June 2013 Vol. 40, No. 2

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society www.gos.org

# President's Message

By Jim Ferrari

The GOS spring meeting in Hiawassee, Georgia (May 3–5), confirmed what I have often suspected about birders: they are Zen masters in the face of inclement weather. "It is what it is." "It's going to do what it's going to do." These serene statements and others in a similar philosophical vein were the standard response to the rainy, blustery weather we endured for our weekend retreat on the shore of Lake Chatuge in the north Georgia mountains. Sixty-two hardy and good-natured attendees met head-on the gusting mountain winds at the Ridges Resort and Marina, which was also the site of the GOS spring meeting in 2011.

Our intrepid field trip leaders helped us scour the mountains, up to the very highest elevations in the state, seeking birds both migratory and residential. Field trip destinations included Chestnut Mountain and the Coleman River Scenic Area. Hale Ridge and Overflow Creek Roads, Tray Mountain Wilderness, Burrell's Ford Road, Brawley

Mountain, Ivy Log Gap and Gumlog Roads, Brasstown Bald, Sosebee Cove and Popcorn Overlook, and the grounds of the Ridges Resort and in Blairsville. One hundred and one bird species were identified over the weekend, with highlights including Ruffed Grouse, Least Flycatcher, Common Raven, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and other mountain specialties.

My own field trip to Brasstown Bald, at 4,784 feet the highest point in Georgia, was a meteorological adventure. The mountain just plain showed off with the varieties of liquid water that were flung at us, including sprinkles, lashing rain, drizzles, showers, mist, fog, and half-hearted spitting; in short, every form of precipitation short of a bona fide deluge. With temperatures in the low 40s and gusts to 40 mph, it was a wild and soggy ride. Carl Miller, a Navy veteran, aptly described our experience as an "Aleutian day in Georgia." Even so, we managed to see a Veery, Dark-eyed Juncos, a Black-and-White Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and more. The sight of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, undeterred by the conditions,

(continued on page 3)

# **CONTENTS**

- President's Message 1
- Member News 2
- Δ In Memoriam: Robert Manns

- Slate of Officer Nominees 2013-2015 5
- Fall Meeting Announcement 5
- Spring Meeting Species List 6
- 7 Youth Scholarship Winners
- Fall Meeting Scholarship Announcement 7
- The Persistent Cormorant: A true story 8
- 10 TALON: The Future of Georgia's Birds

Summerville, SC

<i>Georgia Ornithological Society</i> <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u>		Welcome, New Members! Fledgling	
		John Patten Moss	Augusta, GA
		Bachman's Sparrow	
President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President Secretary Treasurer Business Manager Historian Past President	Jim Ferrari Dan Vickers Ed Maioriello Ellen Miller Jeannie Wright Ashley Harrington Phil Hardy Bob Sargent	Carol Goegeline John R. Snarey Pat Markey Jenny Matte <b>Quail Covey</b>	Villa Rica, GA Atlanta, GA Cumming, GA Hiram, GA
GOShawk, Editor GOShawk, Asst. Editor	Bob Sargent Renee Carleton Patti Newell Mim Eisenberg	Donald E. and Elizabeth Wilkes Kathy and Al Parker	Athens, GA Athens, GA
Webmaster Committee	Jim Flynn	William, Terrie, Billy, Chad, and Robert Bryans	Summerville, S
Checklist & Records: Giff Beaton Conservation:	770-509-1482	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	
Nathan Farnau <i>Earle Greene Award</i> : John Swiderski	404-849-3843 229-242-8382	Leigh McDougal Elizabeth Edmondson	Decatur, GA Woodstock, GA
Earth Share of Georgia: Mark Beebe Editorial:	770-435-6586	Northern Goshawk	
Bob Sargent Howe Research Grant: Les Davenport	478-397-7962 678-684-3889	Iris and Scott Schumacher	Marietta, GA
Terrell Research Grant: Joe Meyers	706-542-1882		
Opportunity Grants: Dan Vickers Avian Conservation Grants		MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
Bob Sargent <i>Membership:</i> Cathy Ricketts	478-397-7962 404-406-9348	GOS FALL MEETING October 11-14, 2013	
Education: Renee Carleton	706-238-5892	Jekyll Isl	,

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**GOS WINTER MEETING** January 17-20, 2014 Tallahassee, Florida

GOShawk is published quarterly (March, June, September, December)

Jeff Sewell, Compiler

Patti Newell, Editor 180 East Green Street Athens GA 30602 225-939-8112 pattijean.newell@gmail.com

Deadline for article submission is the first of the month prior to publication. Text by e-mail is appreciated.

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

busily collecting nest material, buoyed us up against the wretched weather and our pitiful species count. On the Wagon Train Trail, a red-flowered trillium bowed its head against the rain and soldiered on. We took heart and did the same.

The Friday evening program featured Gabrielle Robinson, who just completed her master's degree at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Gabrielle spoke on "Least Tern conservation in Georgia: contamination and predation." She studied Least Terns at six sites along the Georgia coast, measuring levels of mercury and PCBs in chicks, feathers, droppings, and eggs of this fish-eating species. She also measured deformity rates (e.g., clubbed feet, curled spines), immunosuppression, and departures from symmetry in the chicks. While mercury levels did not vary significantly among sites, PCBs were highest in chicks from colonies closest to the LCP superfund site in Brunswick, Georgia. Deformity rates varied greatly, but exceeded typical background levels at some of her sites. Finally, Gabrielle described the very effective use of electric fences in reducing nest predation on Least Terns and Black Skimmers at several breeding colonies in Georgia.

Larry Carlile, chief of planning and monitoring at Fort Stewart, Georgia, was the keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet. In his talk, "Boxes, Burning, and Birds," Larry described the ecology of Southeastern pine forests and how prescribed fire and artificial nest cavities are used to manage the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) on the largest U.S. Army property in the eastern U.S. More than two thousand artificial cavities (the "boxes" in Carlile's title) have been installed at Fort Stewart, leading to a 141 percent increase in RCW breeding clusters since 1994. The success of this program has permitted translocation of birds to other RCW populations in the Southeast, increasing gene flow among subpopulations. Fire is also a key component in recovery of both the longleaf pine and RCWs, and land managers at Fort Stewart burn more than 100,000 acres in a typical year. Carlile's talk was very encouraging, though he did point out that longleaf pine ecosystems have been reduced to a mere three percent of their historic acreage.

Kudos and thank you to all the wonderful field trip leaders who make GOS meetings possible: Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd, James Fleullan, Krista Gridley, Bill Lotz, Ed Maioriello, Patty McLean, Kathy Miller, Charlie Muise, and yours truly. Thank you also to our speakers, Gabrielle Robinson and Larry Carlile, for joining us for the weekend to share the results of their research with us, and to the scientists who presented their research posters before the banquet on Saturday evening. Thanks to Bob Sargent for coordinating the poster sessions, which continue to be an important avenue for sharing the latest ornithological research with our membership. Finally, thank you to all of the GOS Executive Committee members who planned the meeting or helped out in some way with its execution: Dan Vickers, Ed Maioriello, Jeannie Wright, Ellen Miller, Ashley Harrington, Bob Sargent, Phil Hardy, and Renee Carleton.

The next meeting of GOS will be our annual gathering on Jekyll Island from October 11 to 14. It will be an important meeting because we will have elections for a new set of officers, including president. (See the list of candidates elsewhere in this newsletter.) I look forward to seeing you on the coast in October.

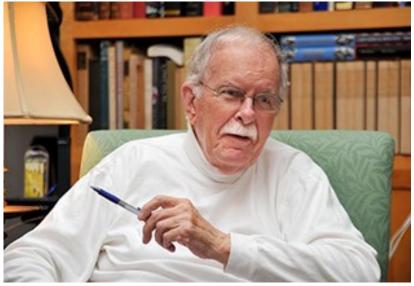
### In Memoriam – Robert Manns

By John Swiderski

Robert Manns, 85, died from natural causes on April 10, 2013, in Camden, Maine. Bob, as he was known to most of us, was a long-time life member of GOS and an avid birder. He served as GOS President from 1983 to 1985 as GOS began preparations for its 50th Anniversary celebration in 1986. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Edith Kelley (Didi) Manns.

Bob grew up in the Detroit area and later lived in New York City and Florida before coming to Atlanta in 1964. It was in Atlanta where his interest in birds, birding and the environment blossomed and he met his future wife, Didi. He worked as an administrator for the City of Atlanta and was the Southeast representative for National Audubon Society for a time. He was out birding frequently, both individually and with others, on Atlanta Audubon and GOS field trips and meetings. He shared his birding skills with others. Anne Mursch remembers that it was Bob who first suggested that she put more effort into learning bird songs. Didi also remembers that he very much enjoyed helping beginners.

In those early days of birding, optics products such as binoculars were just beginning to be developed. Bob saw a need and opportunity for a retail optics supply business and formed Robert Manns and Associates in 1984, which he operated out of his home. As he developed a relationship with optics manufacturers, he frequently gave them feedback, critiques, and suggestions for improved products. He also wrote a number of freelance articles on optics, leavened with some humor, which were published in the major magazines catering to birders.



Perhaps not as well known to many is that he was a successful playwright for nearly 60 years. Building on learning experiences while living in New York City, he continued to write plays, both one-act and full-length. Many of his plays were performed in Atlanta and New York City.

In 1999 he and Didi moved permanently to what had been their summer home in Camden, Maine. During his later years of writing plays, he came to focus on events and issues in the lives of historic Americans. Often bird references would appear in his plays, one even being titled *Cry the Loon* (2003).

Robert Manns. Photo courtesy Gordon Chibroski.

A more complete description of his writing accomplishments may be found at <u>www.robertmanns.com</u>. Truly a versatile man, he will be missed, but his writing will live on.

### Slate of Officer Nominees for 2013-2015

By Bob Sargent

It is almost election time again. I don't know about you, but it seems to me that we just elected Jim and the others to serve the society, didn't we? The membership will vote on the slate of proposed GOS officers for the next term on banquet night at the October meeting on Jekyll Island. The nominees are the following:

Steve Holzman Larry Carlile Ed Maioriello Ellen Miller Jeannie Wright President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President Secretary Treasurer

The next term will run from October 2013 to October 2015. Other members of the GOS Executive Committee (i.e., the various committee chairs) are appointed by the society's president. Thank you to my fellow members of the nominating committee (Giff Beaton and Bill Lotz) for your dedication on behalf of GOS, ensuring that the future of the society is in the hands of an especially talented, energetic, and experienced group of leaders.



#### **Species Seen During the GOS Spring Meeting in Hiawassee, May 3–5** *List compiled by Dan Vickers*

Canada Goose Mallard Ruffed Grouse **Pied-billed Grebe Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Red-shouldered Hawk** Broad-winged Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Killdeer Solitary Sandpiper **Rock Pigeon** Mourning Dove Barred Owl **Chimney Swift** Ruby-throated Hummingbird Belted Kingfisher Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Eastern Wood-Pewee Acadian Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe Great Crested Flycatcher Eastern Kingbird White-eyed Vireo Blue-headed Vireo **Red-eyed Vireo** Blue Jay American Crow Common Raven Purple Martin Tree Swallow N. Rough-winged Swallow Barn Swallow Carolina Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** 

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** White-breasted Nuthatch Brown-headed Nuthatch Brown Creeper Carolina Wren House Wren Winter Wren Golden-crowned Kinglet **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Eastern Bluebird Veerv Wood Thrush American Robin Gray Catbird Northern Mockingbird **Brown Thrasher** European Starling Cedar Waxwing **Tennessee Warbler** Northern Parula Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler Cape May Warbler Black-throated Blue Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler Blackburnian Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler Pine Warbler Palm Warbler **Blackpoll Warbler** Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart Worm-eating Warbler Swainson's Warbler Ovenbird Louisiana Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat Hooded Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat Eastern Towhee Chipping Sparrow Field Sparrow Song Sparrow White-throated Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager Northern Cardinal **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Indigo Bunting Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark **Common Grackle** Brown-headed Cowbird **Orchard Oriole** House Finch Pine Siskin American Goldfinch House Sparrow

101 species total



### Youth Scholarship Winners

By Renee Carleton

Two additional teens will be going to ABA Camp thanks to the generosity of some GOS members who donated a total of \$765.00, an anonymous donor, and a former GOS member now residing in Colorado who donated \$600, as well as the AAS Board with an \$800 contribution. ABA Camp Colorado Scholarships were recently awarded to Sarah Adams, Ben Williams, Rebecca Mello, and Sam Brunson thanks to the James C. Major Sr. Scholarship and the generosity of the above mentioned. Evan Hatchett and Rosemary Kramer were awarded Richard A. Parks Scholarships for Maine Audubon's Hog Island camp for teens. Congratulations to these bright young birders.



Youth Birders on Blackbeard Island NWR during this year's 2013 Camp TALON. Photo courtesy Julie Duncan.

## GOS 2013 Fall Meeting Scholarship for Young Adult Birders

Applications are now being accepted for the **Wallace D. ("Wally" ) Dreyfoos Scholarship**, which provides up to \$500 for lodging (two nights maximum), fuel, and meals for a high school senior or college student attending the **GOS Fall Meeting on Jekyll Island, October 11–13**, **2013.** The GOS will also waive registration fees, cost of the banquet meal, and selected field trip fees for the recipients. Two scholarships are available.

To apply, complete the Wally Dreyfoos Scholarship Application available on the GOS website (<u>http://http://www.gos.org/grants/dreyfoos.html</u>) and include a letter describing your interests in birds, why you would like to attend the meeting, and your career interests. Scholarship recipients are expected to write an article for the *GOShawk* or post photos and details about their meeting experiences on the GOS Facebook page. Deadline for submission of application materials is September 1, 2013.

Mail your application and letter to Dr. Jim Ferrari at <u>jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu</u>. Winners will be announced September 15, 2013. Please contact Dr. Ferrari at 478-757-5227 with questions.

**The Persistent Cormorant:** A true story of how tenacity, patience and persistence paid off for a Double-crested Cormorant *By Phil Hardy* 

Vapors rose in a mist of lazy, nebulous swirls from the warm waters of my neighborhood lake to greet the still, cool October morning. In the distance my attention was drawn to a small wave disturbing the placid, mirror-like water. A head was visible at the front of the wake as I pondered if I was seeing a bird or a mammal such as the resident otter or beaver. The Double-crested Cormorant was swimming toward my neighbor's fishing dock. On the weathered 2x4 handrails of the dock stood a relaxed but wary Great Egret meticulously preening his suit of white. An almost imperceptible white down feather floated from the egret's stiletto-like beak as he paid little attention to the approaching cormorant.

The cormorant's behavior suggested that he wanted to join the egret on the handrail, which had ample space and length to easily accommodate several birds of his size. The extra weight of water-soaked feathers prohibited the cormorant from lifting his body via flight the eight-foot difference from the surface of the lake to the dock handrail. His futile attempt to perch on a cross brace under the dock was quickly aborted.

Double-crested Cormorants are certainly the most widespread and numerous of the six cormorant species found in North America. At home in both marine and fresh water habitats, the Double-crested occurs in large numbers in the U.S. and Canada.

Because the diet of the Double-crested Cormorant is mostly fish, they dive for prey items underwater, propelled by their powerful totipalmate feet (all four toes are webbed). To aid in submersion, their feathers trap very little air and have the ability to absorb water to add weight. Think of a SCUBA diver wearing a weight belt to help overcome positive buoyancy. Smaller prey might be swallowed while submerged, whereas larger food items are brought to the surface, where dispatching and positioning of the meal are carried out before being swallowed head first. After feeding, Double-crested Cormorants often perch and spread both wings wide to facilitate drying of their feathers.

The cormorant began flapping his enormous wings and running on webbed feet across the water until enough speed was generated to fly. The now airborne cormorant took a very large, circuitous route that led him right back to the dock. His altitude never got over three feet off the lake unless he banked in a turn. Approaching the dock, the big bird began braking with his sixty-three-inch wingspan in order to slow his speed and land on the railing, as the graceful Great Egret had done earlier that morning. But something went wrong. The cormorant misjudged his speed; his approach was too fast. His wings were fanning the air braking hard. Webbed toes extended to find the three-and-a-half-inch wide perch that he had just flown pass and was now behind him. He couldn't stop on the handrail.

With his forward momentum and airspeed now cut to zero from his landing attempt, the cormorant could not generate enough propulsion to continue his flight before he literally fell into the lake with a big splash. I howled with delight at the absurdity of this spectacle. If cormorants could feel emotions, like embarrassment for example, this bird would have blushed. He swam about the dock assessing his plight. The sound of wings flapping against the water's surfaceand running across the lake again drove the cormorant airborne. Would he make another approach or depart in shame after what the egret and I had just witnessed? A 200-yard circle brought the cormorant back toward the dock once again.

*He will make a perfect landing this time*, I thought, *as he must have learned from his faux pas on his first attempt.* 

(continued on page 9)

### **The Persistent Cormorant** (continued from page 8)

Again the bird banked to orient his final approach for the coveted handrail he so much desired. With flaps down and landing gear extended the cormorant decelerated with loud, almost vicious wing beats. Once again the bird misjudged his speed and altitude and fell back into the lake like a rock!

Shaking off some of the water from his head and neck, the cormorant looked around to see if anyone

was watching him besides the egret. Maybe it was the lighting that morning or my imagination but through my binoculars I could swear I noticed a sneer on the egret's face.

"Mr. Cormorant must be embarrassed," I thought.

If the third time is the charm, this will be a perfect landing, I mused as the tenacious bird took to the air for his third performance attempt.

*He will make a beautiful landing this time. I just know it.* 

Can you believe the cormorant had not learned from his previous gaffes? Just like his other failed attempts he fell like a dropped hot potato into the water from whence he came.

*This must be harder than Chinese arithmetic and rocket science combined*, I thought. Could this be a hatch-year bird that's still honing his landing skills or are all cormorants this clumsy?

By now I was beginning to feel sorry for the bird and admired his persistence. I carefully studied his movements as he swam around the dock obviously wanting to join the perched, elite egret and expose his feathers to the warm solar rays. An invisible air traffic controller gave the cormorant clearance for yet another departure.

#### Perhaps he has given up and will depart to another lake or possibly to another county, I thought.

To my surprise, he banked to the south and then back to the east and the dock handrail he so desperately desired. By now, I was silently cheering for the bird from my hidden position. My fingers were crossed for good luck, just as we had done as school kids before an algebra test we weren't prepared for.

Perhaps the cormorant braked harder and sooner than the previous three landing attempts that resulted in his "crash and splash." His air speed, trajectory, and braking all came together for a perfectly executed touchdown on the pine handrail that even Captain 'Sully" Sullenberger would have admired. After a quick glance to see who was watching his accomplishment, Mr. Cormorant shook his tail feathers to eliminate excess water. I could have sworn the cormorant tried intentionally to get the egret wet. Whether or not a Double-crested Cormorant can feel emotions I'll probably never know. But this I do know: with wings extended toward the sun on this cool fall morning, he held his head high with what appeared to me to be a renewed sense of self-respect and pride in his efforts.

Well done, Mr. Cormorant, well done. You just made my day and quite possibly yours too!



### Camp TALON 2013: The Future of Georgia's Birds Is in Gifted Hands and Ears By Bob Sargent

For the first time in its five-year history, Camp TALON sold out. Fifteen 12- to 16-year-olds signed up for this year's five-day, bird-saturated, island-hopping, storm-avoiding adventure, which ended in a flooded parking lot in Macon on June 6th. Four of the 15 birders had been to TALON before, four or five of the others came to the camp by way of DNR's Youth Birding Competition, and the parents of the other kids saw online advertisements for the camp, decided that it sounded cool, and jumped in with both feet. In other words, this version featured a fun mixture of veteran and rookie birders. Among the completely new faces was a girl who attended courtesy of a scholarship from Florida's Apalachee Audubon Society, a girl from Alabama, and another girl who had just moved to Georgia from Indiana. If you're paying attention, you've noticed another significant attribute of this particular camp: the boys were outnumbered— another first.

We departed from the usual Macon meeting location on a Sunday afternoon. The energy and the air of excitement on the bus were palpable—young birders happily getting to know each other, obsessively flipping through the field guides and the itinerary we just gave to them, and adjusting the Velcro straps on their new GOS caps. To prime them for what was to come, we turned on the bus's DVD player and ran back-to-back episodes of *The Life of Birds* all the way to the coast. What birder isn't inspired by David Attenborough? Is there a better way to endure the mind-numbing drive down I-16? You don't have to answer.

We attempted to break up the I-16 monotony by detouring south on Highway 199 toward Riverbend WMA in pursuit of kites, but were skunked. We were a bit disappointed, but it turned out to be just about the only time that week that expected birds didn't show. Well, we never saw an eagle and couldn't find the usual Baltimore Oriole at Macon's Central City Park, but it seemed that everywhere we went we found the target birds: Plain Chachalacas and Reddish Egret on Sapelo, Least Terns at Gould's Inlet, American White Pelicans and American Avocets and Black Scoters on Little St. Simons Island (LSSI), Great Horned Owl and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Altamaha WMA, Wilson's Plover on LSSI and Jekyll Island, and Gray Kingbird on St. Simons Island and Harris Neck NWR. The birders had frequent opportunities to enjoy Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills, and we had numerous stunning views of Painted Buntings on LSSI, Blackbeard Island NWR, and Sapelo Island. In fact, a male Painted Bunting decided to take a bath not 10 feet from the Sapelo blind in which we sat; the kids were jumping all over each other to get the best photo. We did end up finding both kite species, albeit the lone swallow-tailed was fleetingly observed as we bused along I-16. Oh yeah, did I mention the Western Grebe we saw (and photographed) from the ferry on the way to Sapelo Island? Ridiculous, right?

When we weren't looking at or talking about birds, we were discussing the ecology of islands, the creatures that live or nest on their beaches, and how the tides work. We also learned a good bit about the natural and social history of many of the places we visited, as well as about shorebird, wading bird, and turtle research on LSSI, Harris Neck NWR, Blackbeard Island NWR, and Jekyll Island. We can't begin to express our appreciation and admiration to the following people who volunteered their time (often entire days), their limitless talents, and their equipment (boats, vehicles, and fuel) in order to give the young birders experiences and lessons that will hopefully linger in their memories for a lifetime: Laura and Mike (our field guides), Abby Sterling (great shorebird research presentation!), and Stacia Hendricks on LSSI; Gene Keferl, Tim Keyes, and Lydia Thompson (plover patrol!) who joined us at multiple after-dinner birding stops during the *(continued on page 11)* 

### The Future of Georgia's birds (continued from page 10)

week; Kimberly Hayes (explained the history of Blackbeard), and Rachel (loggerhead turtle research), Stacy and Grant (piloted the boats through a rain squall) on Blackbeard Island NWR; the indefatigable Malcolm Hodges, who spent a day on Sapelo Island with the kids teaching them how to use birding skills to conserve birds before racing off to lead another tour that evening at Broxton Rocks; and the ageless Dot Bambach, who perfectly bookended the week with her special "behind-the-rookery" talk about storks and other wading species. (Note: A couple of 'gators started head slapping and bellowing while we stood beside Woody Pond. How cool is that?) We left the coast a couple of hours earlier than we had planned because Tropical Storm Andrea was bearing down on us, but made up for it by doing some birding in Macon and grabbing some pizza in the old part of the city. There were a couple of nights on which stormy weather cut our birding plan short, particularly at Altamaha WMA and on Jekyll Island. But overall the weather didn't hinder us much and definitely didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm, and, amazingly enough, the mosquitoes were almost totally absent.

Throughout the week, we challenged the kids to pay attention, to learn to listen, and to keep quality journals; we also encouraged them to learn how to teach each other. On the last night, we taught them about flight, graded the journals, and finished the evening with a written exam and a bird song identification quiz. Rebecca Mello, a relatively inexperienced birder, got top honors on the written exam, besting the veterans, but everyone took a prize home. Veteran camper Angus Pritchard once again displayed his "amazing ear," getting the highest score on the song quiz by identifying 12 out of 15 species. Two other repeat campers, Patrick Maurice and Rosemary Kramer, also achieved especially high scores on the exam and quiz. As usual, most of the kids had better optics than the teachers, but we did award new binoculars to two



Young Birders at Camp TALON. Photo courtesy Bob Sargent.

especially deserving teens: Sarah Northrup and David Bellangue.

The continuing survival (dare I say success?) of this camp is clearly attributable to the many volunteer teachers, the amazing coastal birding destinations and the feathered creatures that live on them, and especially to the trifecta partnership that keeps it afloat each year: Georgia DNR, GOS, and Atlanta Audubon Society. Registration fees do not come close to paying for the total cost of each camp, because the fee has been deliberately set low to make it possible for more young birders to attend. These three organizations donate money, prizes, teaching materials, journals, and administrative support, without which there would be no camp.

In particular, I thank DNR for assisting with the advertising and handling the registration process, and for generously "loaning" two wonderful interns, Ashley and Darryl, to the camp for the entire week. What a difference those two made! Thank you to Nikki Belmonte and the leadership of AAS for once again believing in and supporting this camp; the folder packets were excellent. Finally, and most important, I thank my partner and dear friend Julie Duncan for her patience, administrative strengths, boundless teaching gifts, legendary tick-snatching prowess, and abiding belief in this camp. I can't imagine doing this event without you.



NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID CULLODEN, GA PERMIT NO. 7

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society PO Box 122 Culloden, GA 31016

**Return Service Requested** 





Printed on Recycled Paper

	MEMBERSHIP APPL	ICATION		
	plete the form and mail with your payment to p, 108 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434	: Georgia Ornithological Society		
NAME(S):				
ADDRESS: _				
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP CODE:		
PHONE:	E-MAIL:			
Annual membership rates for individuals and families:				
	Bachman's Sparrow (Individual Membership) Quail Covey (Family Membership) Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron) Fledgling (Students only)	\$25 \$35 \$50 \$15		
Life Membership Rates for individuals:				
	Northern Goshawk	\$450		
Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution of \$ in support of GOS and its programs.				