June 2015 Vol. 42, No. 2



# GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society www.gos.org

### President's Message

By Steve Holzman

Although we all expected rain, the spring meeting at Hiawassee was a rather dry affair, our keynote speaker Joel McNeal's wit included. Birders gathered at the beautiful Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge on Friday night, May 15. Our first organized activity was a trivia night, where teams of three to five birders answered bird-related questions delivered by Nikki Belmonte, the executive director of the Atlanta Audubon Society. It was great fun, and we all learned what urohidrosis is. I'll leave that to you all to Google. Winning team members all received GOS T-shirts for their trivia prowess.



From Left: Friday night trivia host Nikki Belmonte, Steve Holzman, and Saturday night speaker Joel McNeal. Photo by Ed Maioriello.



Two Peregrine Falcon chicks at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Photo by John Whigham.

(continued on page 3)

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# Georgia Ornithological Society

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Submission by e-mail is appreciated.

#### Welcome, New Members!

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

Alisa Brown Covington, GA

#### **Quail Covey**

Dr. John and Wanda Atkinson Macon, GA
Moe and Bobbie Worster Cumming, GA

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

Andre Coquerel Macon, GA
Rebecca Rose Cumming, GA
Stephen P. Vives Statesboro, GA
Loretta White Athens, GA

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **GOS FALL MEETING**

October 2-4, 2015, Jekyll Island

# **GOS Grant Application Deadlines**

Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants, December 1, 2015

Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants, December 31, 2015

H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Grants, December 31, 2015

Norene Boring, Undergraduate Student Research Grants, September 15, 2015

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



View from Brasstown Bald. Photo by Rachel Holzman.

The great bird sightings started on the drive up, with many birders stopping at Tallulah Gorge to view the first cliff-nesting Peregrine Falcons seen in the state in a very long time. While the ones nesting in downtown Atlanta have successfully nested for years, this site represents the first nest in a wild setting. Not that Atlanta can't be a wild place at times, but I think you get my point. As of this writing, it looks like two young have fledged from the nest. Here's hoping there are future successful nestings for Georgia Peregrine Falcons.



Chestnut-side Warbler at Brasstown Bald. Photo by Rachel Holzman.

Field trips are at the heart of a GOS meeting, and North Georgia is a great place to find some mountain denizens, such as Common Raven, and Canada and Cerulean Warblers. Sites visited included Brasstown Bald, Brawley Mountain, Burrell's Ford Road, Hale Ridge, Ivy Log Gap and Gumlog Roads, Sosebee Cove and Popcorn Overlook, and Tray Mountain Wilderness. Any time a GOS meeting gets a 20+ warbler count, we have to consider it a success. It is also a testament to the skills and dedication of our great field trip leaders. Thanks to all of you: Larry Carlile, Shannon Fair, Rachel Holzman, Bill Lotz, Patty McLean, Charlie Muise, and Mike Weaver.

The Earle R. Greene Memorial Award was presented to Anne Mursch (see article on page 10). Congratulations, Anne, you deserve it! As our members were finishing their dinner, our keynote speaker, Dr. Joel McNeal, began his presentation. Joel is the eBird reviewer for Georgia, and his presentation was entitled "Beyond Listing: Making Your Obsessive Birding Habit Count for Science." As a moderately obsessive birder (world, ABA, state, county, yard lister), I was looking forward to his talk. Joel's presentation focused mainly on the Cornell eBird website and database, and he demonstrated how to use the site to enter data or examine existing data.

GOShawk—4 June 2015

#### President's Message (continued from page 3)

eBird data is used by researchers to answer important bird distribution questions and can be used to help guide conservation efforts. I encourage all active birders to go to ebird.org and set up an account and start entering your data today. There's even an eBird app to enter data while in the field. If you are an enthusiastic lister, eBird will even do the work for you. Just enter your data, and it will calculate your yard, county, state list, ABA-area, and world lists with just a few mouse clicks. You can even do this by year. Why not make your birding contribute to our further understanding of birds?

# Dr. James C. Major, Sr., Scholarship Winner By Bob Sargent



Fifteen-year-old Angus Pritchard of Decatur will be going to the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado in July thanks to the continued support of the Major family. Angus is a four-time participant in GOS' Camp TALON and a team member of the Chaotic Kestrels, which has consistently placed in the top three, with one win in the high school division of Georgia DNR's Youth Birding Competition.

Great Egret at the Harris Neck Rookery photographed during Camp TALON. Photo by Angus Pritchard.

## **GOS Fall Meeting**

The Fall Meeting will be held at our traditional venue, Villas by the Sea on Jekyll Island. Normally, the Fall Meeting occurs over the Columbus Day holiday, but that will not be possible this year due to a large wedding that weekend. Therefore, we will be meeting a week earlier, October 2-4, 2015.

Our Friday night speaker will be GOS member Mason Cline, who will speak about his research with Black-throated Blue Warblers. Saturday's keynote address will be delivered by Sharon Stiteler, aka Birdchick. Sharon will talk about her birding adventures and her life's quest to get paid to go birding.

Field trips will include the following:

- Altamaha Sound Boat Trip
- Altamaha Wildlife Management Area
- Andrews Island Causeway and Spoil Site
- Cannon's Point
- Glennville Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Jekyll Island Banding Site
- Jekyll Island Hot Spots
- Jekyll Island Welcome Center and Bird Sanctuary
- Little St. Simons Island
- Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Spoil Site
- Sapelo Island



Sharon Stiteler, aka Birdchick, will be the keynote speaker at the GOS Fall Meeting. Photographer unknown.

GOShawk—5 June 2015

#### In Memoriam: Ken Clark

Ken Clark passed away at the age of 91 on February 21, 2015, at Carlyle Place in Macon, a retirement community where he lived with Lee Kingery-Clark, his wife of eight years. Bob Sargent gave the following eulogy at his funeral at Andersonville National Cemetery on February 27, 2015. For specific details about Ken's remarkable life, see Phil Hardy's fine interview with him in the December 2012 issue of the *GOShawk*.



John Swiderski (left) and Ken Clark (right) as Ken hands over the president's gavel to John at the October 1999 GOS meeting on Jekyll Island. Photographer unknown.

#### Remembering Former GOS President Ken Clark By Bob Sargent

The theological writer Leo Rosten said that "the purpose of life is to be useful, honorable, and compassionate. Above all else it is to matter, to count, to stand for something, to have it make some difference that you lived at all." Ken Clark's life was a model of Rosten's words.

Four years ago I interviewed Ken for Story Corps, an oral history program affiliated with National Public Radio. I arrived at the interview site prepared to ask him about a litany of topics, including his mentors, his motivations, the war (World War II), life lessons, and aging. Ken loved history, and he loved to converse, so I figured it would not take much prodding on my part to jump-start the storyteller in him. And who didn't enjoy listening to Ken speak? I often referred to him as Mr. Silver Tongue. He possessed a wonderfully captivating radio announcer's voice, a rare gift of liquid eloquence, and a sly wit that caught you unawares like a snare.

He cited his mother, grandparents, and a military officer by the name of Haskell Coffey as people who greatly influenced his life. The military provided him with a sense of acceptance by his peers, as well as self-assurance. He did not enlist because he sought glory. He chose to be a

GOShawk—6 June 2015

In Memoriam: Ken Clark (continued from page 5)

pilot because, in his view, the guys in the sky had a better quality of life than the guys on the ground. Ken told me that the war instilled a sense of unity among Americans, something he felt was sorely lacking today.

In listening to that interview earlier this week, I was reminded that there were particular words and feelings he simply refused to express. When I asked him about passing on wisdom from a long life, he deferred, stating that he didn't think he had anything profound to offer. He experienced many hardships, but he refused to use the word "hard." Instead, he said there were moments in his life that weren't fun. Ken avoided any hint of pride in his extraordinary résumé. What he preferred to say is that he was happy to have done certain things. At the interview's end, he turned the tables on me, congratulating me for my own accomplishments. I was embarrassed and flattered, and struggled to steer the microphone back toward him. I asked him how he would like to be remembered, and he replied that he hoped people would feel that he had done well in a variety of areas, though he emphasized that he was never an ace in any endeavor.

Ken, I hope that you are listening, because I must respectfully disagree with your self-assessment. You were perhaps the humblest, warmest, and kindest man I ever had the privilege to know. You were blessed with the rare ability to make whomever you were speaking to believe that he or she was the most important person in the room. You always had a 10-megawatt smile on your face, would enthusiastically clap your hands, and rain genuine good cheer on people, frequently peppering your praise with superlatives such as "wonderful," "marvelous," and "splendid." You were especially gentle with the feelings of others, either not seeing the purpose of conveying criticism, or voicing your concerns in a way that could not possibly bruise the ego of the recipient.

Ken carried himself with a career military officer's dignified bearing, ramrod straight to the end, but there was nothing stiff or distant about his demeanor. He clearly deeply loved his wife Lee, and he relished being in the company of the large family she brought into his world. In recent years, Ken and I learned to hug each other in a clumsy guy sort of way. Ken was and will remain my mentor and my hero, not just because of what he did in a P-38 so long ago, or because he was the one who prodded me into serving as GOS president; but more importantly because of who he was, what he stood for, and how he treated fellow human beings. He was a second father to me.

Last Saturday (February 21, 2014), Ty Ivey's phone call conveying the painful news found Jerry Amerson and me birding at Ocmulgee National Monument. For a moment we thought about going home, but we elected to stay because we believed that's what Ken would want. As if to reinforce our decision, a moment later a low-flying flock of seven Sandhill Cranes passed over our heads, almost as if it was a military flyover. It suddenly hit us that this was Ken's goodbye. We heard you, Colonel Clark. You will always be the flight leader in our hearts and in our lives.

Minutes after Ken's funeral service, a flock of Sandhill Cranes passed over his friends and family as we walked to the cars. A small group of them, maybe three, wheeled away from the flock of 40 to 50 and proceeded to circle and bugle near us for two to three minutes. Between that goose -bump-inspiring sight and the echoes of a military trumpeter playing taps still reverberating in our ears, nobody retained their composure.

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In Memoriam: Ken Clark (continued from page 6)



Ken Clark's 90th birthday party, Idle Hour Country Club, Macon, Georgia, November 2013. From left: Ty Ivey, Bob Sargent, Jerry Amerson, and Ken Clark. Photographer unknown.

# The Ken I Knew

By Ty Ivey

Recently we lost long-time member and two-term past president, Ken Clark. Phil Hardy wrote about our interesting friend in the *GOShawk*, and Bob Sargent interviewed him for two hours in an interview that Bob admits did not open all of the doors into Ken's life. As I reflect on Ken's life, I am afraid that Ken fits into the mold of many of the Greatest Generation in that they did not talk much about themselves. I have wished many times that I had the information in a person's obituary before he or she died. What interesting conversations I could have had with that person!

The Ken I knew was just a member of the Ocmulgee Audubon somewhere in those early days in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Ken and his wife at the time, Arlene, knew a little, and I knew nothing about this new found hobby. Shortly after we started, I gained access to one of Georgia's best birding spots, and Ken and Arlene had a truck. We spent a lot of time together. We learned to be pretty good birders and had a great time. We traveled to Arizona, Michigan, and all over the Southeast. There was a lot of time spent on the road and a lot of discussions on just about every topic you could have imagined.

Like so many, Ken did not talk a great deal about World War II. I have one story that exemplifies

GOShawk—8 June 2015

#### In Memoriam: Ken Clark (continued from page 7)

Ken and a lot of people like him. He had mentioned, and we had discussed on more than one occasion, that he had flown into Tokyo in a flight of eight P-38 Lightnings as an honor guard to Gen. Douglas MacArthur at the signing of the peace treaty in Japan. After Ken's death, it fell to me to disburse his worldly reminders. My wife, Cathy, is a book person, and she ferreted through Ken's collection of books that in many ways were about his life and the life of our country. Ken had shared a book or two along the way, but not many. One of the ones that Cathy found was *Ace of Aces, The Dick Bong Story*. It was signed, "To Ken Clark, P-38 Fighter Pilot of the 49th FT. GP. 9th squadron ("Flying Knights"), by Carl Bong, the author, fellow Flying Knight P-38 pilot and brother to Dick Bong." Dick Bong had forty confirmed kills and is the leading American Ace of all times. He and Ken flew P-38s together. Chapter one in the book describes Capt. Ken Clark flying a "show" aircraft in the formation. Major Dick Bong had been killed three weeks earlier test flying the F-80 prototype jet fighter, and the show aircraft was painted with forty Japanese flags to represent Major Bong's combat victories. Ken had never shared this wrinkle. I found it fascinating.

From those early days as serious birders and semi-chasers, our relationship had come to the point thirty years later where many mornings we would have breakfast and head to the swamp. I would hang out the window attempting to photograph, and he would nap and read. We didn't have to say too much. A couple of years after Arlene's death, Ken married Lee Kingery and got an opportunity to reveal his acting skills in community theater. It was a second life.

Ken lived life to the fullest and never slowed down. We knew him as a pilot, birder, writer, leader, friend, actor, and more. No matter how much we knew him, there was more that I am afraid that we missed. However, for each and every one of us who had the opportunity to walk with him, we were blessed for whatever we got to share.



The Camp TALON class of 2015 birds Little St. Simons Island on June 1. Full story to follow in the September 2015 *GOShawk* issue. Photo courtesy of Abby Sterling.

GOShawk—9 June 2015

#### Tenth Youth Birding Event Sets Records for Species, Support

Article Provided Courtesy of Tim Keyes and Edited by Bob Sargent

Teams in Georgia's 10th annual Youth Birding Competition (YBC) set high marks for both bird species seen or heard and conservation funds raised the weekend of April 25-26. Youth from primary to high school ages searched the state for birds during the 24hour contest held by the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division. The Florida Scrub Jays, comprised of two teens, Steven Goodman and Sam Ewing, from Gainesville, Florida, were the overall winner, with 167 species. This tally of birds was an event record. The Florida Scrub Jays also represented another competition highlight: Thirteen of the 27 teams were competing in the event for the first time. The teams didn't just count birds. They also raised nearly \$2,900 for conservation, pushing the 10-year total past \$20,000. The Wood Thrushes, a middle school team, led the fundraising with \$1,282, and also had the high count of species for their division, with 146. The



winning teams for the elementary and primary school divisions were the Beautiful Bluebirds, with 58 species, and the 007s, with 56 species, respectively. Remarkably, four teams counted at least 140 species.

As usual, the YBC's sponsors included The Environmental Resources Network Inc. (TERN), the Georgia Ornithological Society, and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon Societies. The GOS and Atlanta Audubon Society purchase the prizes each year, and members of both organizations participate in the awards ceremony.

The event's reach is being multiplied by Race4Birds (www.race4birds.org), a foundation started last year to spread the Youth Birding Competition concept. Similar events are scheduled or are in the works for seven other states, from Florida to Minnesota. The Wood Thrushes raised money this year to help Race4Birds, and the Florida Scrub Jays competed in part because their mentor, Adam Kent, is interested in holding a youth birding contest near Gainesville, Florida. In fact, Adam Kent and Jess Searcy received special awards for their team mentorship.

Foundation President Constance Campanella surprised Tim, a Race4Birds board member, during the Youth Birding Competition banquet Sunday night by announcing that other directors had, in his absence, created the Tim Keyes Visionary Award. The award will be given to youth birding leaders who exhibit "extreme leadership, vision and dedication," Campanella said.

This year's YBC ended with a wildlife program and awards banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center on Sunday, the 26th. T-shirts worn by birders and team leaders at the banquet featured a Great Blue Heron drawn and painted by Ivey Smith, 17, an 11th-grader at Carrollton High School. The flying heron, flanked by a Red-winged Blackbird, was the grand-prize winner in the competition's T-shirt contest. Four division winners were chosen from among 254 drawings and paintings of native Georgia birds. Photos of the winning artwork are posted in the "2015 YBC T-shirt Art Contest Winners" album at www.flickr.com/photos/wildliferesourcesdivision.

The 2016 event is set for April 22-23. Help encourage young birders to start planning now to get involved!

GOShawk—10 June 2015

# Anne Mursch: Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Winner

By Georgann Schmaltz

On May 16, at the GOS Spring meeting in Hiawassee, the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award was presented to Anne Mursch. This award is given to a member of GOS for achievement in ornithology, bird education, and/or dedication to the Society. Anne served on the GOS Executive Committee as *GOShawk* newsletter editor for five years and as second vice president, or meeting planner, for six years. She also spent fifteen years volunteering at JIBS (Jekyll Island Banding Station) and eventually earned her master bander's license. She won a company-wide contest and unselfishly designated the prize money to go to fledging a service many of us have taken for granted over the years, the GOS rare bird alert. Anne was highlighted in the June and September 2014, Vol. 41, No. 2 and No. 3 issues of the *GOShawk*.



From Left: Georgann Schmaltz congratulating Anne Mursch for her Earle R. Greene Memorial Award at the GOS 2015 Spring Meeting in Hiawassee, GA. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

# Go Paperless!

Want to save trees and reduce printing costs by receiving the *GOShawk* electronically? Contact Shannon Fair, the GOS membership chairperson, at gosmembership@gmail.com, and let her know that you would like to receive the *GOShawk* by e-mail. Shannon will make sure that you go electronic starting with the September 2015 issue.

GOShawk—11 June 2015

# **Norene Boring Undergraduate Grant**

By Jim Ferrari

The Georgia Ornithological Society offers undergraduate student research grants of up to \$1,000 in support of ornithological research. The number of grants awarded per year will be determined by the Executive Committee based on the recommendation of the Howe Grant Committee, which will be responsible for reviewing applications for the Norene Boring Grants.

#### **Guidelines for Grant Applicants:**

- 1) The applicants, during the grant period, must be enrolled undergraduate students in the state of Georgia.
- 2) The applicant must be a member of GOS.
- 3) The research must be primarily ornithological and must be conducted under faculty direction.
- 4) Preference will be given first to research performed in Georgia; second, to that performed in the U.S. outside Georgia.
- 5) The grant cycle will normally be for a period of eight months (October through May). Application for renewal is permitted. The grant will not fund the grantee's salary, tuition, university overhead, or indirect costs.
- 6) The Howe Grant Committee will determine the amount to be granted per applicant. It may award the entire grantable amount to one applicant (unlikely) or apportion varying amounts among several applicants as it deems fit.
- 7) The applicant must state whether he/she can do the necessary work if the amount granted were less than the amount requested.
- 8) The application shall be submitted via email, not to exceed five pages, and shall include a description of the research project and its goals, a statement concerning how the research will contribute to ornithology, literature citations, an itemized budget, a statement of other financial support, and a brief résumé of the applicant. Two letters of reference from faculty members, submitted separately and via email, are also required, one of which will be from the directing faculty member.
- 9) The grant application, résumé, and letters of reference must reach the Howe Grant Committee no later than September 15 each year. The grantees shall be selected by October 1, with the concurrence of the GOS Executive Committee.
- 10) At the end of the grant period, the grantee is required to submit to the Howe Grant Committee a written summary, or a copy of a report that was submitted to the faculty advisor, of research results and grant expenditures. The grantee is encouraged to present research results to the members of GOS at a semiannual meeting as a talk or as a poster and/or to submit a manuscript to the journal of GOS, *The Oriole*, or to the GOS newsletter (*GOSHawk*).

Submit your application and references to Georgann Schmalz at georgannschmalz@windstream.net

GOShawk—12 June 2015

#### Slate of GOS Officer Nominees for 2015-2017

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

Steve Holzman President

Larry Carlile 1st Vice President Ed Maioriello 2nd Vice President

Ellen Miller Secretary
Jeannie Wright Treasurer

The next term will run from October 2015 to October 2017. Other members of the GOS Executive Committee are appointed by the society's president. Thank you to the nominating committee of Bill Lotz (chair), Dan Vickers, and Krista Gridley for your work in putting together this slate of talented candidates.

#### **Duck Stamps**

By Steve Holzman

GOS has the new 2015-2016 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (aka Duck Stamp) available for sale starting on June 26. This year's image is a pair of Ruddy Ducks painted by Jennifer Miller, only the third woman to win during the contest's 66-year history.

The price has increased to \$25. This increase in cost has been long overdue and reflects significant increases in land values since the last price increase in 1991. Don't forget that 98% of the new \$25 cost goes directly for the purchase of land or conservation easements for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Refuges in Georgia that have been funded in part by Federal Duck Stamps are Okefenokee, Piedmont, Savannah, and Wolf Island. Since 1934, more than \$671 million has been raised nationwide for habitat conservation.

GOS sells the duck stamp either in a handy keychain for you to display proudly, or on its card, for collectible purposes. For prices and details, visit the merchandise page at www.gos.org. If you only want the stamp itself, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check to GOS for \$25 to Georgia Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 122, Culloden, GA 31016.



GOShawk—13 June 2015

# Species List from Spring 2015 Meeting in Hiawassee, Georgia

Compiled by Larry Carlile

Canada Goose Wood Duck Mallard Wild Turkey Ruffed Grouse Great Blue Heron Green Heron Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Sharp-shinned Hawk

Bald Eagle

Red-shouldered Hawk **Broad-winged Hawk** Red-tailed Hawk

Killdeer

Spotted Sandpiper Solitary Sandpiper Rock Pigeon Mourning Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Barred Owl Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Eastern Wood-Pewee Acadian Flycatcher Willow Flycatcher Least Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe

**Great Crested Flycatcher** 

Eastern Kingbird White-eyed Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Blue-headed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow Purple Martin Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow Carolina Chickadee **Tufted Titmouse** 

Red-breasted Nuthatch White-breasted Nuthatch

House Wren Carolina Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Eastern Bluebird

Veerv

Wood Thrush American Robin **Grav Catbird Brown Thrasher** Northern Mockingbird European Starling **Cedar Waxwing** 

Ovenbird

Worm-eating Warbler Louisiana Waterthrush Blue-winged Warbler Black-and-white Warbler Tennessee Warbler Kentucky Warbler Common Yellowthroat **Hooded Warbler** American Redstart Cape May Warbler Cerulean Warbler Northern Parula Blackburnian Warbler

Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Pine Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler

Prairie Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Canada Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat Eastern Towhee Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow Song Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue Grosbeak Indigo Bunting

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Common Grackle **Brown-headed Cowbird** 

**Orchard Oriole** House Finch Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch House Sparrow

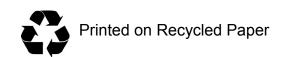


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