



December 2017
Vol. 44, No. 4

GOShaw

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Larry Carlile

Dear GOS members,

I'm writing this message on November 11, 2017, Veterans Day. Thanks to those of you who were members of the armed forces for your service to our nation. Many veterans are among the ranks of GOS, and those of us who haven't served probably have a family member who did. So, thank you, GOS armed services veterans, for your sacrifice and service.

This Veterans Day morning feels like a verifiable fall day (at last!). It's overcast, blustery, and only 53°F in Savannah, very much unlike the weather we endured for the October 6-9 meeting on Jekyll Island. Those of you who were able to attend that meeting endured unseasonably (and unreasonably) high temperatures and high humidity, thanks to Hurricane Irma. Fortunately, she decided to trend west and avoided the Georgia coast, unlike Hurricane Matthew in the fall of 2016, which cancelled our meeting. Despite the heat and humidity, we had great (if sweaty) field



Noah Strycker at the fall meeting. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

trips to lovely barrier islands, wildlife management areas, and privately-owned properties dedicated to the conservation of habitats so important to resident and migrating birds. More than 170 species were seen over the course of the meeting.

Thanks to all who made that meeting a success: to the more than 100 GOS members who registered and attended the meeting; to your newly elected 1st vice president, Ellen Miller, for arranging the field trips, recruiting

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Ornithological
Society**

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For a list of grant, scholarship, and award committees (and their contact information) visit gos.org/executive-committee

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

Bob Sargent, Editor
478-397-7962
bobsargent.ncs@gmail.com

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

Welcome, New Members!

Fledgling (Student)

Andrew Theus	Savannah, GA
Doreen Theune	Loganville, GA
Natalie Bailey	Alpharetta, GA
Knox Evert	LaGrange, GA
Daniel Jones	Juliette, GA

Bachman's Sparrow (Individual)

Lenore Hervey	Jekyll Island, GA
Nancy Whitford	Augusta, GA

Quail Covey (Family)

Robert Maxfield	Decatur, GA
Robert Cooper	Athens, GA

**Mark Your Calendars Now!
GOS WINTER MEETING
January 12-15, 2018
Hotel Tybee on Tybee Island**

The GOS family will gather at our usual winter meeting destination to relish a long weekend overflowing with great field trips and guest speakers. The Friday night program will feature UGA graduate student Cody Cox's "Assessing landscape effects on avian occupancy and movement in Costa Rica to inform conservation." Saturday's program will be presented by Dr. Peter Marra, Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Peter's talk is called "Cat wars: The devastating consequences of a cuddly killer." Come join us for birding, learning, and fellowship.

Look for meeting registration details on gos.org



Ellen Miller (left), 1st vice president, and Ashley Harrington (right), business manager, are two key reasons why GOS meetings are so memorable and well organized. Photos by Ed Maioriello.



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

field trip leaders, and recruiting speakers Noah Strycker and Ryan Chitwood; to your re-elected 2nd vice president, Ed Maioriello, for securing our venue, for graciously receiving all of you at the registration desk, and for serving as our de-facto event photographer; to your re-elected treasurer, Jeannie Wright, who manages your contributions to GOS in such a way that we are able to donate tens of thousands of dollars to promote bird conservation and research initiatives in Georgia, or even in places where Georgia birds might wander; to Mike Weaver, for agreeing to serve as our newly-elected secretary; and to your business manager, Ashley Harrington, who has served many presidential appointments in that role, and who agreed to continue in that position, managing the merchandise available on the GOS website and offering many of those items at our meetings. Thanks also to Bill Lotz and the rest of the nominating committee for putting together the slate of candidates. And let's not forget about all of the committee chairs whose hard work keeps this society going: Shannon Fair (membership), Dr. Reneé Carleton (editorial), James Flynn (checklist and records, webmaster), Mark Beebe (Earth Share of Georgia), Dr. Bob Sargent (education), Nathan Farnau (conservation), and Phil Hardy (historian).

We were fortunate to have two great speakers at the fall meeting. On Friday, GOS member and Bill Terrell Graduate Research Grant recipient Ryan Chitwood told us about how climate change might be affecting breeding populations of the Black-throated Blue Warbler in the extreme southern part of their range. His study, which is part of a larger study being conducted in and



Friday night speaker Ryan Chitwood at the fall meeting. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

around the Coweeta Long-term Ecological Research Station near Franklin, North Carolina, involved tramping (or crawling) through dense rhododendron slicks in search of singing males and the nests they were defending. Warming climate trends have a tremendous impact on plant phenology and therefore on the phenology of insect communities on which birds like the Black-throated Blue Warbler depend. There is no way that researchers could begin to tease apart the relationships between changes in bird population dynamics and how they might be affected by changing environmental conditions without long-time research like Ryan's. Thank you, Ryan, for dedicating yourself to this important project. Our keynote speaker, Noah Strycker, delighted us with an exciting tale of his world-wide quest to complete a global Big Year. From the coasts of the United States to the tropics of South American and Asia, to the wilds of Africa, his account was thrilling and

entertaining. It warmed my heart to hear of all of the help he received from the global birding community who went out of their way to assist him in the realization of his dream. Thank you, Noah, for your entertaining and inspiring address.

This first breath of Savannah fall air causes me to joyfully anticipate all of the birding opportunities coming up during the next several months. First, consider participating in one or several Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) near you. I'm looking forward to my local CBCs (Harris Neck, Savannah, and St. Catherines Island). Next, the GOS winter meeting will be held January 12-15, 2018, at Hotel Tybee. Details and registration instructions will be posted to the GOS

President's Message (continued from page 3)

website soon. Please mark your calendars now and make plans to attend. There also are opportunities to participate in the Midwinter Shorebird Count in January and the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. Make sure you get involved and lend your skills to these important citizen scientist projects. And don't forget to bird your yard or your "patch." You never know what you might find! Yesterday morning (November 10), after the clouds had cleared from the rainy front that came through the day before, I was very happy to find a Ruby-throated Hummingbird visiting my nectar feeder. That prompted me to rush inside and pull my jelly feeders out of storage for the small flock of Baltimore Orioles that reside in my neighborhood every winter. I expect to hear their agitated chatters any day now.

As I was writing the previous paragraph about upcoming birding opportunities, I was interrupted by a text from GOS member Diana Churchill, who told me a Virginia Rail had been hiding in the decorative shrubs outside of the Wild Birds Unlimited shop for at least three days. She said that it seemed healthy and was helping itself to plenty of mealworms and water. She wondered if we ought to move the bird. I agreed, because like a lot of shopping centers, the Wild Birds Unlimited shopping center has a substantial feral cat population. I stopped typing, dashed over to the shop, and after crawling around in the mulch and forcing my way through dense shrubbery that severely restricted my movement (and with Diana and Chuck helping to herd the bird), I was able to put a butterfly net on the Virginia Rail as it stopped for a mealworm. After the capture, I rushed it to a nearby pond with lots of cover around the edge. When I opened the transport box, I expected the rail to scuttle into the reeds and weeds at the edge of the pond, but to my surprise, it launched into flight, flew all the way across the small pond, and disappeared into cover on the other side. I like to think we gave this individual a new lease on life and that it will continue to its intended destination. I suppose the moral of this story is "birding is what you make it." Get out there and observe the birds you love and take advantage of opportunities to observe their beauty whenever and wherever you can, even if it means crawling around in shopping center shrubbery.

Finally, thanks for your continued support of GOS. Don't forget to renew your membership for the new year and to encourage your friends and family to do the same. I hope to see you on Tybee Island for the winter meeting.



Virginia Rail at Wild Birds Unlimited, Savannah, Georgia, November 11, 2017. Photo by Diana Churchill.

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.

Camp Colorado 2017: Fun in the (High-Altitude) Colorado Sun

By John Deitsch

“Black Swifts!” The cry came down the trail. Young birders, including myself, sprinted up the trail to an exposed rock to get our optics on the elusive birds. I was birding Rocky Mountain National Park with 21 other young birders during the American Birding Association’s Camp Colorado. I would like to thank the Georgia Ornithological Society for making Camp Colorado and the resultant birds and memories a reality for me. It would not have been possible for me to attend without the support of GOS.

I arrived at the YMCA of the Rockies on the afternoon of July 16. I joined the few campers already there, and the rest soon arrived from the airport *en masse*. There were a few faces I recognized (Josiah!), but the majority were new. While we were assembling outside the dining hall, a Northern Goshawk was seen by a few campers, but I missed it. I was told we would likely see another. (I didn’t have to wait long.) After dinner we had orientation and an introductory presentation. We went to bed early with hopes of Black Swifts the following day.



John Deitsch (left) and Josiah Lavender (right) at Camp Colorado. Note the stylish hats. Photo courtesy of John Deitsch.

The next day, we explored the Wild Basin area of Rocky Mountain National Park. We left the YMCA early and ate breakfast in the field at Wild Basin. A flyover Northern Goshawk was the highlight of breakfast. At the beginning of the trail, we briefly saw a MacGillivray’s Warbler, and a Weidemeyer’s Admiral butterfly flew past. Along the trail, we saw birds such as Red-naped Sapsuckers, Red Crossbills, and a Lincoln’s Sparrow. While we were watching an American Dipper, someone called out, “Black Swift!” I headed up the trail to an open, exposed boulder and waited. As I was munching on goldfish and soaking in the Rockies, the swifts flew by, soaring and swooping in the sky. Later that afternoon,

several of us were exploring the YMCA as we stumbled upon a Broad-tailed Hummingbird nest located a few feet off the ground right next to the trail.

At 4:30 the next morning, we were on the road to Pawnee National Grassland. Today was the annual Camp Colorado Big Day Challenge. The record is 95 species. On the way to Pawnee, we scanned fence posts, telephone wires, and the early morning horizon and saw Lark Sparrows, Swainson’s Hawks, and my first lifer of the day, Franklin’s Gull. As we ate breakfast at Crow Valley Campground, Common Nighthawks “peented” past, and fledgling Western Kingbirds chirped from nearby. After breakfast, birding began in earnest. We picked up classic grassland birds like Mountain Plover, Burrowing Owl, and Lark Bunting. In addition to birds, I saw many pronghorn, tiger beetles, and a few horned lizards during our stay at Pawnee. After a quick lunch, we finally tracked down one of our major target birds: McCown’s Longspur. On the way back to the YMCA, we stopped at Fossil Creek Reservoir and picked up many new birds, including Western and Clarke’s Grebes, Northern Pintail, Yellow Warbler, and Eastern Kingbird.

Camp Colorado 2017 (continued from page 5)

We did a little birding at the YMCA and picked up a few montane species, including my sixth lifer of the day, Band-tailed Pigeon. We ended the day with 85 species, a few short of the record.

On our third day, we birded and explored Endovalley in Rocky Mountain National Park. The day started on a high note; we had terrific views of an American Dipper at Alluvial Falls, and a leader sighted a Golden Eagle in the distance atop a mountain peak. As the morning continued, we saw a Clark's Nutcracker, a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a brilliant male Western Tanager. The birds kept us busy as the sun grew higher in the sky. We observed a Dusky Grouse for several minutes and watched an active Red-naped Sapsucker nest. In addition to birds, there were many butterflies flitting among the flowers of the mountain meadows, my favorite being the Blue Copper. The clouds emptied in the afternoon, effectively raining out our planned trip to the banding station. We rallied in the face of adversity by practicing essential in-the-field ornithological skills, such as drawing with crayons and arm-wrestling.

Thursday, July 20, was alpine tundra day. We headed up Trail Ridge Road in RMNP to above 12,000 feet. Amid the breathtaking beauty of the tundra, we found high-elevation birds like White-tailed Ptarmigan, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, American Pipit, and a high-flying Prairie Falcon. We were also treated to a herd of elk, a dozen Yellow-bellied Marmots, and two American Pikas. On the smaller side of life, I noted many butterflies, including the Common Alpine, the Rocky Mountain Parnassian, and the Chryxus Arctic. From Rosy-Finches alighting on snow fields to alpine flowers blowing in the wind, the alpine tundra is truly a special ecosystem.

Friday was the last day of birding. We headed down from the YMCA to the foothills at Rabbit Mountain Open Space. We saw many open-country birds, including Yellow-breasted Chats, Spotted Towhees, Lazuli Buntings, Lesser Goldfinches, and a distant Canyon Wren, my 13th and last life bird of camp. The non-avian highlight was undoubtedly a brilliantly colored Rainbow Grasshopper. After Rabbit Mountain, we headed over to Old Saint Vrain Road to do some riparian birding. We added Black-chinned Hummingbird and White-throated Swift to the camp list. In the afternoon we headed down to the banding station for a redo of our rained-out banding session. We witnessed Broad-tailed Hummingbirds and Pine Siskins being banded, and I had the chance to release a newly banded Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

From Mountain Plovers feeding on the shortgrass prairie to Dusky Grouse skulking in montane meadows, from American Dippers plunging in rushing streams to Brown-capped Rosy-Finches foraging on snowfields at 11,000 feet, Camp Colorado led me on a weeklong tour of the awe-inspiring landscapes and birds of Colorado's varied ecosystems. I left Camp Colorado with 13 life birds, almost 1,000 photos taken, a wealth of new ornithological and ecological knowledge, many new friends, and countless memories. Thank you to the American Birding Association for hosting this great camp, and thank you to the Georgia Ornithological Society for continuing to be a great sponsor of the young birders of Georgia.



American Dipper. Photo by John Deitsch.

Colorado Birding: A Whole New Experience

By Josiah Lavender

On July 15th, 2017, it was hard to imagine that what I had been looking forward to for months was about to happen. Four months earlier, I received the call from the Georgia Ornithological Society about being awarded a scholarship to Camp Colorado. Ever since, I had been anticipating the trip, which would take me the farthest west I had ever been, making it a whole new experience for me. I looked forward to not only the birds, but also the other wildlife and scenery I would see and the people I would meet.

As a birder who had rarely birded west of the Mississippi River, the possibilities were numerous. As my plane taxied to the Denver airport terminal, my eyes squinted as I peered out the window, scanning the fields around the airport. I quickly spotted a Western Kingbird landing on a fencepost. It was a life bird for me and, as it turned out, a good omen for the rest of the trip.

As the counselors, campers and I walked out of the airport, the thin air and the mostly treeless, flat expanse beyond the parking lot were new and exciting. On our way to the YMCA where we would stay, as the mountains grew larger in front of the van, the other campers and I kept our eyes on the farmland, fence posts and sky for birds. I looked forward to seeing many of the western bird species that I had wanted to see for so long. Despite having just seen a Western Kingbird, I soon tired of seeing them: They seemed to be on every other fencepost and every stretch of power lines. But we saw a few other great species, such as Swainson's Hawk, a grebe that was either a Western or a Clark's, and Western Meadowlark.

Once at the YMCA, we spent the rest of our Sunday afternoon going through orientation, getting to know one another, and generally settling in. The next morning the birding started, and throughout the week the leaders took us to many different habitats. It was interesting not only to see all of the different major ecosystems in Colorado, but also their diversity. The habitats we

visited varied from the shortgrass prairie of the Pawnee National Grassland to the Alpine tundra.



Cordilleran Flycatcher. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

In fact, the Alpine tundra was my favorite place we birded. Everything was different from what I was used to and the other ecosystems we visited—no trees, thin air, snow, and massive rocky peaks. And although the bird life was scarcer than it was in the lower elevations, we found a few great species. As we walked along the path through delicate tundra grass, the camp intern somehow picked out a White-tailed Ptarmigan in the first spot he put his scope on. This was a species many of us campers were looking forward to seeing, and it was a great highlight, along with a soaring Prairie Falcon.

It was awesome to see the snowfields in the highest elevations; I had never seen snow in July. However, these snowfields were made even better by the Brown-capped Rosy Finches we spotted on them. Birds weren't the only wildlife at 11,700 feet, though. We saw a herd of about 100 Elk, and got great looks at a Pika and a few Yellow-bellied Marmots. Riding in a van at the edge of a-couple-of-hundred-foot drops, with no guard rails between us and the drops, made the

Colorado Birding *(continued from page 7)*

tundra experience even better.

As mentioned, the habitat that most contrasted with the tundra was certainly at Pawnee National Grassland. Here, a wide expanse of shortgrass prairie stretched out on either side of the road. The prairie was dotted with Pronghorn and Black-tailed Prairie Dogs, and here and there Burrowing Owls perched on fence posts or stood on the ground beside their burrows. The burrows are actually a part of the symbiotic relationship between the owls and the prairie dogs, a connection I found quite interesting. The prairie dogs dig the burrows, and once they abandon them, the Burrowing Owls move in. Other bird life on the prairie included a Mountain Plover and its chick, of which we got great scope-views.



Western Kingbirds. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

Between the two extremes, tundra and prairie, lies the montane forest. This was where we went for our first birding trip and where my Colorado birding adventure really began. Birding with newfound friends amid the distant roar of waterfalls, the tangy smell of sap from conifers in the forest on both sides of the trail, and in the cool, dry mountain air was amazing. From that first day to the last, I enjoyed every minute of the birding. However, this wouldn't have been possible without the knowledge and competence of the counselors. Throughout the week I was impressed with the counselors' responsibility, kindness, and enthusiasm for their work. Their knowledge of the birds, trees, mammals, and the ecosystems of places we visited helped me learn much about Colorado that I wouldn't have otherwise picked up. In addition to learning in the field, each night of the week one of the leaders gave a talk on a certain aspect of birds and bird research, talks I found very insightful. We learned about bird banding, plumage pigmentation, nocturnal migration, and more.



Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel.
Photo by Josiah Lavender.

From the birding to the time spent playing games together to the evening programs, I thoroughly enjoyed my Camp Colorado experience. I saw many cool new bird species and came away with a lot of new knowledge and some great new connections and friends. The day before we left Colorado, one of the counselors, David La Puma, said, "I want to see you guys learning from one another and using one another as you pursue birding." I've done that, keeping in touch with a few people from camp, and I will continue to find these connections useful in the future. Camp Colorado provided a wonderful opportunity for me to make friends that will be mutually helpful as I pursue a hobby in birding, and eventually, a career in bird research. I want to

sincerely thank GOS for the opportunity to have this amazing experience. I would highly recommend it to any young birder.

My Hog Island Adventure

By Ewan Pritchard

Going to Hog Island was an unforgettable experience. I will always remember the way the weather changed the island from day to day. On sunny days the island would be alive with green, the sea alive with blue, and the woods bursting forth with songs of Black-Throated Green Warblers and Golden-Crowned Kinglets. On cloudy days the fog would surround the island, making it even more isolated and distant. The landscape would take on hues of gray instead of vibrant greens, and the woods would become silent and still.

Apart from beautiful scenery at Hog Island, I found a group of people that I fit into. We all shared a common interest, birds, of course, but beyond that we all had a passion for discovery and a curiosity about nature. There is nothing I enjoy more than hearing about birding adventures. We discussed the various rarities we had seen and bird chases we had been on. Those weren't conversations that are likely to occur at my school, so I was glad to be somewhere where I could talk about birds seriously.

I got several lifers on the trip, including Razorbill and Atlantic Puffins on Egg Rock and Black Guillemots in Muscongus Bay. I also got one of my nemesis birds: At five in the afternoon on a birdwalk, I was looking at a flock of chickadees and titmice, when I focused my binoculars on a Red-breasted Nuthatch flitting around a mossy conifer beside the path. I took my bins down and realized that there were several right above me. The others in the group were surprised to learn that I had never seen one before. Later, what I had initially passed off as House Finches turned out to be Purple Finches, and the squirrels on the island were red squirrels. These subtle changes caught me off guard, and I realized that I wasn't in Georgia anymore!



Ewan Pritchard (lower left) and friends at the Hog Island Camp. Photo courtesy of Ewan Pritchard.

One thing that impressed me was that most of the staff's interest in birds extended well beyond simply birdwatching and into science and research. I met Steve Kress, who was responsible for bringing the puffins back to Egg Rock, an island eight miles out in the bay that we visited. I also met Kevin McGowan, who gave a presentation about his bird behavior studies concerning crows. It inspired me that they had had such a big impact on science and conservation, and they were even conducting research during camp. For example, Scott Weidensaul led a few thrush banding bird walks in the morning, where he caught Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes and put geolocators on them.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Georgia Ornithological Society for making it possible for me to go to Hog Island. I will never forget the early mornings after late nights, but I can never remember how I managed to get up. I think that it was the motivation for doing something that I

My Hog Island Adventure *(continued from page 9)*

loved every day. From now on, whenever I have lobster, I will think back to the last dinner we ate on the picnic tables outside the dining hall, where I had my first lobster. And when I am struggling to cope with swarms of mosquitos on the Georgia coast, I will remember the mosquitos that bit me through three layers of clothes and two layers of bug spray at 4:30 in the morning. The camp brought together ornithologists with people for whom bird watching was a hobby. I was able to learn about birding from the professionals, like Steve and Scott and Kevin, while enjoying the new habitats and people I encountered on the island.

Camp Avocet

By Emma Bay Dickinson

I had the amazing opportunity this summer at the end of July/beginning of August to go to the American Birding Association's Camp Avocet in Lewes, Delaware. I love birding on the coast; the diverse range of habitats from freshwater marshes and tidal saltmarshes to maritime forests brings an assortment of passerines, shorebirds, and wading birds. Birding there is a challenge because many birds are habitat-specific. I have lived in Georgia for all of my life, and I am familiar with coastal ecology on the Georgia barrier islands. However, the coasts of Delaware Bay have slightly different habitats, temperatures, and geographies that change how birds interact with their environment.

My goal for my time at this camp was to hone my skills in observing behavior. In a sea of shorebirds, it is easy for my eyes to cross in an attempt to pick out a Red Knot from an army of Sanderlings solely based on color. Rather, Red Knots have this interesting way of stopping and standing upright after feeding for an amount of time, while Sanderlings focus on keeping their heads down. Bill Stewart emphasized a type of birding that focused on posture, feeding behavior, movement, and quirks that are specific to each species.

On Day 1, I arrived at the Philadelphia airport. I was excited to meet new people and talk to young birders from states across the country like California, Maryland, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Florida. When we eventually got to the Virden Center at the University of Delaware, I was pretty stoked to explore the area. Cape Henlopen in Sussex County, Delaware, was our first stop as a group, and right off the bat, we saw Piping Plovers scurrying across the beach.

On Day 2, we went to the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware. The NWR has so much significance to the state as a beautiful, diverse habitat that it has a quarter that appropriately shows a Great Blue Heron and a Snowy Egret. True to its quarter, Bombay Hook is full of wading birds, the most exciting of which was an inconspicuous Eurasian Little Egret that was hiding among a group of Snowy Egrets. Snowies and the Little Egret are very similar in behavior and appearance, and gray lores are the most obvious difference, so scrutinizing the color of every lore on every suspect bird was tedious, even if it was worth identifying the Little Egret in the end.

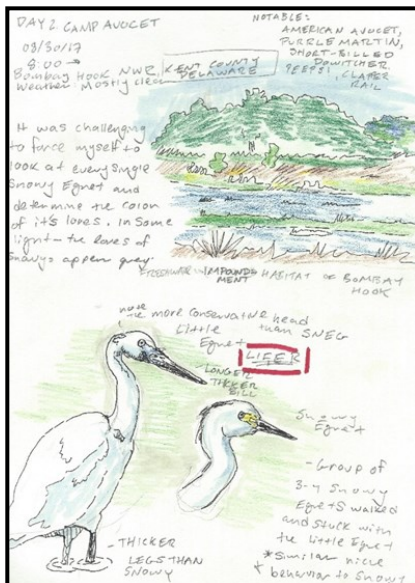
On Day 3, we had an experience that catered to the artistic endeavors of the camp. We took a trip to the home of Richard and Terri Clifton. Mr. Clifton is a renowned wildlife artist and has won the 2007-2008 federal duck stamp, along with several other state competitions. I connected with

Camp Avocet (continued from page 10)

because we are both self-taught artists. He took the time to critique the sketches and artwork of many campers. On his farm, we saw a Spotted Sandpiper, Acadian Flycatcher, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. We also saw some notable insects like the vibrant Velvet Ant, Polyphemous Moth, and Monarch Butterfly.

On Day 4, we took a trip outside of Delaware to Virginia. We first stopped at Queen Sound Land-ing in the morning to look at foraging birds on the commercial oyster reefs. True to their name, a couple of American Oystercatchers were feeding on oysters, worms, and other bivalves that were open at low tide. Willets, Caspian, Royal, and Common Terns also enjoyed the oyster

buffet, and we got great looks. My favorite bird, however, was the Whimbrel that was hanging out on the sides of the muddy tidal saltmarshes, and the sight of the decurved bill and striped head was fabulous. Because we were south of Delaware, flocks of White Ibis congregated above us, rather than the Glossy Ibis flocks that we usually saw in Delaware. After stopping at the causeway, we went to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Accomack County, Virginia. Along with the wild horses that reside on the island, we saw Sanderlings, Red Knots, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Piping, Semipalmated, and Black-bellied Plovers, as well as Ruddy Turnstones.



A page from Emma's journal.

Day 5 was by far my favorite day. We took the Lewes-Cape May Ferry out to Cape May, New Jersey, one of the birding meccas of the world. On the ferry, I received two life birds while just riding the ferry: Wilson's Storm-Petrel and a Brant. Cape May is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and its meadows, beaches, and forests are productive during fall and spring migration, as well as winter and summer. At the Cape May Hawkwatch Platform, a curious Northern Bobwhite suddenly came out in the open and was oblivious to the birders who were amazed at its gumption.

On Day 6, the camp concluded birding activities by hosting a Big Green Hour, a birding competition at Gordon's Pond and Herring Point near Cape Henlopen. My team rushed through maritime forest, dune grassland, and beach to identify as many birds as possible. While we were not the winning team, we heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo call far back in the pine forest, and we were the only team to do so.

The amazing staff at Camp Avocet—Bill Stewart, Bill Schmoker, Holly Merker, George Armistead, Joe Sebastiani, and Noah Sanday—were an inspiration and made the camp exciting and fun. I will cherish the young birders that I connected with at the camp and hope to stay in contact with for the rest of my birding career.

Because of my experiences at Camp Avocet on the coast, I have become interested in how shorebirds correlate with coastal health along the East Coast. Now that I am at the University of Georgia, I have the opportunity to do research that I am passionate about, and I am inspired to do field research on shorebirds. Thank you to the Georgia Ornithological Society for giving me this opportunity.

CAMP TALON

Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature

June 2-7, 2018 – St. Simons Island, Georgia

TALON is a one-of-a kind camp for teens with a strong interest in the outdoors, birding, and ecology. Each day the adventure begins as we travel by charter bus to barrier islands, state parks, wildlife management areas, and refuges along Georgia's coast. Evening classes challenge our campers with presentations and quizzes about bird identification, songs, behavior, flight, migration, and other "birdy" topics. At camp's end we come home with new and improved birding skills, a better understanding of coastal ecology, and great memories.



- 6 days, 5 nights.
- Space for 16 campers
- For beginner to experienced birders who don't mind long, hot, sometimes "buggy" days on beaches.
- Boys and girls ages 13-18. Older birders who have attended before may be eligible for internships.
- 3:1 student to teacher ratio. Trips, classes led by biologists, ornithologists, and environmental educators. each with 20+ years of experience.

- Sponsors: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GOS, TERN, Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, and Atlanta Audubon Society.

Birding Itineraries

- **Base camp:** Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island.
- **Travels:** Little St. Simons Island, Fort Stewart, Altamaha WMA, Andrews Island, Sapelo Island, Harris Neck NWR, and Okefenokee NWR.

Registration

- Until April 6: \$375 (paid in full).
- April 7-May 4: \$425 (paid in full).
- Registration fee includes a \$100 non-refundable deposit.
- Registration form at www.georgiawildlife.com/camptalon.

Contacts Julie Duncan jdwildlife15@gmail.com 770.313.5762
 Bob Sargent bob.sargent@dnr.ga.gov 404.291.8124

George M. Sutton's Watercolors for Georgia Birds: A New Look

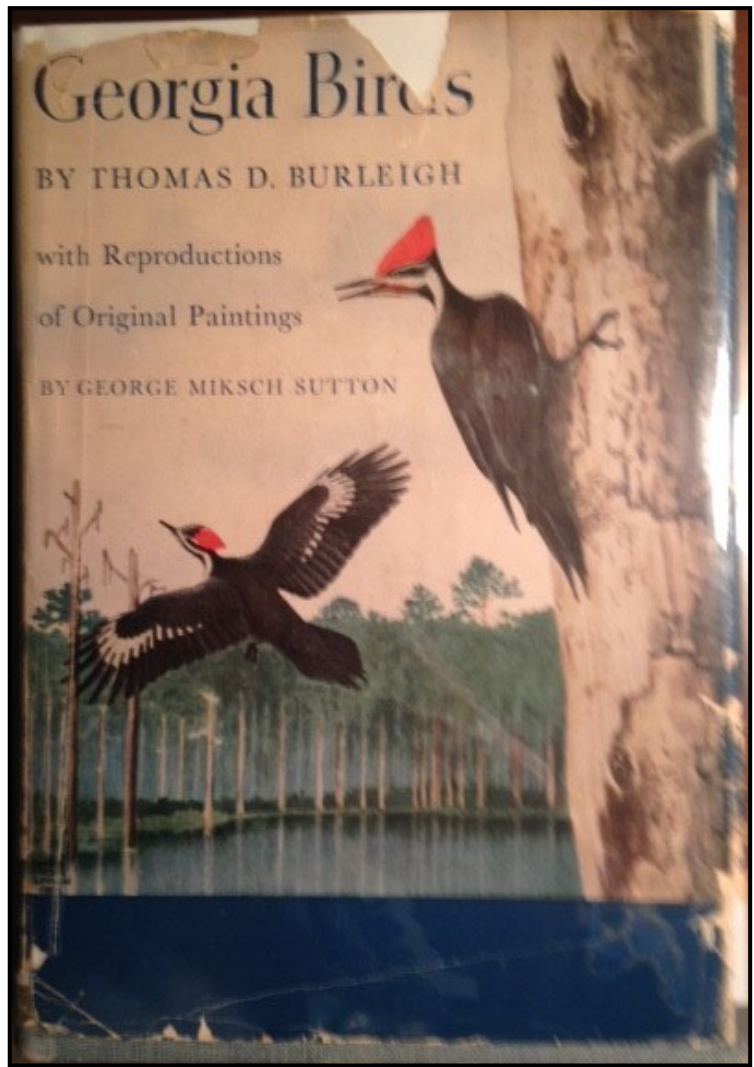
By Robert L. Crawford and Rosalie Rodriguez

When Thomas D. Burleigh's *Georgia Birds* was published in 1958 one feature that was eagerly anticipated was the reproduction of George M. Sutton's watercolors made especially for the book. *Georgia Birds* was a great success, an instant classic (GOS was a sponsor of the book and is acknowledged so in the front pages), but the color plates were very disappointing. For most of them the printing was botched.

Sutton gave his exquisite paintings to his good friend Herbert L. Stoddard; Sutton had painted all but five of the portraits on and around Stoddard's home in the Red Hills of Grady County, Georgia. Stoddard, an esteemed ornithologist and pioneer ecologist was the first president of GOS; Burleigh dedicated the book to Stoddard. After Stoddard died in 1970, his son gave the original *Georgia Birds* watercolors to Tall Timbers Research Station. To see the originals and to contrast them with the plates in *Georgia Birds* is a marvelous yet at the same time sad experience: The quality difference for most is obvious. The entire set in its full glory has been seen publicly only once before, at an American Ornithologists' Union meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in October 1952.

Tall Timbers Press has published a new book, *George M. Sutton's Watercolors for Georgia Birds: A New Look*, by Robert L. Crawford and Rosalie Rodriguez that shows the paintings beautifully reproduced with modern scanning and printing techniques. Sutton's essay and vignettes about each painting from *Georgia Birds* are included as well as a history of the book and paintings. *A New Look* presents these wonderful portraits as Sutton painted them, just as he, Burleigh, and Stoddard had intended.

The hardcover, 96-page book, with 36 color plates and other illustrations, at \$35.00, can be ordered from the Tall Timbers website <http://talltimbers.org/sutton-book/>



Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 6-9, 2017*Compiled by Ellen Miller**174 species. Highlights are in bold.*

Birds observed during field trips to Little St. Simons Island, Sapelo Island, Andrews Island Disposal Site, St. Catherine's Island. Altamaha Sound Boat Trip, Jekyll Island Hot Spots, Jekyll Island Campground Bird Sanctuary, Jekyll Island Welcome Center Big Sit, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Cannon's Point Reserve, Altama Plantation WMA, Clayhole Swamp WMA, Paulk's Pasture WMA, Glennville Wastewater Treatment Area, and Jekyll Island Banding Station.

Canada Goose	American Coot
Wood Duck	Black-necked Stilt
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	American Avocet
Mottled Duck	American Oystercatcher
Blue-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Plover
Ruddy Duck	Semipalmated Plover
Pied-billed Grebe	Piping Plover
Wood Stork	American Golden Plover
Northern Gannett	Killdeer
Double-crested Cormorant	Spotted Sandpiper
Anhinga	Solitary Sandpiper
American White Pelican	Greater Yellowlegs
Brown Pelican	Willet
American Bittern	Lesser Yellowlegs
Least Bittern	Whimbrel
Great Blue Heron	Long-billed Curlew
Great Egret	Marbled Godwit
Snowy Egret	Ruddy Turnstone
Little Blue Heron	Red Knot
Tricolored Heron	Stilt Sandpiper
Reddish Egret	Sanderling
Cattle Egret	Dunlin
Green Heron	Least Sandpiper
Black-crowned Night Heron	Pectoral Sandpiper
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Semipalmated Sandpiper
White Ibis	Western Sandpiper
Glossy Ibis	Short-billed Dowitcher
Roseate Spoonbill	Wilson's Snipe
Black Vulture	Bonaparte's Gull
Turkey Vulture	Laughing Gull
Osprey	Ring-billed Gull
Bald Eagle	Herring Gull
Northern Harrier	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Cooper's Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull
Red-shouldered Hawk	Gull-billed Tern
Red-tailed Hawk	Caspian Tern
Clapper Rail	Black Tern
King Rail	Forster's Tern
Sora	Royal Tern
Purple Gallinule	Sandwich Tern
Common Gallinule	Black Skimmer

Fall 2017 Meeting Species List (continued from page 14)

Rock Pigeon	Northern Waterthrush
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Black-and-white Warbler
Mourning Dove	Tennessee Warbler
Common Ground-Dove	Common Yellowthroat
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Hooded Warbler
Eastern Screech Owl	American Redstart
Great Horned Owl	Cape May Warbler
Barred Owl	Northern Parula
Chimney Swift	Magnolia Warbler
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blackburnian Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Yellow Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Nashville Warbler
Northern Flicker	Golden-winged Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
American Kestrel	Pine Warbler
Merlin	Yellow-throated Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Prairie Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Towhee
Eastern Phoebe	Savannah Sparrow
Loggerhead Shrike	Seaside Sparrow
White-eyed Vireo	Song Sparrow
Philadelphia Vireo	Summer Tanager
Red-eyed Vireo	Scarlet Tanager
Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
American Crow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Fish Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Barn Swallow	Painted Bunting
Carolina Chickadee	Bobolink
Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
House Wren	Boat-tailed Grackle
Sedge Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Marsh Wren	House Finch
Carolina Wren	American Goldfinch
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Eastern Bluebird	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	
Swainson's Thrush	
American Robin	
Gray Catbird	
Brown Thrasher	
Northern Mockingbird	
European Starling	
American Pipit	
Cedar Waxwing	
Ovenbird	

GOShawk



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Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
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Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)	\$50
Fledgling (Students only)	\$15

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Northern Goshawk	\$450
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