

# 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: "Busy Is a Blessing"

By Bob Sargent

Last November we posted a survey on our listserv in an attempt to get a better understanding as to why our members attend or don't attend our meetings. We also included the same survey in the Bainbridge meeting announcement, which was mailed to our members a few weeks later. Seventy-three people (i.e., about 14% of the membership) responded to the survey, allowing us to roughly quantify seven factors that influenced attendance rates. Those factors, ranked from most to least important, were: the "birdiness" of the meeting area, the novelty of the meeting location, the popularity of the speaker, the proximity of the meeting to participants' homes, the cost of the meeting, the opportunity for social interaction, and not wanting to bird in large groups. Our members want to see new nooks and crannies all around the state, but they also want meetings to be held in areas where the species count will be high. Of course, these two desires are often mutually exclusive, since the most "birdy" areas of the state are often the most frequently visited. Some of you indicated that you strongly support the mission of

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Pinewoods Bird Festival

April 11-13, 2008, Pebble Hill Plantation  
(Thomasville), GA

### Spring GOS Meeting

May 16-18, 2008, Clayton, GA  
(see page 4)

GOS, but you don't attend our meetings because you prefer to bird watch solo, or in small groups. The survey also found that many non-participants missed meetings due to scheduling conflicts (75%), other festivals, Atlanta Audubon meetings, lack of vacation time, family obligations, or work.

As you know, the executive committee usually selects the meeting locations each year, but we thought it would be interesting to you if we asked via the above-mentioned survey where you would like to meet next year. The results clearly indicated a preference for meeting on the coast in winter, and supported meeting in either the mountains or on the coast in spring. Some respondents expressed interest in staying in unique lodgings such as cabins and inns, but the problem with this is that those types of lodgings are often much more expensive than the hotels where we normally meet, and they often do not have banquet space. Interestingly, when we were birding at Lake Walter F. George during the Bainbridge meeting we blundered into George Bagby State Park and were very pleased with what it had to offer – cabins, a lodge, and a banquet room – in

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**Georgia  
Ornithological  
Society**

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*Georgia Rare Bird Alert* 770-493-8862  
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GOShawk is published quarterly  
(March, June, September, December)

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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**

Ben Copeland Fort Valley, GA

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

Jay Davis Atlanta, GA  
William Laws Brunswick, GA

**Bachman's Sparrow Members**

William A. Boyd Lilburn, GA  
Jeff Durden Juliette, GA  
Irmgard E. Jackson Augusta, GA  
Debbie Sue Mumford Brunswick, GA  
Tim Rose Lilburn, GA

**Fledgling Members**

David Hollie Ringgold, GA

*The 2008 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.*

**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 Now Available Online**

Past and current issues of the *GOShawk* are now available online in .pdf format at the following URL: <http://www.gos.org/newsletters/newsletter.pdf>

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

terms of a future meeting location.

Based on your requests, we're planning to meet next January on Tybee Island, and next April or May in Chattanooga, Tennessee. We thought long and hard about holding the January 2009 meeting on Jekyll Island, but decided that probably wouldn't be ideal since most of us will have just been down there for the October festival, and because the hotel issues on Jekyll Island won't be resolved until sometime late next year. We realize that GOS just met on Tybee Island in January 2007, but with your indulgence we would like to conduct sort of an experiment. You see, at recent executive committee meetings we have discussed the possibility of establishing a winter or spring meeting location tradition, just as Jekyll Island used to be our fall meeting location tradition (it still is via the festival, of course). When we met in Guntersville with the Alabama Ornithological Society a few winters ago, we learned that they traditionally meet at least once a year on Dauphin Island, and this works very well for them because their membership enjoys that island and knows all the local logistics and places to find birds. Additionally, having a traditional meeting location makes it much easier for meeting planners to establish relationships with specific hotel staff and field trip leaders at the location. In a sense, establishing such a tradition could cause local businesses to "adopt" GOS, just as we would adopt them and their home. Traditions, as you know, can have great value.

It strikes us that it's more important to move our spring meeting locations around, especially given the fact that we can find migrants in abundance in many locations around the state. The latter isn't true, of course, with respect to wintering species, especially waterfowl, and our membership obviously prefers coastal areas in winter because that's mainly where we find ducks and shorebirds. Anyway, what we're suggesting is that we adopt Tybee Island as our winter meeting location, at least for two or three years to see how the experiment works. As you may recall, 100 people attended our last winter meeting at Tybee, including the mayor, who personally asked us to establish such a relationship with the island. We counted 173 species that weekend, visited hot spots in South Carolina, and we even arranged a pelagic trip (along with multiple other boat trips). As a bonus, the proximity of Savannah and all it has to offer is an added inducement for non-birding spouses to join us for a long weekend.

On a different note, our committees have been very busy reviewing proposals and awarding grants and scholarships to scientists, students, and young birders. This is the first year for our new Bill Terrell Avian Con-

servations Grants, and we received eight fine proposals. This grant money is being made available for projects that are designed to enhance bird habitats, and the two recipients for 2008 are Tall Timbers (\$28,000) for a project that will improve RCW habitat on private land, and Georgia DNR (\$50,000) for a project designed to restore native grasslands. We also just awarded the annual Howe and Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants to the following future ornithologists: Neil Chartier, Ryan Malloy, Bryan Nuse, Michael Parrish, Kathryn Spear, and Kirk Stodola. Finally, the third annual Richard Parks Young Birder's Conference Scholarship has been awarded to two deserving birders: David Hollie and Luke Theodorou. David and Luke will be attending the ABA's Young Birder Conference in Minot, North Dakota, this June, courtesy of GOS. Congratulations to all of these talented, dedicated people, and thank you very much to the committee members who study, critique, and rank reams of applications materials: Mark Beebe, Bob Cooper, Les Davenport, Jim Ferrari, Steve Holzman, Tim Keyes, Carol Lambert, Joe Meyers, Todd Schneider, Georgann Schmalz, Emil Urban, Dan Vickers, and Jeannie Wright.

Speaking of committees, our checklist and records committee and editorial committee are working together on a couple of initiatives to improve the sightings review and publication process. First of all, Jim Flynn and Terry Moore will soon arrange a link on our website whereby the membership can check the review status of sightings that have been reported. Since there will always be a lag time between sighting reports and publication of those sightings in *The Oriole*, we'll be working with Jim Flynn and Ken Blankenship (our new "From the Field" editor) to post the FTF sections on the website as soon as they've been written and edited.

Last but not least, festival season is fast approaching, and we hope that you are making plans to attend the two biggest birding festivals in Georgia this year: Pine-woods Birding Festival, April 11-13, and the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival, October 10-13. The PBF is really stepping up to the plate in its effort to educate young people about birds, and GOS has gotten on board as one of the dedicated annual sponsors of this event. As for the coastal festival, many of you told me that last year's guest speaker, Dr. John Fitzpatrick, would be a hard act to follow, and I agree, so we went out and got Pete Dunne to be the speaker at this year's festival. How does that grab you? Please join us as we celebrate birds and the great outdoors through these two festivals. Let's recruit young people to birding and to the outdoors, and let's put Georgia birding on the national map.



## GOS Spring 2008 Meeting in Northeast Georgia

By Bill Lotz

The Spring 2008 meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held in Clayton, Georgia, from Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18, 2008. Our headquarters hotel will be the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton.

The Friday night program will feature Kirk Stodola, who will present the results of his research in North Georgia on Black-throated Blue Warblers, which was partly funded by GOS through the H. Branch Howe and the Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants programs.

Could there be better birding in Georgia than North Georgia in May? We will have field trips to such great sites as Burrell's Ford Road, Brasstown Bald, Ivy Log Gap Road, Vogel State Park, Rabun Bald, Sosebee Cove, Lake Winfield Scott, Suches, Dillard and Black Rock Mountain State Park. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and other passerines will be in full song and in their finest breeding plumage.



Noteworthy species seen at the winter meeting in Bainbridge. Vermilion Flycatcher (above) at the Bradley Unit. Bald Eagle (left) at Lake Walter F. George field trip. Photos by Dan Vickers.



Saturday evening will feature Alan Tennant as the guest speaker at our banquet. Alan is the author of *On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon*. You may remember that Alan was scheduled to be our speaker at the Brunswick meeting last April, but had to postpone his appearance due to travel scheduling problems. We eagerly look forward to hearing about his exciting adventures following, in a small airplane, migrating Peregrine Falcons from South Texas to their Central American wintering grounds and then, the next spring, tracking one north from Texas to its breeding territory in Northern Canada. Alan will also fill us in on his experiences the last few winters in Panama and Columbia.

You will not want to miss this exciting weekend of birding and fellowship in the beautiful North Georgia mountains.

## Jeannie B. Wright Receives the Greene Memorial Award

By John Swiderski

The Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for 2008 was presented to Jeannie B. Wright for her outstanding service as GOS treasurer at the Bainbridge winter meeting in January. Her award is the 33<sup>rd</sup> given since inception of the award in 1975.

Wright is a North Carolina native and came to Atlanta to study at Emory University where she earned a bachelor of science degree in Finance. After graduation she embarked on a successful career in the investment and financial planning field. At retirement she was an executive vice president for Sun Trust Robinson Humphrey. She holds professional designations as a chartered life underwriter and a chartered financial consultant. She currently serves as an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Her avid interest in birds and birding developed over the years and led her to join GOS in 1990. She agreed to become our treasurer in 1995 and continues to serve in that capacity. Longevity is one hallmark of outstanding service, and effective handling of an increasingly complex treasury is another.

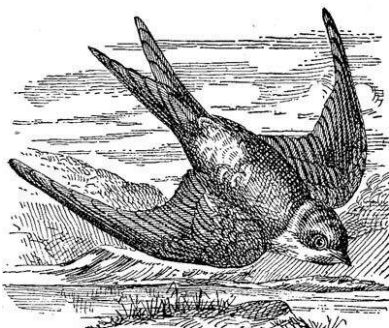
As Bob Sargent said in his presentation remarks, “Jeannie has been our treasurer for 13 years now, and I have worked with her for six and a half of those years. Her job has always been challenging, but especially so over the past three years as she organized and took charge of the finance committee, deftly man-



Jeannie Wright receives the 2008 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award from GOS President Bob Sargent (R) as John Swiderski (L) looks on.

aged investment accounts for GOS, dealt with increasingly complex tax issues and an intensive audit. She has managed our regulatory reporting, coordinated the disposition of the Terrell estate with appraisers and attorneys, and patiently explained financial concepts to me over and over again. I have learned to place a great deal of trust in her advice. Jeannie’s dedication to the executive committee, to GOS, and to conservation is something I greatly admire. This award is richly deserved by our treasurer, and my friend, Jeannie Wright.”

Jeannie has not limited her service just to GOS. She is a member of the board of trustees of The Nature Conservancy of Georgia. She is a past treasurer of Atlanta Audubon Society, is a United Way volunteer and serves on the board of the Mary Hall Freedom House, among others.



## Longtime GOS Member Passes Away

As this newsletter was going to press we were saddened to learn of the death of longtime GOS member Dr. Joseph Greenberg. We will publish a memorial about Joe in the June issue of the *GOShawk*.

## Bainbridge: Soggy and Super

By Bob Sargent

The past six weeks have been an especially rewarding and busy time within GOS, but most of the birds are still basking in the tropics, so why not get some of the business behind us before they return? It hasn't been all work, of course, as we spent an enjoyable four-day weekend meeting and birding in Bainbridge in January. It's about time we ventured to that corner of the state, as our records indicate that we have never held a meeting in that city.

The Cliff Notes version of the Bainbridge experience: The birding was good (see the species list in this newsletter), our local hosts and field trip guides were fabulous, the speakers (three of them!) were outstanding, the weather was obscene at times, and the hotel provided more adventure than some of us could stand. Prior to the meeting, several GOS members joined Mike Harris and other Georgia DNR staff at Silver Lake north of Lake Seminole to witness a longleaf forest paradise. You see, DNR contacted us last fall to ask if we would be interested in partnering with them in an effort to purchase 3,900 acres of pristine longleaf pine forest adjacent to the Lake Seminole WMA. The property in question supports 18 Red-cockaded Woodpecker groups, a population of the state-threatened Gopher Tortoise, an active Bald Eagle nest, and many other species of concern. It's extraordinarily diverse old-growth habitat, so protecting it was a high priority for conservationists in Georgia. During the tour we had the opportunity to watch two eagles and a flock of Sandhill Cranes cruising over Silver Lake, walked through a grove of towering longleaf pines, and ended the day with our binoculars glued to a feeding RCW as the sun dropped below the horizon. The tour culminated with the presentation of a check from GOS to DNR in the amount of \$100,000. We're proud that GOS was able to play a role in the preservation of such an invaluable forest, which will be managed to promote biodiversity, to enhance the survival of rare species, and for the enjoyment of the public, including birders.

Friday night's program featured two UGA student speakers, both of whom had been recipients of grants or scholarships from GOS. DeeAnne Meliopoulos, our secretary, carried the audience along with her as she relived her birding trip to the Ecuador highlands last September. Then Nico Dauphine dazzled the audience with stunning pictures of birds she captured during her field research in Peru. Much later that night those of us who were staying at the conference hotel, especially in the rooms near the lobby, learned, much to our annoyance, that the hotel was "the place" for young folks in the Bainbridge area to flock, to strut, and to bellow. Not surprisingly, many of us were more red-eyed than usual Saturday morning, and what a Saturday morning!



Bob Sargent presents a check for \$100,000 to Mike Harris, Chief of GA DNR's Nongame Conservation Section, Wildlife Resources Division, in support of the acquisition of the Silver Lake property, southwestern Georgia, January 18, 2008. Photo by Dan Vickers.

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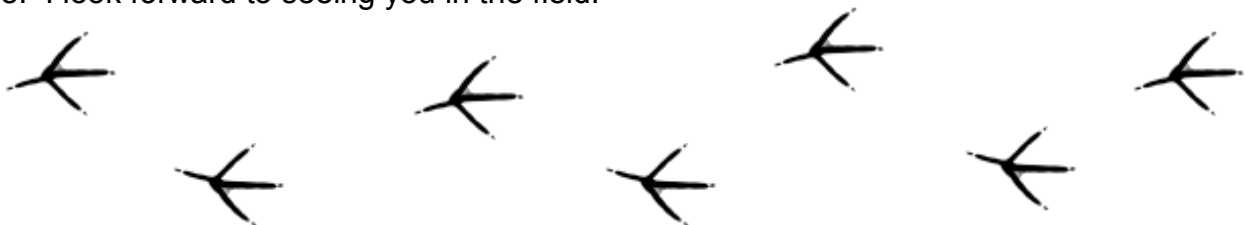
The weather on Friday had been just fine for the birders who convened at the Bradley Unit of Eu-  
faula WMA before traveling to Bainbridge, but on  
Saturday we awoke to an Arctic monsoon. I know  
that seems like an oxymoron, but you had to be  
there to believe it. The temperature never got  
above the mid-forties, and the rain blew sideways  
in sheets by mid-day. Late that morning I was  
struggling to make sense of ducks drifting in and  
out of the fog that settled over the western side of  
Lake Seminole, and when I glanced back at our  
intrepid group of birders, it struck me that each of  
us looked like a walking duck blind – enveloped in  
earth-colored rain slickers, shivering with each  
wind gust.



Dr. Lynn Fowler speaks about the Galápagos  
Islands at the GOS winter meeting banquet. Photo  
by Dan Vickers.

Saturday night kicked off with a social, followed by the presentation of the Earle Greene Award to  
Jeannie Wright (see the story in this newsletter). Then, in keeping with the weekend's tropical  
birding program theme, we were treated to a picturesque and funny program by Dr. Lynn Fowler  
about her work leading birding tours in the Galápagos Islands. Instead of ending the evening  
with the usual species countdown, we postponed that event until the planned "flocking" sched-  
uled for Sunday afternoon. Either the local revelers found some other place to rock on Saturday  
night or we were too tired to notice their repeat uproar, because the night seemed to pass with-  
out incident. Our fortune took a positive turn with the arrival of Sunday morning, as the monsoon  
had departed, but unfortunately, the Arctic conditions persisted. I was with the group that visited  
Lake Walter F. George that day, and was astonished by what we saw below and on the dam:  
more than 40 Great Blue Herons, nearly 100 Double-crested Cormorants, and both pelican spe-  
cies. Overhead soared three rambunctious immature Bald Eagles, grappling with each other in  
the frigid gusts, and below flew a flock of Least Sandpipers and a lone Palm Warbler, flitting in  
and out of cubbyholes in the dam superstructure, trying to find shelter.

Back at the hotel late Sunday afternoon we found that our first attempt at "flocking" was a mixed  
success, as no one had slides or any other materials to present! Nevertheless, about 30 of us  
enjoyed snacks and conversation, swapping survival tales about the weekend, and then most of  
us got together again to enjoy dinner at a restaurant a block from the hotel. Monday morning  
was sunny and much warmer, and the gang split up to enjoy two last field trips before heading  
back to our respective "grindstones." My sincere thanks and admiration go out to the people who  
made this meeting possible, especially Bill Lotz, Dan Vickers, Jeannie Wright, Steve Holzman,  
Condit Lotz, and the many field trip leaders. Sure, the weather was fearful at times, but everyone  
I spoke to that weekend agreed that birding in ugly weather is still better than a great day at the  
office. I look forward to seeing you in the field.



## GOS Winter Meeting Bird List Bainbridge, Georgia, January 18-21, 2008

A great big "THANK YOU" goes to our wonderful field trip leaders, Oscar Dewberry, Rick West, Chris Bittle, Jim Cox and Malcolm Hodges.

*List compiled by Bill Lotz*

Canada Goose	Sandhill Crane	Winter Wren
Wood Duck	Black-bellied Plover	Sedge Wren
Gadwall	Killdeer	Marsh Wren
American Wigeon	American Oystercatcher	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Black Duck	Black-necked Stilt	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	American Avocet	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Blue-winged Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Eastern Bluebird
Northern Shoveler	Lesser Yellowlegs	Hermit Thrush
Northern Pintail	Willet	American Robin
Green-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Canvasback	Ruddy Turnstone	Northern Mockingbird
Redhead	Western Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Ring-necked Duck	Least Sandpiper	European Starling
Lesser Scaup	Dunlin	American Pipit
Bufflehead	Short-billed Dowitcher	Cedar Waxwing
Common Goldeneye	Wilson's Snipe	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Laughing Gull	Yellow-throated Warbler
Red-breasted Merganser	Bonaparte's Gull	Pine Warbler
Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Palm Warbler
Wild Turkey	American Herring Gull	Black-and-white Warbler
Common Loon	Royal Tern	Common Yellowthroat
Pied-billed Grebe	Forster's Tern	Eastern Towhee
Horned Grebe	Rock Pigeon	Bachman's Sparrow
American White Pelican	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Chipping Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Mourning Dove	Field Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Common Ground-Dove	Vesper Sparrow
Anhinga	Belted Kingfisher	Savannah Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Red-headed Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Great Egret	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	White-throated Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Tricolored Heron	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Flicker	Red-winged Blackbird
White Ibis	Pileated Woodpecker	Eastern Meadowlark
Glossy Ibis	Eastern Phoebe	Rusty Blackbird
Wood Stork	Vermilion Flycatcher	Common Grackle
Black Vulture	Loggerhead Shrike	Boat-tailed Grackle
Turkey Vulture	Blue-headed Vireo	Shiny Cowbird
Osprey	Blue Jay	Brown-headed Cowbird
Bald Eagle	American Crow	House Finch
Northern Harrier	Fish Crow	American Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Tree Swallow	House Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	
American Kestrel	Brown-headed Nuthatch	
Merlin	Brown Creeper	
Common Moorhen	Carolina Wren	
American Coot	House Wren	

*140 species*



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Birding Competition and Bird Art Contest

By Tim Keyes

Are you sick of being the youngest member of the Georgia Ornithological Society? Would you love to see the enthusiastic young faces of birders under 40 . . . or even 20? If so, mark your calendars! The third annual Youth Birding Competition will take place May 2-3, 2008. This 24-hour birding competition involves kids from 4-17 years old, and last year got 100 young birders out in the field practicing, learning and finally competing in the event. Several teams documented more than 120 species in one day. The event was recently highlighted in an episode of GPB's *Citizen Science*, giving young birders lots of camera time.



Young birders enjoy the birding action at the 2007 Youth Birding Competition.

This year we are including a bird art competition for the T-shirt design. Kids can enter any drawing or painting of a bird native to Georgia for consideration. All entries will be on display at the Banquet on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As in years past, the Georgia Ornithological Society has taken an active role in planning and supporting the Youth Birding Competition and will be donating prizes to some of the winning teams. We are always looking for experienced birders who would like to help mentor a fledgling team, which requires meeting with them several times to help them build their birding skills. We also need volunteers to actually set up the banquet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Mansfield, Georgia.

Please spread the word to anyone you think may be interested in either the birding competition or the art contest.

If you are interested in finding out more about this event, please contact Tim Keyes ([tim\\_keyes@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:tim_keyes@dnr.state.ga.us)) or visit the DNR website at [www.georgiawildlife.com](http://www.georgiawildlife.com) and select Nongame Animals and Plants.

### Thanks for the Memories!

By John Swiderski

As you read in the December *GOShawk*, I stepped down from the executive committee after 31 years of service, starting as treasurer and ending up as historian (historical artifact?). I can't believe that the time went by so fast. I really enjoyed being able to serve GOS in various ways, not being the best birder around! Most of all I remember all of the fine people I encountered along the way, some no longer with us, such as Frank McCamey and Milton Hopkins most recently. Being around GOS also led to my meeting Kate, and we are now in our 20<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. I have not gone away completely, as I will still be sending out your publications. I also have the privilege to continue to serve with good friends Terry Moore and Giff Beaton on the selection committee for the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award.

## Georgia DNR Seeks Volunteers to Census Painted Bunting Populations

By Chris Depkin

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is once again requesting the assistance of qualified "point count" volunteers to assist in the 2008 Eastern Painted Bunting Population Assessment and Monitoring Project. I would like to thank all of the 2007 participants for their generous contributions of both time and effort and am hopeful that you will once again be willing to take part in the project this year. Last year's efforts resulted in many useful improvements to the project.

For those of you who were not involved last year but are interested in counting this year, please visit the website, which has information about various aspects of this project (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/point/pabu/>). Please take time to read about the project and the methods. This will give you a better idea of the time commitment involved to sample a single 12- or 6-point transect. Please direct any questions you have concerning methods or count protocols to Rua Mordecai ([stobr@warnell.uga.edu](mailto:stobr@warnell.uga.edu)). Please send me a response when convenient (the season starts on or about May 1, 2008) concerning your desire to take part in this project. Road-based transects are located throughout the Coastal Plain from the Savannah River south to the St. Mary's River and as far inland as the Macon area. For those of you who are interested in taking part, please send me an e-mail stating the number of transects you would be willing to take on as well as your geographic location (closest town or city) so that we can best match you with a transect(s) closest to you.

For additional information or inquires contact:

Chris Depkin, Georgia DNR, 843-384-4244,  
([Depkin@aol.com](mailto:Depkin@aol.com)) or  
Bran Winn, Georgia DNR, 912-262-3128,  
([Brad\\_Winn@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Brad_Winn@dnr.state.ga.us))  
Rua Mordecai, [stobr@warnell.uga.edu](mailto:stobr@warnell.uga.edu)

## In Memoriam: Dr. Benjamin Franklin McCamey

By John Swiderski

Dr. Benjamin Franklin McCamey, 88, passed away on December 25, 2007, in Atlanta. Known to all simply as Frank, he lived and worked in Georgia for more than 30 years prior to his death. He was a life member and former president of GOS.

Frank was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee. His interest in birds and nature developed early in his life. Like so many of his generation, he was an active Boy Scout and his father would often let Frank explore in the woods while he was fishing nearby. When Frank was a senior in high school, a teacher encouraged him to apply for a university education. He was accepted at Yale University, where he completed his bachelor's degree and then earned a master's degree in forestry followed by a Ph.D. in ornithology from the University of Connecticut, where he served as a professor of forestry and wildlife management from 1948 to 1962.

Frank then left academia to begin what would become his life's work with nature centers and sanctuaries. For some 10 years he served with numerous environmental education organizations, including Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Cincinnati Nature Center, and the Seven Ponds Nature Center in Michigan. Much earlier he held posts with the Boy Scouts, the Boston Museum of Science and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Early in the 1970s Frank and his wife, Ginny, moved to Atlanta, where he was associated with the late John Ripley Forbes and the Natural Science for Youth Foundation. Frank was instrumental in helping to establish 29 nature centers throughout the United States. Among them are Georgia nature centers we now treasure, including the Elachee Nature Center, the Chattahoochee Nature Center, the Reynolds Nature Preserve, the Sandy Creek Nature Center and the Atlanta Outdoor Activity Center. What a wonderful legacy he left us!

Although he was busy with his NSYF work, Frank made time to be very active with GOS, Atlanta Audubon Society, Georgia Botanical Society and others. He was also one of the founders of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. It was fortunate indeed for GOS that Frank took an immediate interest in the society and the executive committee. He was an officer from 1977 to 1985 including serving as president from 1979 to 1983. During this time GOS was essentially on the brink of insolvency. Frank reenergized the execu-

(continued on page 11)

**In Memoriam** (continued from page 10)

tive committee with his leadership and helped to develop a course of action to successfully achieve financial stability. Even after his years as an officer, Frank rarely missed a meeting of the executive committee until his health began to fail.

Frank received the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in 1988 for his service to GOS, appropriately enough at a meeting hosted in part by the Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville. In 2005, he was awarded the Dr. Eugene Odum Outstanding Lifetime Service Award by the Environmental Education Alliance.

He is survived by his wife and his daughter, Eleanor Lund, as well as a sister, Helen McGoldrick, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Glimpses:**

Frank encountered Ginny for the first time while hiking in Connecticut. He must have decided immediately that she was the one, for after just three dates she accepted his marriage proposal. Thanks, Ginny, for sharing Frank with so many of us over the years.

During World War II, Frank was a meteorologist in the Army Air Corps and for a time he, Roger Tory Peterson and George M. Sutton were assigned to the same unit. Ginny remembers that they enjoyed many evenings of conversation and discussion at the kitchen table.

After the war ended, Frank volunteered for a tour of duty in Greenland and likely was the only person there who delighted in being outside exploring nature.



Frank McCamey on Hawk Mountain. Photo courtesy of Ginny McCamey.



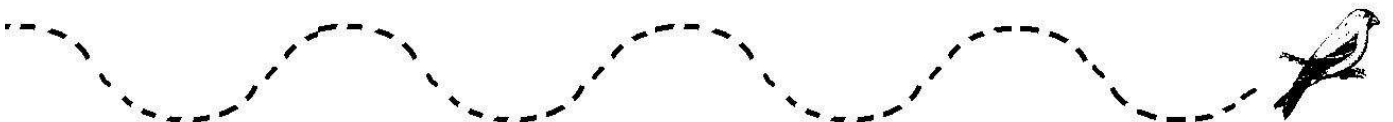
Frank McCamey at the 2005 Atlanta Audubon Christmas party. Photo by Georgann Schmalz.

Carol Lambert remembers how helpful Frank was to her during the development of the Wetlands Center, and he gave her voluminous materials to use. That would have been easy for Frank, since he was well known for keeping everything.

Frank and the Cincinnati Warbler? The story is too long to relate here, but you can read about it on the Web at: <http://cincinnatibirds.com/history/CincinnatiWarbler.php>

Finally, Frank had that great gift to lead by example, by suggestion and by persuasion, as well as the gift of listening to others. As can be seen in the photograph which accompanies this memorial, he most often was smiling. He loved people.

(Ginny McCamey, Georgann Schmalz and Carol Lambert contributed to this memorial.)



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

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# *GOShaw*



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