Vol. 34 No. 2 June 2007

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society





As most of you know, Bill Terrell's extraordinary generosity made possible, among many other things, an increase in the amount of money GOS provides to support graduate student research each year, along with the establishment of new grants programs. We've recently modified the criteria applicants must meet to apply for Terrell, Howe, and Opportunity grants, including an increased emphasis on our desire to see studies that focus on habitat conservation. Students and faculty have commented that the award date for the Terrell and Howe grants is too late in the year for most scientists to use the money to benefit spring field season needs. Accordingly, we've changed the application deadline for these graduate student grants, making it possible for GOS to provide money to students in mid winter. If you plan to apply for one of these two grants, or know a student who will be doing

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Save The Date!

Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

October 12-14, 2007

Jekyll Island

www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org

so, the application deadline is now December 1, with an award date of January 31.

The existing grants programs are designed to support relatively small-dollar needs, assisting graduate students, small-scale studies, and citizen scientist projects. We've spent countless hours over the past year talking with agency biologists about large-scale management needs for bird conservation. The result of these discussions will be the establishment of Conservation grants later this year, which will support agency and nonprofit group management needs at a larger monetary scale (i.e., \$20,000 or more). Conservation grants will assist the conservation of birds that reside in or visit Georgia on a seasonal or stopover basis. In particular, we'll be looking to support projects that involve on-the- ground management efforts such as exotic species control. We're currently putting the finishing touches on the criteria for this grant source, as well as establishing a committee to review applications. You can find the criteria and application

(continued on page 3)

GOShawk—2 June 2007

Georgia Ornithological Society

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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

Brad and Winette Almon Townsend, GA Walt and Elizabeth Bowman Milledgeville, GA Thomas S. Harbin Atlanta, GA Panos and Cheryl Adams Kanes Decatur, GA Saint Simons Island, GA Carole A. Lyons **Grant McCreary** Cumming, GA John F. McMahan Columbus, GA Pat Michaelson Atlanta, GA Larry Stephens Woodstock, GA Jeannie Wright Atlanta, GA Russell and Whit Perrin Wright Jasper, GA

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The 2007 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.



GOShawk—3 June 2007

President's Message (continued from page 1)

information for all the GOS grants and the Parks scholarship at http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html

Speaking of grants and committees, Bill Van Eseltine and Bill Lovejov have both decided to retire from the Howe Grant Committee. Dr. Lovejoy has served GOS in this capacity since the establishment of the committee (1990), and Dr. Van Eseltine came on board in 1995 and became the chair of the committee when Dr. Branch Howe, Jr., passed away in 1998. Thanks to Branch, Bill, Bill, and Dr. Les Davenport (the current, third member of that committee), 35 graduate students have been the beneficiaries of these grants over the past 17 years. During my tenure as GOS president I've been privileged to work with the members of this committee, especially Bill Van Eseltine (because he was the chairman), and I've developed a great admiration for the professionalism and dedication to students and research demonstrated by the committee. Thank you, Bill and Bill, for all that you've done to help graduate students in their research, and for representing GOS in such an exemplary way. Thank you, too, to Les for assuming the role of chair, and to Dr. Emil Urban and Georgann Schmalz for agreeing to serve on the committee. Thanks, also, to Giff Beaton for agreeing to serve on the Earle Greene Committee, filling the position so ably occupied by Milton Hopkins, Jr.

On a different note, I'm sure that more than a few of you are wondering what has become of our journal *The Oriole*. Sara Schweitzer, Malcolm Hodges, and I are currently working on volume 70, numbers 1 and 2, and anticipate completing it in late July. We also have number 3 and 4 in the hopper, and intend to complete that one in November. Getting the journal back on track has been a primary goal of ours, and we expect to accomplish that goal by the end of this year. Please continue to send manuscripts to me at 115 Tom Chapman Blvd., # 605, Warner Robins, GA 31088. See you in October!



In Memoriam, Alfred W. Jones, Jr. By John Swiderski

Alfred W. Jones, Jr., 77, died March 24, 2007. Mr. Jones joined GOS in 1952 and became a life member in 1983. He led the Sea Island Company as president from 1966 to 1997 and remained a member of the Board of Directors until his death. He was active in a number of civic and charitable organizations in the Golden Isles area. He was also instrumental in preserving the corridor from Christ Church to Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island so that it would not be developed.

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.

GOShawk—4 June 2007

Brunswick in the Rearview Mirror By Bob Sargent

Our joint meeting experiment with the Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) in April was a resounding success, as 120 people flocked to Brunswick for the birding, the islands, and the camaraderie. The weather couldn't have been better, the birding was vintage Georgia coast in spring (see the species list in this newsletter), and the evening programs were outstanding. It's always gratifying to see birders from neighboring states get together, swapping birding yarns, comparing notes on how meetings are organized and how state societies function, and enhancing a latent enthusiasm in each other for bird conservation causes. Of course, for GOS members this meeting represented both an opportunity to network with our neighbors, and a blatant excuse to show off a corner of Georgia of which we are especially proud.

Brad Winn graciously stepped in nearly at the last moment to give Friday night's program. eloquently reminding everyone present how shorebird conservation isn't just a Georgia issue; it's an issue that spans hemispheres and binds together agencies and conservation groups from dozens of states and countries. Brad's talk guided the audience from Patagonia to the Alaskan coast, painting the amazing canvas that is shorebird migration. On Saturday evening, Rick Wright captivated the audience with a history of birding field guides, and more specifically how Roger Tory Peterson changed the face of the birding landscape in the 1930s and 1940s, and how Peterson's 1980 guide was the impetus for today's field guide authors to step up to the plate and swing for the fences. The baseball analogy isn't mine; Rick compared the stars of field guide creation to the baseball greats of the same eras - some left their mark because of consistent excellence, whereas others are remembered because of remarkable, one-time accomplishments.

In addition to the field trips and the banquet, Saturday also featured an FOS specialty – "Flocking" – and an early evening poster session presented by research scientists and conservationists. Topics in the poster session included avian research in Peru, Kestrel and Osprey nesting sites, and conservation challenges posed by future development on Cumberland Island. Flocking is FOS' traditional way of spending Saturday afternoon at their meetings; it's a social event during which members show their best bird slides and some give scientific presentations on research issues such as avian diseases. GOS has attempted to organize paper sessions at past meetings, most recently at the Milledgeville meeting, but hasn't attempted something along the lines of FOS' Flocking model in many years. We took notes! In fact, members of both societies came away from Brunswick with some great ideas as to how each can enhance their respective meetings.

My thanks and admiration, as always, go to the people who make these meetings run like clockwork: Bill Lotz, Anne Mursch, Jeannie Wright, Steve Holzman, Barbara Brigham, Helen Ogren, and Soo Whiting (FOS). Thanks also go to the hard-working and talented field trip leaders. Get your calendars out and be sure to block out two weekends in 2008: January 18-21 in Bainbridge, and May 16-18 in Clayton. See you on the islands at the Coastal Festival October 12-14th!



GOShawk—5 June 2007

Spring Meeting Bird List: Joint Meeting of GOS and FOS Brunswick, Georgia, April 20-23, 2007

Compiled by Bill Lotz.

Canada Goose Wood Duck Mallard Mottled Duck Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Lesser Scaup Black Scoter

Red-breasted Merganser Plain Chachalaca Northern Bobwhite Pied-billed Grebe American White Pelican

Brown Pelican Northern Gannet

Double-crested Cormorant

Anhinga

American Bittern Least Bittern Great Blue Heron **Great Egret** Snowy Egret Little Blue Heron Tricolored Heron Cattle Egret Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-crowned Night-

Heron White Ibis Glossy Ibis Wood Stork Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Osprey

Swallow-tailed Kite Mississippi Kite Bald Eagle Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk Cooper's Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk Red-tailed Hawk

American Kestrel Merlin

Peregrine Falcon Sandhill Crane Clapper Rail King Rail Virginia Rail

Sora

Purple Gallinule

Common Moorhen American Coot

American Ovstercatcher Black-necked Stilt Black-bellied Plover Wilson's Ployer Semipalmated Plover

Piping Plover Killdeer

Greater Yellowlegs Lesser Yellowlegs Solitary Sandpiper

Willet

Spotted Sandpiper

Whimbrel Marbled Godwit Ruddy Turnstone

Red Knot Sanderling

Semipalmated Sandpiper Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper

Dunlin

Short-billed Dowitcher Long-billed Dowitcher

Wilson's Snipe Laughing Gull Bonaparte's Gull Ring-billed Gull

American Herring Gull Great Black-backed Gull

Gull-billed Tern Caspian Tern Royal Tern Sandwich Tern Common Tern Forster's Tern Least Tern Black Skimmer Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove Common Ground-Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo Great Horned Owl

Barred Owl

Chuck-will's-widow Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Humming-

bird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Prairie Warbler Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee Acadian Flycatcher Alder Flycatcher

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird Grav Kingbird Loggerhead Shrike White-eved Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Blue-headed Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jav

American Crow Fish Crow Purple Martin Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow Carolina Chickadee Tufted Titmouse Brown-headed Nuthatch Carolina Wren House Wren Marsh Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Ruby-crowned Kinglet Eastern Bluebird Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Hermit Thrush Wood Thrush American Robin

Gray Catbird Northern Mockingbird **Brown Thrasher** European Starling Cedar Waxwing Northern Parula Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler Magnolia Warbler Cape May Warbler

Black-throated Blue

Warbler

Yellow-rumped Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler

Pine Warbler Palm Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart Prothonotary Warbler Worm-eating Warbler Swainson's Warbler

Ovenbird

Northern Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat Hooded Warbler Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager Eastern Towhee Bachman's Sparrow Chipping Sparrow Savannah Sparrow Seaside Sparrow Song Sparrow Swamp Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue Grosbeak Indigo Bunting Painted Bunting

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Common Grackle Boat-tailed Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole **Baltimore Oriole** House Finch American Goldfinch House Sparrow

194 species total

GOShawk—6 June 2007

Conservation Notes

By Carol Lambert, Conservation Committee Chair

Jekyll Island

One of the biggest battles of this legislative session, the protection of the pristine south end of Jekyll, was won thanks to the strong voice of the rational people of Georgia who let the members of the General Assembly know how strongly we feel about protection of this island and its natural habitat. Senator Jeff Chapman (R-Brunswick) worked hard to ensure that HB214 included south end protection, removed language allowing the sale of parts of Jekyll, and established an oversight provision providing legislative stays for changes to the master plan. This was an amazing victory in an arena that many thought was hopeless. Thank you.

Coastal Marshland Protection

Buffer protections for the coastal marshlands of Georgia did not make progress this year, but is an issue that will be ongoing.

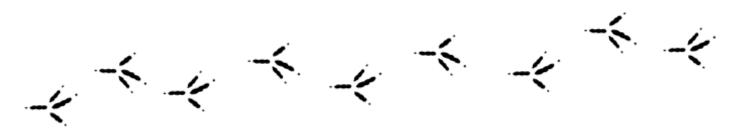
Land Conservation Program

A record amount of \$42.3 million for land conservation in Georgia was authorized for the 2008 budget. This additional grant money, in addition to the existing loan program and conservation tax credit program, will help many land acquisition/conservation projects around the state in areas that are rated highly for ecological significance.

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL)

The SREL is a world-renowned facility for ecological research and environmental education. For 56 years the work at this lab has tracked how nuclear waste moves through the environment. A University of Georgia (UGA) project, it was developed by the late UGA ecologist, Dr. Eugene Odum. The Savannah River Nuclear Site is situated on 198,000 acres of protected land, much of which is river cypress swamps and home to more than 100 species of reptiles and amphibians. The SREL also houses thousands of animals used for their research and extensive outreach programs.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has decided to discontinue its \$4 million in annual funding of this facility. UGA contributes about \$1 million annually, and another \$2 million is funded by sources such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Without the DOE funding, the SREL has been scheduled to shut down the first week in June. The U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology has asked DOE to temporarily continue funding the lab and has repeated an earlier request for documents on the agency's decision to halt this funding. Continued contact is essential with U.S. representatives and senators, as well as Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman (1-800-342-5363 or 202-586-6210 or e-mail: The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov). The SREL is located in our backyard, but the continued operation of this facility is of significance to all residents of this planet.



GOShawk—7 June 2007

In Memoriam, Harriett G. DiGioia, First GOShawk Editor

By John Swiderski

Harriett G. DiGioia, 78, died April 10, 2007, in Monroe, Georgia. She was the founding editor of this newsletter and a member of GOS since 1971. She is survived by four children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Harriett and her late husband, Frank, had developed an interest in birds and were active in the Cherokee Audubon Society of Dalton when they joined GOS in 1971. GOS president Tom Rial issued a call at the 1972 fall meeting for a volunteer to develop and edit a newsletter. Harriett responded to his call, and the first issue of the GOShawk was mailed to members in 1973. She stuck with her commitment for 15 years, publishing four issues a year with the exception of the time when Frank was stricken with cancer and passed away in 1987. All the more remarkable is the fact that the newsletter in those early days was written by Harriett and hand-typed for mimeograph or photocopy reproduction. She received the initial Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in 1975 in recognition of her newsletter work.

The DiGioias were active members of the GOS Executive Committee during her years as *GOShawk* editor. Along with Cherokee Audubon Society members, they were hosts for Dalton GOS meetings in the fall of 1974 and in the Spring of 1983. Harriett was our

host for the spring meeting in 1996, as well. She shared her love and knowledge of birds by leading numerous field trips and Christmas counts in the Dalton area in addition to writing a regular birds and nature column for the *Dalton Citizen* newspaper.

Harriett was familiar to many of us through her work with the U.S. Forest Service. She was at first a volunteer with the Service and then an employee (achieved by persistence and determination on her part) whose regular assignment was Lake Conasauga and the Cohutta Wilderness. It would be fair to say that she was the U.S. Forest Service in that beautiful part of the state. She regularly led bird walks, of course. She was also a self-taught botanical expert and had an extensive knowledge of edible and medicinal plants which she readily shared with others. Her enthusiasm for birds and nature was contagious; she led many people, particularly youngsters, to develop a better understanding of our natural world and, by extension, a concern for the environment and conservation.

The last time we visited with Harriett was in the late 1990s when we took her out for dinner at her favorite Italian restaurant in Dalton. She was having considerable difficulty walking by then, but we enjoyed a good meal and visit. I was struck by the fact that virtually everyone who came through the door that evening stopped by the table to say hello and chat briefly with Harriett. Truly she was loved and respected in her community.

Buy a Duck Stamp from GOS

By Steve Holzman

The 2007-2008 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp goes on sale July 1, 2007. Please consider buying a \$15 stamp and holder from GOS, and proudly display your support for wetlands conservation. Ninety-eight percent of each stamp sale goes directly to purchase land or easements for our National Wildlife Refuges. You can preview the new design here:

http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/

or preorder your stamp and holder here: (stamps will be mailed in July)

http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm

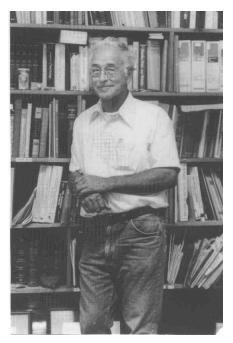
GOShawk—8 June 2007

In Memoriam, Milton N. (Buddy) Hopkins, Jr. By John Swiderski

Milton N. (Buddy) Hopkins, Jr., 80, passed away after suffering an aneurysm on March 5, 2007. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Darrell Weeks, son and daughter-in-law, Milton N. (Bubba) III and Katy Hopkins, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Milton remembers developing an interest in birds when he was eight years old. Although his family lived in the city (Fitzgerald, Georgia) when he was growing up, Milton spent as many hours as possible exploring the surrounding countryside. He later met ornithologist Robert A. Norris, who became a good friend and mentor. From Norris, Milton learned the value of keeping field notes and records, a practice he continued throughout his life. He also learned about GOS from Norris and became a member in 1939 at age 15. He contributed his first field note to *The Oriole* in 1942.

Milton served in the Navy during World War II and was on a destroyer in Tokyo Bay when Japan surrendered. Following the war he made use of the GI Bill to study at the University of Georgia, receiving a master's degree in zoology in 1951. His intention was to put his degree to work on a Georgia barrier island. When he returned to Fitzgerald, however, his wife Mary and her father Dr. McElroy soon convinced him to work the family farm at Osierfield. Agriculture became his career, but he also continued his lifelong interest in birds and nature. He was a very successful farmer and busi-



Milton Hopkins, Jr., in his extensive library at Osierfield, Georgia.

nessman in Fitzgerald. He was most proud of being recognized as National Tree Farmer of the Year in 1981. He practiced conservation, too, by preserving wetland areas and not harvesting trees on part of his farmland.

He continued to submit articles and field notes regularly to *The Oriole* and served as editor for six years, from 1960 to 1965. Drawing on more than 25 years of records, he wrote *The Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia and Adjacent Areas*, published by GOS in 1975. He was a co-editor for the 1977 and 1986 editions of the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*. His contributions to Georgia ornithology were recognized when he received the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award from GOS in 1978.

Always a genial host with an ever-present (and infectious) grin, Milton invited GOS to come to Fitzgerald for spring meetings in 1977 and again in 1989. The 1977 gathering was especially memorable as Milton arranged for ladies of the community to prepare a home-cooked barbeque meal served in the local school lunch room. Earlier in the day, the Executive Committee gathered in the yard of his Osierfield home for a business meeting. Milton and Mary greeted us with fresh parched peanuts (grown on the farm), ice cold Cokes, and long-necks.

Not quite 30 years later Milton was laid to rest in that same yard. Nearly 200 people from the family, community and around the state gathered for the grave-side service. Memories of Milton were shared by a family member and the minister. But perhaps the most eloquent speaker was the Tufted Titmouse that perched high in a pine tree over the grave site singing its song loudly as if to say, "Well done Milton, in this one place."

There is so much more to share about Milton. Fortunately for us, late in life he wrote *In One Place: The Natural History of a Georgia Farmer*. The book is a collection of essays (Milton called them tales) which serve to document both his life and what life was like in a small south Georgia community. Have you ever hitch-hiked barefooted to a GOS meeting? Milton did, to Milledgeville in 1938. The tale is in his book. Milton summed up his love of nature and life when he wrote: "I have seen all of these species and more by just sitting in one place long enough and letting the birds come to me. God, what a revelation and classroom this life has been for a farm boy." The book is readily available from the Georgia State Library PINES system.

GOShawk—9 June 2007

IBA Dedication of Ossabaw Island State Heritage Preserve

By Alison Huff, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society

Tropical storm Barry may have drenched the state when it blasted through, but it could not dampen the excitement of those who were on Ossabaw Island for a milestone dedication. About 50 brave souls crossed Ossabaw Sound to attend the Important Bird Area (IBA) ceremony, Georgia's thirteenth site to be included in this national registry of exceptional wildlife habitats. The ceremony on June 2, 2007, highlighted Georgia's IBA program and Ossabaw Island's distinction as being the state's first Heritage Preserve. Guest speakers included Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Noel Holcomb, National Audubon Society's IBA Director John Cecil, and Georgia General Assembly Representative from District 130, Debbie Buckner. Georgia's new IBA coordinator, Mary Elfner, coordinated the entire event.

Georgia's Ossabaw Island is a pristine barrier island about 20 miles south of Savannah. The legendary Eleanor Torrey West, whose family sold the property to the state of Georgia in 1978, still lives on the island, accompanied by a sturdy band of semi-wild Sicilian donkeys that roam free. More then 16,000 acres of tidal marshes make ideal habitat for feeding egrets, herons, stilts, rails, ibis and other waterfowl. An additional 9,000 acres of dry ground supports tall pines, palms, and hardwoods in maritime, second-growth forests. These forests are rich habitats for more than a hundred species of nesting birds and migrants. Many ponds, salt-water creeks, a shallow river, and beaches round out the complex geography.

Fifteen people lingered overnight in Ossabaw Island's two-story lodge after the IBA dedication ceremony, having weathered several hours of horizontal rain from Barry's bluster. The skies cleared, the winds calmed to gentle breezes, and Painted Buntings returned to the porch feeders. A small wild pig made a dash through the yard. A Great Egret lifted off from the nearby marsh. Resurrection ferns that had hung brown and limp on the sturdy branches of the live oaks were brilliant green again. The visitors, grateful for the short but invigorating sojourn on this island paradise, gathered their belongings for the boat trip back to the mainland.

If you would like more information on the Georgia Important Bird Areas Program, or if you want to volunteer in any way to help this conservation effort, please contact Mary Elfner, Georgia IBA Coordinator, at gaiba@comcast.net.

Recommended Web sites for additional information:

National Audubon IBA — www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html
Georgia IBA Program — www.atlantaaudubon.org/aaswww/iba/iba.htm
The Ossabaw Island Foundation — www.ossabawisland.org
DNR for Ossabaw Island – georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?
txtDocument=225

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). 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: ☐ Bachman's Sparrow (Regular) \$20 ☐ Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Sustaining) \$30 ☐ Northern Bobwhite (Patron) \$50 ☐ Fledgling (Students only) \$10 Life Membership Rates for individuals or couples: ☐ Northern Goshawk \$400 ***************** Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution of \$_____ in support of GOS and its programs.

GOShawk



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