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EDITOR

Terry S. Moore, 3086 River Oaks Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30339

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PROCEDURES OF THE GOS CHECKLIST/RECORDS COMMITTEE

The Checklist Committee of the Georgia Ornithological Society

The Georgia Ornithological Society was founded 13 December 1936 and will thus celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1986. To mark this historic event, the GOS Checklist/Records Committee will be revising the current official checklist of Georgia birds (Denton *et al.* 1977). The intended result will be an updated checklist incorporating the latest AOU revisions in vernacular and scientific names, changes in seasonal occurrences and relative abundances of Georgia birds, and an updated regular list of species known to occur in the state.

The main duty of the Committee will be to evaluate reports of sightings of birds in Georgia. The Committee will establish procedures for the submission of reports; publish a list of species or types of reports desired; publish the results of its decisions periodically in *The Oriole*; work closely with the editor of *The Oriole* in evaluating articles submitted to the journal involving rare species; and maintain an official list of Georgia birds.

The Committee will consist of 5 voting members appointed by the President of the GOS and approved by the society's executive committee. One of these individuals will serve as chairman. In addition, one or more individuals may serve as non-voting, technical advisors to the committee.

Criteria used in accepting a species in the official list of Georgia birds are an elaboration of former criteria (GOS Checklist Committee 1975) and are as follows:

- 1) A species shall be included in the regular list of Georgia birds when a specimen has been collected in the state, identified by one or more qualified individuals, and preserved and deposited at an institution in the public domain, preferably at the University of Georgia Museum of Natural History.
- 2) A species shall be included in the regular list of Georgia birds when one or more photographs, tape recordings, or sonograms clearly demonstrating definitive characters have been obtained and submitted to the committee. Photographs should preferably be published in *The Oriole* or elsewhere, with an account of the record and a duplicate photograph or photographs placed in the files of the University of Georgia Museum of Natural History.
- 3) A species shall be included in the regular list of Georgia birds when

four or more independent sight records have been made. Each record of occurrence must be submitted with substantiating details including species, exact locality, date, observer(s), optical equipment, habitat, length of time observed, description, reasons for identification, and the observers' experience with the species. These accounts should be published in *The Oriole* or submitted to the committee on a standardized Georgia Rare Bird Report Form (see page 19, this issue). In addition, each record of occurrence must receive a vote of 5/0 or 4/1 in favor of "accepted" by the committee. Any other outcome will be designated "not accepted". Non-acceptance does not preclude publication of reports.

- 4) An introduced or escaped species must have bred successfully in the state for 10 years before acceptance onto the regular list of Georgia birds. Only those species maintaining a reasonably stable or increasing population through successful reproduction will be considered for regular checklist status.
- 5) All species considered for regular checklist status in Georgia must also be on the current official A.O.U. checklist (1982, 1983).
- 6) Species for which there is convincing evidence examined by the committee and voted as "accepted" but for which fewer than 4 independent sight records exist shall be placed on a provisional list.
- 7) Species represented by only unsubstantiated accounts or deemed "not-accepted" by the committee shall be placed on the hypothetical list. Birds suspected of being escapees or whose origin as a wild bird is in doubt shall also be placed on the hypothetical list.

The actions of the committee will be recorded and filed permanently at the University of Georgia Museum of Natural History. Opinions and comments made by committee members evaluating records of occurrence will be anonymous and shall also be filed with the committee vote. The committee will publish annual reports on actions it has taken in *The Oriole*.

We hope that observers will take time to write and submit their field observations with the intent of publishing them in *The Oriole*. We are particularly interested in accounts of rare or unusual birds seen in Georgia on fewer than 5 occasions, the occurrence of species in areas of the state where they have not occurred previously, and the status and location of breeding species. A list of species for which the committee solicits information is given in Table 1. The checklist of Denton *et al.* (1977) may also be used as a reference. Individuals observing or having knowledge of observations of any of these species are urged to communicate with one of the committee members. All contributors will be acknowledged in the revised checklist.

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Table 1. — Partial list of bird species reported to have occurred in Georgia and for which the checklist committee solicits further details and documentation.

Arctic Loon	Franklin's Gull
Northern Fulmar	Little Gull
Black-capped Petrel	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Sooty Shearwater	Glaucous Gull
Manx Shearwater	Black-legged Kittiwake
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Sabine's Gull
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Roseate Tern
Masked Booby	Arctic Tern
Brown Booby	White-winged Tern
Great Cormorant	Brown Noddy
Reddish Egret	Dovekie
Greater Flamingo	Razorbill
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Atlantic Puffin
Mute Swan	Ringed Turtle-Dove
Greater White-fronted Goose	White-winged Dove
Brant	Budgerigar
Mottled Duck	Scaly-naped Pigeon
Cinnamon Teal	Smooth-billed Ani
Eurasian Wigeon	Burrowing Owl
King Eider	Rufous Hummingbird
Harlequin Duck	Say's Phoebe
Barrow's Goldeneye	Vermilion Flycatcher
Masked Duck	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Black-shouldered Kite	Black-capped Chickadee
Northern Goshawk	Varied Thrush
Short-tailed Hawk	Bell's Vireo
Swainson's Hawk	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Gyr Falcon	Western Tanager
Prairie Falcon	Black-headed Grosbeak
Mountain Plover	American Tree Sparrow
Hudsonian Godwit	Brewer's Sparrow
Baird's Sandpiper	Lark Bunting
Curlew Sandpiper	Harris' Sparrow
Ruff	Snow Bunting
Red Phalarope	Western Meadowlark
Pomarine Jaeger	Pine Grosbeak
Long-tailed Jaeger	White-winged Crossbill
South Polar Skua	Common Redpoll

J. Christopher Haney, Chairman
Department of Zoology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Patrick Brisse
4960 Gatehouse Way
Stone Mountain, GA 30088

Mark Oberle
321 Kathryn Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

John M. Paget
1530 Vine Street
Gainesville, GA 30501

Daniel R. Jacobson
1507 Hickory Valley Rd.
Apt. H-62
Chattanooga, TN 37421

AN OFFSHORE OCCURRENCE OF THE LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

J. Christopher Haney

On 20 February 1983 I observed a Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) during a bottom long-line groundfish survey sponsored by the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service. Our ship, the R/V "Bulldog", was fishing for tilefish and grouper at the edge of the continental shelf (31°41'N, 79°25'W) 128 kilometers ESE of Tybee Island, Chatham Co., Georgia. This location was along the western wall of the Gulf Stream (surface temperature 21.6°C, 71°F) in 220 meters of water. Winds were easterly, at 15 knots and seas were running to one meter. Skies were clear with visibility exceeding 12 kilometers.

The bird was identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the bases of its blackish mantle and upperwings and yellow legs. The head was white, without any streaking, and the bill was yellow. It was continually associated with a group of 65 Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), in first, second, and third-year (adult) plumages. These gulls, one Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*), four Northern Gannets (*Sula bassanus*), and two Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) were attracted to and feeding on fish offal that resulted from cleaning the day's catch. The birds, including the Lesser Black-backed Gull, were observed for nearly two hours, occasionally to within three or four meters of the boat. All of the birds left the vicinity of the boat after fish-cleaning had ceased.

Outside the breeding season, the Lesser Black-backed Gull occurs over a wide variety of marine habitats, including offshore seas (Cramp and Simmons 1983). Small numbers of this species have been observed scavenging for waste fish near boats in Scotland (Boswall 1960) and Ireland (Hillis 1971).

The Lesser Black-backed Gull has been observed in Georgia on at least three occasions prior to this date. On 15 October 1977, one was observed on the south beach of Jekyll Island, Glynn County (Manns 1978). Manns *et al.* (1980) observed two individuals of this species on 31 August 1980, also at Jekyll Island. I and other observers saw one individual at Jekyll Island on 12 October 1980. The sighting recorded here represents the first Georgia occurrence outside the fall season. The Lesser Black-backed Gull has become an increasingly regular but rare winter visitor to the U.S. East Coast (Robbins *et al.* 1983). These birds are likely derived from the southward and westward dispersing populations breeding in Iceland (Harrison 1983).

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Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

A NORTHERN GOSHAWK IN GEORGIA

John T. Fulton

A Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) was observed for over ten minutes feeding on a freshly-killed American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) in Fannin County on 23 January 1983. In addition to the author, the other observers were Roger and Georgette Shudes and Ronan Fulton. The two hatchery biologists and their wives watched the incident from a distance of 100 m.

At 1100 on 23 January the Goshawk was seen flying low over a trout raceway (concrete rectangular fish pond) at the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, 22 miles WSW of Brasstown Bald. The crow was falling into the water close by. A quick banking U-turn brought the Goshawk back to the crow where it landed on its prey in the water. After a 5-second soak, the Goshawk flapped up from the water onto the raceway wall with its still-struggling captive. When the captive stopped moving, the other crows left the area. At 1105 the Goshawk flew with the crow in its talons from the raceway wall to an ivy-covered slope 40 m more distant. For the next ten minutes it stayed at eye level on this slope about 100 m from my window. While the three other observers watched with binoculars, I watched with a variable power (15X to 60X) telescope. The Goshawk plucked and discarded clumps of contour feathers from the crow during its meal. At 1115 it took to the air with the entire carcass and disappeared into the woods.

Each of the four witnesses made the following observations. The size of the Goshawk was 1.5 times that of the crow with a length that appeared to be over 60 cm. The belly was white, back was light gray with darker bars on the tail. There was a white line over the eye and a dark cap above the eyeline. The wings were large, broad and rounded. With the 60X telescope I could make out other details. The white line above the eye was bordering a dark gray ear patch. These eyebrows were separated posteriorly by the black nape and crown. The white eyebrow was half as wide at the eye as at the posterior end. The dark primaries contrasted sharply against the light belly. The white belly between the tibiotarsi made a slight contrast against the dingy legs.

There appears to be no previous record for Georgia. There were, however, other records during this same period for the states of Tennessee and Alabama (*American Birds*, 37: 301, 310).

I wish to thank Robert Manns for reviewing an early draft of this paper.

Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, Rt. 1, Box 286, Hollandale, MS 38748.

GENERAL NOTES

THIRD SIGHTING OF RED-THROATED LOON IN THE ATLANTA AREA

— On 16 November 1982, while riding the bus home after work, I noticed a relatively large bird on one of the ponds of the Atlanta Waterworks on Howell Mill Road. With only a half hour of light left, I drove back to the pond. I did not positively identify the bird that night but thought it could have been a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). The bird was identified as being that species the next morning on my way to work. It had a thin upturned bill and the upperparts were gray with some whitish spots, giving the bird a more grayish look than the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) which is a species regularly seen in Atlanta during migration. The bird was seen off and on until 25 November when Donna Brisse and I saw the loon for the last time.

This is the third sighting for the Atlanta area. A grounded bird was brought to Tom French on 16 November 1972 and Jack Carusos reported another bird in the NW Atlanta area on 17 November 1980. The bird is in fact a rare fall transient inland in Georgia being reported from Atlanta, Columbus, Dalton, Dublin and Lake Lanier (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977). It is interesting to note that all three Atlanta records fall within a two-day window of 16-17 November.

Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.

A SURF SCOTER AT PENDERGRASS — The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) lists the Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*) as accidental in the interior of the state with one record on Lake Chatuge, Towns County, on 18 May 1976. On 22 October 1979 I observed a single Surf Scoter on one of the oxidation ponds at the Wayne Poultry Company, Pendergrass, Jackson County. I felt that the bird was probably a mature female as the two white facial marks were so clearly visible on the bird. It was quite tame and this allowed me to have excellent views of it through my 40X telescope. As it stretched and preened it was obvious it was not a White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta deglandi*). It had no white in the wings and was a smaller bird than other White-winged Scoters I have observed. The bird was present the following day but to my knowledge it was not seen after that.

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine Street, N.E., Gainesville, Georgia 30501.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER OBSERVED IN SOUTH FULTON COUNTY —

We were able to spend considerable time 27 March 1983 verifying the identification of two Lesser Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*) that we found in south Fulton County. The plovers were about the size of Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*). Their body shape appeared to be thinner and the bill and head proportionately smaller than that of a Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*). Both birds were in winter plumage. We were able to observe gray

axillaries three times as one of the plovers was in flight. The crown and back appeared to be browner than that of a Black-bellied Plover. When the birds were in flight, the color of the back, wings and tail were also of a brownish coloration. There was no pattern of white in either the wings or the tail. The rump was definitely not white and there was no definable white stripe in the wing. Brisse (*The Oriole* 46: 21-44) mentions three other records for the Atlanta area, all during the period from 21-31 March.

Dennie and Pam McClure, 4885 Butner Road, College Park, Georgia 30349.

AMERICAN AVOCET IN ATLANTA — An American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*) was discovered by the author in the Atlanta area on 13 November 1982. It was found feeding along the edge of Murphey Candler Lake which is located in northeast Atlanta. Murphey Candler Lake is a small lake situated in a neighborhood park and is frequented by many people coming there for fishing, picnicking and other activities. These activities did not seem to bother the bird for it remained there for 10 days actively feeding and flying around. Several members of the Atlanta Audubon Society came to observe the bird before it was last seen on 22 November (pers. comm.). All observers noted the upturned bill along with the white plumage, black and white wings and long blue or blue-gray legs.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) lists the species as being rare in the interior of the state with six records noted. Brisse (*The Oriole* 46: 21-44) does not list a record for the Atlanta area although there were two sightings by Hugh Garrett near Griffin (1 bird on 8 September 1979 and 12 on 1 August 1980) just south of the Atlanta area (pers. comm.).

Jarrett W. Brunner, 187 Valley Road, Norcross, Georgia 30071.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS AND LONG-BILLED CURLEWS ON LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND — From 5 to 10 October 1981 my husband Michael and I stayed and birded on Little St. Simons Island. On 6 October we accompanied John Crawford, the resident naturalist, to a small creek on the southwest corner of the main island mass. The weather was clear, sunny, in the low 60's. We were driving through the naturally short grass when we encountered a flock of six Buff-breasted Sandpipers (*Tryngites subruficollis*) foraging in the pink *muhlenbergia* grass. We continued our journey and returned to the area around 1030 and the flock of six were still foraging. We were able to get very good looks at the six buff-faced, cinnamon plumaged sandpipers.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977) lists the Buff-breasted Sandpiper as a rare fall transient on and near the coast.

On the evening of 8 October we were told that Doug Bruce from St. Simons Island had seen one Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) along the Altamaha Sound side of the island. We called Doug Bruce to confirm his sighting. The morning of 9 October was very overcast with intermittent rain.

We went to the north corner of the island along the Altamaha Sound and spent several fruitless hours searching for the Long-billed Curlew. About 1400 we went to the northeastern corner of the island along the ocean to watch for the curlew. The weather remained inclement with overcast, misty skies with intermittent rain.

Little St. Simons Island is largely undisturbed along the shore. The area behind this island's low dunes is often flooded by the tides and filled with *salicornia*, *spartina* and other salt tolerant grasses. It was in this large area that we saw three Long-billed Curlews feeding with a flock of Whimbrels (*Numenius phaeopus*). Having two members of the same genus alongside each other afforded us a good opportunity to study and compare them. An apparent characteristic of this curlew is the way it turns its head sideways in order to insert its long decurved bill into crab burrows while feeding. Individual curlews and Whimbrels flew from 20 to 50 m and we were able to see their differently-colored winglinings. We were using 8X binoculars and a 20X telescope to view the birds.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* lists the Long-Billed Curlew as an uncommon spring and fall transient and rare winter resident on the coast. According to birders along the Georgia coast (pers. comm.) both the sandpiper and the curlew are sighted each year in small numbers.

Carolina H. Lane, 869 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

A SABINE'S GULL ON LAKE LANIER — On 9 September 1981 at approximately 1300 a Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*) was discovered on Lake Lanier in Forsyth County, Georgia. While birding from my boat I observed a solitary dark hooded gull resting on the water at a distance of 150 m. Moving to within 50 m and viewing the gull through binoculars, I could make out a faint yellow tip on the bill. Fortunately the gull remained at rest and I was able to move close enough to sight the characteristic slate gray hood, red eyering, yellow-tipped bill and pale gray back of the adult summer plumaged Sabine's Gull.

Having enjoyed this rare find, I proceeded to the Athens Boat Club to phone Bob Manns in Atlanta. Within an hour Bob arrived at the marina. We located the gull still at rest on the water. After close observation (20 m) the gull flushed. Flight characteristics were noted. The black triangle on the outer wing, the white triangle on the inner primaries and secondaries, the slightly forked tail and tern-like flight were observed by both Bob and myself. As far as I know the gull was never seen again after this observation.

There appears to be only one previous record of the species in Georgia. That was a specimen taken by Ivan Tomkins on Tybee Island on 12 October 1960 (*The Oriole* 25: 44-45).

Jeff Petit, Rt. 2, Box 241, Yulee, Florida 32097.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE IN GEORGIA WATERS — The Island Queen, a 72 foot, twin engine craft left the Jekyll Island Marina on 5 March 1983 at about 0830 and headed due east. Some forty observers were to

engage moderate seas and sunshine for eight hours of pelagic birding. Of especial note were two species new to the series of trips generated over the past few years mainly by the Atlanta Audubon Society. The results of previous trips have already been published in *The Oriole* (47: 21-26).

About 18 miles from shore, still heading east, Jeff Petit noticed a gull following the boat at a distance estimated at 300 to 400 m. We had left the ship-following hordes of other, more land-based species, lost total sight of the more landward Northern Gannets (*Sula bassanus*) for an hour, and were down to a single following immature Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) and the more distant bird. Jeff called my attention to it and we spent an unknown time studying the bird, which seemed unable or unwilling to close the distance with us. The boat's engines were shut down and we waited. Perhaps two minutes later, an immature Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) passed our port side and headed out to sea. Viewing distance was about 25 m.

Terry Moore immediately (pers. comm.) found the nape stripe; I witnessed the ending of the "W" over the mantle to cover the wing primaries. The tail was straight, not fanned, and although appearing to be slightly notched did not show banding or coloration. The bird was larger than a Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*) and, with the darkness of the inner-wing bar equalling the outer, displayed everything but its black legs.

Although not the first of these northern gulls to be seen in Georgia waters (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977 and C. Haney, pers. comm.), it was the first for the pelagic trips sponsored by the Atlanta Audubon Society. Mr. Haney will (article in press) detail his additional observations of this gull in Georgia.

About 5 miles out from land, on the return leg of the sea trip, Hugh Garrett and Fairman Cumming chummed up another first for the Atlanta Audubon series of trips. This was a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) which came to the back of the boat to get its share of the chum. Listed in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* as a rare winter visitor, there appears little reason at present to look for a change in this bird's status. Other pelagic species seen on this trip were 100+ Northern Gannets, a Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and two Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicaria*).

Robert Manns, 2099 McKinley Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

SOME NEW GEORGIA OCCURRENCE RECORDS FOR PASSERINES — In a recently published article (*The Oriole* 47: 18-19) I noted some personal occurrence records for shorebirds which differed from those in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 6, 1977). The following observations are those which I noticed differed from those of the checklist in regards to passerines. Two records were included which were not my own but were sightings of which I have been told.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*) — The checklist lists the earliest fall arrival date as 7 September 1958. My records are of birds at Brassertown Bald on 19 August 1973 during an Atlanta Audubon Society field trip and on 6 September 1982 at Atlanta with Jack Carusos.

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) — The checklist regards this species as a rare fall migrant north of the Fall Line. My record is of a bird behind Buford Dam, Forsyth County on 29 April 1970. The bird was identified on the basis of its singing "per-wee" in addition to visual field marks.
- Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) — The checklist lists this species as a rare winter resident in the coastal plain. My record is of a bird in the Piedmont region on 18 January 1975 at Pendergrass in Jackson County.
- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) — The checklist gives the earliest spring arrival date as 25 March 1945. My record is 18 March 1978 at Pendergrass with Jack Carusos.
- Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — The latest record in the checklist is 31 October 1959. Jack Carusos has a record of a bird seen in Atlanta on 6 November 1981.
- Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — The checklist mentions the late fall date as being 12 November 1967. My records include one in Forsyth County on 14 November 1970 with Jack Carusos and Dick Parks.
- Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) — The earliest fall arrival date given in the checklist is 3 October 1945. My earliest record is of a bird near Pendergrass on 28 September 1979.
- White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) — The checklist records the latest fall departure date as 24 October 1941. My dates include a bird seen near Talmo in Jackson County on 1 and 29 November and 12 December 1979.
- Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — The checklist gives the latest spring departure date as 18 May 1924 and the earliest fall arrival date as 29 August 1976. My records include birds on 22 May 1971 near Cumming in Forsyth County and fall arrivals on 22 August 1982 near Gainesville and another on 28 August 1982 in the Dawson Forest State Game Management Area with Jack Carusos.
- Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — The checklist gives 20 August 1967 as the earliest fall arrival date. My records include birds in the Dawson Forest on 24 July 1982 and near Gainesville on 27 July 1982.
- Cerulean Warbler (*Denroica cerulea*) — The checklist has 13 April 1916 as the earliest spring arrival date and 24 July 1905 as the earliest fall arrival date. My date is 8 April 1979 near Gainesville and Jack Carusos saw a bird in Atlanta on 18 July 1981.
- Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — The earliest spring date in the checklist is 23 April 1929 and the latest fall record is 8 October 1954. My records are 17 April 1979 and 9 October 1970 in Forsyth County.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) — The checklist's earliest fall arrival date is 14 September 1966 but my earliest record is 10 September 1977.
- Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) — The latest fall record in the checklist is 23 October 1966. Jack Carusos and I saw a bird near Kennesaw on 8 November 1980.
- Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — The latest spring departure date in the checklist is 20 May 1928. My record is of a bird at Pender-

grass on 3 June 1981.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — The earliest fall arrival date in the checklist is 14 October 1976. My earliest record is a bird on 11 October 1980 in Forsyth County seen with Jack Carusos.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*) — The checklist gives the earliest fall arrival date as 4 December 1965. I have seen birds at the Gainesville airport on 10 November and 29 November 1980.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) — The checklist gives a record from Stone Mountain from 15-27 November 1969. What was probably the same bird was seen by myself on 1 January 1970.

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine Street, Gainesville, Georgia 30501.

LARK BUNTING AT ATLANTA — In listing the only record at that time of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) in Georgia, Burleigh stated that "... it will probably be many years, if ever, before this species is again reported in the state." (*Georgia Birds*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958). Since then three additional records of its occurrence in the state have been reported (Manns, *The Oriole* 46: 46). To these records can be added another, the second sighting in little more than a year in the Atlanta area.

Late in the afternoon of 23 July 1982 a male Lark Bunting was seen at Piedmont Park in Atlanta. As I walked across the athletic playing field, a small short-tailed black bird with prominent white wing patches flew from the short grass ahead of me and alighted again in the grass. Though completely unexpected, such a clearly marked bird was immediately thought to be a male Lark Bunting. As I approached, it flew to the top of a fence enclosing one of the ball fields. By moving cautiously I was able to get close enough to see (without binoculars) the brown tarsi and the conical bill with dark upper mandible and lighter lower mandible, as well as the black plumage and white wing patches. I then hurried to my nearby apartment and returned with binoculars, found the bunting in another part of the field and confirmed all the field marks mentioned. These observations were made in good light with 9X binoculars.

Early the following morning I joined several other members of Atlanta Audubon at the park in search of the bunting, but it was not to be found.

Richard A. Parks, 2636 Warwick Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30329.

FROM THE FIELD: 1982

As was mentioned in the previous issue of *The Oriole*, the From the Field column is being revived. After an absence of several years it was felt that this was one of the best possible ways to keep GOS members informed of interesting sightings around the state. The initial period chosen to restart the column is the entire year of 1982. Succeeding columns will generally include a three-month period (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December) except in the case of a double issue of *The Oriole* when six months will be covered.

The success of this column will rest with Georgia observers who send in their reports to the From the Field editor. If there are few reports sent in, then the column cannot give a good impression of what is happening in Georgia. This is your chance to contribute to *The Oriole*. When you receive this issue you should be sending in your field notes for the period from April - June 1984.

This column is not intended to do away with the necessity of documenting rare and unusual sightings. Sightings of accidental and hypothetical species need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee (see this issue) and *The Oriole* for publication.

In the interests of space, if a sighting has already been published in *The Oriole* or it is known that it soon will be, the sighting will not be included in this particular column. That will not necessarily be true in future columns.

COMMON LOON — A bird in almost complete summer plumage was an unexpected find by Peggy Moore on 9 July on the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta. A high count for an inland area was 17 on 10 Dec. at Sweetwater Creek State Park (SCSP) in Atlanta by Dennie and Pam McClure.

PIED-BILLED GREBE — Worth mentioning was a nest with 9 eggs found on 30 April near Dublin by Tom Patterson. Also, a bird was observed throughout the summer in Atlanta by Dick Parks.

EARED GREBE — Georgia's 4th record was a bird found by John Paget on 20-21 Sept. at Pendergrass. This is the exact spot where John found up to six birds in Sept. 1979.

CORY'S SHEARWATER — One bird was seen during an Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip out from Hilton Head into Georgia waters on 29 May. This appears to be the earliest arrival date for the species in Georgia.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL — About 10 birds were seen on the same trip as the Cory's Shearwater. This also appears to be the earliest date for the species in Georgia waters.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN — One bird was seen on 2 Jan. by Barbara Ravold and Taylor Schoettle on the Glynn County CBC. Dennie and Pam McClure observed another bird at Eufaula NWR on 31 Jan. The bird was still there on 20 Feb. when it was seen by Frank McCamey.

BROWN PELICAN — Quite unusual was a bird seen in flight near Augusta by D. B. McCaslin on 15 Nov.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — This species was reported widely inland with sightings from Augusta on 23 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters), in Feb. at Lake Juliette near Macon (Terry Johnson), 22 April and 11 May at Lake Lanier (Van McWhorter), up to 10 birds near Dublin between 23 April and 15 May (Tom Patterson), 3 birds at Carter's Lake on 2 May (John Swiderski) and 2 birds at Commerce Lake from 17 April to 19 May (John Paget). Rather rare inland in the summer was a bird at SCSP on 2 July by Dennie and Pam McClure. In the fall birds were reported from Dublin with up to 11 birds (Tom Patterson), from SCSP on 17 Oct. (Patrick Brisse) and up to 3 birds there from 3 to 12 Dec. (Dennie and Pam McClure). This appears to represent a definite increase in inland sightings in the past few years.

ANHINGA — A rather high inland number was 25 birds in a heronry near Midville by Anne and Vernon Waters on 29 May.

SNOWY EGRET — A single bird was seen by Anne and Vernon Waters in Augusta on 5 June and 8 postbreeding birds on 24 Aug. by Clarence Belger in the same area was a good inland count.

LITTLE BLUE HERON — A good inland count was 383 on 10 Aug. by Clarence Belger near Augusta. Rather rare was a Little Blue all Dec. near Dublin as the species does not regularly winter in that area (Tom Patterson).

TRICOLORED HERON — A total of 4 were found in the Augusta area on 10 Aug. by Clarence Belger.

CATTLE EGRET — On 29 May Anne and Vernon Waters visited a large heronry near Midville and a smaller one 20 miles south. The larger one had 4000 birds and the smaller one had 800. Rare in the upper coastal plain in the winter were 2 Cattle Egrets all Dec. near Dublin (Tom Patterson) and 5 on 18 Dec. during the Dublin CBC (Allen Rhodes, Greg Valpey, Eddie and Maggie Sheppard).

GLOSSY IBIS — Rarely noted away from the coast was a single bird seen on 18 April near Augusta by Anne and Vernon Waters.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL — One to two birds were seen on the Jekyll Island Causeway from 27 April through late July by many observers (Liz and Hugh Garrett, Donna and Patrick Brisse, Sheila Willis). The 27 April date is probably the earliest date for the state. Another spoonbill was reported by Sam Pate and others on 22-23 June near St. Mary's.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK — Worth mentioning since the species is being reported less and less every year were 16 closely observed by Dennie and Pam McClure on 29 November at the Altamaha Waterfowl Area near Darien.

SNOW GOOSE — One blue phase bird was seen in Atlanta on 28 March along the Chattahoochee River. This same bird or a different one was seen in Norcross the next day by Joel Volpi.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL — A single bird seen by Terry Moore and others at Sam's Lake south of Atlanta on 8 August was quite early.

GADWALL — Also quite early was a single bird at Peachtree City Lake on 24 Oct. by Patrick Brisse. The species has been found a few times in the past in Sept. near Eufaula NWR.

- RING-NECKED DUCK — For the second year in a row this species has been found summering at Peachtree City Lake. A male and female spent all summer there (fide Patrick Brisse).
- GREATER SCAUP — The first positively identified sighting for the Atlanta area was a male at SCSP on 7 March by Terry Moore, Hugh Garrett, John Swiderski and Patrick Brisse. There are few inland records of this difficult to identify duck.
- BLACK SCOTER — Extremely late were 17 birds seen near Cumberland Island on 22-23 June by Sam Pate and a very high count seen from shore was 1000+ by Didi Kelley and Robert Manns on 28-29 Nov. at Jekyll Island.
- SURF SCOTER — A female or immature was on Lake Oconee on 17 Oct. (Roger Dorsey).
- BUFFLEHEAD — A high inland count was 65 at SCSP on 17 March by Dennie and Pam McClure.
- COMMON MERGANSER — This rare visitor was seen twice at the Rum Creek Wildlife Management area near Lake Juliette on 20 April and 17 Nov. (Terry Johnson).
- OSPREY — One on 13 Feb. by Jay Stolar in Atlanta could have been an early migrant as the one on 20 Nov. near Dublin by Tom Patterson was probably a late migrant.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE — The second record for the north Piedmont was 2 birds reported to Frank McCamey on 6 Aug. and seen the following day by Patrick Brisse and Robert Manns near Santee.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE — Anne and Vernon Waters found a very early kite at the Augusta Airport on 23 April and the third record for Atlanta was a bird seen on 15 May by Francis Michael.
- BALD EAGLE — The eagle survey in Jan. produced 12-14 birds and 4 nesting pairs were reported. Other sightings were too numerous to report.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK — The Augusta Audubon Society noted an early bird on 6 March at Clark Hill.
- RED-TAILED HAWK — Unheard of were 92 migrating over the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta on 24 Oct. (Frank McCamey).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — A light phase bird was observed by Arthur Green near Hiawassee on 25 Feb.
- GOLDEN EAGLE — A single immature was noted during an Atlanta Audubon Society field trip to the Lookout Plateau on 14 Feb. An adult was at the Eufaula NWR on 20 Feb. (Frank McCamey). Another bird was seen by John Fulton and party on 2 Jan. on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC.
- PEREGRINE FALCON — A late migrant was sighted inland by Joe Greenberg at Brasstown Bald on 15 May.
- COMMON MOORHEN — Rare inland during migration were 2 birds, one on 3 April in Augusta by Anne and Vernon Waters and the other on 24 October west of Marietta by Dennie and Pam McClure.
- AMERICAN COOT — A few birds summered on Peachtree City Lake near Atlanta but did not attempt to nest (Patrick Brisse).
- SANDHILL CRANE — An early flock of 12 were seen over Atlanta on 25

- Feb. (Anselm Atkins) and 48 at Callaway Gardens on 26 Feb. (Judy Bolyard) were somewhat west of the usual migration path. Early fall migrants were seen near Dalton on 27 Oct. (Harriett DiGioia). The peak of the migration seemed to be late and came through in early Dec. over Atlanta (fide Terry Moore).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER — Tom Patterson found this species near Dublin from 21-29 Sept. for a rare inland sighting.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER — Tom Patterson had one bird on 10 March for the only spring sighting and also saw one to two birds from 1-29 Sept. at Jackson's Pasture near Dublin. John Paget also had one bird at the North Georgia Rendering Plant in Forsyth County from 25-29 Sept.
- WILSON'S PLOVER — The Okefenokee Bird Club reported a late sighting from Sapelo Island on 4 Nov.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER — Unusual away from the coast was one bird found at the Eufaula NWR on 21 Feb. by Frank McCamey.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS — A late bird was at Pendergrass on 24 May as reported by John Paget.
- WILLET — Rare inland in the spring was a bird at the Commerce Waterworks lake on 17 May by Stacy Cawdell. Worth mentioning were 8 at Augusta on 17 Sept. by Clarence Belger for a second local record.
- UPLAND SANDPIPER — A good count was 30 birds seen by Tom Patterson on 17 and 22 April near Dublin. At the same area, Jackson's Pasture, up to 4 birds were seen during the fall with one staying as late as 28 Sept.
- WHIMBREL — Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett found one on 1 Jan. on Cumberland Island for a rare winter sighting.
- RUDDY TURNSTONE — A good inland sighting was a bird at Jackson's Pasture in Laurens County near Dublin by Tom Patterson on 1 Aug.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER — A late bird was at Pendergrass as reported by John Paget on 7 June.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER — Very rare inland in the spring were 2 at Peachtree City Lake on 15 May (Patrick Brisse). One seen on 30 Oct. near Augusta by Anne Waters was late for an inland sighting.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER — An early one was at Pendergrass on 5 May (John Paget) and 9 birds was a good count at Augusta on 1 June (Clarence Belger).
- STILT SANDPIPER — The only spring record was one at Dublin on 11 and 30 April by Tom Patterson. In the fall the species was reported 4 times with an early bird near Duluth on 11 July by Patrick Brisse, a late one on 29 Sept. at the North Ga. Rendering Plant in Forsyth County by John Paget and a high count of 6 on 21 Sept. near Dublin by Tom Patterson.
- RUFF — On 30 July Tom Patterson and John Sharpe found a Ruff near Dublin for the second local sighting and only the fifth one for the state.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER — A good count of 18 was an interesting sighting from Eufaula NWR on 21 Feb. (Frank McCamey).
- COMMON SNipe — An early fall arrival was at Dublin on 29 Aug. (Tom Patterson).

- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE — On 29 May 2 were seen offshore from Savannah by Terry Moore and others.
- POMARINE JAEGER — Chris Haney noted one on 16 Nov. on a trip offshore from Skidaway Island.
- PARASITIC JAEGER — On the same trip Haney saw 4 Parasitic and 2 unidentified jaegers.
- LAUGHING GULL — This species was reported three times inland: 3 April near Dublin by Tom Patterson, 30 April in Augusta by Anne and Vernon Waters and 8 June at SCSP by Dennie and Pam McClure for a first local record in over 40 years.
- RING-BILLED GULL — Very low temperatures in mid-Jan. caused a major fish kill perhaps explaining a high count of 2000+ at Augusta in Jan. (Anne Waters).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL — One to two adults were seen on the coast in early Oct.: 1 Oct. on Jekyll Island (Dick Parks and Anne Wyand), 9 Oct. on St. Simons Is. (Peggy and Terry Moore, *et al.*) and 9 Oct. on Cumberland Island (Jeff Petit).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL — An immature was very late on Jekyll Island on 27 May (Terrill Soules).
- CASPIAN TERN — A good inland count was 5 birds on 25 Aug. on Lake Lanier by Frank McCamey. Another bird was found by John Paget and Jack Carusos at the Commerce Waterworks lake on 4 Sept.
- COMMON TERN — An early tern was at Eufaula NWR on 31 July as reported by Georgann Schmalz.
- FORSTER'S TERN — Inland sightings were reported from Lake Lanier, Dublin, Augusta and Atlanta.
- LEAST TERN — Anne and Vernon Waters reported one from Augusta on 20 May for a rare inland sighting. A very late bird was on Jekyll Island on 11 Oct. as mentioned by the Okefenokee Bird Club.
- BRIDLED TERN — A count of 6 on a 29 May pelagic trip out from Hilton Head into Georgia waters was early (Terry Moore).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL — The only report was an injured bird found by Cliff Kevill in a Smyrna parking lot on 30 Oct.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL — Rather close to the southern limit of its breeding range was one heard near Hollonville in Pike County by Liz and Hugh Garrett on 6 June.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER — An early bird was seen near the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta on 5 Sept. (Peggy and Terry Moore) and 6 Sept. (Dennis Lacoss, Jack Carusos and John Paget).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER — A late report was one on 25 Sept. at SCSP near Atlanta by Patrick Brisse.
- ALDER FLYCATCHER — Rarely reported from the state was a bird seen and heard by Joe Greenberg on 2 May near Ft. Stewart.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER — One on 1 May at SCSP was early and could have been on territory. The area was not checked later during the summer (Donna and Patrick Brisse). Frank McCamey reported that the species was in its usual area near Dillard during the summer.
- GRAY KINGBIRD — Sam Pate observed several on Jekyll Island on 22 and

- 23 June.
- PURPLE MARTIN — A few birds were noted on the early date of 13 Feb. near Atlanta (fide Patrick Brisse).
- TREE SWALLOW — The first successful state nesting was a pair in Hiawassee from 18 May to 6 July. The pair fledged one young (Arthur Green).
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW — Three at Peachtree City Lake on 7 March by Terry Moore, Hugh Garrett, John Swiderski and Patrick Brisse were early. The same day another was found at SCSP by Carolina Lane.
- BARN SWALLOW — Francis Michael noted an early bird on 17 March at Conyers. A pair succeeded in hatching 4 young on the early date of 14 April at the same place.
- COMMON RAVEN — Joe Greenberg noted 3 birds at Brasstown Bald on 15 May. Frank McCamey saw another one at Patterson Gap on the same day and 4 more at Rabun Bald between 23 and 28 May.
- BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH — This species nested for the second time in Whitfield County during the summer as reported by Delano Crowe.
- BEWICK'S WREN — One bird was found on 27 Oct. by John Paget in Forsyth County for a rare sighting.
- SEDGE WREN — Inland winter sightings were reported from Albany by Carmen Valpey on 2 Jan. and Atlanta by Jack Carusos on 19 Dec. Another bird on 15 May near the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta was late (Jay Stoler and Bill Terrell).
- WATER PIPIT — A very late pipit near Duluth on 13 May was reported by Patrick Brisse.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO — Between 10 Sept. and 14 Oct. the species was reported 5 times from the Atlanta area by Nancy Iha, Mark Oberle, Patrick Brisse, Jay Stolar and Francis Michael.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER — Patrick Brisse found one near Duluth on 26 June. The species has been found nesting in Atlanta before but this bird was not relocated later during the summer.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER — An early bird was in the Chattahoochee National Forest on 26 Aug. reported by Harriett DiGioia and another was late on 1 Nov. in Marietta by Nancy Iha.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER — Rarely noted in spring was a bird in Atlanta on 5 May (Georgann Schmalz). In the fall the species was reported at least 7 times mostly from the Piedmont area (Nancy Iha, Mark Oberle, John Paget, Atlanta Audubon Society and Patrick Brisse).
- NORTHERN PARULA — Anne and Vernon Waters saw a late migrant in Augusta on 13 Nov.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER — An early bird was at the Chattahoochee National Forest on 26 Aug. as reported by Harriett DiGioia.
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER — What was apparently the second winter record for the state was a bird seen by Harold Conner and Eudoxia Noonan on 2 Jan. during the Glynn County CBC.
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER — Nancy Iha noted a late migrant on 1 Nov. in the Marietta area.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER — All the reports came from Atlanta. Three reports for the spring were about normal on 2, 4 and 9 May (fide Terry

Moore). The warbler was also seen on 5 Sept. along the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta (Atlanta Audubon Society) and between 13 and 15 Sept. near Marietta by Nancy Iha.

WILSON'S WARBLER — One bird was noted in the Marietta area by Nancy Iha on 7 Oct. and Patrick Brisse saw one in Atlanta on 17 Oct.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK — A male was early in Whitfield County on 22 March (Harry White) and one in Atlanta on 31 Oct. was a late migrant.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW — The third Atlanta sighting was a bird at SCSP on 17 Oct. by Patrick Brisse.

LARK BUNTING — The fifth and sixth records for the state were a male at Tallulah Falls on 28 May seen by Hue MacKenzie and another male seen by Dick Parks in Piedmont Park in Atlanta on 23 July.

LARK SPARROW — An immature was reported by Patrick Brisse on 7 Nov. from the Altamaha Waterfowl Area near Darien.

SAVANNAH SPARROW — For the second consecutive year the species was observed in late spring. Terrill Soules reported one near Midway on 29 May.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW — This rarely reported species was noted in Atlanta on 17 Oct. by Dan and Ann Forster.

LECONTE'S SPARROW — One on the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan. by Anne and Vernon Waters was a rare report.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW — This species was reported twice from near Pendergrass: on 17 Oct. by John Paget and on 14 Dec. by Robert Manns and Joe Greenberg.

BOBOLINK — Two females were late in Atlanta as noted by Peggy and Terry Moore on 5 June.

PURPLE FINCH — Nancy Iha reported a late female in Marietta on 4 May.

HOUSE FINCH — This species was found nesting in Atlanta (fide Terry Moore), in Columbus (fide Sam Pate) and for the first time in the Dalton area (fide Anne Hamilton).

RED CROSSBILL — Harriett DiGioia reported the species twice from the Cohuttas during Dec.

Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.

GEORGIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

Observer writing this account and date _____

SPECIES _____ NUMBER, AGE, SEX _____

Distance from bird(s) _____ Relative size of bird _____

HEAD AND NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.) _____

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.) _____

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES _____

LEGS & FEET _____

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.) _____

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.) _____

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.) _____

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges, etc.) _____

VOCALIZATION _____

BEHAVIOR _____

Date of observation _____ Time _____ Weather _____ Sky cover _____

Duration of observation _____ Bird - Sun orientation _____

Exact location _____

Habitat _____ Other observers _____

Optical equipment _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS _____

(An accompanying sketch or photograph can be an excellent further documentation)

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