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A SUMMARY OF SOME RECENT GEORGIA PELAGIC TRIPS

Terry S. Moore

Although there has been much research recently into the offshore avifauna of several southeastern states (Lee and Booth 1979; Lee and Rowlett 1979; Duncan and Havard 1980), Georgia has not been represented very well. This paper documents a total of nine pelagic trips undertaken by myself and many other observers into waters off the Georgia coast during the years 1975-1981. Several other trips were cancelled due to inclement weather or sea conditions. This paper will summarize the results of the nine trips that did succeed in getting into pelagic waters as even this small number of trips sheds much light on the true status of pelagic species in the state.

TRIP SUMMARY

The following account provides details on each trip that is covered by this article:

8 March 1975 – Six observers in a small (10 m) charter fishing boat out from Jekyll Island. Distance attained from shore was approximately 25 miles. Seas were about 1 m. Maximum depth of water was approximately 15 m. Species recorded were Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*), Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) and Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

21 August 1976 – Approximately 30 observers in a medium-sized (17 m) boat out from Fernandina Beach, Florida but into Georgia waters off Cumberland Island. This was an Atlanta Audubon Society sponsored field trip which was almost cancelled due to a hurricane which went north along the Florida and Georgia coasts the day before. The greatest distance from shore was about 20 miles. Seas were 1.5-2.0 m early moderating later to less than 1 m. The only pelagic species recorded was Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*).

12 February 1977 – Two small six observer charter fishing boats out from Savannah to approximately 45 miles. Maximum depth of water was about 20 m. Seas were very calm (less than 1 m) out to 35 miles and then 1 m from 35-45 miles. Species recorded on this trip were Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*), Northern Gannet, Parasitic Jaeger, and Razorbill (*Alca torda*).

27 August 1977 – Six observers in a small charter fishing boat out from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina into Georgia waters off Savannah. This was the first attempt to get much farther offshore than previous trips. The approximate distance attained offshore was 75 miles and the depth of the water was about 30 m. Seas varied from 1.5-3.0 m. Species recorded on this trip were Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*), Audubon's Shearwater, White-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaeton lepturus*) and Bridled Tern.

11 February 1979 – Six observers in a small charter fishing boat out from Jekyll Island approximately 35 miles. Seas were calm with 1 m waves. Maximum depth of water was approximately 17 m. Pelagic species recorded were Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Parasitic Jaeger.

26 May 1979 – Six observers in a small charter fishing boat out from Jekyll Island approximately 30 miles. Seas were moderate with 1.5-2.0 waves. Depth of water was approximately 15 m. There were no pelagic species recorded on this trip.

2 September 1979 – Six observers in a small charter fishing boat out from Jekyll Island about 40 miles. Seas were 1.5-3.0 m and depth of water was approximately 17 m. Species recorded were Cory's Shearwater, Red-necked Phalarope and Bridled Tern.

11 October 1980 – This was a Georgia Ornithological Society sponsored pelagic trip with 75 observers out from Jekyll Island approximately 40 miles. Maximum depth of water was about 20 m. Seas were 1.0-1.5 m. Species seen were Cory's Shearwater and Bridled Tern.

29 August 1981 – Ten observers in a medium-sized (13 m) charter fishing boat out from Hilton Head approximately 95 miles into waters off Savannah. Maximum depth of water was 65 m. Species recorded were Cory's Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*), White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes, Parasitic Jaeger and Bridled Tern. Seas were 1.5-2.0 m.

DISCUSSION

Pelagic observations have always been few in the state of Georgia for three primary reasons. First, the lack of regularly scheduled, large party fishing boats means that smaller, six passenger boats must often be used. This increases the cost per observer and decreases the number of trips that can be made during the year. Second, Georgia waters tend to be so shallow that an observer must venture out into the ocean about 25 miles before there is any chance of seeing pelagic species (except Northern Gannets). This means that even when a boat is available, it must be capable of achieving a considerable distance offshore in order to make the trip worthwhile. The best trips so far have been the two from Hilton Head, South Carolina that achieved distances from 70-95 miles. Even at this distance the waters at the edge of the Continental Shelf were about 70 m or so. The third factor is the relative scarcity of pelagic species occurring in Georgia waters. Even though almost all trips

recorded a few pelagic species, they are never in the numbers sometimes encountered on pelagic trips in other parts of the Atlantic coast. This scarcity probably has to do with the lack of proper food or amounts of food for many of the species in question in Georgia waters.

However, the information collected on these nine trips does shed some new light on the true status of pelagic species in Georgia. Denton et al. (1977) listed the Cory's Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater and Red Phalarope as accidental and the Parasitic Jaeger and Bridled Tern as rare visitors. As can be seen from Table 1 the number of individuals recorded justify a change of status for these species. The following summary discusses each species in more detail.

White-tailed Tropicbird – Status in Denton et al. (1977) is hypothetical. There have been two sightings of this species on our trips; individual birds seen on 27 August 1977 (Moore 1980) and the other on 29 August 1981. Both birds were judged to be immatures as both had yellow bills instead of the orange of the adults. However, the first bird seemed to be younger in that it lacked the long tail and was barred on the back. The second bird was older as it did have the long streamer tail of the adult and also had the black markings on the upper wings characteristic of adults. The first bird was seen approximately 45 miles out from Savannah Beach while the second was approximately 60 miles out (also from Savannah Beach). Both birds were not discovered until they were almost directly over the boat's stern and they proceeded to circle the boat several times before disappearing. The captain of the boat had reported to us earlier that he had sighted another White-tailed Tropicbird during the summer of 1976 in approximately the same area and the same time of year as our sightings. Undoubtedly this species is scarce in Georgia waters but these records indicate that it probably does occur in late summer in small numbers far offshore.

Cory's Shearwater – This species has turned out to be the most common shearwater in Georgia waters during the summer. Four out of five trips taken in August-October have recorded this species. The earliest date was 27 August and the latest was 11 October. The species undoubtedly arrives earlier than August but trips would have to be made in the May-July timeframe to determine exactly when. The highest count on one of the trips was 40 on 29 August 1981. In general this species was not seen until at least 25 miles off the coast then was seen as either single birds or in small groups of 2-4. Because of the number of observations it should be safe to remove this species from accidental status in Georgia and change it to fairly common offshore visitor in late summer and early fall.

Audubon's Shearwater – This species has been observed on three trips: 1 on 27 August 1977, 2 (?) on 12 February 1977 and 55 on 29 August 1981. It generally prefers the warmer waters of the Gulfstream and cannot be expected much closer to land than about 50 miles. It, like the Cory's, is generally seen as single birds or in small groups of 2-4. On 12 February 1977 two small black-and-white shearwaters were

Table 1. – Summary of individual species counts seen on each pelagic trip.

Species	8 Mar 1975	21 Aug 1976	12 Feb 1977	27 Aug 1977	11 Feb 1979	26 May 1979	2 Sep 1979	11 Oct 1980	29 Aug 1981
Cory's Shearwater	–	–	–	16	–	–	4	5	40
Audubon's Shearwater	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	55
unidentified shearwater	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
White-tailed Tropicbird	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Northern Gannet	50	–	50	–	300	–	–	–	–
Red-necked Phalarope	–	–	–	–	3	–	6	–	1
Red Phalarope	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
unidentified phalarope	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–
Parasitic Jaeger	1	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1
unidentified jaeger	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bridled Tern	–	15	–	26	–	–	12	12	25
Razorbill	–	–	50+	–	–	–	–	–	–

observed and while it was agreed that the first one was an Audubon's, there was much discussion concerning the identification of the second. Some observers felt that it was an Audubon's and others felt that it was a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). Owing to the difficulty in separating these two species and the difference in opinion as to the identity of this particular bird, this observation is probably best left as a small black-and-white unidentified shearwater. As with the Cory's Shearwater the status of the Audubon's Shearwater can now be changed from accidental to fairly common offshore visitor in the late summer and early fall and perhaps occasional in the winter.

Wilson's Storm Petrel – The status in Denton et al. (1977) is uncommon but regular visitor offshore from 16 June to September. Surprisingly, this species was encountered only once, on 29 August 1981, when three individuals were seen about 75 miles off Savannah. Even though four trips were taken during the period when this species would be expected only this one trip has found the species. More trips will have to be taken to determine whether the species is less common than expected or our trips were just unlucky.

Northern Gannet – The status in Denton et al. (1977) is erratic winter resident from 16 November to 12 April. This species was seen on all three trips taken during this time period. A peak count of 300 was recorded on 11 February 1979. Most of the birds are seen from about 2 miles offshore to about 25 miles with a very few seen occasionally farther out. From our offshore sightings it appears that the species is probably more regular and more common than previous records indicate.

Red-necked Phalarope – Status in Denton et al. (1977) is rare spring and fall transient offshore. This species has been seen three times from 29 August to 11 February which probably indicates that the species does winter offshore in some numbers. More pelagic trips will have to be taken to determine the true status of this and the next species.

Red Phalarope – Status in Denton et al. (1977) is accidental. This species was noted twice: one on 8 March 1975 and two on 29 August 1981. Apparently this species along with the Red-necked Phalarope does occur offshore in small numbers but our small number of trips is inadequate to determine their true status.

Parasitic Jaeger – Status in Denton (1977) is rare visitor offshore and along the coast from 10 September to 18 March. Single birds were seen on four trips from 29 August to 8 March. Most of the birds were seen from 2-20 miles offshore and several were seen in conjunction with the flocks of gulls and terns that spend their time milling around the shrimp boats close to land. This species will probably have to be regarded as a fairly common visitor once we obtain more experience with the species.

Bridled Tern – Status in Denton et al. (1977) is rare offshore in summer and fall. This species has been observed in good numbers on five of the trips taken from 21 August to 11 October. From the numbers

recorded it appears that the species is actually one of the most common pelagic species in the late summer and early fall. More trips need to be taken in the early summer and late fall to determine when the species arrives and departs Georgia waters. It is felt that its status should be changed to common offshore visitor in the summer and fall.

Razorbill – Status in Denton et al. (1977) is accidental offshore in winter. This species was recorded only once, on 12 February 1977, but in large numbers (50+). The birds were seen in very calm seas from about 20-35 miles offshore. Most of the birds were seen in small groups of 2-4 birds often accompanied by a Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). It was assumed that the gull expected to either rob the Razorbills of their food or at least share whatever the Razorbills were feeding on. The winter of 1976-1977 was a good one for alcids in the southeast as records were published from Maryland south to Florida (Scott 1977; LeGrand 1977; Stevenson 1977).

SUMMARY

Nine pelagic trips to Georgia offshore waters from 1975-1981 are summarized along with the species encountered. Status changes for the following species are indicated by the results of the trips: Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters, White-tailed Tropicbird, Northern Gannet, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes and Bridled Tern. It is interesting to note, however, that certain pelagic species previously recorded in Georgia were not seen on any of these trips. These species (Greater and Sooty Shearwaters, Sabine's Gull, Arctic and Sooty Terns, Brown Noddy and Dovekie) remain somewhat a mystery and need further investigation. All sightings of pelagic species in Georgia waters should be documented in the *Oriole* so that a better understanding of these species can be obtained.

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BAIRD'S SANDPIPER AT PENDERGRASS

John M. Paget

On 22 December 1982 I was walking along a dike at Wayne Poultry Company, Pendergrass, Jackson County, Georgia. Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) were flushing about every twenty feet, making their characteristic sound as they flushed. Suddenly, a bird flushed that made a different sound which I at once took to be the call of a Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*). I have flushed hundreds of Pectoral Sandpipers, am totally familiar with their call and this sound was similar enough to confuse me. I did not have my telescope with me and the bird was quite wild so I went home thinking that I had my first winter Pectoral Sandpiper record.

The following day I returned to see if the bird was still there and after satisfying myself that it was by way of a rather fleeting look, I left and called Jack Carusos to tell him of my find. He really set my curiosity on fire by suggesting that the bird might in fact be a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) which has been recorded a number of times along the East Coast (A.O.U. 1983).

On 24 December I returned to Pendergrass determined to get a close look at the bird to see if it could possibly be a Sharp-tailed. I finally got to study it in my scope and could tell at once that it was not a Pectoral or a Sharp-tailed although I had no idea what it might be. I at first noticed that the posture was wrong for a Pectoral Sandpiper and the bird also appeared to be too small. Suddenly I noticed the black legs and this sent me running back to my car for a field guide. It was not until after I looked at the field guide that Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) even entered my head. Upon returning to my 40X telescope I began to study the bird more carefully. The bird picked as it fed instead of probing. Its wings were definitely longer than its tail and the breast markings which from a distance I had taken as those of a Pectoral Sandpiper looked exactly like the example of Baird's Sandpiper in Peterson (1980). The lack of any spotting along the flanks and the lack of a white rump helped differentiate this bird from the similarly proportioned White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fusicollis*). I hurried back to Gainesville and called Jack Carusos again to tell him that my Pectoral was in fact a Baird's Sandpiper. I asked him to put the word out in Atlanta and I called my contact on the Georgia Hotline in Athens.

On 25 December the bird was observed and studied by myself, Robert and Didi Manns, Joe Greenberg and Jerry Brunner. On 26 December it was studied by myself and later in the day by Terry and Peggy Moore, John Swiderski and Mike Jones. All the above field marks were noted by all observers. I returned on 28 and 29 December but could not relocate the bird.

Ortego (1979) reported "a total of 38 Baird's Sandpipers on five dates from 1977-1979 at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge" at least part of which were observed in Georgia. These records appear to be the only previous records of the species in Georgia.

Although the A.O.U. (1983) describes the winter range of the Baird's Sandpiper as South America, there is at least one winter record for the

southeast. This was a bird mentioned in Sprunt and Chamberlain (1970) seen on 13 December 1928 at Edingsville Beach, South Carolina.

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A SEM VIEW OF THE CEDAR WAXWING

Georgann Schmalz

A scanning electron microscope study has been made to determine the surface structure of the red tips of the Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*). These "wax" tips emerge from the prolongation and fusion of the central feather shaft and barb ridges at the distal end of the first seven, eight or sometimes, nine secondary feathers of the wing. According to Bent (1950), the red tips appear with little correlation between age, sex or season, although adult males seem to have them more frequently than juveniles and females. It has been suggested by Wilson and Bonaparte (1832) that the red tips are "intended for presserving the ends . . . of the quill from being broken and worn away."

Barbs and other parts of a feather are hardened by alpha keratins; proteins composed of fibrous polypeptide chains that are tough and water insoluble. These keratins are also found in hair, wool, scales, nails, silk and antlers. Figure 1 shows the surface structure of the wax tip magnified 1000X compared to the surface structure of hair in Figure 2, magnified 1000X. Both are characterized by the presence of thin scales that overlap distally. The waxwing tip shows more irregularity and disruption of the scales, perhaps due to weathering or deterioration from hitting and rubbing against objects such as the bird's nest, leaves, or branches. Hair shows similar abrasion when cosmetically abused by bleaches, hair sprays, overperming and shampoos. Newly emergent hairs have smooth contours which become jagged soon after growth away from the skin. It might be assumed that because of similar structure and chemical composition the wax tip also emerges with a smoother surface than that shown in Figure 1. Further study needs to be done on juvenile Cedar Waxwings to see if the surface of the wax tip emerging from the feather follicle is different from that of the matured feather.

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I gratefully acknowledge Dr. Patricianne Hurd at Fernbank Science Center for her assistance in preparing and photographing wax tip specimens and Michael Koch from Druid Hills High School for the photographs of hair samples. I also thank Dr. Fred Sherberger and Dr. James Skeen both at Fernbank Science Center for their help in reviewing this article.

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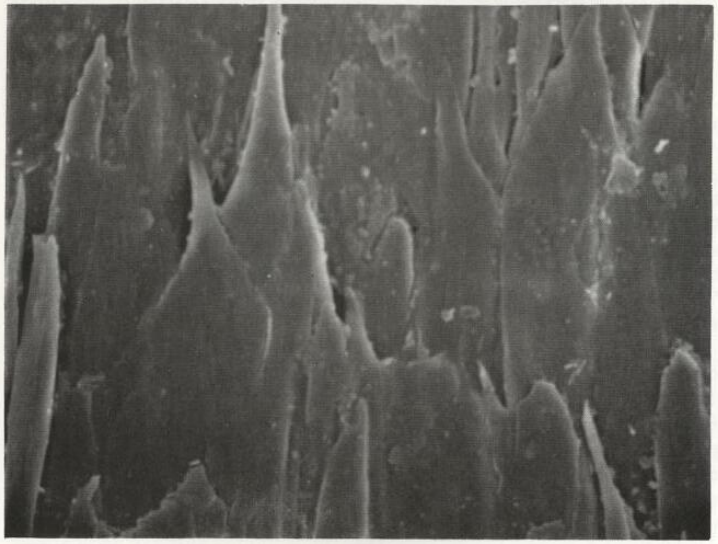

Figure 1. – Cedar Waxwing feather tip magnified 1000X under an ISI M-7 Scanning Electron Microscope using Polaroid 4x5 Type 52 film.

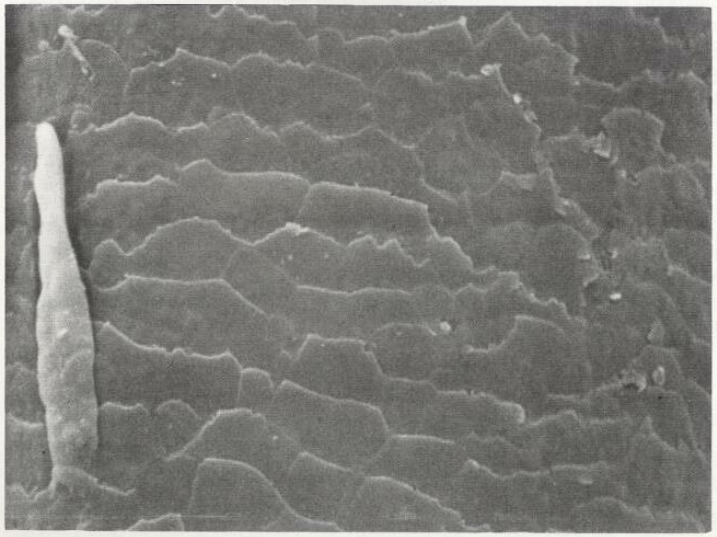

Figure 2. – Hair sample magnified 1000X using the SEM and Polaroid 4x5 Type 52 film.

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THE BIRDS OF THE 1977 ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS PUT INTO THE NEW A.O.U. ORDER

George A. Dorsey

The new American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds (American Ornithologists' Union, Allen Press, Inc. Lawrence, Kansas, 1983) has been published. This is the sixth edition, and each time a new edition of the Checklist appears, there have been a number of changes. This new edition is no exception.

In this new Checklist have been included the birds of the Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, Central America through Panama and the islands of the West Indies. Since this wider coverage increased the number of species dramatically, the A.O.U. Checklist Committee confined the list to only the species level. No subspecies information is included.

One change that will be difficult for many of us to understand is that the former Finch group has been separated into two families: the *Emberizidae* and the *Fringillidae*. In the *Emberizidae* are placed the wood warblers, the tanagers, the Northern Cardinal and other birds through the Snow Bunting, followed by the blackbird group. In a separate family, the *Fringillidae*, are such species as Purple Finch, the crossbills, the siskins, American Goldfinch, and Evening Grosbeak. For our lists, the House Sparrow will be placed at the end, although it is not the last bird in the Checklist.

Becoming accustomed to all of this will take some time for many of us. If we are to follow the A.O.U. Checklist order, our field lists will be out of date. If we have kept our bird records in the A.O.U. order, we may have to make some drastic changes.

So that the birds included in our Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) might be considered in the new A.O.U. order, the following information has been prepared. Some additional species which have been reported since the 1977 publication of the Annotated Checklist have been included. Whether these observations will be accepted, rejected or placed on the hypothetical list will be the job of the G.O.S. Checklist and Records Committee. It is hoped that the information will be helpful to all G.O.S. members and especially to authors preparing articles for submission to *The Oriole*.

Table 1 provides for each species the common name and Latin name followed by the page number on which the species may be found in the new A.O.U. Checklist.

Table 1. – Georgia birds in the new A.O.U. order.

Species	Latin Name	A.O.U. Page Number
Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*	4
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	5
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	7
Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus*	8
Red-necked Grebe	*Podiceps grisegena*	9
Eared Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*	9
Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	14
Black-capped Petrel	*Pterodroma hasitata*	15
Cory's Shearwater	*Calonectris diomedea*	21
Greater Shearwater	*Puffinus gravis*	22
Sooty Shearwater	*Puffinus griseus*	23
Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	24
Audubon's Shearwater	*Puffinus lherminieri*	25
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	*Oceanites oceanicus*	26
Leach's Storm-Petrel	*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*	28
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	*Oceanodroma castro*	29
White-tailed Tropicbird	*Phaeton lepturus*	31
Masked Booby	*Sula dactylatra*	33
Brown Booby	*Sula leucogaster*	34
Northern Gannet	*Sula bassanus*	35
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	36
Brown Pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*	36
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	37
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*	38
Anhinga	*Anhinga anhinga*	40
Magnificent Frigatebird	*Fregata magnificens*	41
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	43
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*	43
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*	45
Great Egret	*Casmerodius albus*	47
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	48
Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*	49
Tricolored Heron	*Egretta tricolor*	49
Reddish Egret	*Egretta rufescens*	50
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	50
Green-backed Heron	*Butorides striatus*	51
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	53
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax violaceus*	54
White Ibis	*Eudocimus albus*	55
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	56
Roseate Spoonbill	*Ajaia ajaja*	58
Wood Stork	*Mycteria americana*	59
Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus ruber*	59
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	60

Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus*	62
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Mottled Duck	*Anas fulvigula*	75
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	75
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	77
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*	79
Cinnamon Teal	*Anas cyanoptera*	79
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	80
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	80
Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	81
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Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*	95
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	96
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	97
Masked Duck	*Oxyura dominica*	97
Black Vulture	*Coragyps atratus*	98
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*	98
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	100
American Swallow-tailed Kite	*Elanoides forficatus*	102
Mississippi Kite	*Ictinia mississippiensis*	105
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	106
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	107
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	108
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperi*	109
Northern Goshawk	*Accipter gentilus*	109
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	115
Broad-winged Hawk	*Buteo platypterus*	116
Swainson's Hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	117
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	118

Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	602
hybrids between the preceding two		602
Tennessee Warbler	*Vermivora peregrina*	603
Orange-crowned Warbler	*Vermivora celata*	603
Nashville Warbler	*Vermivora ruficapilla*	604
Northern Parula	*Parula americana*	606
Yellow Warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	607
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Dendroica pensylvanica*	608
Magnolia Warbler	*Dendroica magnolia*	609
Cape May Warbler	*Dendroica tigrina*	609
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Dendroica caerulescens*	610
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Dendroica coronata*	611
Black-throated Gray Warbler	*Dendroica nigrescens*	612
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Dendroica virens*	613
Blackburnian Warbler	*Dendroica fusca*	614
Yellow-throated Warbler	*Dendroica dominica*	615
Pine Warbler	*Dendroica pinus*	616
Kirtland's Warbler	*Dendroica kirtlandii*	616
Prairie Warbler	*Dendroica discolor*	617
Palm Warbler	*Dendroica palmarum*	617
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Dendroica castanea*	618
Blackpoll Warbler	*Dendroica striata*	619
Cerulean Warbler	*Dendroica cerulea*	619
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*	621
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*	621
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*	622
Worm-eating Warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorus*	623
Swainson's Warbler	*Limnothlypis swainsonii*	623
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapillus*	624
Northern Waterthrush	*Seiurus noveboracensis*	625
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Seiurus motacilla*	625
Kentucky Warbler	*Oporornis formosus*	626
Connecticut Warbler	*Oporornis agilis*	626
Mourning Warbler	*Oporornis philadelphia*	627
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	628
Hooded Warbler	*Wilsonia citrina*	632
Wilson's Warbler	*Wilsonia pusilla*	632
Canada Warbler	*Wilsonia canadensis*	633
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	639
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	658
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*	659
Western Tanager	*Piranga ludoviciana*	659
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	670
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	671
Black-headed Grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*	672
Blue Grosbeak	*Guiraca caerulea*	673
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	675
Painted Bunting	*Passerina ciris*	676

Dickcissel	*Spiza americana*	677
Green-tailed Towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*	683
Rufous-sided Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*	684
Bachman's Sparrow	*Aimophila aestivalis*	696
American Tree Sparrow	*Spizella arborea*	699
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*	700
Clay-colored Sparrow	*Spizella pallida*	700
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*	701
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*	702
Lark Sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*	703
Lark Bunting	*Calamospiza melanocorys*	705
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*	705
Grasshopper Sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*	707
Henslow's Sparrow	*Ammodramus henslowii*	708
Le Conte's Sparrow	*Ammodramus leconteii*	708
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	*Ammodramus caudacutus*	709
Seaside Sparrow	*Ammodramus maritimus*	709
Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca*	710
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	711
Lincoln's Sparrow	*Melospiza lincolnii*	711
Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*	712
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*	713
White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*	714
Harris' Sparrow	*Zonotrichia querula*	715
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*	715
Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus*	718
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*	721
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	722
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	723
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*	724
Western Meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*	725
Yellow-headed Blackbird	*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*	726
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*	727
Brewer's Blackbird	*Eyphagus cyanocephalus*	727
Boat-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus major*	729
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*	730
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	731
Orchard Oriole	*Icterus spurius*	734
Northern Oriole	*Icterus galbula*	737
Purple Finch	*Carpodacus purpureus*	745
House Finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*	746
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	747
Common Redpoll	*Carduelis flammea*	748
Pine Siskin	*Carduelis pinus*	750
American Goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*	752
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*	755
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	764

Darlington School, Rome, Georgia 30161.

GENERAL NOTES

PLAIN CHACHALACA ON LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND – On 4 April 1982 at about 0700 I heard what sounded like a large flock of Plain Chachalacas (*Ortalis vetula*) calling on the south end, mainland side of Little St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia. I walked rapidly through a grove of Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) and as I broke into the opening on the west or marsh side of the island, three adult Plain Chachalacas flew from their roosting site in a Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) and landed in the edge of the marsh. John Crawford noted an adult of the species accompanied by five chicks near this location in October, 1981 (pers. comm.).

The species was first introduced on Sapelo Island, McIntosh County in 1923 and has been reported numerous times from Sapelo and Blackbeard Islands.

Milton Hopkins, Jr., Route #5, Osierfield, Georgia 31750.

RECORDS OF SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER AND STILT SANDPIPER IN FORSYTH COUNTY – A natural waterhole used by cattle on McGinnis Ferry Road (Forsyth County) has always been an interesting place to observe birds as long as it contains a small amount of water. On 6 May 1982 around 1900 I found a Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) and Semipalmated (*Calidris pusilla*) and Solitary Sandpipers (*Tringa solitaria*) feeding actively in that pond. I was especially interested in the dowitcher because of the rare status of the Short-billed in the Atlanta area and the absence of the Long-billed (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) from the Atlanta checklist. The bird was recognized as a dowitcher by its chunky body, long bill and long white edges up the back seen while it was bathing and preening. It was identified as a Short-billed by the spots on the side of the breast and the reddish color which stopped before the lower belly. The bird was in full breeding plumage and was observed from 20 m for 30 minutes. On 8 May 1982 the same bird or another was viewed for over 20 minutes in a different spot close to the previous area but in Gwinnett County. The same characteristics as before were noted except for the white rump. This is only the fifth sighting for the Atlanta area.

At the same pond on 11 July 1982 around 1415 a Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) was seen in the presence of five Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*). The month of July had been wetter than usual and the pond was filled with water. The bird was recognized by its long thin bill drooping slightly at the end, the heavy barring on its underparts, the rusty cheek patch and crown and the long yellowish green legs. The bird seemed to be nervous at one time but then resumed feeding with a dowitcher-type, up-and-down motion. Less than an hour later Robert Manns and Donna Brisse verified the identification and later that afternoon Terry Moore also saw the bird (pers. comm.).

This is the second record for the Stilt Sandpiper in the Atlanta area. The first observation was a bird seen by Jack Carusos on 14 May 1977 (American

Birds 31: 987). The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) gives 26 July 1975 as the earliest fall migration date so this observation is 15 days earlier. According to the same publication the sighting of the Least Sandpipers tied the earliest fall record on 11 July 1925.

Patrick Brisse, 634½ Wilson Rd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER AT DAWSONVILLE – On 31 May 1980 I observed a Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli*) apparently defending a territory in a willow patch four miles south of Dawsonville, Dawson County. The site is described as the Big Bottoms in A Birder's Guide to Georgia (Hans, D.E., Georgia Ornithological Society). Although the site was originally a marshy beaver impoundment, it has grown over with willows (*sp.*) and the beavers have moved farther downstream. As I approached the site, I heard the unmistakable *"fitz-bew"* call of a Willow Flycatcher. Since the bird remained out of view while it was changing perches, I played a tape of the species' call. The bird immediately flew within 3 m and allowed a clear view of its plumage; a brownish *Epidonax* with contrasting white throat. After a few minutes it flew out of view but could be heard singing for half an hour over an area of a few acres. Since I did not make any additional trips to the area, I do not know if the bird continued to defend this territory.

Mark Oberle, 231 Kathryn Avenue, Decatur, Georgia 30030.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW AT MACON – On 17 September 1982 I observed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) feeding with about 25 House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in my backyard feeding area near Macon, Georgia. I first saw it at about 1140 and had it under observation until 1205 with 8X40 binoculars at a distance of approximately 10 m. Unfortunately, I had to leave for work; however, my wife came in a little later and noticed the sparrow but did not examine it closely. She indicated that it stayed in the area until about 1400.

The first thing I noticed about this bird was its facial markings and color. The superciliary line was wide and curved down behind the eye along the side of the neck. The color was ochraceous buff. The auricular area was gray. The malar line below the auricular patch was of three colors. Next to the gray was ochraceous buff, then white, and then a fine line of black. The chin and throat were off-white. Across the breast was a band that was a little more yellow than the ochraceous buff but with a few very fine black streaks.

The next most prominent feature was the somewhat short but very narrow tail which ended in two needle sharp points with a slight notch between them. The outer tail feathers appeared to be lighter in color than the other tail feathers. The top of the head was dark gray with very fine streaking. The nape was gray. The back was dark and streaked and the wing had a patch of russett. The belly was off-white and the flanks were a slightly darker off-white with just a hint of a few fine streaks. The undertail coverts seemed to have a faint wash of russett.

This sparrow is considered to be a rare transient by the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) in the interior of the state. Because it was seen in the interior it is assumed that the bird was representative of the subspecies *nelsoni* which nests in the Great Plains of the U.S. and Canada.

Another observation of a rare species was made at my backyard feeding area on 2 May 1982 when a male Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) spent about ten minutes that morning. The Annotated Checklist indicates that this species has recently been increasing in the Upper Coastal Plain area and this observation may be another indication of this increase.

Richard H. Lux, 1605 Maryland Dr., Macon, Georgia 31211.

TUFTED TITMOUSE RAIDS MUD-DAUBER'S NEST – Martin (1971, Auk 88: 677) reported a Canyon Wren (*Cartherpes mexicanus*) that raided the incomplete nest tubes of a mud-dauber wasp (*Sphecidae, Trypoxyloninae*). The wasps lay an egg in each tube, provision them with paralyzed spiders to be eaten by the larval wasps, and then seal the tubes. The Canyon Wren Martin watched stole the cached spiders from the open tubes while the wasps were away. Martin wondered if the wren had the ability to open a sealed tube.

On 9 June 1972 I saw a Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*) raid a sealed mud-dauber's nest. This was at a house in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia where mud-daubers (*Trypoxylon politum*) had built three horizontal chambers on the side of a rafter of an open porch. The nest tubes were about 2 cm from the bottom of the rafter, and were about 75 cm from the roof edge. My attention was attracted by loud rapping just outside a window that opened onto the porch; I saw a titmouse striking the bottom nest chamber with its bill while hanging upside-down from the bottom of the rafter. After a few seconds it flew off, carrying a whitish object in its bill. About 30 minutes later, I heard the nasal calls of two titmice nearby. One of them flew in under the porch roof and hovered directly below the nest tubes. Twice it tried to turn over in the air and perch on the rafter as it or another had before. Less than a minute later it or another titmouse flew back under the roof and repeated the above sequence with no success. Still calling, the titmice then moved off beyond my range of hearing and I never saw them near the nest chambers again. After they left, I inspected the nest tubes; the bottom chamber had been opened but the others were intact. I do not know if the titmouse had gotten the spiders, the egg, or the entire contents. The titmouse struggled to gain a perch on the rafter and to force open the tube, leading me to think that mud-daubers' nests were a previously known food source for the birds, perhaps learned by way of raiding nests in construction, as did Martin's Canyon Wren.

Robert L. Crawford, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, FL 32312.

ANOTHER LATE WATER PIPIT RECORD – A Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) was sighted at the edge of a mud pond on McGinnis Ferry Road, Forsyth County, on 13 May 1982. The thin bill, sparrow size and buffy, slightly streaked underparts attracted my attention. After identifying the bird as a pipit and checking my field guide, I made sure of the color of the legs because Sprague's Pipits (*Anthus spragueii*) have been sighted before in late winter in the Atlanta area. The legs were black. The white outer tail feathers were seen while the bird was flying away. The observation did not last more than a few minutes. The late date could perhaps explain the fact that the bird seemed to be in breeding plumage. The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (1977, Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6) gives the extreme date of 13 May 1926 for this winter visitant.

Patrick Brisse, 634 ½ Wilson Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This issue ends the first phase of our efforts to get the *Oriole* publication schedule current. The number of issues for 1983 will be three as opposed to the two for the previous two years, that is, there will be a March 1983 issue, a combined one for June-September and then one for December. The plans for 1984 are for four separate issues. There is, however, only one way for this to happen and that is for GOS members to consider submitting material to the *Oriole*. Only if there is enough material to publish can we consider having four issues every year. The backlog of manuscripts will soon be exhausted so authors can expect a rapid publication of their material. Also, if help is needed to polish your manuscript or to properly format your material, that help is available. Let me know if we can help.

Starting with the March 1983 issue, we will be reinstituting the From the Field section of the *Oriole*. That particular issue will include significant observations for the year 1982. After that, the schedule will be as follows:

Period Covered	Deadline to the From the Field Editor	*Oriole* Issue
January-March	1 May	June
April-June	1 August	September
July-August	1 October	December
September-December	1 February	March

Therefore, as of this issue, your observations for the period January-March 1984 should be sent to the From the Field Editor who is Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. Remember to include substantiating details for any rare or unusual sighting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The manuscript, "Ganier, Albert Franklin and George R. Mayfield 1933. Translation, from the German, of Gerhardt's papers on the birds of northwest Georgia, 1855-56. Nashville, Tenn. Mimeographed", cited on page 713 of T. D. Burleigh's Georgia Birds, along with some bibliographic notes on Gerhardt and John LeConte, is now deposited in the Rare Book File of Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32312.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following income and expense information for Fiscal Year 1982 has been provided by the Treasurer:

Beginning Balance 1 October 1981		$11,150.21
Income		
Dues	2,555.60	
Life Members	1,000.00	
Interest	1,537.66	
Other	272.70	
	5,365.96	
Expenses		
Oriole (2 issues)	1,610.66	
Goshawk (4 issues)	594.33	
Other	783.89	
	2,988.88	
Ending balance 30 September 1982		$13,527.29

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FOOTNOTES —Avoid footnotes by incorporating such material in the text.

NOMENCLATURE — Vernacular names should be capitalized in text. They are to be accompanied by appropriate scientific names the first time each species is mentioned. Show reference for long lists of scientific names (i.e., A.O.U. Checklist 5th ed., 1957).

REFERENCES — When there are fewer than 3 references insert them in parentheses where needed in the text by author, journal, volume, pagination, and year of publication. Three or more references are grouped alphabetically by authors' last names under "literature cited."

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