

June 2011
Vol. 38, No. 2

75th
Anniversary



1936-2011

GOShaw

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Bob Sargent

Another beautiful spring meeting held in the mountains is now fading out of sight in the rear-view mirror, and we're getting serious about the planning for the fall meeting, to be held on Jekyll Island October 6-9, 2011. Last fall's meeting was descended upon by GOS members like a flock of waxwings on a berry-covered American holly in late spring, and we hope you're planning to wing your way to the coast once again. After all, the banquet speaker will be Richard Crossley, author of the dazzlingly artistic *Crossley ID Guide* and co-author (with Michael O'Brien and Kevin Karlson) of the immensely popular *The Shorebird Guide*. Additionally, rumor has it that one of our membership committee co-chairs, Patti Newell, will stop chasing Rusty Blackbirds long enough to come in out of the north woods and tell us (at the Friday night program) why she's chasing them and what happens when or if she captures them.

Speaking of chasing birds, last year's Jekyll Island meeting was stuffed with 24 field trips, including jaunts to most of the best birding islands. You can expect more of the same this year, and, due to popular demand, we'll once again call Villas by the Sea our home for the weekend. We'll soon e-mail and post on the website the meeting registration

form and field trips schedule. In the meantime, start polishing your spotting scopes and get a jump on your peers by making reservations with the hotel (<http://www.gos.org/meetings/meetings.html#schedule>).

I've birded with many of you long enough to know that I'm not the only compulsive over-scheduler in this family. So, just in case you're wondering what next year's meeting schedule will look like, go ahead and block out MLK weekend for another journey to Tybee Island. We are tentatively planning to return to Augusta in late April, and we'll be back on Jekyll Island during our usual October weekend. Something to whet your appetite: The speakers for the Tybee Island meeting will include our own Malcolm Hodges as well as Dr. George Archibald, founder of the International Crane Foundation.

Regarding next spring, some of you have asked me if GOS will provide more assistance to DNR's second mountain festival, which is planned for early May 2012 at Unicoi State Park. Many GOS members were involved with the first festival, especially as seminar speakers and field trip leaders, but the society was not an actual partner in the event as we had been during the seven festi-

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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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!

Fledgling

Marshall Weber

Dunwoody, GA

Bachman's Sparrow

John M. Beard, Jr.
Ellen Cowgill
Carl Miller
Scott Royle
Lauren Deaner
Joshua Kight and Victoria Kight
Rob Shuman and Molly Howard

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Atlanta, GA
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Savannah, GA

Quail Covey

John and Nancy Crosby

Shellman Bluff, 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 (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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GOS Fall Meeting

October 6-9, 2011, Jekyll Island

GOS Winter Meeting

January 13-16, 2012, Tybee Island

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

vals on the coast. We have been discussing this with DNR and have agreed to help recruit the featured speaker and some vendors and to help defray the speaker's expenses. Of course, I'm sure that many of us will once again be stepping up to the plate and leading field trips.

In other news, it's an election year for GOS, so be sure to look in this newsletter for the proposed slate of officers who have offered to serve for the next two-year term. I'll write about this some more in the next newsletter, as it's the end of a special journey for some of us. Darlene Moore and her family are departing Georgia for Texas, and Ellen Miller has graciously agreed to serve as secretary for the remaining months of the current term. I thank Dar for her service to GOS, for her generous donation of so many stunning photographs on behalf of society causes, and for her infectious enthusiasm in support of birding and in support of educational programs for kids. On the education front, Julie Duncan (DNR), Dan Vickers, Malcolm Hodges, and I are getting ready for Camp TALON round two, which is just nine days away as I type this. We've got 10 energetic young birders registered, a bus and cabin reserved, and dedicated folks making preparations to meet this particular storm at Little St. Simon's Island, Ft. Stewart, Sapelo Island, and Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. We've also gotten a lot of help, as usual, from the Atlanta Audubon team. Thank you, everyone, for all that you do to instill in kids a passion for birds.



GOS GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants
December 1, 2011

Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants
December 1, 2011

H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Grants
December 31, 2011

For information about the society's grants, visit <http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html>

Slate of GOS Officer Nominees for 2011-2013

Georgia Ornithological Society members will vote on the new slate of proposed GOS officers on banquet night at the October meeting on Jekyll Island. The nominees are the following:

Jim Ferrari	President
Dan Vickers	1st Vice President
Ed Maioriello	2nd Vice President
Ellen Miller	Secretary
Jeannie Wright	Treasurer

The next term will run from October 2011 to October 2013. Other members of the GOS Executive Committee are appointed by the society's president. Thank you to the nominating committee of Giff Beaton (chair), Renee Carleton, and Steve Holzman for your work in putting together this slate of talented candidates.

Spring 2011 GOS Meeting at the Ridges Resort, Hiawassee, Georgia

Dan Vickers, 2nd Vice President

The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, Georgia, was the host to the 2011 Spring GOS meeting. This Audubon-certified wildlife sanctuary posing as a resort is fabulous, from its gorgeous views of the mountains to the spacious accommodations and excellent food. The registrants checked in at the hotel and then went off to eat in one of the various restaurants in the area before returning for the evening program.

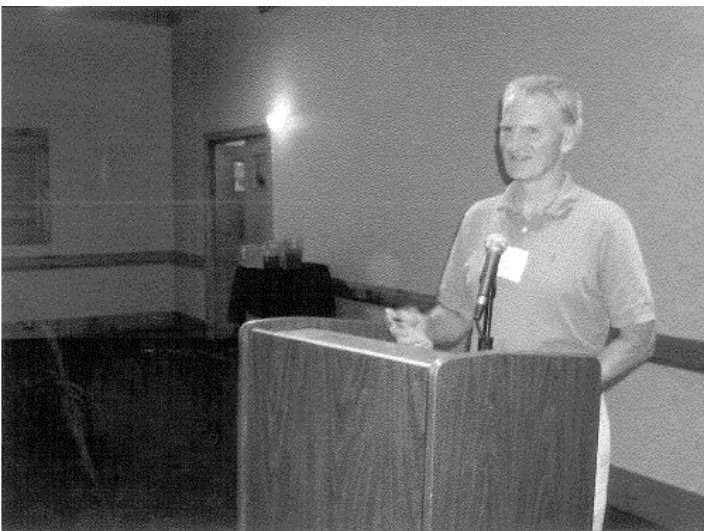
Speaking of food, did you ever wonder how many pounds of road-kill are lying on Georgia's roads at any one time? Every think about where it all goes? Well, Dr. Jim Ferrari answered those questions and many more on Friday night during his presentation entitled "Vulture Seasonality: A Four-Year Study." Jim discussed the highs and lows of Turkey and Black Vulture social dynamics, seasonal movements and his 405 days standing on a rooftop in Macon.

The Saturday field trips lived up to the billing and provided the participants with an opportunity to see and/or hear virtually every species of bird known to breed in the Northeast Georgia mountains, along with some lingering migrants. The trip to Ivy Log Gap Road, a perennial favorite, thrilled us with 19 species of warblers seen or heard, including Blue-winged, Blackburnian and Cerulean Warblers. An American Redstart nest with both parents in attendance was a special treat. Brawley Mountain's participants were provided stunning looks at Golden-winged Warblers. Many of the Hale Ridge Road travelers got their life look at a Least Flycatcher and a Swainson's Warbler. Burrell's Ford Road contributed the expected Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creeper to the list. The participants on Brasstown Bald were treated to several drumming Ruffed Grouse along with singing Canada and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Rounding out the day were the excellent lists tallied by the Tray Mountain and Sosebee Cove trips.



Jim Ferrari, the Friday night speaker at Hiawassee. Photo by Susan Daniel.

After we partook of a wonderful banquet meal, Jim Ozier of the Georgia DNR's Non-Game Program lifted our hopes for the future with his presentation on the "Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon Conservation Successes in Georgia." In 1971 there were no active Bald Eagle nests to be found in Georgia due to DDT contamination, habitat loss and persecution. Today, with the banning of DDT, the reintroduction work by the DNR, and both legal and habitat protection, there are more than 140 active nests in Georgia. During the same time period and for much of the same reasons, the Peregrine Falcon had disappeared from the Eastern United States. Today there are more than 200 active eyries, due mainly to the release program that was initiated in 1974. In Georgia, there are now at least two active nests in down-



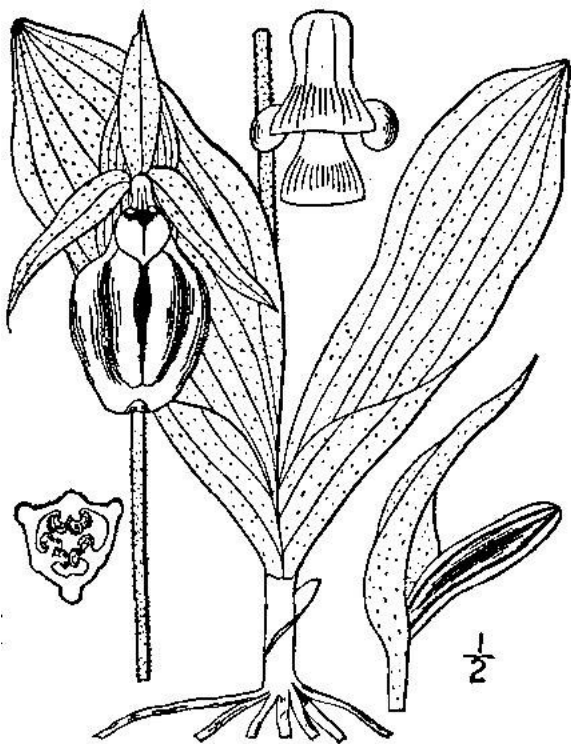
Jim Ozier, Georgia DNR, lectures on Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon recovery in Georgia. Photo by Susan Daniel.

town Atlanta. Jim went on to discuss the current regulations affecting the two species and the challenges for the future. If you have not already contributed, please consider making a donation to the Georgia DNR's Non-Game Wildlife Resources Division to help support these and other projects vital to the continued biodiversity of Georgia. For more info, go to: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/340>

The weather on Sunday deteriorated to overcast skies with intermittent rain. The field trip to Brasstown Bald was especially brutal, with a temperature of 45 degrees and strong winds to go along with the near-zero visibility. The field trip could have easily been entitled "Warblers in the Mist," as the few birds that were singing could hardly be located. The Wagon Train Trail provided shelter from the wind but no drumming Ruffed Grouse as had the previous day's trip. The songs of several Veery and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak provided the background music as we paused at a stand of Catesby's Trilliums and Pink Lady Slippers during the brisk



Swainson's Warbler seen on the May 14 GOS field trip to Hale Ridge Road/ Overflow Creek in Rabun County. Photo by Jerry Amerson.



Pink Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), from Britton and Brown (1913), *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada*.

walk to the top of the mountain. The Brawley Mountain trip participants again were treated to the sights and sounds of five male Golden-winged Warblers on territory. After they worked the grounds of the resort, Malcolm Hodges treated the participants to stops at several of the local hotspots, adding Pine Siskin, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Cliff Swallows to the list. At some point during the weekend, most got a chance to see and hear the Willow Flycatchers at various locations. In fact, one male Willow Flycatcher had managed to stake out a territory at the Blairsville In-gles, even though most of the streamside habitat has been ruined.

When the final tally was completed, 73 participants had located 117 species in the two days of surveying some of the most beautiful locales in the Northeast Georgia Mountains.

On behalf of the entire GOS Executive Committee, I would like to thank those who supported this meeting with their attendance, leadership and knowledge. We hope to see each of you at the next meeting this fall on Jekyll Island as we return to Villas by the Sea October 6-9, 2011.

Birds Counted During the GOS Spring Meeting in Hiawassee, May 13-15, 2011

List compiled by Bill Lotz

Canada Goose	Common Raven	Eastern Towhee
Wood Duck	Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Song Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Cliff Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Summer Tanager
Green Heron	Carolina Chickadee	Scarlet Tanager
Black Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	Northern Cardinal
Turkey Vulture	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	Blue Grosbeak
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
Broad-winged Hawk	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Red-tailed Hawk	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Killdeer	Swainson's Thrush	Orchard Oriole
Spotted Sandpiper	Wood Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Rock Pigeon	American Robin	House Finch
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Gray Catbird	Pine Siskin
Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Brown Thrasher	House Sparrow
Eastern Screech-Owl	European Starling	
Barred Owl	Cedar Waxwing	
Chuck-will's-widow	Blue-winged Warbler	117 species
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Golden-winged Warbler	
Chimney Swift	Tennessee Warbler	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Northern Parula	
Belted Kingfisher	Yellow Warbler	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Downy Woodpecker	Cape May Warbler	
Hairy Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Pileated Woodpecker	Black-throated Green Warbler	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Blackburnian Warbler	
Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Alder Flycatcher	Pine Warbler	
Willow Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler	
Least Flycatcher	Cerulean Warbler	
Eastern Phoebe	Black-and-white Warbler	
Great Crested Flycatcher	American Redstart	
Eastern Kingbird	Worm-eating Warbler	
White-eyed Vireo	Swainson's Warbler	
Yellow-throated Vireo	Ovenbird	
Blue-headed Vireo	Kentucky Warbler	
Red-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat	
Blue Jay	Hooded Warbler	
American Crow	Canada Warbler	
Fish Crow	Yellow-breasted Chat	

Two More Recipients of the Young Birder's Conference Scholarships

By Bob Sargent

In the last issue of the *GOShawk*, we told you that Nicholas Sinks and Rachel Rozin will be attending Audubon's famed Hog Island Camp in Maine in June, courtesy of the society's Young Birder's Conference Scholarships. Now we're pleased to announce that two more young Georgia birders will be attending another great camp – ABA's Camp Colorado – also in June. Thanks to the Dr. James C. Major Scholarship (courtesy of Jackee Major), GOS will soon be sending "Scooter" Finney to the Rocky Mountains, and thanks to our special partnership with the Atlanta Audubon Society, our two organizations will be co-sponsoring the attendance of John Mark Simmons at this same camp.

You may have seen our previous announcement about the availability of scholarships to send two young people to ABA's Texas camp in the Lower Rio Grande Valley in July. Remarkably enough, ABA didn't receive enough applications to make the camp viable and unfortunately was forced to cancel. Scooter and John Mark had been selected to attend the Texas camp, but fortunately ABA was able to offer the Colorado camp slots as an alternative.

GOS continues to receive two to four applicants per birder's conference scholarship. This is encouraging, but there are a lot of young birders in Georgia who aren't applying and are missing out on the experience of a lifetime. I know this because I see them at DNR's Youth Birding Competition each April. I hope that we will see more interest in these scholarships. If the demand increases, maybe the availability of scholarships will do the same. It's up to the teenagers. Contact us and let us know that you are interested. By the way, ABA told us that next year's camp will be located in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. Pretty cool, huh?



Buy a 2010-2011 Duck Stamp from GOS

By Steve Holzman

If you do nothing else for conservation this year, buy a duck stamp. We'll even throw in a keychain for you. See <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm> for more information or send a check for \$17 (to cover the keychain and postage) to:

GOS - Duck Stamp
P.O. Box 122
Culloden, GA 31016



Wear your stamp with pride and let others know that you support habitat conservation. By the way, your duck stamp gets you free admission to any of the national wildlife refuges that charge admission.

The Georgia Ornithological Society Announces
 Wally Dreyfoos Scholarships
 Provided to Assist Young Adult Birders with GOS Meeting Expenses

What is it? Named in honor of former society president Wallace D. Dreyfoos, this scholarship was established for the purpose of paying the expenses for two high school or college students to attend a GOS meeting each fall. It's often financially difficult for young adults to attend GOS meetings. The Dreyfoos family and GOS want to encourage serious young adult birders and future ornithologists to get involved in the society. After all, you are the future of bird conservation in Georgia.

How will this scholarship help you? The scholarship will provide up to \$500 per student for lodging (two nights maximum), gas, and meals. GOS will waive the cost of the meeting registration, banquet meal, and selected field trips for each scholarship recipient. The recipient will need to make his/her own travel and lodging arrangements, and will need to provide expense receipts to GOS to receive reimbursement, which you can get at the meeting itself.



What do you have to do to apply? The applicant must be a Georgia resident, a high school senior or college student, and must be able to arrange transportation to the society's fall meeting, which is usually held in October on the coast. The interested applicant must submit a typed letter explaining why he/she is interested in birds and interested in attending the meeting. Be sure to describe any birding groups you are involved with and your career interests. We ask that recipients of this scholarship write an article for the GOS newsletter (*GOShawk*) when he/she returns home describing the meeting experience. As an alternative, the recipients could post their photos and details about the meeting weekend on the GOS Facebook page.

When should you apply? The deadline for submitting your application form and letter is August 15, 2011. The winners of this scholarship will be selected by August 30th. For the application form and to learn more about GOS and its meetings, visit the society's website at www.gos.org

Where do you apply? E-mail your application and letter of interest to bob.sargent@robins.af.mil Call Dr. Sargent at 478-397-7962 if you have questions.



Georgia Ornithological Society
 FOUNDED 1936

Georgia Ornithology Publications from 2010

GOS members may be interested to know that quite a few books and research articles about Georgia birds were published in 2010. All of the publications listed in the following compilation concern populations of wild birds in the state of Georgia. Articles in the Georgia Ornithological Society's own scientific journal, *The Oriole*, are not included in this list.

Balkcom, Gregory D. 2010. Demographic parameters of rural and urban adult resident Canada Geese in Georgia. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74(1): 120-123.

Boone, Shaun, Gerhold, Richard W., and Keel, Kevin. 2010. Aerial attack produces reciprocal fatal trauma between Great Horned Owl and Red-Shouldered Hawk. *Southeastern Naturalist* 9(1):179-180.

Brittain, Ross A., Meretsky, Vicky J., and Craft, Chris B. 2010. Avian communities of the Altamaha River estuary in Georgia, USA. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 122(3): 532-544.

Carleton, René E and Proctor, Heather C. 2010. Feather mites associated with Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis* L.) in Georgia, including the description of a new species of *Trouessartia* (Analgoidea: Trouessartiidae). *Southeastern Naturalist* 9(3): 605–623.

Crawford, Robert L. 2010. *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia* (review). *The Auk* 127(4): 960-961.

Dorea, C., Vieira, A. R., Hofacre, C., Waldrip, D., and Cole, D. J. 2010. Stochastic model of the potential spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza from an infected commercial broiler operation in Georgia. *Avian Diseases* 54(1): 713-719.

Haas, Sarah E., Cox, James A., Smith, Jordan V. and Kimball, Rebecca T. 2010. Fine-scale spatial genetic structure in the cooperatively breeding Brown-Headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*). *Southeastern Naturalist* 9(4): 743–756.

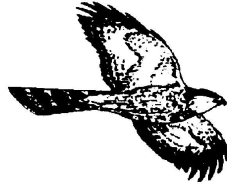
Harris, Mark T., Brown, Justin D., Goekjian, Virginia H., Luttrell, M. Page, Poulson, Rebecca L., Wilcox, Benjamin R., Swayne, David E. and Stallknecht, David E. 2010. Canada Geese and the epidemiology of avian influenza viruses. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 46(3): 981-987.

Klaus, Nathan A., Rush, Scott A., Keyes, Tim S., Petrick, John, and Cooper, Robert J. 2010. Short-term effects of fire on breeding birds in southern Appalachian upland forests. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* 122(3): 518-531.

Rose, Melissa and Nol, Erica. 2010. Foraging behavior of non-breeding Semipalmated Plovers. *Waterbirds* 33(1):59-69.

Schneider, Todd M., Beaton, Giff, Keyes, Timothy S., and Klaus, Nathan A., Eds. 2010. *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia*. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division. University of Georgia Press, Athens, xxii + 470 pp.

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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.