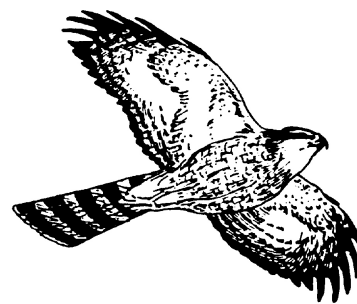


# GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society



Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

## President's Message: "Why Weren't You at the Festival?"

By Bob Sargent

The hustle and bustle of organizing the fourth coastal birding festival is now a fleeting memory, but not the birds we saw, the speaker we heard, the seminars we attended, or the great weather we experienced. No, that wasn't a typo – we held a festival and it didn't rain. No tropical storm roared up the coast, Little St. Simons Island wasn't flooded, and, get a grip on your chair, the boats running to Blackbeard Island didn't break down (Gasp!). Of course, before we go dissin' tropical storms, we should pause first to recall that we had the highest species count (210) ever for a Georgia festival, even without trips to Little St. Simons Island, during last year's "monsoon weekend."

This year's species tally was a respectable 199 (see the complete list in this newsletter), and the tally of birders registered for the festi-

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2007 GOS Winter Meeting**  
January 12-14, 2007  
Tybee Island, Georgia

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival**  
April 13-15, 2007  
Thomasville, Georgia  
(see page 4)

val was 322, at least 70 of whom were GOS members. The latter figure is a bit misleading, though, as most of the field trip leaders were GOS members, and trip leaders were not required to register. More than 80 of the attendees were visitors to Georgia, representing 16 other states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Scotland. While it's obvious the festival isn't growing dramatically, it's equally obvious that it continues to be a popular draw, and not just at the local level.

The popularity of this festival isn't hard to understand, of course (Read: How could we possibly screw it up?). Attendees had nearly 50 field trips to choose from, including visits to at least 10 of the islands, there were 21 seminars covering everything from digiscoping to identifying beach invertebrates, and 32 exhibitors hawked their wares all through the weekend. One of the particularly special highlights was Saturday's "Bird Conservation Summit," a

(continued on page 3)

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**Georgia  
Ornithological  
Society**

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<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

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<i>Howe Research Grant:</i>	Bill Van Esseltine	706-543-3072
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**Special Projects**

*Georgia Rare Bird Alert* 770-493-8862  
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Steve Holzman, Charlie Muise, Tracey  
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Deadline for article submission is the 1st  
of the month prior to publication.  
Text by e-mail is appreciated.

**Welcome, New Members!**

**Northern Goshawk Members**

Royce Hayes	Midway, GA
Jennifer Hilburn	Midway, GA
Mary McRee	Naylor, GA
Alton and Shirley Owens	Rome, GA
Bob Sargent	Warner Robins, GA
David Waller	Covington, GA

**Northern Bobwhite Members**

Michael and Monique French	Pine Mountain, GA
Thomas Lowndes Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

James R. Brooks	McDonough, GA
Leo Virant	Atlanta, GA
Steve Willis	Savannah, GA

**Bachman's Sparrow Members**

Marjorie Clark	Jekyll Island, GA
Melissa Forehand	Tallahassee, FL
Pamela Hall	Decatur, GA
Deirdre Kindthistle	Savannah, GA
Carole Lyons	St. Simons Island, GA
Ed Maioriello	Athens, GA
Darlene Moore	Decatur, GA
Marilyn and Monty Miller	Valdosta, GA
Charles Muise	Maryville, TN
Jeffrey C. Narvil	McDonough, GA
Emily Story	Brunswick, GA
Rebecca Valentine	Decatur, GA
Ronald T. Webb	Cumming, GA
Lynda H. Wiggins	Fairburn, GA

**Fledgling Members**

DeeAnne Meliopoulos	Atlanta, GA
Zachary Coleman Moye	Tifton, GA
Michael Parrish	Watkinsville, GA

*The 2006 GOS membership list is available electronically via e-mail or as a hard copy. Please send your request to membership@gos.org (Allison Reid) for an e-mail copy or to GOS, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645 for a paper copy.*



### President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

forum for exploring challenging management issues which featured talks by scientists concerning the conservation of Swallow-tailed Kites and Wood Storks, the role of citizen scientists in bird conservation, the impact of feral cats on wild birds, and an update on Georgia's Important Bird Areas program.

Saturday night highlights included Brad Winn receiving the Earle Greene Award (see the story in this newsletter), Peter Stangel's hilarious introduction of the featured speaker, and a lesson on seabird ecology by Massachusetts Audubon's Wayne Petersen, which should have been filmed for showing in a future PBS *Nature* special. Yes, it was that good, and Wayne pulled off his wonderful brand of magic using only a precariously perched 35 mm slide projector and a captivating sense of wit. Many people elected to skip the banquet but showed up afterwards to see Wayne's program. Petersen groupies? The program ran past the time during which we would normally have done the species count-down, but nobody noticed or seemed to care.

Speaking of caring, there's one other interesting tidbit about attendee numbers I neglected to mention: 277 people traveled at least 50 miles to attend the festival, and most stayed at least two nights on or in the Jekyll Island area. In fact, figures from 39 evaluation sheets received after the festival indicated that, on average, people spent about \$520 on food, lodging, and other expenses. What's the point of all this numerical rambling? My point is that these figures reflect the power of ecotourism in action, and the Jekyll community certainly felt the impact. You may be aware that plans

are afoot to develop a sizeable portion of southeastern Jekyll Island. This doesn't bode well for the birds that use that area as stop-over habitat, nor does it bode well for all the people like you and me who travel to that island each year to see and enjoy birds. Folks, if we care about birds and their future, we've got to be heard by community leaders in places like Jekyll Island. If you don't think birdwatchers have much leverage, look again at the rough expenses summary I provided above.

I hope to see you again in January on Tybee Island, and start making plans now to join us for next year's festival (October 12-14, 2007), which will feature Dr. John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, as our Saturday night speaker. By the way, if you have suggestions concerning ways in which we can improve the festival for next year, please send them to me at [kywarbler@cox.net](mailto:kywarbler@cox.net), or call me at 478-397-7962. See you in the woods and fields soon!

---

### GOS Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*By John Swiderski*

GOS completes its 70<sup>th</sup> year on December 13. On that date in 1936 a called meeting of the Atlanta Bird Club (now Atlanta Audubon Society) brought together 22 individuals interested in establishing a state-wide ornithological organization in Georgia. One of the state's outstanding ornithologists, Herbert Stoddard, was elected as the first president of the newly formed Georgia Ornithological Society. Under his leadership, GOS took responsibility from the Atlanta Bird Club for publishing *The Oriole* and held its first meeting in Milledgeville in April of 1937, where bylaws were adopted and a course was set for years to come.

#### GOS E-MAIL LIST

In order to more efficiently communicate with our members, GOS has established an e-mail list. The e-mail list will be used to communicate with you about bird conservation issues, membership renewals, birding events in Georgia, and occasional items that may be of interest to GOS members. If you wish to add your e-mail address to the GOS database, please contact Allison Reid, GOS Membership Chair, at [membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org).

## Earle Greene Award Presented to Brad Winn

By Bob Sargent

The Earle Greene Award was established in 1975 to recognize exceptional contributions to ornithology in Georgia or to the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS). The award was named in honor of GOS' second president, a prolific writer, observer of nature, and a refuge manager at Okefenokee NWR. Mr. Greene contributed a great deal toward our understanding of bird distribution in this state. Recipients of this award include Eugene Odum, Roger Tory Peterson, Chandler Robbins, and Terry Johnson (2005) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Brad Winn was selected to receive the Earle Greene Award from GOS in 2006 for his outstanding contributions to shorebird conservation and management. Prior to joining DNR, Brad was senior aviculturist for the Wildlife Conservation Society of St. Catherines Island. A member of GOS since 1994, Brad has worked as a biologist with DNR for more than 13 years. Since 1998 he has been conducting shorebird research and management on the Georgia coast. He has quickly become a recognized expert in this field, working to better understand shorebird status and migration patterns, as well as striving to find ways to protect the fragile habitats they need to survive. His work in this field has taken him to South America and Alaska. Along the way he has developed and implemented a winter shorebird census of the entire Georgia coast by enlisting birders from all over the state to participate. More recently he has been working to develop a methodology for conducting aerial counts of American Oystercatchers and Wood Storks.

Currently Brad is the manager of DNR's Coastal Nongame Program in Brunswick. In presenting this award to Brad at the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival on October 14th, Bob Sargent (GOS president) thanked Brad for his remarkable work on behalf of shorebirds and noted how fortunate ornithologists and birders are to have him working in this state.



Brad Winn (right) receives the 2006 Earle Greene Award from GOS president Bob Sargent.

## Fifth Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival

By John Swiderski

The Pinewoods Bird Festival will be held on the grounds of the Pebble Hill Plantation the weekend of April 13-15, 2007. Pebble Hill Plantation is located five miles south of Thomsville, Georgia, on U.S. Highway 319.

Friday evening field trips will feature an excursion to a bat cave and a tour of the Century Forest. On Saturday there will be opportunities to observe banding of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows as well as a full day of tours, programs and activities. New this year are the Sunday field trips, including a second chance to be part of the very popular Red-cockaded Woodpecker banding trip, which has sold out every year. Also scheduled is a "Birding Bonanza" (big day) field trip covering the Tall Timbers area, St. Mark's NWR (possible migrant fallout), and the western panhandle of Florida. (One hundred and forty bird species are possible on this route.)

A festival brochure will be mailed to GOS members shortly, and complete festival information will be available on the website, [www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com](http://www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com), early in 2007.

## Georgia Christmas Bird Count Schedule, 2006-07

### 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

DATE	CBC AREA	COMPILER / CONTACT INFO
Dec 14 (Thurs)	Lake Oconee	Steve Holzman 706-613-9493 x229 steve_holzman@yahoo.com
Dec 15 (Fri)	Harris Neck NWR	Contact: Dot Bambach 912-598-3764 dotbam@bellsouth.net Compiler: Steve Calver
Dec 16 (Sat)	Albany Athens Augusta Cumberland Island Dalton Macon Peachtree City St. Catherines Island	Alan Ashley 229-439-8232 alan.ashley@mchsi.com Mary Case 706-548-3848 mecase@uga.edu Eugenia Thompson 706-227-9328 erobertthom@bellsouth.net Anne Waters 706-793-2788 birdannelady@earthlink.net By invitation Phil Riner 706-226-0956 karen.phil@alltel.net Marie Amerson 478-746-5697 jaamerson@cox.net Brock Hutchins 770-468-3715 brockhutchins@msn.com By invitation
Dec 17 (Sun)	Atlanta (Marietta) Chattahoochee N. F. Songbird Mgmt. Area	Bob & Deb Zaremba 770-422-5830 bobzarem@prodigy.net Johnny Parks 706-937-7163 ringgold_birdchaser@juno.com
Dec 18 (Mon)	Piedmont NWR and Rum Creek WMA	Terry Johnson 478-994-1438 Terry_W_Johnson@dnr.state.ga.us
Dec 28 (Thurs)	Bainbridge - Lake Seminole	Oscar & Bobbi Dewberry 229-246-1890 boscar@mchsi.com
Dec 29 (Fri)	Dublin Okefenokee NWR	Bob Sargent 478-397-7962 bob.sargent@robins.af.mil Sheila Willis 912-285-0419 swillis@wayxcable.com
Dec 30 (Sat)	Callaway Gardens Floyd County Glynn County Savannah	Cory Croft 706-663-6745 ccroft@callawayonline.org Owen Kinney 706-234-6248 okinney@darlingtonschool.org Mike Chapman 912-262-6370 mikelchap@yahoo.com Contact: Dot Bambach 912-598-3764 dotbam@bellsouth.net Compiler: Steve Calver
To be announced	Amicalola Falls Columbus Eufaula NWR Lake Blackshear West Point Lake	Jim Greenway 770-630-3854 mtnpathfinder@msn.com Sam Pate 706-327-2574 spate@brookstoneschool.org Sam Pate 706-327-2574 spate@brookstoneschool.org Terry Johnson 478-994-1438 Terry_W_Johnson@dnr.state.ga.us Paul Miliotis hemlockwarbler@yahoo.com s

Most CBC compilers have indicated that they can use additional birders. Participation in all counts must be pre-arranged with the compiler or contact person. Check the GOS website ([www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)) for updates to this list.

*Compiled by Carol Lambert*

## Bird List from Georgia's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival, October 13-15, 2006

*Compiled by Bob Sargent and Steve Holzman*

Red-throated Loon	Semipalmated Plover	American Crow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Piping Plover	Fish Crow	Field Sparrow
Horned Grebe	Killdeer	Tree Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Gannet	American Oystercatcher	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Grasshopper Sparrow
American White Pelican	American Avocet	Barn Swallow	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Greater Yellowlegs	Cave Swallow	Seaside Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Lesser Yellowlegs	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Anhinga	Willet	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
American Bittern	Spotted Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch	White-crowned Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Long-billed Curlew	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Great Egret	Marbled Godwit	Brown Creeper	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Snowy Egret	Ruddy Turnstone	Carolina Wren	Blue Grosbeak
Little Blue Heron	Red Knot	House Wren	Indigo Bunting
Tricolored Heron	Sanderling	Sedge Wren	Painted Bunting
Reddish Egret	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	Bobolink
Cattle Egret	Western Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Green Heron	Least Sandpiper	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Meadowlark
Black-crowned Night Heron	Dunlin	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Short-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Bluebird	Boat-tailed Grackle
White Ibis	Wilson's Snipe	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Glossy Ibis	Laughing Gull	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Roseate Spoonbill	Ring-billed Gull	Swainson's Thrush	House Finch
Wood Stork	Herring Gull	Hermit Thrush	American Goldfinch
Black Vulture	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Wood Thrush	House Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Great Black-backed Gull	Gray Catbird	
Canada Goose	Caspian Tern	Northern Mockingbird	
Wood Duck	Royal Tern	Brown Thrasher	199 species total
Gadwall	Sandwich Tern	European Starling	
Mallard	Common Tern	American Pipit	
Blue-winged Teal	Forster's Tern	Cedar Waxwing	
Northern Shoveler	Least Tern	Tennessee Warbler	
Northern Pintail	Black Skimmer	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Green-winged Teal	Rock Pigeon	Northern Parula	
Hooded Merganser	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow Warbler	
Ruddy Duck	Mourning Dove	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Osprey	Common Ground-Dove	Magnolia Warbler	
Mississippi Kite	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Cape May Warbler	
Bald Eagle	Great Horned Owl	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Northern Harrier	Chimney Swift	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Black-throated Green Warbler	
Cooper's Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blackburnian Warbler	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Pine Warbler	
American Kestrel	Downy Woodpecker	Prairie Warbler	
Merlin	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Palm Warbler	
Peregrine Falcon	Northern Flicker	Bay-breasted Warbler	
Plain Chachalaca	Pileated Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler	
Wild Turkey	Eastern Wood-Pewee	American Redstart	
Clapper Rail	Eastern Phoebe	Worm-eating Warbler	
King Rail	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush	
Virginia Rail	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Common Yellowthroat	
Sora	Loggerhead Shrike	Hooded Warbler	
Purple Gallinule	White-eyed Vireo	Summer Tanager	
Common Moorhen	Yellow-throated Vireo	Scarlet Tanager	
American Coot	Blue-headed Vireo	Eastern Towhee	
Sandhill Crane	Red-eyed Vireo	Chipping Sparrow	
Black-bellied Plover	Blue Jay		

## GOS Funds Support Graduate Student Research

The Georgia Ornithological Society has two grant programs to support graduate student research in ornithology: H. Branch Howe, Jr., Grants and Bill Terrell Grants. The Howe grants were first awarded in 1996, and awards totaling \$42,770 have been made since inception. This is the initial year for the Terrell Grants and the total awarded was \$10,000. Applications for 2007 grants are due January 31, 2007, for both programs; instructions may be found at the GOS website ([www.gos.org/grants/grant.html](http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html)). The 2006 recipients of Howe and Terrell grants are listed below:

### H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Grant Program Recipients - 2006:

Renee E. Carleton DVM, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia  
“Disease Ecology of Eastern Bluebirds in Northwest Georgia,” \$1,835

Nico Suzanne Dauphine, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia  
“Selective Logging and Bird Conservation in Allepahuayo-Mishana Reserve, Peru,”  
\$2,000

Soo Hyung Eo, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia  
“Phylogeography and Genetic Population Structure of the Northern Bobwhite: A Conservation and Management Perspective”, \$1,835

Rua Stob, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia  
“Adaptive Monitoring for Bird Communities in Northwest Ecuador,” \$1,835

### Bill Terrell Graduate Student Grant Program Recipients - 2006:

Lindsay Addison, MS candidate,  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
“Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) Colony Characteristics and Nesting Success on Beaches and Rooftops in Southwest Florida,” \$200

Soo Hyung Eo, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia

“Phylogeography and Genetic Population Structure of the Northern Bobwhite: A Conservation and Management Perspective,” \$2,300

Kerri Dikun, MS candidate,  
Coastal Carolina University  
“Breeding Biology of Wilson’s Plovers in South Carolina: Population Status, Breeding Success, and Effects of Human Disturbance,” \$2,895

Rua Stob, PhD candidate,  
University of Georgia  
“An Adaptive Monitoring Program for Bird Communities in Northeastern Ecuador,” \$1,625

Theron M. Terhune and Brant C. Faircloth, PhD candidates,  
University of Georgia  
“Effects of Translocation on Avian Population Genetics and Demographics within a Fragmented Landscape,” \$2,980

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## Howe Grant Winner Recognized at International Meeting

Brandon L. Noel of Georgia Southern University received an honorable mention for research he presented at the North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC) at the World Trade Center in Veracruz, México, on October 3-7, 2006. The NAOC conferred student presentation awards to 15 students for “excellence in the rigor and quality” of their presentations. Noel, along with co-authors Ray Chandler and Brad Winn, presented his work on “Wintering Site Fidelity for Great Lakes Piping Plovers in Georgia” (“Fidelidad de Sitios de Invernada de *Charadrius melodus* en los Grandes Lagos de Georgia”). Noel was a 2005 H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Grant award winner.



## In Memoriam, Dr. Norman H. Giles

By John Swiderski

GOS lost its last living founding member with the passing of Dr. Norman H. Giles, 91, on October 19, 2006. While a student at Emory University, Giles was among the group of 22 men and women who met to establish the Georgia Ornithological Society on December 13, 1936, in Atlanta. He also was co-editor, along with Don Eyles, of *The Oriole* for the journal's first two years, 1936 and 1937. He related his memories of those early years in his article, "The Origins of the Oriole," published in *The Oriole*, 68:4-6.

Giles was born in Atlanta on August 6, 1915, and lived there until he earned his AB degree in biology from Emory University. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1940. During his time at Harvard he became interested in genetics, which was to become his life work. His first academic appointment, in 1941, was as an instructor at Yale University, an association that was to last 31 years. From 1961 until his departure from Yale University in 1972, he was the Eugene Higgins Professor of Genetics.

Dr. Giles was recruited to come to the University of Georgia in 1972 as the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Genetics, the endowed chair he held until his retirement in 1986. He was a leader in the establishment of the Department of Genetics at the university and continued to advise and mentor there even after his retirement.

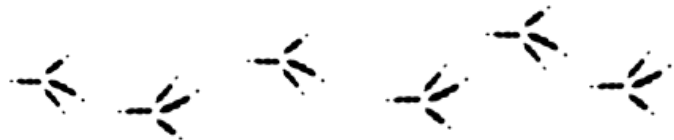
He always had a love and an interest in birds and birding from his earliest days as a student in Atlanta. He traveled widely with his wife, Dorothy, who died in 1967, and later with his second wife, Doris, who died in 2003. Birds and nature in general were always a primary interest in his travels. Until his vision began to fail, he enjoyed birding in the Athens area and Sandy Creek Park in particular. He also participated in the Athens Christmas

Bird Count each year.

A life member of GOS, Dr. Giles received the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in 1986, along with Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, both being recognized at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of GOS. He received numerous academic awards and honors over the years, including election as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1966.



Dr. Norman H. Giles



## Georgia Birders Donate to Birders' Exchange

By Steve Holzman

I'd like to thank everyone for their donations to "The Birders' Exchange."

GOS shipped 90 pounds of birding gear to the American Birding Association, along with two boxes of books. These will be forwarded to researchers and conservationists in tropical countries, where standard birding items such as field guides are not so easy to acquire. Your generosity will help promote the birding passion among our southern neighbors, which can only benefit the birds their countries and ours share. For more information see <http://americanbirding.org/bex/index.html>.

You can either contribute your items directly to the Birder's Exchange, or save them and bring them to next year's festival.

### Address Changes

If your address changes, please notify us directly by mail (P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645) or by e-mail ([membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org)). As a non-profit organization, we are able to mail items to you at a bulk (i.e., discounted) rate. This is a great cost savings for us, but it means that our items WILL NOT be forwarded to you if you move. We do not want you to miss out on any of our newsletters, meeting announcements, or journals!



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the form and mail with your payment to: Georgia Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachman's Sparrow (Regular)          | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Sustaining) | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite (Patron)           | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fledgling (Students only)            | \$10 |

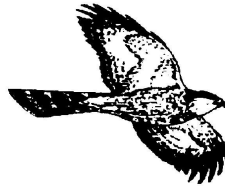
### Life Membership Rates for individuals or couples:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk | \$400 |
|---|-------|

\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of GOS and its programs.

# GOShaw



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