorna West).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - The best count was 38 in Tattnall on 2 Aug (E.J. Williams). One seen in Stephens Co. on 21 Aug was a good find (Dan Ross).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - The high count for this species, also from Tattnall Co., was 20 on 11 Aug (Tom Schneider). Seven was a good count for Monroe Co. on 16 Aug (Nathan Klaus). Rare for the Atlanta area were singles at Stone Mountain on 25 Aug (Mike Hoekstra) and at the Buford Fish Hatchery on 23 Sep (Bill Elrick).

- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Good numbers were reported over the Atlanta area on 16 Sep, with counts of 100+ over Dunwoody (Tom Striker), 79 at Stone Mountain (Mike Hoekstra), and 63 at the Big Creek Greenway (Georgann Schmalz).
- GOLDEN EAGLE - An immature bird was reported from Harris Neck WMA on 17 Nov (Ellen Moore, Sheila Willis).
- MERLIN - Singles were reported from Union Co. on 12 Sep (Betty Belanger). Brasstown Bald on 20 Sep (Dot Freeman), Phinizy Swamp on both 21 Sep (Paul Champlin) and 22 Sep (Earl Horn), Kennesaw Mt. on both 25 Sep (Tom Egan et al.) and 8 Oct (Deb Zaremba), Oxbow Meadows on 13 Oct (Walt Chambers), Greene Co. on 14 Oct (Paul Sykes), J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on both 24 Oct (Marion Dobbs) and 3 Nov (Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott), Peach Co. on 3 Nov (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn), and Twiggs Co. on 18 Nov (Walt Chambers).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - Singles were seen at the Legacy Sod farm in Bartow Co. on 19 Aug (Tom Egan, Jim Flynn), in Pickens Co. on 23 Sep (Marion Dobbs), at Kennesaw Mt. on 24 Sep (Tom Egan et al.) and 7 Oct (Giff Beaton et al.), at Oxbow Meadows on 29 Sep (Walt Chambers), in Peach Co. on 30 Sep (Earl Horn), and at the ELHLAF on both 13 and 27 Oct (Carol Lambert et al.).
- BLACK RAIL - One was reported from along the Andrews Island Causeway from 13 Oct (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle) through 3 Nov (Bill Blakeslee, Aubrey Scott, Jeff Sewell).
- KING RAIL - Three were reported from the Phinizy Swamp on 10 Nov (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott).
- VIRGINIA RAIL - Eight were found at the Phinizy Swamp on 10 Nov (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott).
- SORA - At least 35 were counted at the Phinizy Swamp on 10 Nov (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott).
- PURPLE GALLINULE - An immature bird was an interesting find at Fairchild's Park in Seminole Co. on 18 Nov (Michael Bell, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- LIMPkin - One was reported at Gamecock Lake along the Altamaha River in McIntosh Co. on 8 Oct (*fide* Malcolm Hodges), and two were found there from 28 Oct (Malcolm Hodges) through 3 Nov (Bill Blakeslee, Bruce Dralle, Aubrey Scott, Jeff Sewell).
- SANDHILL CRANE - Many reports were received during November, with some of the best counts being 1000+ over Macon and Houston Cos. on 6 Nov (Larry Ross), 1000 over Cobb Co. on 21 Nov (Vicki Williams), and 600+ over Marietta on 25 Nov (Jim Pappas, Melissa Pappas).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Rare inland reports were of five at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 1 Sep (Walt Chambers, Will Esters), one at the same location the following day (Marion Dobbs), one at Turfgrass America in Floyd Co. on 2 Sep (Marion Dobbs), and one at the ELHLAF on 11 Sep (Carol Lambert).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - One to three birds were reported at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. from 25 Aug (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) through 6 Oct (Bruce Dralle). One to two were seen at Turf Grass Sod in Macon Co. from 2 Sep (Tom Egan) through 6 Sep (Ted Reissing), one was found in Washington Co. on 3 Sep (Giff Beaton), one was noted at the ELHLAF on 29 Sep (Carol Lambert), and two were at Super Sod in

- Peach Co. from 14 Oct (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) through 21 Oct (Pat Sully).
- PIPING PLOVER - One was a very rare inland find at Rum Creek WMA on 16 Aug (Terry Johnson et al.). A good count of 27 was made at Little Tybee Island on 26 Aug (Deb Barriero).
- BLACK-NECKED STILT - Two late birds were still at Andrews Island on 28 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- AMERICAN AVOCET - Good numbers were reported from Andrews Island, including a high count of 200 on 23 Sep (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Malcolm Hodges, Shawn Reed).
- WILLET - One was at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. from 12-13 Aug (John Gatchett et al.).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER - Three to four were reported from a sod farm in Macon Co. on 14 Aug (Giff Beaton, Walt Chambers, Jim Flynn), and one was seen at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on both 30 Aug (Bob Zaremba) and 31 Aug (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle).
- MARBLED GODWIT - The best sighting out of several notable reports from Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. this fall, was of one of this species on 4 Aug (Bruce Dralle, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). Only two previous inland records, from 1976 and 1978, are listed in the ACOGB. The best count from the coast was 18 at Jekyll Island on 30 Nov (Lydia Thompson).
- RED KNOT - The high count was 350 at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov (Jeff Sewell).
- SANDERLING - An estimated 6,000 were present at St. Catherines Bar in Liberty Co. on 8 Aug (Paul Sykes). One was a good find at the ELHLAF on 12 Sep (Giff Beaton, Carol Lambert).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER - Ten were counted along Taft Road in Bartow Co. on 15 Sep (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Four were noted at Andrews Island on 28 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Two were found at the Legacy Sod Farm in Bartow Co. on 26 Aug (Bruce Dralle), where the high count was four on 1 Sep (Walt Chambers, Will Esters). Also in Bartow Co., one was seen at a mudhole along Tram Rd. on 17 Sep (Giff Beaton). A single was reported at ELHLAF on both 14 Oct (Patrick Brisse) and 15 Oct (Carol Lambert).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER - The best counts were 150 at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 19 Aug (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and 160 at a sod farm in Washington Co. on 3 Sep (Giff Beaton). One seen at the Phinizy Swamp on 11 Nov was fairly late (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER - The best count from Tybee Island was four on 10 Nov (Walt Chambers). Singles were also reported from Gould's Inlet on 22 Nov (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle) through 24 Nov (Gene Keferl, Lydia Thompson), and at Cumberland Island on 23 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- STILT SANDPIPER - Several reports were received, with the best counts being six in Bartow Co. on 4 Aug (Bruce Dralle), and 13 at Andrews Island on 28 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - The first report was of one at Turfgrass America in Floyd Co. on 12 Aug (Marion Dobbs). There were many reports of small numbers through the end of September, including seven at Super Sod in Macon Co. on 14 Aug (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn), one in Schley Co. on 14 Aug (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn), eight at Turfgrass

- America in Floyd Co. on 2 Sep (Marion Dobbs), four at Andrews Island on 3 Sep (Bruce Dralle et al.), one in Washington Co. on 3 Sep (Giff Beaton), four at Super Sod in Peach Co. on 6 Sep (Ted Reissing), and three at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on both 17 Sep (Giff Beaton) and 23 Sep (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle).
- RUFF - A juvenile male seen at a sod farm in Macon Co. on 1 Sep was well described (Chuck Saleeby, Jeff Sewell). This is the first report of this species in Georgia in many years.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Inland reports included one at Turfgrass America in Floyd Co. on 17 Aug (Marion Dobbs, Nelson Dobbs), one at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. from 19 Aug (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle, Tom Egan, Jim Flynn) through 26 Aug (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle, Karen Theodorou, Deb Zaremba), and three in Washington Co. on 3 Sep (Giff Beaton).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Singles were reported from Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. from 11 Aug (John Gatchett) through 13 Aug (Marion Dobbs), Stewart Co. on 14 Oct (Walt Chambers), and Reynoldsville Park in Seminole Co. from 10 Nov (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm) through 12 Nov (Michael Bell). Sixteen were found along Tolomato causeway in McIntosh Co. on 24 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn).
- WILSON'S SNIPES - One seen at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 11 Aug was early (Bruce Dralle).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE - Four was an excellent inland count from Macon Co. on 14 Aug (Walt Chambers). Singles were seen at Legacy Sod on both 16 Aug (Earl Horn) and 17 Aug (John Gatchett), and one was seen at the Taft Road mudhole in Bartow Co. on 9 Sep (Bruce Dralle). At Andrews Island one was found on 17 Aug (Gene Keferl), and as many as four were reported during most of September (Giff Beaton et al.).
- POMARINE JAEGER - Singles were seen on the pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.), off of Cumberland Island on 22 Nov (Paul Champlin et al.), and off of Jekyll Island on 24 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn).
- PARASITIC JAEGER - One was identified on the pelagic trip on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.). Reports from Jekyll Island were of one on 24 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn) and two on 30 Nov (Lydia Thompson).
- RING-BILLED GULL - An adult seen in Schley Co. on 14 Aug was unusual for the time of year (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - The high count was six at Gould's Inlet on 1 Oct (Lydia Thompson).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Four were seen at Sapelo Island on 22 Aug (Doris Cohrs).
- SABINE'S GULL - A bird in breeding plumage was spotted in Wassaw Sound near the end of the pelagic trip on 2 Sep (Jeff Sewell et al.). Unfortunately, the bird was not seen by most of the participants. There are only three previous records of this species in Georgia, the most recent being in 1984.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - Walt Chambers once again found this species at West Point Dam in Troup Co., where he saw a first-winter bird on 29 Nov.

- GULL-BILLED TERN - The best count was 11 at Andrews Island on 17 Aug (Gene Keferl).
- CASPIAN TERN - Inland reports were of six in the Athens area on 7 Aug (Mark Freeman), and one at MBBP on 20 Sep (Paul Champlin). Good counts from the coast included 59 at Tybee Island on 15 Sep (Diana Churchill), and 200+ at Cumberland Island on 12 Oct (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle).
- BRIDLED TERN - Ten were recorded on the pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- SOOTY TERN - Six were noted on the same pelagic trip on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLACK TERN - The only inland reports came from the ELHLAF, with five on 27 Aug (Carol Lambert) and one on 3 Sep (Brad Bergstrom). A good count of 332 was made on the pelagic trip on 2 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLACK SKIMMER - A count of 290 was made at Tybee Island on 7 Oct (Paul Sykes).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE - One was an unusual find in the Griffin area during September (Eric Beohm).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - One was a rare find at Callaway Gardens on 18 Sep (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers).
- SNOWY OWL - A bird in poor health was found near Lafayette in Walker Co. on 24 Nov. It was captured and taken to a rehabilitator on 27 Nov, but unfortunately died the following day (*vide* Giff Beaton). This is a fourth record of this species in the state.
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK - Counts from around the Atlanta area included 80-100 over Chamblee on 28 Aug (Steve Ehly), 50 over northeast Atlanta on 30 Aug (Eran Tomer), 200+ over Emory University on 31 Aug (Eran Tomer), 100-200 over Snellville on 5 Sep (John Champion), and 50 over northeast Atlanta on 18 Sep (Eran Tomer). Other reports were of 150 in Bartow Co. on 28 Aug (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle), 150 in Floyd Co. on 31 Aug (Marion Dobbs), and 100 in Lumpkin Co. on 15 Sep (Kathleen Krzustek).
- BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD - A bird started coming to a feeder in Macon on 5 Nov (*vide* Jerry Amerson) to provide Georgia's first record of this species. The bird was banded the following month, and more details will be published in the winter report.
- CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - Two birds that were banded last year returned to feeders. A male was back in Augusta beginning 10 Oct (*vide* Anne Waters), and a female returned to a yard in Lilburn around 20 Nov (*vide* Rusty Trump). Both birds remained through the end of the period (various observers).
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - By the end of August there were no fewer than six reports from around the state (*vide* Terry Moore). Several more reports were received, including a banded female that returned to the same yard in Alpharetta for the fourth consecutive year (*vide* Rusty Trump), and three that were banded in Dacula on 20 Nov (Karen Theodorou). At least four hummingbirds were present at a yard in Early Co. during November, with three of the birds being banded and identified as immature Rufous (Terry Johnson).

- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - Singles were seen at Crockford/Pigeon Mt. WMA on 19 Aug (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and at Kennesaw Mt. on 11 Sep (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - There were no fewer than 15 birds reported from around the state between 31 Aug and 5 Oct (various observers).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER - A bird was reportedly identified by voice at the Ocmulgee National Monument in Bibb Co. on 20 Sep (Eric Beohm).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Singles were reported from Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 13 Aug (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Jim Fynn), and Chattahoochee Park in Decatur Co. on 14 Oct (Michael Bell).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - Singles were found at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 17 Sep (Giff Beaton), in Forsyth Co. on 18 Sep (Jim Flynn), and at the CRNRA on 24 Sep (Eric Beohm). Two birds were seen and heard along the Augusta levee area on 25 Sep (Anne Waters).
- TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD - A bird of this type was seen at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 21 Sep (Paul Champlin, Charles Kitt). Unfortunately the bird was not heard vocalizing.
- EASTERN KINGBIRD - At least 300 were counted migrating south from Jekyll Island on 3 Sep (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- GRAY KINGBIRD - Four were seen on Jekyll Island on 5 Aug (Carol McClelland).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - The last report from the breeding site near McDonough in Henry Co. was of an adult feeding a young bird on 8 Aug (Jim Ozier). An adult was seen at the Cartersville Airport in Bartow Co. on 15 Sep (Tracy Brown, Bruce Dralle).
- WARBLING VIREO - Singles were found at Kennesaw Mt. on both 26 Sep (Walt Chambers) and 27 Sep (Tom Egan), and one was observed in Greene Co. on 23 Sep (Paul Sykes).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Good numbers were reported from around the state, including a total of 34 for the season at Kennesaw Mt. A late bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 28 Oct (Brad Bergstrom).
- COMMON RAVEN - Several reports were received from the mountains, with the best count being four along Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co. on 10 Nov (Earl Horn, Bob Zarembo, Deb Zarembo).
- HORNED LARK - The best counts were 24 in Macon Co. on 19 Aug (Brad Bergstrom), 15-20 in the Unadilla area on 20 Aug (Nathan Klaus, Larry Ross), and 35 in Washington Co. on 3 Sep (Giff Beaton).
- TREE SWALLOW - A huge flock, containing an estimated 500,000 birds, was observed on Sapelo Island on 29 Oct (Malcolm Hodges, Todd Schneider, Paul Sykes).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - A few birds, mostly singles, were reported from several locations across north Georgia (various observers). One was also reported from the Brunswick area beginning in mid-October (Mike Chapman). A very high count of 18 came from Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co. on 10 Nov (Earl Horn, Bob Zarembo, Deb Zarembo).
- SEDGE WREN - A few birds were reported from the Atlanta area, including four at the CRNRA on 7 Oct (Bruce Dralle et al.). The high count from the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. was six on 13 Oct (Paul Champlin).
- MARSH WREN - Good numbers were reported from the Phinizy Swamp, including a high count of 40 on 10 Nov (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott).

- RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - An early bird was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 24 Aug (Deb Zaremba et al.).
- VEERY - Pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt. produced 65 on 22 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 78 on 23 Sep (Giff Beaton, Richard Crook).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Nineteen were heard on 22 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 27 were tallied on 23 Sep (Giff Beaton, Richard Crook) during pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Good counts of 712 on 22 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 326 on 23 Sep (Giff Beaton, Richard Crook) were made on the pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt. Twenty was a good daytime count at Fernbank Forest on 29 Sep (Georgann Schmalz et al.). A very late bird was seen along the Augusta levee on 27 Nov (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters).
- WOOD THRUSH - Totals for this species on the pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt. were 44 on 22 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 64 on 23 Sep (Giff Beaton, Richard Crook).
- AMERICAN ROBIN - A pair was found feeding a fledgling in Bainbridge in Decatur Co. on 4 Aug (Michael Bell).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - The high count was three from Kennesaw Mt. on both 14 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.) and 23 Sep (Tom Egan et al.), and Forsyth Co. on 18 Sep (Jim Flynn).
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER - Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids of this form were seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 30 Aug (Bob Zaremba), and in the Columbus area on 3 Oct (Walt Chambers).
- LAWRENCE'S WARBLER - This rarer Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid form was found at the CRNRA on 23 Sep (Brad Bergstrom, Margaret Harper).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER - Seventy was an excellent count at Kennesaw Mt. on 17 Oct (Tom Egan et al.).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The best count for the period was 25 at Fort Mountain State Park on 9 Sep (Malcolm Hodges et al.).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER - One seen at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 17 Nov was late (Malcolm Hodges).
- AMERICAN REDSTART - High counts included 37 at Kennesaw Mt. on 14 Sep (fide Tom Egan), and 27 at Oxbow Meadows on 29 Sep (Walt Chambers).
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - One seen in Jackson Co. on 19 Oct was late (Earl Horn).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - A late bird was seen in the Macon area on 20 Sep (Eric Beohm).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - One was an excellent find at Berry College in Floyd Co. on 22 Sep (Marion Dobbs).
- WILSON'S WARBLER - Singles were seen at Kennesaw Mt. on both 4 and 5 Sep (Tom Egan), at South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 13 Sep (Jerry Brunner), at Chicopee Woods in Hall Co. on 18 Sep (Karen Theodorou), and at the Big Creek Greenway in the Alpharetta area on 19 Sep (Lisa Hurt, Georgann Schmalz), and one was banded at the Buford Trout Hatchery on 28 Sep (Bill Elrick).
- CANADA WARBLER - Five was the high count at Kennesaw Mt. on 11 Aug (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). This species is rare along the coast, so

- one at the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal on 23 Sep was noteworthy (Giff Beaton).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Singles were seen at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co. on 20 Sep (Giff Beaton, Richard Crook), at Andrews Island on 22 Sep (Walt Chambers), at the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta on both 30 Sep (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle) and 2 Oct (Leslie Curran, Georgann Schmalz, Pat Sully), in Elbert Co. on 27 Oct (Earl Horn), and in the Macon area on 2 Nov (Eric Beohm).
- LARK SPARROW - Singles were found in Peach Co. on both 26 Sep (Marion Dobbs) and 27 Sep (Bob Zaremba), at Tybee Island on 4 Oct (Dot Bambach, Diana Churchill), and at Harris Neck NWR on 7 Oct. (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn et al.).
- HENSLow'S SPARROW - The first birds reported were singles at the Pinizy Swamp in the Augusta area on 6 Oct (Paul Champlin) and at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on the same day (Michael Bell, Marion Dobbs). The best count from Paulk's Pasture in Glynn Co. was 15 on 23 Nov (Traci Brown, Bruce Dralle, Gene Keferl, Jeff Sewell). Three were seen at Birdsong Nature Center on 24 Nov (Michael Bell), and two were found at the MBBP on 25 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Singles were reported from the Pinizy Swamp on 28 Oct (Paul Champlin), Paulk's Pasture on both 29 Oct and 11 Nov (Walt Chambers), J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 4 Nov (Chris Loudermilk), and at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center on 13 and 15 Nov (Tim Keyes).
- NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - One to two were present at the Pinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. from 7 Oct through 11 Nov (Paul Champlin et al.).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - This species was once again well reported, with a total of 12 birds from across the state. All sightings were of singles except two seen in Floyd Co. on 30 Oct (Marion Dobbs).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - The best counts were 10 at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 28 Oct (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), 15 in Greene Co. on 4 Nov (Paul Sykes), 20 in White Co. on 15 Nov (Betty Belanger, Dot Freeman), and 22 at the MBBP on 25 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - One was seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on the early date on 25 Aug (Aubrey Scott). An excellent count of 44 was made at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb Co. on 29 Sep (Georgann Schmalz et al.).
- BOBOLINK - The best count was 180 in Greene Co. on 16 Sep (Paul Sykes).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - One was spotted at Lake Seminole State Park in Seminole Co. on 18 Nov (Earl Horn).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Three were at the MBBP on 25 Nov (Paul Champlin).
- SHINY COWBIRD - One was seen at a feeder on St. Simons Island on 24 Nov (fide Earl Horn).
- PURPLE FINCH - One seen at the CRNRA on 30 Sep was very early (Chuck Saleeby et al.). Several reports were received from north Georgia during November, including a high count of 18 at Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 16 Nov (Tom Egan et al.). One was also reported from McIntosh Co. on 9 Nov (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

RED CROSSBILL - Eight were reported from the Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 16 Nov (Tom Egan et al.).

PINE SISKIN - The first report of the season was of one at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 28 Oct (Paul Champlin). By the end of November there were small numbers reported from several locations in north Georgia, and one was seen as far south as Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 24 Nov (Michael Bell).

Michael Bell, 517 S. Lamar St., Bainbridge, GA 31717



Snow Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*), 27 November 2001, Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia. This bird was seen in the wild on 26 November, captured on 27 November, and died of unknown causes in captivity on 28 November (fide Kim Kilgore)

FROM THE FIELD DECEMBER 2001-FEBRUARY 2002

Georgia's first Broad-billed Hummingbird was observed by scores of birders at a feeder in Macon. Details of this bird, and of the many other hummingbirds that winter in the state, can be found at the Georgia Hummer website managed by Rusty Trump. This site may be linked from the GOS website at <www.gos.org>. Jim Flynn has done an outstanding job as GOS webmaster, and has designed one of the best birding websites in the country. Another link from this site will take one to the Midwinter Waterbird Survey results. This survey, established in 1996, is organized by Brad Winn, a biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The survey is carried out by professionals and volunteers along the entire Georgia coast from Cumberland Island to Tybee Island in an attempt to estimate the total number of shorebirds and other waterbirds that are present at a given moment in time. Data will hopefully be used to help develop a conservation plan for coastal birds. Currently, Georgia has many miles of relatively undisturbed beaches and marshes, but there will undoubtedly be increasing pressure from various sources to use or abuse these resources. This year's survey was conducted on 18 January, and a total of 97,389 birds of 61 species was counted. Some of the highlights are included below.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986, Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; MWS - Midwinter Waterbird Survey on 18 January, 2002; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - The best count from the coast was 103 on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (fide Emil Urban). One was found inland at Lake Juliette on 13 Jan (Michael Boehm).

COMMON LOON - Excellent counts were 500 at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 13 Dec (Walt Chambers) and 656 on the Cumberland Island CBC on 15 Dec.

HORNED GREBE - Notable counts were 25 at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 13 Dec (Bob Zarembo) and 75 at West Point Dam on 9 Jan (Tom Egan, Deb Zarembo).

RED-NECKED GREBE - One was reported from Walter F. George Lake on 30 Dec (Walt Chambers).

- EARED GREBE** - A good count of nine was made at the Rum Creek WMA on 2 Dec (Terry Johnson, Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell et al.). One was also found at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 13 Dec (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba).
- NORTHERN GANNET** - The best count from along the coast was 200+ at Jekyll Island on 20 Dec (Gene Keferl).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - One was found inland at Lake Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. from 23 Dec (Gene Keferl) through 25 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan). Along the coast one was seen at Sapelo Island on both 18 Dec (Doris Cohrs) and 30 Dec (Anne Waters et al.), and up to nine were reported from along the Andrews Island Causeway from 30 Jan through mid-February (many observers).
- BROWN PELICAN** - One was once again found well inland at Walter F. George Dam in Clay Co. on 26 Jan (Walt Chambers).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** - Nine hundred were present at the Merry Bros. Ponds in Augusta during January (Anne Waters).
- AMERICAN BITTERN** - The best count from the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. was four on 30 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Malcolm Hodges, Earl Horn). One was a good find in the Griffin area on 5 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- GREAT EGRET** - Singles were still in Gordon Co. on 8 Dec (John Gatchet), Gwinnett Co. on 13 Dec (Kathy Arnold) and at Lullwater Estate in Atlanta on 21 Dec (Eran Tomer).
- SNOWY EGRET** - One was an unusual winter find in Seminole Co. on 2 Dec (Michael Bell).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON** - One was recorded on the Macon CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson).
- TRICOLORED HERON** - Six was a good inland count at Lake Seminole on 15 Dec (Michael Beohm). A high count of 400 was made at Harris Neck NWR on 16 Jan (Eric Beohm).
- REDDISH EGRET** - Singles seen at Little St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island, and two found on Cumberland Island during the MWS, along with two reported from Jekyll Island on 16 Feb (Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) are further evidence that this species is a rare but regular winter visitor to the Georgia coast.
- CATTLE EGRET** - Twelve were found in Augusta on 22 Dec (Gene Howard, Cam Kelper), and eight was a good winter count at ENWR on 1 Jan (Michael Beohm). One was seen on the Macon CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson), two were still present at ENWR on 26 Jan (Walt Chambers), and two were seen in Grady Co. on 27 Jan (Kristi Avera, Jo Farrell).
- GREEN HERON** - One was recorded on the Atlanta CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Bill Blakeslee).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** - Sixty were counted at Harris Neck NWR on both 10 Jan (Eric Beohm) and 12 Jan (Bob Zaremba).
- WHITE IBIS** - Four hundred was a good count at AWMA on 13 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** - One was a surprise find in the Brunswick area on 31 Dec (Anne Waters).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** - A flock of up to 24 birds was reported from ENWR beginning on 28 Jan (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm).

- ROSS'S GOOSE** - One was seen at ENWR on both 24 Jan (Eric Beohm) and 28 Jan (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm). The bird that has taken up residence in Madison Co. was reported through the end of the period by several observers. Another single was observed at Lake Hartwell on 2 Feb (Cam Kepler, Paul Sykes).
- TUNDRA SWAN** - One was at Ft. Oglethorpe in Catoosa Co. from 12 Jan (Johnny Parks) through 16 Jan (Giff Beaton, Chuck Saleeby).
- GADWALL** - At least 100 were present in Floyd Co. during early January (Marion Dobbs), and 114 were tallied at a small pond in Coweta Co. on 8 Feb (Marion Dobbs).
- AMERICAN WIGEON** - A good count of 189 was made on the Floyd Co. CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Owen Kinney).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** - A number of observers reported this species from Towns Co., with a high count of 23 on 15 Feb (Jim Hanna, Craig Hunter). Six were noted along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta on 13 Jan (Eran Tomer), five were present in the Phinizy Swamp during late January/early February (Anne Waters et al.), and a good count of 19 was made at Youmans Pond in Liberty Co. on 11 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- MOTTLED DUCK** - Two were reported from AWMA on 13 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** - One was still at the ELHLAF on 20 Dec (Carol Lambert).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - Five were seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 21 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), and eight were found at the Phinizy Swamp on 12 and 13 Jan (Anne Waters). Twenty-six was a good count from along the Chattahoochee River at the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on 24 Jan (Eric Beohm).
- CANVASBACK** - About 300 were observed on Lake Seminole in Decatur Co. on 20 Jan (Earl Horn).
- REDHEAD** - Eleven were found at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 8 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), and 100 were observed at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 13 Dec (Walt Chambers).
- GREATER SCAUP** - Inland reports included one in Baker Co. on 7 Dec (Giff Beaton), one at West Point Dam on 9 Jan (Tom Egan, Deb Zaremba), three at the Phinizy Swamp on 20 Jan (Paul Champlin), three at the ELHLAF on 25 Jan (Carol Lambert), and one at ENWR on 26 Jan (Walt Chambers). The best counts from the coast were 107 on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban), and about 100 at Jekyll Island on 16 Feb (Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba).
- SURF SCOTER** - One was seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 13 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), and three were a good find in the Thomaston area on 3 Jan (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm). Fourteen were recorded off Wassaw Island during the MWS.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Two were seen off Jekyll Island on 31 Dec (Anne Waters et al.).
- BLACK SCOTER** - The best count was 986 on the Cumberland Island CBC on 15 Dec., though 2000 scoter sp., presumably mostly of this species, were recorded off Wolf Island during the MWS.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK** - Two were seen at Walter F. George Lake in Clay Co. on 30 Dec (Walt Chambers).

- COMMON GOLDENEYE - The best count from West Point Dam was 18 on both 20 Dec (Pierre Howard) and 11 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.). Other reports included two at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 21 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), one in the Columbus area on 22 Dec (Walt Chambers), one at the Phinizy Swamp from 13 Jan through 2 Feb (Chris Loudermilk, George Reeves, Aubrey Scott, Calvin Zippler), and two on Skidaway Island during February (Beth Roth, Russ Wigh).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Twenty-one was a nice count at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 8 Dec (Chris Loudermilk).
- HOODED MERGANSER - Another good count from Lake Acworth was 150+ of this species on 5 Jan (Melissa Pappas).
- BALD EAGLE - Six was a nice count at West Point Lake on 2 Feb (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- RED-TAILED HAWK - A "Kriders" Red-tailed Hawk that was photographed in Sumter Co. on 2 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) wintered in the area (many observers). Other "Kriders" types were seen in Seminole Co. during December and January (Michael Bell, Walt Chambers, Bob Zaremba) and in Baker Co. on 8 Feb (Michael Bell). Rare dark-morph birds were observed in Bartow Co. on 12 Jan (Bruce Dralle), and in Sumter Co. from 2 Feb through the end of the period (Michael Bell, Sally Marrone, Clive Rainey).
- GOLDEN EAGLE - One was reported from Harris Neck NWR in Liberty Co. on 29 Dec (Gene Keferl). A bird was also seen at this site during the previous month.
- MERLIN - Singles were observed in Sumter Co. on 1 Dec (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn), in Floyd Co. on both 9 Dec (Marion Dobbs et al.) and 27 Jan (Earl Barton, Owen Kinney), at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 25 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), in Gordon Co. on 6 Jan (John Gatchet), in Jenkins Co. on 12 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and at Oxbow Meadows in the Columbus area on both 5 and 17 Feb (Walt Chambers).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - One was observed in the Roswell area on 6 Dec (Henning von Schmeling), and one was reported from West Point Lake on 4 Feb (Pierre Howard).
- KING RAIL - Sixteen was the high count from the Phinizy Swamp on 22 Dec (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn). Four were found at AWMA on 9 Feb (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- VIRGINIA RAIL - Twenty-two were counted at the Phinizy Swamp also on 22 Dec (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- SORA - An outstanding count of 167 was made at the Phinizy Swamp on 22 Dec (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- SANDHILL CRANE - Southbound flocks were observed through 3 Jan (many observers), with the first northbound flock of 30 birds over Mableton being reported on 24 Jan (Vicki Williams).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - A count of 1085 was made on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban).
- WILSON'S PLOVER - Thirty-four were recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban). A total of 94 were counted on the MWS, including an excellent count of 61 at St. Catherines Island.

- PIPING PLOVER - A good count of 31 was made at Little Egg Island on 18 Jan (Giff Beaton, Barb Zoodsma) as part of the MWS. The total recorded on the survey was 143.
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - The best count on the MWS was 217 at Wolf Island.
- AMERICAN AVOCET - The high count from Andrews Island Causeway was 53 on 11 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS - Three birds seen in Wilkinson Co. on 28 Feb were unusual for winter (Giff Beaton).
- WILLET - Two were a rare find on the Bainbridge-Lake Seminole CBC on 27 Dec (Oscar Dewberry).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW - One was found on Sapelo Island on 15 Jan (Doris Cohrs), and during the MWS three were observed on St. Catherines Island, two each were found on Ossabaw Island and Little St. Simons Island, and a single was recorded on St. Catherines Bar.
- MARbled GODWIT - Counts of 140 at St. Catherines Island, 115 at Wolf Island, and 107 at Little St. Simons Island were made during the MWS.
- RED KNOT - A total of 253 were recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban). The total recorded on the MWS was 1080, including a high count of 337 at Pelican Spit.
- LEAST SANDPIPER - A good inland count of 126 was made in Baker Co. on 7 Dec (Giff Beaton). Winter reports from north Georgia included 13 in Bartow Co. on 15 Dec (Bruce Dralle), 12 at the ELHLAF on 1 Jan (John Gatchet), and six in Gordon Co. on 6 Jan (John Gatchet).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER - The best count for Tybee Island was an impressive 13 on 31 Jan (Eric Beohm). One to two also wintered on Jekyll Island (many observers), and two were found on Cumberland Island on 18 Jan (Ray Chandler, Pat Leary, Paul Sykes, Jim Wilson).
- DUNLIN - Six were observed in Baker Co. on 7 Dec (Giff Beaton), and five were found in Wilkinson Co. on 28 Feb (Giff Beaton). A good count of 8758 was made on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban). The total recorded on the MWS was 32,016, including counts of 5000+ at Ossabaw Island, St. Catherines Island and Cumberland Island.
- STILT SANDPIPER - Two were recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Twenty-four were reported from Andrews Island Causeway on 12 Feb (Eric Beohm).
- COMMON SNIFE - Five hundred were reported from ENWR on 24 Feb (Bruce Dralle, Karen Theodorou).
- POMARINE JAEGER - One was seen off Sapelo Island on 23 Feb (Brad Bergstrom).
- PARASITIC JAEGER - Two were seen off Jekyll Island on both 1 Dec (Lydia Thompson) and 18 Jan (Earl Horn).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL - Sixty was a good count at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 13 Dec (Walt Chambers).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - A first winter bird was observed at West Point Dam on 5 Jan (Walt Chambers). The high count for the coast was 12 on Little St. Simons Island during the MWS.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - The bird that was reported late November at West Point Dam was joined by a second bird during December. One to

two were reported from this vicinity through the end of the period (many observers).

SHORT-EARED OWL - At least five wintered at the usual location in Sumter Co. (many observers). Another bird was a good find in Early Co. on 14 Dec. (Robert Smith).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Singles were found along Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co. on 9 Dec. (Earl Horn), 17 Dec (Walt Chambers) and 12 Jan (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Singles were reported in the Darien area on 11 Dec (Doris Cohrs), on the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Emil Urban), during early January on the Albany CBC (*fide* Alan Ashley), and on Jekyll Island on 30 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Malcolm Hodges, Earl Horn).

HUMMINGBIRDS - The following totals of hummingbirds reported in Georgia during the winter season were provided by Rusty Trump: 1 Broad-billed, 2 Ruby-throated, 3 Black-chinned, 3 Calliope, 45 Rufous, 2 Allen's, and 27 unidentified.

BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD - The adult male that appeared at a feeder in Macon during November, continued through 21 Feb (Wesley Wilson). The bird was banded on 15 Dec by Terry Johnson, and the Wilsons graciously allowed scores of birders access to their yard to view this first state record.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - An immature male was banded at Skidaway Island on 18 Jan to provide a rare winter record (Russ Wigh).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - A male wintered in the Savannah area (Steve Calver et al.), and a female was present in the Covington area during February (*fide* Rusty Trump).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - The birds that were present in Augusta and Lilburn during the fall both continued through the winter (many observers). A female was banded in the Savannah area on 29 Jan (John Stafford).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - An adult was banded in the Roswell area on 26 Feb (Rusty Trump) and remained in the area through the end of the period (many observers). This bird was the seventh recorded in Georgia.

MYIARCHUS SP. - A flycatcher of this genus was observed at Stone Mountain Park on 3 Feb (Art Hurt, Lisa Hurt), but was not identified as to species.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - One was seen on Onslow Island on 12 Dec (Craig Hunter), one was found on the Cumberland Island CBC on 15 Dec (*fide* Bob Zarembo), and one to two were present on Jekyll Island from 20 Dec (Lydia Thompson) through 16 Feb (Earl Horn, Bob Zarembo). Another bird was reported on the Augusta CBC on 22 Dec (Bonnie Fancher, Gene Howard, Cam Kepler).

COMMON RAVEN - Five were recorded on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Harriett DiGiorgia), and three were observed in Rabun Co. on 24 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

HORNED LARK - A couple of reports were received away from the usual locations for this species. About 12 were found in Early Co. on 17 Dec (Robert Smith), and three were noted in Bleckley Co. on 24 Feb (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

PURPLE MARTIN - The first report was of one in Brooks Co. on 23 Jan (Debbie Grimes).

TREE SWALLOW - One at the ELHLAF on 10 Feb was early (Carol Fegarido).

BARN SWALLOW - Eight were most unusual for winter on the Bainbridge-Lake Seminole CBC on 27 Dec (*fide* Oscar Dewberry).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Small numbers were reported from several sites in north Georgia, but the 16 tallied along Burrell's Ford in Rabun Co. on 26 Jan (Eric Beohm) were an excellent count. One also spent much of the winter in the Brunswick area (Mike Chapman), and another single was reported from Skidaway Island on 23 Jan (Russ Wigh).

SEDGE WREN - Seven was good count on the Atlanta CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Bill Blakeslee).

GRAY CATBIRD - One was seen on the Floyd Co. CBC on 16 Dec (John Gatchet et al.), and four was a good count on the Augusta CBC on 22 Dec (*fide* Anne Waters). This species was also reported in the Atlanta area, with two on the Atlanta CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Bill Blakeslee), one at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 16 Jan (Marjorie Davis, Mark Davis), and one along South Peachtree Creek on 22 Feb (Bruce Dralle).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - One found on the Macon CBC was an extremely rare winter find (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson et al.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Another very rare find was one of this species on the Cumberland Island CBC on 15 Dec (Malcolm Hodges, Tim Keyes, Bob Zarembo).

PRAIRIE WARBLER - One was seen on Jekyll Island on 28 Dec (Art Hurt, Lisa Hurt), and one was a good find in the Tifton area on 25 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Seven was a good one-day total for Coffee and Irwin Cos. on 31 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Malcolm Hodges, Earl Horn).

OVENBIRD - One was found at Crooked River State Park on 15 Dec (Andy Madison, Beth Willis), and one was a rare find in northwest Atlanta during February (Sarah English Perry).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - Another rare find was one at South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 21 Feb (Jerry Brünner).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - Five was a nice count for winter at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 25 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Oscar Dewberry).

LARK SPARROW - One was found at Jekyll Island from 28 Dec (Lydia Thompson) through 17 Jan (Eric Beohm).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Seven was a good count at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 8 Dec (Michael Bell).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - There were outstanding counts from a couple of locations this winter. Good numbers were found throughout the season at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co., where the high count was 29 on 25 Jan (Giff Beaton, Michael Bell, Tom Egan, Oscar Dewberry). Seventeen were counted at Paul's Pasture WMA in Glynn Co. on 31 Jan (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Richard Beohm). Small numbers also wintered at Ichauway Plantation in Baker Co., where the high count was four on 19 Dec. (Michael Bell, Pierre Howard). Four were recorded on

the St. Catherines Island CBC on 15 Dec (*vide* Emil Urban), three were seen on the Sapelo Island CBC on 29 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), three were found at Seminole State Park in Seminole Co. on 24 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Oscar Dewberry), and five were counted near Laura Walker State Park on 31 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Malcolm Hodges, Earl Horn).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - One to two were found at Ichauway Plantation in Baker Co. during December (Michael Bell), one was found at the Phinizy Swamp on 22 Dec (James Keener, Ruth Mead) and 5 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), two were seen at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 25 Jan (Giff Beaton, Michael Bell, Tom Egan, Oscar Dewberry), and one was at Paulk's Pasture WMA in Glynn Co. on 31 Jan (Eric Beohm, Michael Beohm, Richard Beohm).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - A very rare inland report was of one at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 16 Jan (Paul Champlin). One to two were found at this site during fall.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One was seen in Greene Co. on 2 Dec (Paul Sykes), and one was recorded on the Augusta CBC on 22 Dec (James Keener).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - The best counts were 10 at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 2 Dec (Chris Loudermilk), 23 in Greene Co. on 2 Dec (Paul Sykes), and 15 in Macon on 18 Jan (Eric Beohm).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - Ten were an excellent find at Andrews Island on 10 Jan (Eric Beohm).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - One was seen in Seminole Co. on 24 Dec (Walt Chambers).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - High counts included 104 at ENWR on 1 Jan (Michael Beohm), about 300 at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 20 Jan (Paul Champlin), 250 in the Rome area on 24 Jan (Marion Dobbs), and 200+ at Oxbow Meadows in the Columbus area on 5 Feb (Walt Chambers).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - There were a couple of good counts for this species. One hundred were in Laurens Co. on 4 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tommy Patterson), and 200 were in Bartow Co. on 12 Jan (Bruce Dralle).

SHINY COWBIRD - A male was seen on several occasions on 12 and 13 Feb near Osterfield in Irwin Co. (Milton Hopkins).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Reports included two on the Augusta CBC on 22 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), one in the Valdosta area on 17 Jan (Brad Bergstrom), one in Grady Co. on 26 Jan (Kristi Avera, Jo Farrell), six in the Statesboro area on 30 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Malcolm Hodges, Earl Horn), and one at Oxbow Meadows in the Columbus area on 5 Feb (Walt Chambers).

RED CROSSBILL - The best count from the Pine Log WMA was nine on 14 Jan (Eric Beohm). Other reports included six in Fannin Co. on 16 Dec (Johnny Parks), six in Rabun Co. on 16 Dec (Lex Glover), one to three in Lumpkin Co. on 21 Dec (Jim Flynn), 10 in Fannin Co. on 14 Jan (Betty Belanger), 23 in Rabun Co. on 26 Jan (Eric Beohm), and nine also in Rabun Co. on 15 Feb (Jim Hanna, Craig Hunter).

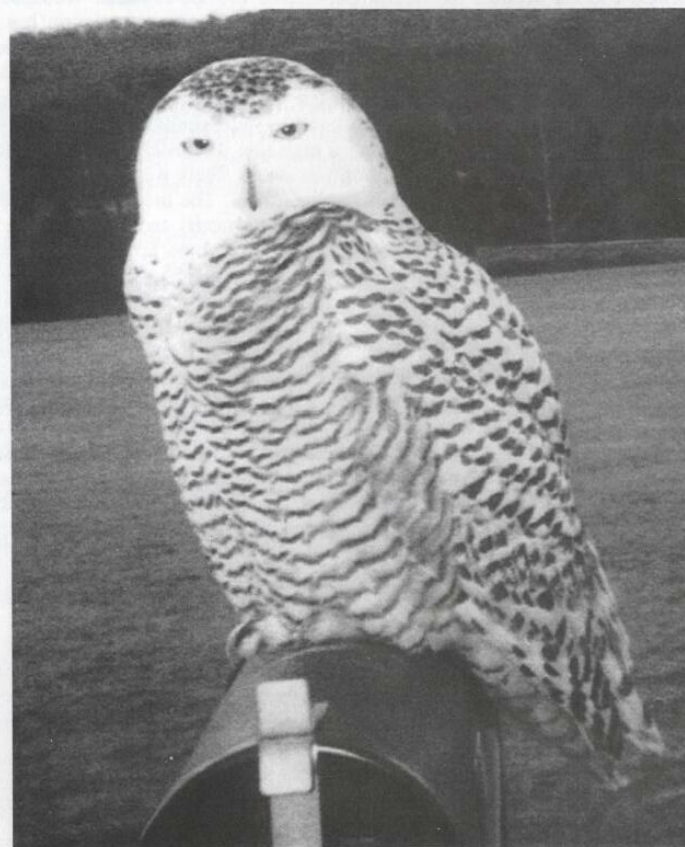
PURPLE FINCH - Small numbers were reported from many locations across north Georgia. Some high counts were 43 in Gordon Co. on 6 Jan

(Marion Dobbs), 70 in Washington Co. on 19 Jan (Lynn Schlup), and 50+ at a feeder in Bibb Co. during February (Jerry Payne, Rose Payne).

PINE SISKIN - Good numbers were reported from north Georgia, including a high count of 108 from Rabun Co. on 14 Jan (Marion Dobbs). Two were recorded on the Okefenokee NWR CBC on 29 Dec.

EVENING GROSBEAK - The only reports were of about 20 in Rabun Co. on 24 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), one in Fannin Co. on 30 Dec (Tom Striker), one in the Cumming area on 3 Jan (Jim Flynn), two near Cherry Log during January (*vide* Christa Friess), and one in Rabun Co. on 26 Jan (Eric Beohm).

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Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*), 27 November 2001, Lafayette, Walker County, Georgia.

FROM THE LITERATURE

"From the Literature" provides brief reviews of recent ornithological studies conducted in the state of Georgia. The reviews are designed for a general reader and are meant to make ornithological research in Georgia available to a wider audience. — The Editors.

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Red Hills region: a GIS-based assessment. J. A. Cox, W. W. Baker, and R. T. Engstrom. 2001. Wildlife Society Bulletin 29(4):1278–1288. — The Red Hills of southwest Georgia and northwest Florida support the largest population of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) remaining on private lands. Because this population has not been surveyed in over a decade, in 1998 the authors of this study used global positioning systems to geo-reference cavity trees (N = 2047) and then entered the locations into a geographic information system (GIS). The estimated numbers of active (N = 179) and inactive (N = 90) clusters were similar to those found in previous surveys, but other factors (e.g., a high rate of cluster inactivation) made it difficult to conclude that the population was stable. There was an average of 7.6 cavity trees/cluster and 2.8 active trees/active clusters. The most common species used as cavity trees were longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) and loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), and a greater proportion of longleaf cavity trees was active (26.9% versus 11.8% for loblolly). Active clusters had more active neighbors within 2 and 4.5 km and shorter distances to an active neighboring cluster than inactive clusters. Active clusters also were surrounded by more-uniform forest cover, smaller areas of unsuitable habitat types, less total edge habitat, and fewer total patches of unsuitable habitat than inactive clusters. Proportion of cavity trees in longleaf pine, number of active neighbors within 2 km, and proportion of unsuitable habitat within 804 m of cluster centers were the best predictors of cluster activity. The authors found that these variables correctly classified 75% of the clusters. They suggest that clusters misclassified by a discriminant analysis (i.e., active clusters classified as inactive and inactive clusters classified as active) should be the focus of attempts to stabilize or expand this population by constructing artificial cavities.

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The Oriole publishes original articles that advance the study of birds in the state of Georgia and adjoining regions. *The Oriole* welcomes submission of articles describing the occurrence, distribution, behavior, or identification of birds in Georgia, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology. All manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate to the editors.

COPY – Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced throughout, on quality paper. Underline scientific names only. Use the same font size and style throughout the manuscript. Manuscripts should include a title page (including names and addresses of all authors), text (beginning on page 2), literature cited, tables, figure legends (on a separate page), and figures. Number all pages through the tables in the upper right-hand corner. Avoid footnotes.

STYLE – For questions of style consult the CBE Style Manual, 5th edition. It is available from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

LITERATURE CITED – List all references cited in the text alphabetically by the first author's last name in a Literature Cited section. If there are three or fewer citations, they should be incorporated parenthetically in the text. General notes should also incorporate references in the text. Citations should conform to the style of a recent issue of *The Oriole*.

NOMENCLATURE – Common names of bird species should be capitalized. Provide the scientific name (underlined) at the first mention of each species. Nomenclature should follow the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (7th edition), 1998.

TABLES – Tables should be formatted with the size of *The Oriole* in mind and should be interpretable without reference to the text.

FIGURES – Figures should be appropriate for photoreproduction without retouching. Photos should be good-quality color or black-and-white prints.

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