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Vol. 38, No. 1



# GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society  
www.gos.org

## Distinguished Guests Provide Their Reflections on the Evolution of GOS and on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

By Bob Sargent

The story of the 50th anniversary meeting, which took place in Macon in December 1986, was wonderfully described by Betsy Phillips in the lead article of Volume 51 (No. 4) of *The Oriole*. Tommy Patterson, president of GOS at the time, elected to write just a few remarks about the meeting for the *GOShawk*, mainly thanking those who were responsible for organizing it. Anniversary meetings are significant in the history of an organization such as ours, and they should be captured in print and photographs within the pages of long-lived publications such as journals. Some people have encouraged me to also write a long article about the recent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting for publication in *The Oriole*, rather than penning the usual meeting summary for this newsletter. In keeping with the precedent established by my friend Tommy 25 years ago, this is what I'm going to do. I hope you'll look for the full story in the first issue of Volume 76 of our journal.

As for this newsletter, I thought it would be more interesting and appropriate to print reflections from many of the meeting's distinguished guests – the former presidents and the recipients of the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award who graced us with their attendance. Counting Todd Schneider, the newest award recipient, there were 18 of them at the meeting, representing a remarkable collection of talent, as well as a wealth of knowledge about the history of the society and ornithology. Their thoughts follow these words. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did.

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One thing that Peggy and I enjoyed so much was seeing so many of our friends that we hadn't seen for such a long time. We had so much fun talking to them and also finding new friends during the meeting. We promised each other that we would try not to miss any more GOS meetings if humanly possible.

**Terry Moore** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 1992*)

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## **Georgia Ornithological Society**

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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|                                   |              |
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| <i>Editorial:</i>                 |              |
| Malcolm Hodges                    | 770-997-1968 |
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| <i>Terrell Research Grant:</i>    |              |
| Joe Meyers                        | 706-542-1882 |
| <i>Opportunity Grants:</i>        |              |
| Dan Vickers                       | 770-235-7301 |
| <i>Avian Conservation Grants:</i> |              |
| Bob Sargent                       | 478-397-7962 |
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| Cathy Ricketts                    | 404-406-9348 |
| <i>Education:</i>                 |              |
| Renee Carleton                    | 706-238-5892 |

*Georgia Rare Bird Alert* 770-493-8862  
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of the month prior to publication.  
Text by e-mail is appreciated.*

## **Welcome, New Members!**

### **Fledgling Members**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Paige Barlow       | Athens, GA |
| Gabrielle Robinson | Athens, GA |

### **Bachman's Sparrow Members**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Melissa Martin     | Albany, GA       |
| Doug Thigpen       | Savannah, GA     |
| John Schelhas, Jr. | Athens, GA       |
| Tim Towles         | Vero Beach, FL   |
| Ann Miller         | Atlanta, GA      |
| Sharon Lindsay     | Tybee Island, GA |
| Brenda Kostick     | Macon, GA        |

### **Quail Covey Members**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Steve and Susan McInnis | Columbia, SC   |
| Karen and Steve Seward  | Valdosta, GA   |
| John and Claire Tiernan | Hayesville, NC |

### **Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| H. Allen Moye | Decatur, GA |
|---------------|-------------|

### **Northern Goshawk Members**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Sharon Brekke | Atlanta, GA   |
| Walt Chambers | Ellerslie, GA |

*The 2011 GOS membership list is available electronically via e-mail or as a hard copy. Please send your request to [membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org) (Cathy Ricketts) for an e-mail copy or to GOS, 108 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434 for a paper copy. Available to members only.*

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

**GOS SPRING MEETING**  
*May 13-15, 2011, Hiawassee*

**GOS FALL MEETING**  
*October 7-9, 2011, Jekyll Island*

## Reflections on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

Though there were many interesting field trips birds were secondary for us at this special meeting. (Well, we did catch up with Purple Sandpiper at last!). Primary for us were the members from way back that we had not seen for so many years - a reunion! The highlight without question was the spontaneous and prolonged standing ovation for Dick Parks, a great friend to all of us.

**John** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 1998; GOS President, 1999-2001*) **and Kate Swiderski**

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What a magnificent meeting! Not only about ornithology and birding, but renewing friendships established over half a lifetime. Visiting with people such as Doris Cohrs, Ken Clark, Dick Parks, John Swiderski, and Terry Moore and many others that Joyce and I looked up to and respected when we were very early in our birding endeavors was one of life's great moments. Looking at the picture of the past presidents and Earle Greene Award recipients makes us realize we were in the company of Georgia's ornithological greatness. This meeting, and the number of dedicated younger birders in attendance, also confirmed that the Society is in very good hands. To Bob Sargent and all that had a part in orchestrating the outstanding 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, a very resounding – Well Done!

**Don Duncan** (*GOS President, 1987-1989*)

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The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of GOS at Tybee Island was definitely a success. Many thanks go to all those involved in organizing the event. All too often we forget to thank those who work hardest to insure everything goes smoothly. Consider yourselves thanked! You know who you are.

Don and I joined GOS in 1971 or thereabouts. We attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting. It would be difficult to adequately summarize the progress that GOS has made over all these years. Don would have been especially thrilled to see all the young people and their enthusiasm for birding, banding, and research projects. Scholarships, workshops, competitive birding. So many good things happening. We've come a long way, baby!!

Best of all was seeing so many friends, mentors, fellow birders. Some of us won't be able to attend the centennial meeting, but hopefully, some of you will think of us then.

**Doris Cohrs** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 1990*)

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I thought it was the best meeting we've ever had. Just like the 50<sup>th</sup> in Macon, the birding was great if not better, the crowd was a combination of truly birders and those wanting to see a celebrity artist, birder, writer. Like Peterson, David Sibley was so real, normal, just a guy without an obvious ego and he seemed to enjoy being there. Thanks go to Steve Holzman for inviting him to share a great weekend with all of us, both regulars to a GOS meeting and those who were pulled out because of Sibley, his book and his presentation which was extremely thought provoking especially for those of us that teach bird identification skills.

**Georgann Schmalz** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 2010*)

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The whole experience was a great pleasure. The planning and execution were outstanding. The facility chosen for the occasion was able to accommodate us gracefully (the little jam-up for dinner Saturday evening just added spice to an otherwise faultless schedule and program), but the high point was renewing acquaintance and visiting with wonderful people I hadn't seen in a while. The GOS pioneers would have been immensely proud of what the organization has become. Thank you ever so much for inviting me.

**Ken Clark** (*GOS President, 1995-1999, Earle R. Greene Award, 2001*)

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It's always a pleasure to attend anniversary meetings of groups like this, and this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of GOS was no exception! The weather was nice, and lots of great birds were found on the slate of interesting birding trips. The lectures ranged from an interesting overview of Georgia birding now and into the future by DNR's Todd Schneider on Friday, and the fascinating keynote by bird guide legend David Sibley on Saturday. The best part of these meetings is catching up with birding friends from all over the state, and in this case getting to see so many famous GOS personalities and talents from earlier as well as current times. From founding member Dick Parks through all the former Earle Greene Award winners and GOS presidents, it was great to have so much accumulated experience and sheer expertise in one place, so kudos to all those who worked so hard to make this such a wonderful meeting. I will never forget talking history with Dick again, as

*(continued on page 4)*

## Reflections on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting

(continued from page 3)

someone who has been there since the proverbial beginning, birding with David, and just plain rubbing elbows with so many special, accomplished and fun folks.

**Giff Beaton** (Earle R. Greene Award, 2004)

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The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting on Tybee Island, GA was fabulous in every sense of the word. It showed what a dynamic, thriving organization GOS has become. Over 200 participants attended the meeting! The meeting was of the highest caliber from the stimulating speakers, the fabulous field trips, poster sessions, the first ever photo contest, and anniversary t-shirts.

It was a marathon weekend with breakfast beginning at 5:30 AM and activities often lasting until 10:30 PM. However, everything was energizing and stimulating---no tiring, boring stuff here. Board members and others at Happy Hour infused the gathering with plenty of humor.

The meeting was educational and fun. It demonstrated the enormous amount of expertise in the organization. The awards recognitions highlighted the extraordinary contributions made by so many members over so many years. Plus the meeting reflected the enormous amount of work put in by so many to make it such a success. I enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones.

It was good to see such a vital organization promoting the interests of ornithology in Georgia. With this kind of momentum I'm sure that GOS will have another 75 years of spectacular success.

**Gail Russell** (GOS President, 2001-2003)

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The Tybee Island Winter GOS Meeting is the best of the society's meetings which I have had the occasion to attend. Everything went like clockwork and all those who were involved in the planning and implementation are to be congratulated for an outstanding job. My wife, Joan, and I thoroughly enjoyed the entire affair. Bob, I congratulate you for all your valiant efforts during your term of office as president of GOS and for conducting such a fine meeting. I thank you and all those who helped with this memorable gathering of kindred spirits.

I suggest starting with the next meeting, that a group photograph be taken (and all participants named in the photo with their respective hometowns) at all GOS Meetings for the historical record of the Society.

**Paul Sykes** (Earle R. Greene Award, 2002)

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Soon after I arrived on campus at the University of Georgia to begin my graduate studies under Dr. Eugene Odum, he was quick to tell me, as he did all of his graduate students, particularly transplanted "Yankees" such as myself, that as a student at the University there in Athens, the state of Georgia was, both directly and indirectly, contributing to my education. He then went on to point out that after graduation, he certainly hoped therefore that wherever my career might later lead me, I would remember to "pay something back" to the state of Georgia that helped to educate me (M.S.-1965 and Ph.D.-1967).

I later came to learn that this was an issue that was deeply ingrained in Eugene Odum's own life, since he grew up as a child in Georgia but was forced to move to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with the rest of his family, when his father, who was a faculty member at the University of Georgia, was forced to leave the state because his professional discipline was considered to be too sympathetic with respect to the plight of minorities at the time. In Chapel Hill, he found the nation's first school of sociology at the University of North Carolina. Years later, however, Gene Odum returned to the University of Georgia in fulfillment of his father's hope that some day his home state would be ready to support a state university with academic programs of recognized excellence.

That is surely why, after later being hailed as the Father of Modern Ecology, Gene Odum would never even consider the many offers that continued to come his way to move to other schools of greater perceived academic standing (i.e., in the Ivy League). In a very real sense then, I guess I did exactly the same thing as my former major professor, by continuing my



75th Anniversary Meeting Photo Contest Winner: Prothonotary Warbler. Photo by Jerry Amerson.

entire professional career as a member of the research faculty there at the University of Georgia until my retirement in 2005.

All of these thoughts have long been in the back of my mind since the GOS first honored me with the Earle R. Greene Award in 1996. When I attended the GOS winter meeting at Tybee Island in January 2011, they were particularly in my thoughts during my reunion there with so many of my old friends, colleagues, and fellow Georgia ornithologists who knew Gene Odum (or knew of him). Knowing that Gene Odum was also a winner of the Earle R. Greene Award, as was also Dr. Ron Pulliam (who was an undergraduate while I was at the university and served at that time as my lab technician), made all of it even more meaningful for me.

Yes, loads of fond memories came flooding back to me during that banquet and the meeting that followed there on Tybee Island, but none of these thoughts were fonder than the realization that we were all “paying back” the state of Georgia, as Gene Odum had hoped we would, by helping to promote a better understanding of our state’s birdlife and hence providing some of the information needed for the future conservation and management of this magnificent natural resource – yes, even including the chickens of downtown Fitzgerald, Georgia!

It was humbling and a real honor to be a part of this with all of those who were there.

***I. Lehr Brisbin*** (Earle R. Greene Award, 1996)

GOS had me hooked from first contact, in the early 1970s. This was via contact with friends in the Atlanta Audubon Society: Dick Parks, John Swiderski, Terry Moore, Joe Greenburg, Anne Mursch, Jeannie Wright, and many others. While serving on the AAS board, leading field trips, and giving bird talks, I became “that birdlady who talks about GOS.” Yes, I admit to proselytizing.

We were young, eager, impassioned bird chasers, hungry to learn more and wanting to share that knowledge with others. We were in awe of our mentoring elders, and were fortunate enough to occasionally cross paths with the likes of Roger Tory Peterson, Athos Menaboni, Chandler Robbins, and others.

Most impressive to me about GOS was the emphasis on the birds themselves: identifications, vocalizations, behaviors, needs, and habitats. How exciting it was, meeting state wide and, occasionally, with adjoining states. We experienced different habitats and met both local birders and imported experts. We got involved with bird censusing and with banding. There was the quest to submit scientific papers, and the ever-frustrating process of editing and publishing in a timely manner.

On a personal note, becoming president of GOS was a bit daunting. I'd served in various positions on the board but wasn't a degreed scientist. GOS goals involved some projects on decidedly scientific levels, certainly above MY level. I didn't know the names and backgrounds of all those in the scientific community, but Branch Howe did. Together we discussed names and respective abilities. I was very grateful both to him and to those who agreed to serve. Each one was the first person I had called upon to chair a particular committee. Choosing strong, competent committee heads, I think, is the most important first step a new president takes. Obviously, having the past president serve on the board, for transition's sake, is invaluable.

Many people I was privileged to have known have passed on. Those of us remaining are now the white-haired elders. (Except for John Swiderski, whose hair remains stubbornly full and dark. Must be some Polish gene.) I am as much in awe of our current GOS leaders as I was in the past. Our organization has been extremely fortunate in continuing to have very talented, dedicated, and responsible members on the board. They have been generous with their time, labor, and



Steve Holzman presents David Sibley with a painting of a Yellow-throated Warbler by Dick Parks while GOS President Bob Sargent looks on. Photo by Phil Hardy.

(continued on page 6)

## Reflections on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting *(continued from page 5)*

expertise. And it shows. The papers, poster presentations, and programs delivered by young scholars and student members prove the value of the scholarships. Bringing in established ornithologists and other scientists, artists, photographers, writers, and even an occasional "big name" in the birding field is exciting and motivating. The well-organized and professionally conducted field trips are educational, and are a big drawing card. The logistics of juggling all this to culminate in a meeting one to three years in advance is a huge job. The publications are well done and provide excellent contact with members. Younger members, experts in this technological age, are using technology for our benefit.

Who wouldn't be proud to be a member of such an organization? Carry on, kids!

**Helen Ogren** (*GOS President, 1993-1995*)

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There were so many wonderful moments at the 2011 GOS winter meeting on Tybee Island last month it is difficult to select just one highlight! Catching up with friends and colleagues I haven't seen in a long while; birding new places with the upper echelon of GA birders; scanning the ocean for ducks, grebes and gannets; seeing my first Georgia Ash-throated Flycatcher.... and I must admit getting a full night sleep without my 3-year-old daughter crawling into our bed at 2 AM... All of these events and more made for a wonderful weekend that I will not soon forget.

Of these many highlights, one does rise above the rest. The highlight for me was seeing both the founding fathers of GOS at the same meeting as our young future leaders. It was a great pleasure and honor to see and meet many of the significant figures in the history of GOS - including Dick Parks, an original founding member of the organization. It is all too easy to be so caught up in the present, that we overlook the amazing depth of contribution, skills, and knowledge of our predecessors. This meeting presented wonderful opportunities to meet and visit with the legendary individuals who created the rich history of GOS.

And just as exciting, was seeing the youngsters who may well become the future legends of GOS. In recent years, many GOS members have made a concerted effort to engage, encourage and mentor young birders. I have had the pleasure of getting to know and bird with some of these young birders over the last few years. It was truly a thrill to have them join what is typically an adult affair.

I hope that GOS will continue to thrive for another 75+ years – expanding our efforts to nurture young birders in Georgia to ensure that our future is as bright and exciting as the rich GOS history created by its founders.

**Tim Keyes** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 2009*)

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Giff Beaton speaks at the Friday evening program. Photo by Dan Vickers.

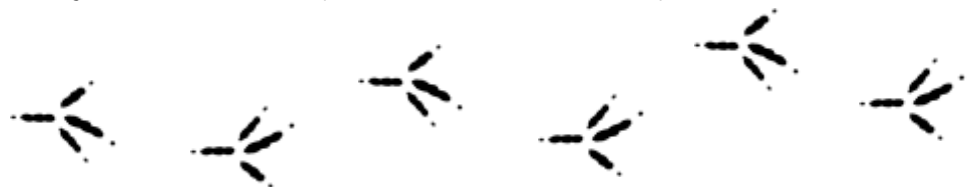
I was able to attend the banquet and keynote presentation on Saturday. What a nice evening with friends, some of whom I have not seen in many years. I thought that David Sibley's presentation was thought provoking and fun. Steve Holzman set the stage for David with humor, and David stepped right into it, interrupting himself with giggles several times. The star of the evening, however, overshadowing Sibley's contribution, was Richard Parks. What a great thing to have him there. He has been a steady anchor for the organization over the years. He must have been overwhelmed to see how his fledgling GOS from the 1930s has grown to what it is today. Thank you Bob and GOS for a great 75<sup>th</sup>.

**Brad Winn** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 2006*)

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I thoroughly enjoyed the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the GOS. The friendship, presentations, and banquet were terrific. I particularly enjoyed having a chance to visit briefly with Richard Parks Saturday evening. As a fellow bird artist we have much in common. I was delighted that we sat next to each other for the photograph of Past-Presidents and Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Recipients.

**Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.** (*Earle R. Greene Award, 2010*)





### Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Recipients and Past Presidents

Georgia Ornithological Society Meeting  
 Ocean Plaza Resort Hotel  
 Tybee Island, Georgia  
 14-17 January 2011

**Front Row**, L. to R. Doris Cohrs (Award 1990), Helen Ogren (President 1993-1995), Gail Russell (President 2001-2003), Richard Parks (Award 1976; the only living charter member of GOS), Sidney Gauthreaux (Award 2010), I. Lehr Brisbin (Award 1996).

**Middle Row**, L. to R. Kenneth Clark (Award 2001; President 1995-1999), Donald Duncan (President 1987-1989), Paul Sykes (Award 2002), James Flynn (Award 2003), Georgann Schmalz (Award 2010), Jeannie Wright (Award 2008), Todd Schneider (Award 2011), Terry Moore (Award 1992).

**Back Row**, L. to R. Brad Winn (Award 2006), Tim Keyes (Award 2009), Giff Beaton (Award 2004), John Swiderski (Award 1998; President 1999-2001).

Photo by Phil Hardy, GOS Historian  
 15 January 2011

## 2011 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Recipient

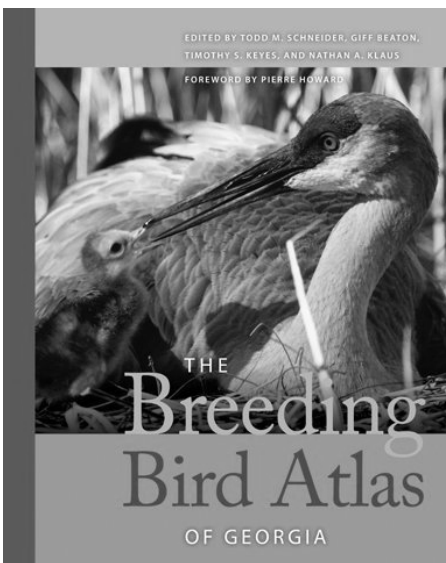
By John Swiderski

Wildlife biologist Todd M. Schneider, a GOS member since 1993, was recognized for significant achievement in ornithology when he received the 2011 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award at the GOS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting on Tybee Island. Achievement in his case was both for a single project and for the long-term commitment that produced *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia*, published in 2010 by the University of Georgia Press.

Schneider is a Wisconsin native and received his biology degree from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. He worked in the Green Bay area for a few years until Georgia called and he was hired by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources some 17 years ago specifically to begin the work of developing an atlas of breeding birds in Georgia, a project that has been likened to running a marathon, a very long marathon. Over the years, Todd enlisted hundreds of people—ranging from professionals to citizen scientists and birders—to carry out field surveys in as many blocks as possible, analyze the data, write species reports, develop maps and carefully edit and review everything as the project went along. He was ably assisted by his co-editors on the coordinating committee, fellow wildlife biologists Timothy S. Keyes and Nathan A. Klaus, along with Giff Beaton.



Todd Schneider, GOS President Bob Sargent, and John Swiderski (left to right). Swiderski holds a copy of *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia*. Photo by Phil Hardy.



The result of all this effort is best described by Robert L. Crawford in his review, published in *The Auk*, 127(4), pp. 960-961, 2010. He writes in part that “Sumptuous is the word for this gorgeous, thorough, well-designed and authoritative book. [The project] followed the rules, produced magnificently and the overwhelming majority of the maps and commentary is most informative and clearly presented. I would highly recommend it to those contemplating atlasing concepts, techniques and projects.”

The atlas project was not the only assignment Schneider had, of course. He serves as the coordinator for the Breeding Bird Survey and has increased participation considerably in recent years. He is now (happily) working full time on bird and habitat research and analysis for American Bittern, Black Rail and Henslow’s Sparrow, among others. He and his wife, Jane, and their two sons live in Macon, GA.



## In Memoriam, Larry N. Ross

Larry N. Ross, 62, died in Carrollton, Georgia, on 18 January 2011, following a short illness. He was a retired Wildlife Technician with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He and his wife, Shirley, joined GOS in 1995 as their interest in birds grew.

They regularly attended GOS meetings, where Larry's ready smile and their companionship with each other and GOS members was always in evidence. They had made reservations to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting on Tybee Island but were not able to come because of his illness. Many at that meeting wondered about their absence and missed them. Larry also enjoyed woodworking and made quality cabinets and furniture. At the time of his death he was making kitchen cabinets for their retirement home they were building in the Bowden area.

Friends and relatives at his funeral in Zebulon, Georgia, remarked that Larry had a desire even as a youngster to be a ranger. He fulfilled that desire by working as a Wildlife Technician with Georgia DNR for some 34 years. During his career he enforced game and fish laws, assisted biologists and carried out projects on DNR lands. For much of his career he was a supervisor as well. Most of all, Larry enjoyed working outdoors with animals, birds and the natural environment.

Larry grew up in a large family at the home place in Pike County, near Zebulon. He had two brothers and eight sisters, so perhaps that gave him an impetus to be outside a lot. In addition to Shirley, he is survived by his children, Cynthia Lewis and Tom Ross, seven grand-children, six sisters and many nieces and nephews. Donations in his memory may be made to the Brooke Ager Discovery Area, Wildlife Conservation Fund, GA DNR, 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA, 31029.



Larry Ross, January 2007. Captain Rene Heidt and Bob Sargent are in the background. Photo by Kate Swiderski.

## DNR's Brad Winn Moves to Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

In case you have not heard, Georgia DNR's Brad Winn has departed the state for a new job. His contributions to shorebird conservation in Georgia have been nothing short of remarkable, and it's inconceivable that he could be replaced. The only silver lining in this dark cloud that we can see at the moment is that he will continue to work on shorebird ecology projects in the Northeast. Since, as ecology teaches us, everything is interconnected, "their birds" are also "our birds." He will be greatly missed.

Bob Sargent

From Brad:

*"Hello Georgia Birders,*

*I am leaving Georgia next week to move up to Massachusetts, and will be working on shorebird focused projects for the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences near Plymouth. So in my mind, I will just be a little farther up the coast. Thank you for your friendships, collaboration, support, and pure fun we have shared over the years.*

*I am honored to have been able to work with the staff of the Nongame Conservation Section of DNR. They are an ambitious and totally dedicated group of individuals who are focused on understanding and protecting your public trust resources. Please give of yourselves to help them and others protect the habitats that support the birds we all so enjoy. Thank you, and I hope to run into many of you out on a sandbar soon."*

*Brad Winn (Brunswick, GA, Plymouth, MA, Granville, VT)*



American Oystercatcher (John James Audubon)

# Camp TALON

(Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature)

## *What?*

- ▶ A five-day camp for teens interested in birds and nature
- ▶ Sponsors: GA Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Ornithological Society, and Atlanta Audubon Society

*When?* June 12-16, 2011

*Where?* The camp will be based on St. Simons Island, but we're planning to bird many other sites, including Harris Neck NWR, Altamaha WMA, Little St. Simons Island, Ft. Stewart, Sapelo Island, and Jekyll Island.

*Who?* Will host 20 students, ages 12-16



*How much?* \$300 each, which includes meals, lodging, and transportation.

*How can I register?* Look for the registration form at [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

For more info, contact Julie Duncan ([julie.duncan@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:julie.duncan@dnr.state.ga.us)) or Pete Griffin ([pete.griffin@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:pete.griffin@dnr.state.ga.us))

## Spring 2011 GOS Meeting Heads for the Hills

By Dan Vickers

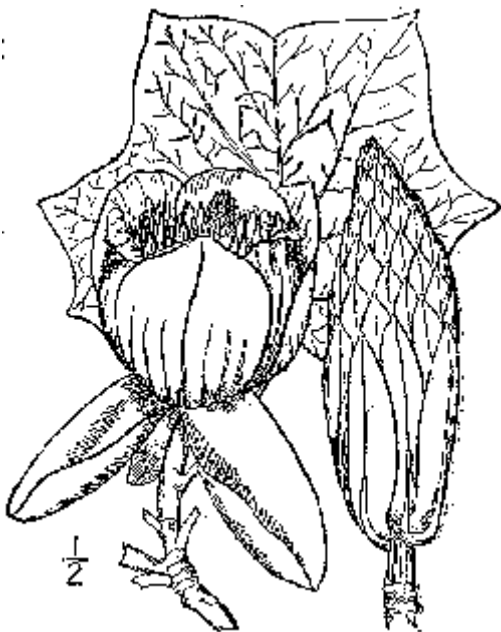
Bolstered by last year's wildly successful meeting in Athens, GOS is taking the 2011 Spring conference a little higher, to the mountains of North Georgia. The Ridges Resort and Club, located on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, Georgia, will host the GOS Spring Conference on May 13-15, 2011.

The meeting space looks great and the rooms are high quality. Check out their website: [www.TheRidgesResort.com](http://www.TheRidgesResort.com). The room rate was negotiated down to \$99 a night for a standard room in the lodge. They also have two and three bedroom villas for \$260 and \$360. Wireless internet and parking are complimentary and there are no "additional" resort fees. Free amenities include the pool, volleyball and tennis courts, fishing pier and horseshoe pits. The resort also has a full-service marina, golf course, skeet range, and fly-fishing in case the mountain birding gets boring for someone.



Detail of the head, foot, and tail feather of the Brown Creeper, from *New England Bird Life*, by Winfrid A. Stearns (1881, Boston: Lee and Shepard).

The menus look great and costs are in line with the previous meetings. A continental breakfast, included in the room rate, will be available at 6 AM for our early field trip departures.



Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), a common species at Sosebee Cove. From Britton and Brown (1913), *Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada*.

Oh, and I guess I should mention that they are an Audubon-listed Wildlife Sanctuary!

Field trips will include the ever-popular locations of Ivy Log Gap Road, Brasstown and Rabun Balds, Sosebee Cove, Hale and Duncan Ridge Roads, and anywhere else we can think of to find North Georgia's breeding passerines. We will target such species as Least and Willow Flycatchers, Canada, Blackburnian, Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Veery, Ruffed Grouse and maybe we can even nail down a breeding record for Black-billed Cuckoo!

The Friday night speaker will be Jim Ferrari, whose talk is entitled "Vulture Seasonality and Flight Behavior: A Four-year Study." Jim Ozier, the program manager of the Georgia DNR's Nongame Conservation Section, will present the Saturday evening program entitled "Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon Conservation Successes in Georgia."

So mark your calendars for May 13-15, 2011 and we'll see you in the mountains.

## 2011 GOS Research Award Winners, Grant Recipients, and Scholarships

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

### 1) H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Awards:

Camille Beasley, M.S. candidate, University of Georgia. "Effects of suspended development on avian occupancy and nest predation: Disentangling the structural and human impacts of urbanization."

Clark D. Jones, Ph.D. candidate, University of Georgia. "Effects of fragmentation on habitat permeability for Bachman's Sparrow (*Peuceea aestivalis*) and on Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) umbrella species efficacy."

Anna Joy Lehmicke, Ph.D. candidate, University of Georgia. "Conservation genetics and extra-pair paternity in Seaside Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*) in northern Gulf Coast tidal marsh."

Ryan A. Malloy, Ph.D. candidate, University of Georgia. "Neotropical migratory bird conservation in the Bellbird Biological Corridor in Costa Rica."

Gabrielle L. Robinson, M.S. candidate, University of Georgia. "Effects of contaminants on piscivorous birds in a coastal estuary: Least Terns as bioindicators."

### 2) Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Awards:

Patti Newell, Ph.D. candidate, University of Georgia. "Using telemetry to determine the importance of patches used by Rusty Blackbirds wintering in urban habitats."

Joanna Hatt, M.S. candidate, University of Georgia. "Consequences of climate change and responses of Black-throated Blue Warblers to food supplementation across elevation in the southern Appalachians."

Paige Barlow, M.S. candidate, University of Georgia. "Land use effects on birds in the southern Appalachian region: Combining Bayesian occupancy modeling, stakeholder involvement, and structured decision-making to meet human and wildlife objectives."

### 3) Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant:

The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Chapter. Prescribed burning program.

### 4) Opportunity Grant:

Dr. Nico Dauphine, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. "Effects of subsidized predators on bird populations in an urban matrix."

### 5) 2011 Richard Parks Young Birder's Conference Scholarships:

Nicholas Sinks and Rachel Rozin

Please be sure to check the GOS website at <http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html> for criteria and deadlines concerning the availability of awards, grants, and scholarships.



## GOS Finances for 2010

By Jeannie Wright

The society's financial results for 2010 include many highlights and show the ability of GOS to make a difference in bird research, conservation, and management. The Conservation Grants included \$52,000 to The Nature Conservancy for prescribed burns to improve bird habitat and \$18,000+ to Atlanta Audubon's Important Bird Areas program to improve water control structures on the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area. The \$20,000 in graduate student grants went to six students with projects such as the impact of sea-level rise on Seaside Sparrows, wetland bird surveys, and the impact of land management practices on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers at Ft. Benning. Scholarships were provided to send five teens/young adults to Audubon and ABA camps. Two issues of the *Oriole* were printed, and by the end of 2011 this journal will be up-to-date.

With the magnitude of the Bill Terrell bequest received in 2005, the proper investment of the society's assets is critical. The Finance Committee met in August to review investment results and asset allocation. The philosophy of the committee is to be conservative with these funds, but to allow for growth of capital. At the end of the year, we had an allocation of 12% in cash, 45% in stocks, and 43% in bonds. Because GOS is a private operating foundation, the society is required to spend 5% of its average monthly asset balance for items related to its mission and goals, and this requirement was met in 2010. Although our expenses exceeded our income for the year, this deficit was more than covered by the growth in our investment holdings.

If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Jeannie Wright.

### Financial Results – 2010

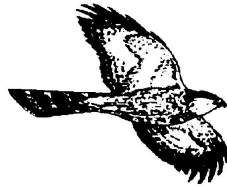
#### Income

|                       |                 |     |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Dues & Contributions  | 12,580          | 13% |
| Earth Share Georgia   | 7,290           | 8%  |
| Refunds               | 3,440           | 4%  |
| Net Investment Income | <u>70,550</u>   | 75% |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$93,860</b> |     |

#### Expenses

|   |                  |     |
|---|------------------|-----|
| Conservation Grants                             | 70,560           | 54% |
| Graduate Student Awards                         | 20,000           | 15% |
| Publications ( <i>GOShawk</i> , <i>Oriole</i> ) | 14,000           | 11% |
| Camp Scholarships, Education                    | 5,470            | 4%  |
| Opportunity Fund                                | 3,090            | 2%  |
| Contributions                                   | 2,630            | 2%  |
| RBA, Website                                    | 970              | 1%  |
| Meetings & Sales Supplement                     | 2,290            | 2%  |
| Administration                                  | <u>12,000</u>    | 9%  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                           | <b>\$131,010</b> |     |

# GOShawk



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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the form and mail with your payment to: Georgia Ornithological Society Membership, 108 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434

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

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

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

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

### Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

- |                          |   |      |
|--------------------------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bachman's Sparrow (Individual Membership) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quail Covey (Family Membership)           | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)          | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fledgling (Students only)                 | \$15 |

### Life Membership Rates for individuals:

- |                          |                  |       |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Northern Goshawk | \$450 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|

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