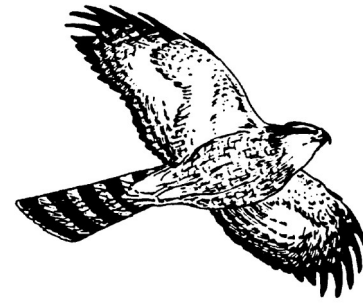


GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

The Milledgeville Experience

By Bob Sargent

Our Spring Meeting took place April 23-25 in the historic and charming college town of Milledgeville. This was something of a homecoming for GOS, as our first meeting was held in Milledgeville in 1937. The consensus of the meeting participants was that our homecoming was a resounding success, thanks in large part to the graciousness and hard work of the Georgia College and State University (GC&SU) faculty, staff, and students. In particular, Dr. Bob Chandler and Dr. Bill Wall went above and beyond the call of duty to entertain and inform us.

We started the meeting with a Friday afternoon tour of Herty Hall and GC&SU's new, state-of-the-art library facility, led by Bob Chandler and the talented library staff. Bob's enthusiasm for his research is infectious, and participants were captivated by his guided tour of the ornithological collection, artifact storage shelves, and the site of the school's future paleontology exhibit room. Friday night's provocative program, "Bird Evolution's Big Bang," was presented by Dr. Alan Feduccia of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In thirty all too brief minutes, Alan "walked" the

audience through a fascinating exploration of the origin of birds, explaining, disputing, and introducing theories.

The field trips schedule featured some well known birding locations in Middle Georgia, and some that weren't so well known (e.g., Beaverdam WMA) but definitely have the attention of birders now. The species count for the weekend was 123, and the schedule was a big hit thanks to the planning of Bill Lotz and the many talented field trip leaders. Highlights included: Northern Shoveler, Common Loon, Wilson's Snipe, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Swainson's Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Bachman's Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Baltimore Oriole (see the complete list on page 4). Dr. Chris Skelton (GC&SU) led the species countdown on Saturday night.

Saturday was a busy day, featuring an ornithological paper session in the afternoon following the field trips, then the banquet and guest speaker. About 35 people attended the paper session, which featured presentations by students and faculty from GC&SU, Georgia Southern University, and the University of Georgia (UGA). Papers covered an array of topics, including primitive birds, osprey ecology, kestrel nest sites, and agricultural impacts on bird diversity.

Saturday night featured a rather unusual arrangement for a GOS meeting, as the banquet and the featured speaker's presentation occurred in two different rooms. The evening went smoothly due in large part to the efforts of Anne Mursch, who also joined Barbara Brigham and Steve Holzman to manage the registration and sales desks. An exhibit featuring the art of Dick Parks is a mainstay of GOS meetings, and this one wasn't an exception to that rule. Dick once again impressed the

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Ornithological
Society**

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of the month prior to publication.
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Welcome New Members!

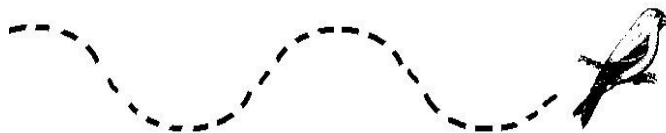
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GOS Membership lists are available upon request to
Angela McMellen, PO Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645 or
<mcmellen@uga.edu>

In Memoriam, Dr. Libero Ajello

Dr. Libero Ajello died on February 24, 2004, in Decatur. Li, as he was known, was a GOS member since 1969. Following World War II, he began a 43 year career with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, where he was a researcher and specialist in mycotic diseases and fungi. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, who was a CDC microbiologist. Li supported a number of environmental organizations as a member, including GOS, and enjoyed natural history tours to countries throughout the world.



H. Branch Howe, Jr. Research Grant Winners for 2004

By Bob Sargent

The competition for this year's awards was especially tough, as several worthy students applied. GOS awarded \$5,000 to the following students:

--Nico Suzanne Dauphine, University of Georgia, \$2,000 for "Bird Conservation in the Cordillera de Colan, Peru";
--Catharine Bradley, Emory University, \$1,800 for "Consequences of Urban Development for Infectious Disease Risk in a Native Songbird"; and
--Guo-Jing Weng, University of Georgia, \$1,200 for "Conservation Genetics of an Introduced Mottled Duck Population."

Congratulations, students, and thank you Bill Van Esseltine, Les Davenport, and Bill Lovejoy for all the work you do as the grant committee.

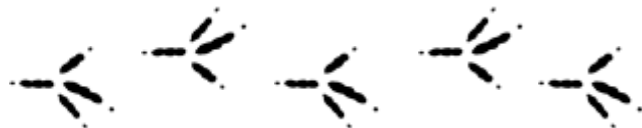
Milledgeville (continued from page 1)

members by displaying an assortment of his beautiful paintings during the banquet. Tommy Patterson also contributed his work to the meeting, making available copies of his fine book, *Birds of Laurens County*, in the registration area. The finishing touch on a very enjoyable day was an intriguing and insightful look at conservation issues, problems, and groups in Bulgaria and Croatia, presented by UGA's Dr. Sara Schweitzer. Sara's talk included a brief history of the two countries, a description of environmental conditions in those countries today, and an excellent account of the work being done by scientists on behalf of conservation in that little-understood region of the world.

If you didn't make it to the Milledgeville meeting, GOS has plenty in store for you to look forward to over the coming months. First, the second Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival is scheduled for the weekend of October 8-10 on Jekyll Island. Just like last year, GOS is responsible for arranging the field trips, which will include great locations such as Cumberland Island National Seashore, Little St. Simons Island, Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Blackbeard National Wildlife Refuge, Wassaw Island, Andrews Island, and DOT spoils sites located in South Carolina just north of Savannah. The Saturday night banquet at the Festival will feature a presentation by Dr. Rocky Gutiérrez called, "The Spotted Owl: Conservation Icon or Cool Critter?" Rocky is a professor at the University of Minnesota and is well known for his writings and research concerning the Northern Spotted Owl, an endangered species found in the western United States. Rocky's program will focus on the biology of the owl, the techniques used to work with the species, issues related to its conservation, and the implications for bird conservation in general. GOS has reserved rooms for its members at the Days Inn with overflow rooms at the Quality Inn. Reservation materials for the Festival will be distributed early this summer.

During January 28-30, 2005, GOS will be meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society at Guntersville State Park in northern Alabama. This is the first joint meeting with AOS since the early 1990s. Guntersville State Park is famous for its winter concentration of Bald Eagles, so this promises to be an exciting meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in October!



BIRDS OF LAURENS COUNTY

By John Swiderski

A new book, *Birds of Laurens County*, by long-time GOS member and former president, Tommy Patterson, is now available. The book, GOS Occasional Publication 15, is \$14.00 postpaid. Ordering information is available on our website, www.gos.org.

Tommy became an active birder somewhat later than many when he began to accompany his son Hunter over thirty years ago. After joining GOS in 1974, Tommy was encouraged and inspired by Dr. J. Fred Denton to keep records of his sightings in Dublin and nearby areas. What resulted is best described by the following quote from the book's Foreword by Giff Beaton: "He sought out and identified some good areas of diverse habitat, created an interesting route to follow, and then proceeded to bird this area at least twice a week for almost thirty years! He not only ran the route but kept impeccable records." Patterson's book conveys in a very readable manner data describing birdlife in this Middle Georgia area.

Tommy was also generous with his time by serving GOS in a variety of Executive Committee posts, including a two year term as president at the time of our 50th anniversary meeting in Macon. He and his wife, Alice, continue to live in Dublin, devoting much of their energy these days to their grandchildren and their church.

New Editor Takes The Helm of The Oriole

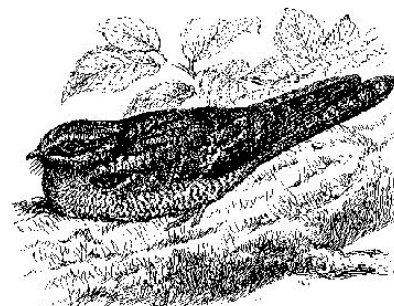
By Bob Sargent

Dr. Bob Chandler of Georgia College and State University has graciously agreed to become the new editor of our journal, effective May 15th. Dr. Chandler most recently served as Chair of the GOS Editorial Committee, a position which has since been ably filled by Dr. Marion Dobbs. If you are interested in submitting a manuscript for publication in *The Oriole*, please contact Dr. Chandler at bob.chandler@gcsu.edu or 478-445-0811. Bob Zaremba is continuing in his capacity as the editor of the "From the Field" section of the journal. If you previously submitted a manuscript that has not yet been published, please bear with us as we work to get *The Oriole* back on schedule. Thank you Dr. Ray Chandler and Dr. John Parrish for the invaluable contributions you have made as editors of our journal.

GOS 2004 SPRING MEETING — SPECIES CHECKLIST

The following list, compiled by Bill Lotz, includes the 123 species of birds seen on the field trips and around Milledgeville at the Georgia Ornithological Society's Spring Meeting, which was held on April 23-25, 2004. Thanks to the field trip leaders for volunteering their time and efforts to help make our GOS meetings a success!

Canada Goose	Downy Woodpecker	Prairie Warbler
Wood Duck	Hairy Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
Mallard	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	American Redstart
Northern Shoveler	Pileated Woodpecker	Prothonotary Warbler
Wild Turkey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Swainson's Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Acadian Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Common Loon	Eastern Phoebe	Louisiana Waterthrush
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Crested Flycatcher	Kentucky Warbler
Anhinga	Eastern Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron	Loggerhead Shrike	Hooded Warbler
Great Egret	White-eyed Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
Little Blue Heron	Yellow-throated Vireo	Summer Tanager
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	Scarlet Tanager
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Eastern Towhee
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Bachman's Sparrow
Osprey	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Mississippi Kite	Purple Martin	Field Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Tree Swallow	Swamp Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Cliff Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Red-shouldered Hawk	Barn Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Broad-winged Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Blue Grosbeak
Red-tailed Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Indigo Bunting
American Coot	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Painted Bunting
Killdeer	Carolina Wren	Bobolink
Yellowlegs species.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Solitary Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Least Sandpiper	Hermit Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wilson's Snipe	Wood Thrush	Orchard Oriole
Rock Pigeon	American Robin	Baltimore Oriole
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Gray Catbird	House Finch
Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Common Ground-Dove	Brown Thrasher	House Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	European Starling	
Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing	
Chuck-will's-widow	Northern Parula	
Whip-poor-will	Yellow Warbler	
Chimney Swift	Cape May Warbler	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Pine Warbler	



RCW? PBF WAS THE PLACE TO BE!

By John Swiderski

If you wanted an up close and personal encounter with Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, the second annual Pinewoods Bird Festival (PBF) was the place to be on April 3rd. The 2004 festival, which celebrated birds, nature, and the ecosystem of the Red Hills and plantation area of Georgia, was enriched this year with a number of pre-registration field trips, all of which were fully subscribed.

Perhaps the most popular field trip was the pre-dawn excursion to an RCW location, so observers could be in place before the birds came out of the nesting cavities. Jim Cox, Tall Timbers Research Station, and Phil Spivey, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), led the field trip and successfully netted the dominant male woodpecker of the group for banding. In addition to the bird in hand, the birders observed several RCW groups and a total of about eight individuals. Cox told the group that his current RCW population estimate for this area is about 450 birds in 180 groups. About 85% of these are on private property in the Red Hills of Georgia, with the remaining 15% found in the Appalachian National Forest near Tallahassee, Florida. Later in the day, Cox led a group that observed the banding of a Bachman's Sparrow, and Terry Johnson, Georgia DNR, banded several hummingbirds following his popular slide program.

About 650 people participated in some part of the second annual PBF. If you missed out this year, mark April 9, 2005 — the date for next year's festival — on your calendar.



GOS ARCHIVES AT UGA

Some of you may be aware that GOS has an arrangement with the University of Georgia to maintain the society's historical records. The collection at UGA contains correspondence, meeting minutes, and some great pictures of members participating in meetings in the 1940s and 1950s. Correspondence and other appropriate papers from the 1960s to the present are not well-represented in the university collection. If you have GOS correspondence from this time period that is suitable for inclusion in the collection, please contact Dr. Bob Sargent at 478-953-9246 or bob.sargent@robins.af.mil.

GOS MAILING ADDRESS CHANGES

As you may know, Steve Holzman, Business Manager, and Angela McMellen, Membership Chair, have taken responsibility for many of the duties formerly carried out by John Swiderski. With this change, GOS has a new mailing address: P O Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645.

Please use this address for membership dues and purchase of publications and prints. Mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for Steve and Angela can be found on our website, www.gos.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 181
High Shoals, GA 30645

Please enroll the undersigned as a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the calendar year.
Dues are enclosed as follows:

_____ Regular \$20.00 _____ Sustaining \$30.00
_____ Patron \$50.00 _____ Student \$10.00

(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)

_____ Life Membership \$300.00

_____ Please send me a list of publications available from the GOS.

NAME(S):

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL CHANGES TO:
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