

THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology; Official Organ of the
Georgia Ornithological Society



VOL. 48

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1983

NOS. 2 & 3

THE ORIOLE

(ISSN 0030-5553)

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Publication Date December, 1984

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded December 13, 1936

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PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED AND HYPOTHETICAL SPECIES OF SEABIRDS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF GEORGIA

J. Christopher Haney

Much of what is presently known regarding the distribution, relative abundance, seasonal occurrence, and ecology of seabirds in the western North Atlantic has been gathered and published only during the last ten years. Most studies have been conducted in the relatively more important commercial fishing areas from Cape Hatteras northward (Brown *et al.* 1975; Lee and Booth 1979; Rowlett 1980; Powers *et al.* in prep.). The status of seabirds in the South Atlantic Bight in general, and Georgia in particular, are less well known than anywhere else along the North American Atlantic coast (Clapp *et al.* 1982).

Until very recently, storm-related and stranded specimens constituted the major source of information on the status of Georgia seabirds. These have tended to give an inaccurate representation of the species richness, relative abundance, and seasonal occurrence of the marine avifauna of the state. Offshore trips by the Atlanta Audubon Society and others during the past ten years have been instrumental in showing that the status of some species differs substantially from that published in the Georgia checklist (Moore 1982).

In 1982, I and other observers began regular monthly surveys of seabirds in the South Atlantic Bight, mainly off Georgia, using extended cruises scheduled for other purposes. Presented here are details surrounding the occurrence of ten species of seabirds we observed that are not currently recognized in the official Georgia checklist of birds. All are either previously unrecorded or on the hypothetical list. Since their occurrence is not entirely unexpected based on distributional accounts elsewhere, most, if not all, are reflective of earlier knowledge gaps rather than genuine range expansions. Verification of this awaits additional offshore studies currently anticipated.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Observations of seabirds were made during surveys initiated in Georgia during 1982 and continuing through 1983. All observations were made from research vessels conducting physical oceanographic, zooplankton, or ground-

fish investigations under the auspices of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service. Cruise length varied from one to fifteen days (\bar{x} = four days). All observations were made opportunistically, *i.e.*, observers did not normally influence or alter cruise tracks. Data were recorded both while the vessels were underway and when on station.

The demarcation of Georgia waters follows suggestions put forth by Denton *et al.* (1977). A record of occurrence was attributed to Georgia when it met the criterion of any sighting within the latitude encompassed by the Georgia coastline (30°42'N to 32°02'N) out to a distance of one hundred statute miles (160.9 kilometers). This area includes all Georgia continental shelf waters (depths less than 200 meters) and parts of the extreme western edge of the Blake Plateau (see Figure 1). Approximately 25% of the area outlined above is actually as close or closer to the coastline of South Carolina.

Whenever possible, voucher photographs or specimens documenting the occurrence of officially unrecognized species were obtained and deposited at the University of Georgia Museum of Natural History. When we were unable to do this, morphological and behavioral characteristics are used. Rather than elaborate on the identification of each species in every circumstance, I outline distinguishing characteristics and cite one or more of the many references treating seabird identification in greater detail. When applicable, I also give an indication of the observers' familiarity with the species.

Under each species account, the following format is used: Substantiating logistical details (date, location, observer, environmental parameters), identifi-

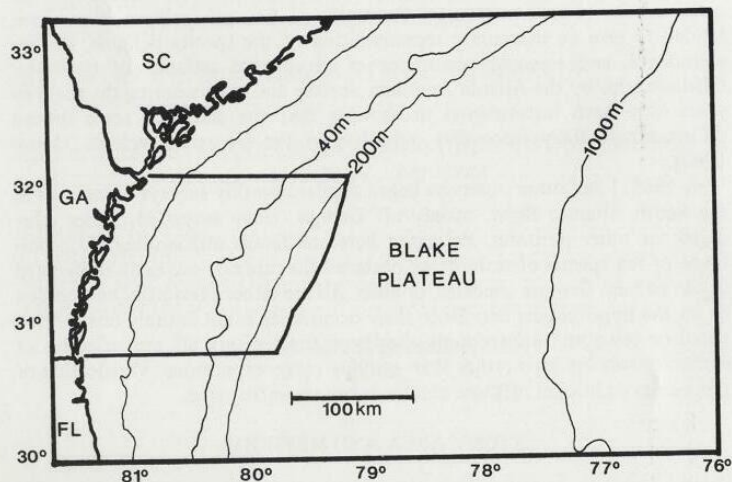


Fig. 1. — Map of the central South Atlantic Bight with the Georgia portion in the inset. Depth contours are indicated in meters with degrees north latitude on the left margin and degrees west longitude on the bottom margin.

cation procedure used, the status of the species in Georgia and in adjacent North Atlantic marine habitats. Investigations dealing with the seasonal occurrence, relative abundance, distribution and habitat of Georgia seabirds are continuing, and information relating to these and other aspects of seabird ecology will be reported elsewhere.

All common and scientific names are those currently recognized in the nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U. 1982, 1983).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Northern Fulmar. *Fulmarus glacialis* (Linnaeus).

Mike Harris and I observed a light phase Northern Fulmar on 21 February 1983 (0820 EST) at 31°36'N, 79°35'W, some 137 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia. This location was in water with a depth of 160 meters and a surface temperature of 23.3°C (78.8°F). Winds prior to and during the observation were easterly at 15 to 20 knots.

We observed the bird at distances less than 8 meters as it flew several times around our ship, the R/V "Bulldog". The flight was very close to the water surface and characterized by several rapid wingbeats interrupted by a short glide. The bull-necked appearance, yellow, tubed bill, gray tail, back, and wings, and pure white head, neck, and underbody aided identification. The bird was probably attracted to fish offal that had been dumped overboard and that had attracted several dozen Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) to the ship.

The Northern Fulmar has not been reported from Georgia previously and its occurrence at such a low latitude may best be regarded as accidental. There is one sight record for South Carolina (Teulings 1978) and eight or more records (including four specimens) from North Carolina (Clapp *et al.* 1982). The species may be extending its range southward, perhaps as a result of commercial fishing (Palmer 1962; D.S. Lee *et al.* in prep.).

Black-capped Petrel. *Pterodroma hasitata* (Kuhl).

On 21 and 22 February 1983, I observed a total of six Black-capped Petrels 130-140 kilometers east of Sapelo Island, McIntosh Co., Georgia on the outer continental shelf (40-200 meters). During cruises to outer continental shelf and Gulf Stream waters conducted May through October 1983, P. W. Stangel and I observed Black-capped Petrels on at least one occasion each month. Monthly abundance varied greatly, however, with the highest numbers in May (100+), June (80+), and October (40+). The occurrence of this species in Georgia is now documented with both photographs (Figure 2; UGAMNH #5239A-C) and specimens (UGAMNH #5243, #5244).

While the Black-capped Petrel has not been officially recognized in Georgia, previous records do exist. Morzer Bruyns (1967) reported at least 12 Black-capped Petrels in the Gulf Stream off Georgia and South Carolina on 6 September 1966. Richard Rowlett has also apparently seen this species off Georgia (*vide* T. S. Moore).

The warm waters of the Gulf Stream in the southeastern United States



Fig. 2. — Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) on 17 June 1983 at edge of Gulf Stream, 130 km ESE of Tybee Island, Chatham Co., Georgia. Photographs by J.C. Haney.

apparently constitute the primary non-breeding range of the Black-capped Petrel. Past at-sea records of occurrence for this species are mostly restricted to Florida (Clapp *et al.* 1982) and North Carolina (Lee and Rowlett 1979) where effort studying seabirds has been concentrated.

Manx Shearwater. *Puffinus puffinus* (Brunnich).

I observed one individual believed to be this species on 16 November 1982, 0915 EST, as it flew south some 13 kilometers SE of Tybee Island, Chatham Co., Georgia (31°56'N, 30°47'W). Water depth was nine meters and the surface temperature 18.3°C (65°F). Winds were from the NE at 20 knots.

The bird I observed was a small shearwater, blackish-brown above with a white belly and wing linings. It was short-bodied and long-winged relative to Audubon's Shearwaters (*Puffinus lherminieri*) I have seen. In addition, it flew with very little flapping or wing action and the banking and gliding (occasionally rising into the air to four meters) was reminiscent of larger *Puffinus* species (see Post 1964, 1967).

On 12 August 1983, P. W. Stangel collected a lethargic Manx Shearwater with a dip net at 31°39'N, 79°35'W, 142 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia in water with a depth of 90 meters and a surface temperature of 28.6°C (83.4°F). The specimen is now at the UGA Museum of Natural History (UGAMNH #5241).

There are no previous Georgia records of the Manx Shearwater. Clapp *et al.* (1982) stated that this species doubtless occurs in the offshore waters of Georgia and South Carolina but records they summarized were confined to

Florida (16) and North Carolina (4). The primary period of occurrence in these two states is from late fall through early spring.

Leach's Storm-Petrel. *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Vieillot).

P. W. Stangel observed one Leach's Storm-Petrel on 3 May 1983 (0645 EDT) at 31°43'N, 79°24'W some 155 kilometers east of Ossabaw Island, Chatham Co., Georgia in water with a depth of 190 meters and surface temperature of 23.7°C (74.5°F). Stangel had prior experience with the species elsewhere in the Atlantic.

Between 17 and 20 June, I observed a total of fifteen Leach's Storm-Petrels off Georgia. Sightings involving this species were made on 17 (two), 18 (one), and 19 June (four), 150 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., on 17 June (one), 157 kilometers east of Sapelo Island, McIntosh Co., and on 20 June (seven), 135 kilometers east of Cumberland Island, Camden Co. All sightings were either in outer continental shelf or Gulf Stream waters. I had seen the species elsewhere in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Individuals of this species were readily separated from adjacent Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*) by their slightly larger size, erratic leaping, bounding flight, and relatively longer, more angled (at the carpal joint) wings. A few seen from closer quarters showed prominently forked tails with a white rump patch centrally divided by dusky feathers (see Atkin 1979; Broswall 1979; Naveen 1982a).

There are no previous records of the Leach's Storm-Petrel in Georgia. Records from adjacent South and North Carolina and Atlantic Florida show two peak periods of occurrence, one in May and June and the other in October (Clapp *et al.* 1982). Sight records of Leach's Storm-Petrels from the South Atlantic Bight, especially in the period from June through September, should be regarded with circumspection because of their similarity to Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma castro*) (*ibid.*: 308).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. *Oceanodroma castro* (Harcourt).

I watched one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel on 12 July 1983 feeding with up to eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels in a small Langmuir circulation front 146 kilometers ESE of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty, Co., Georgia (31°33'N, 79°33'W). The water depth was 200 meters and water surface temperature 28.9°C (84°F).

My attention was initially arrested when I noticed a storm-petrel with a banking and gliding flight, reminiscent of a very small shearwater. The following field marks were noted as I watched the bird intermittently for nearly an hour. It was slightly larger than adjacent Wilson's Storm-Petrels and the wingbeats were less rapid and bat-like. When it was more closely approached by boat (to less than 20 meters), I noticed that the legs did not extend beyond the square or slightly indented tail, and that the white rump was even-cut, not rounded or V-shaped. The flight was quite unlike the bounding, erratic leaping of Leach's Storm-Petrel and the bird did not have the deeply cleft tail of that species. I have had prior field experience with Band-rumped Storm-Petrels in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

I also observed individuals believed to be this species on 30 August (one) and 4 September 1983 (one) on Georgia's outer continental shelf (40-200m). The observation period was brief but the horizontal zig-zag flight, with glides on slightly bowed-below-horizontal wings, and the less conspicuous upper wingbar were indicative of this species. On both occasions Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also present but not close enough to allow direct comparison. The flight behavior of this species is considered diagnostic and definitive (see Brown 1980; Harrison 1983a; Naveen 1982b).

In the western North Atlantic, Band-rumped Storm-Petrels have been observed very infrequently. At-sea, as opposed to storm-related, records of occurrence have all been within the past 10 years and are limited to Florida (Edscorn 1975; Paul 1982) and to North Carolina, where they are now considered to be common in summer (D. S. Lee, *pers. comm.*). Its status remains undocumented in Georgia.

The status of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel may now be very poorly understood due to lack of observation in its preferred marine habitat and a past lack of observer familiarity in separating it from the other two white-rumped storm-petrels. Some authors have suggested that Band-rumped Storm-Petrels inhabit a niche of lower productivity where other storm-petrels are absent (Cramp and Simmons 1977; Naveen 1982b). One could perhaps then expect Band-rumped Storm-Petrels to be relatively more common in areas where other storm-petrels are rare. The Wilson's Storm-Petrel is, in fact, quite scarce in Georgia waters, and this is not now merely due to lack of observation effort. In the future, seabird observers should critically scrutinize all white-rumped storm-petrels seen in the South Atlantic Bight, including Georgia, so that the relative statuses of all three species can be properly determined.

White-tailed Tropicbird. *Phaethon lepturus* Daudin.

P. W. Stangel photographed an adult White-tailed Tropicbird on 2 May 1983 at 31°38'N, 70°30'W 151 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia, in water with a depth of 210 meters and a surface temperature of 23.7°C (75°F) (to UGA Museum of Natural History). On 19 June 1983, I observed an adult (but lacking long central retrices) as it dove several times in front of our ship 149 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia (31°39'N, 79°29'W), in water with a depth of 180 meters and a surface temperature of 28.0°C (82.4°F). The aggregate presence of black upper-wing bars and a yellow bill identified it as belonging to this species.

Although previously recorded in Georgia at least three times (Denton *et al.* 1977; Moore 1980), the White-tailed Tropicbird's status had remained undocumented. Clapp *et al.* (1982) list more than 50 records for Atlantic Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. About 90% of these were recorded from May through September.

Masked Booby. *Sula dactylatra* Lesson.

During seabird surveys in 1983, single Masked Boobies were observed off Georgia on three occasions. On 3 May 1983, P. W. Stangel observed an

immature Masked Booby 251 kilometers due east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia. This location, at 31°40'N, 78°28'W and in Gulf Stream waters with a depth of 550 meters and a surface temperature of 25.2°C, is beyond the 100 statute mile limit. The bird was identified by its gannet-like shape and its light brown, dorsal surface with lighter belly and nape. The dark head and light collar gave it a hooded appearance.

I observed single sub-adult birds on 20 June 1983 (30°51'N, 79°58'W, 175 meter depth, 27.9°C surface temperature) 131 kilometers east of Cumberland Island, Camden Co., Georgia and on 30 August 1983 (31°10'N, 80°05'W, 45 meter depth, 28.3°C surface temperature) 120 kilometers east of Jekyll Island, Glynn Co., Georgia. In both instances, the birds were seen within 50 meters of the boat and all blackish tail and secondary flight feathers separated them from the similar Northern Gannet (*Sula bassanus*).

There are no previous records of the Masked Booby in Georgia and its status remains undocumented in the state. The occurrence of this species has only recently been substantiated in North Carolina (Davis and Needham 1983; D. S. Lee *pers. comm.*) and South Carolina (Lee and Haney 1984). On the basis of Duncan and Havard's (1980) account of marine birds in the northern Gulf of Mexico, Clapp *et al.* (1982) suggest that the status of the Masked Booby has been severely underestimated because of its highly pelagic nature.

Brown Booby. *Sula leucogaster* (Boddaert).

I observed an immature Brown Booby on 14 May 1983 at 31°49'N, 79°33'W 135 kilometers east of Ossabaw Island, Chatham Co., Georgia. The location was on the outer continental shelf, in water with a depth of 70 meters and a surface temperature of 27.2°C (72°F). The bird flew directly to our ship, the R/V "Bluefin", head on, circled briefly high over the mast, and then circled twice in the stern wake before flying rapidly off to the northeast. The typical sulid shape (pointed at both ends) and chocolate-brown color suggested this species. When the bird was at its nearest to the ship (less than 10 meters), the dorsal surface could be seen to lack any white flecking present in first year Northern Gannets. The belly was lighter brown with a faint demarcation to chocolate brown at the breast. The feet were yellowish and the bill was straw-colored. I had seen Brown Boobies previously in the Caribbean.

The Brown Booby is placed on the state's hypothetical list only on the basis of Audubon's statements during the nineteenth century that the species occurred off the Georgia coast. Its status is not yet known in Georgia. Clapp *et al.* (1982) considered the Brown Booby rare off Atlantic Florida, with records throughout the year. There are apparently no acceptable records for the species in North Carolina and but one or two records in South Carolina (*ibid.*).

South Polar Skua. *Catharacta maccormicki* (Saunders).

On 18 June 1983, I took several photographs of a South Polar Skua as it took squid and other chum from less than 7 meters of the R/V "Bulldog" 138 kilometers east of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia (see Figure



Fig. 3. — South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) on 8 June 1983 in Gulf Stream, 158 km E of St. Catherine's Island, Liberty Co., Georgia, feeding on squid chum.

3). This location ($31^{\circ}40'N$, $79^{\circ}25'W$) was in the Gulf Stream. Water depth and surface temperature were 250 meters and $28.0^{\circ}C$, respectively.

The bird was identified as a skua by its heavy, robust build, wedge-shaped tail, broad wings, and white flash at the base of the primary wing feathers. The lighter nape or collar, lack of light-colored streaks or spots on any of the body, and dark underwings contrasting with a paler underbody indicated *maccormicki* (see Harrison 1983). An immature Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) harassed the skua on several occasions and allowed excellent comparison as they sat next to each other on the water surface near the ship.

Also present at the same location were jaegers (*Stercorarius* sp.), Greater (Puffinus gravis), Audubon's (*P. lherminieri*), and Cory's Shearwaters (*Calonectris diomedea*), Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Wilson's (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and Leach's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). Another skua, perhaps the same individual, was seen 4.6 kilometers WNW of the first sighting two hours later the same day. It could not be identified to species with certainty, however.

On 12 July 1983 I observed a single skua sp. as it flew NE with several Greater, Cory's, and Audubon's Shearwaters 148 kilometers east of Sapelo

Island, McIntosh Co., Georgia. This location ($31^{\circ}27'N$, $79^{\circ}36'W$) was also in Gulf Stream waters, with a depth of 240 meters and a surface temperature of $29^{\circ}C$.

There are no previous records of either skua species from Georgia. The occurrence of the South Polar Skua has only recently been documented in North America (Lee and Booth 1979; Veit 1978), and it is not certain whether some, most, or all past sightings in the southeast were of this species or the very similar Great Skua (*C. skua*). Individual skuas seen in summer in the western North Atlantic and adequately identified have usually been South Polar Skuas. Because the species are so similar and diagnostic field marks have only recently been outlined (Harrison 1983), the relative statuses of the two species are still unclear.

Black-legged Kittiwake. *Rissa tridactyla* (Linnaeus).

During 1982 and 1983, Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed on several occasions in Georgia offshore waters. On 16 November 1982 I observed an immature (black nape bar, black-tipped slightly-notched tail, black outer primaries and dark bar across inner wing) at $31^{\circ}46'N$, $80^{\circ}47'W$, 25.5 kilometers east of Ossabaw Island, Chatham Co., Georgia in water with a depth of 14 meters and surface temperature of $18.3^{\circ}C$.

From 19-22 February 1983, I observed nine Black-legged Kittiwakes (five adults, four immatures) on the outer continental shelf (40-200 meters). One or two routinely appeared at chum slicks we put out and one was photographed (Figure 4). Locations of sightings were mostly at the western end of the Gulf Stream in water with a surface temperature of $20.8-23.3^{\circ}C$.

On 5 March 1983, I and other participants on an Atlanta Audubon pelagic trip saw an immature Black-legged Kittiwake from the "Island Queen", 23.7 kilometers ENE of Jekyll Island, Glynn Co., Georgia. This location was inshore (12 meter depth) and the surface temperature was $18.5^{\circ}C$. (Manns 1983).

The Black-legged Kittiwake has been considered hypothetical in Georgia (Denton *et al.* 1977). Photographs of this species have been deposited at the UGA Museum of Natural History (UGAMNH #5225A-C), and it could now be elevated to regular checklist status. Black-legged Kittiwakes are considered casual or irregular south to Florida (Peterson 1980). Lee and Booth (1979) list the species as a common offshore winter resident in North Carolina, with a normal period of occurrence from 9 November through 30 March.

DISCUSSION

A number of factors have operated in concert to restrict studies of seabirds off Georgia and elsewhere in the central portion of the South Atlantic Bight. Distances to the outer continental shelf where pelagic species normally occur are great, usually more than 100 kilometers. The extended time and increased costs traveling to potential areas of seabird aggregations have limited both the number and extent of expeditions for the sole purpose of observing seabirds.

Present evidence suggests that seabird concentrations in this portion of the Atlantic are not generally associated with predictable locations (upwellings



Fig. 4. — Adult Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) following the R/V "Bulldog" on 22 February 1983, 133 kilometers E of Sapelo Island, McIntosh Co., Georgia.

resulting from undersea topography, for example), but rather with temporally and spatially variable oceanographic events linked to Gulf Stream meanders (Haney and McGillivray, *in prep.*). In the past, the limited extent of commercial fishing operations in Georgia offshore waters has restricted an important source of logistical support for seabird studies as well as a significant source of attraction for the birds themselves (see Powers 1982).

Recent offshore development plans suggest that the study of Georgia seabirds could have more than academic implications in the future. An increase in offshore fisheries, particularly rockshrimp, scallop, and grouper-tilefish longlining, is currently being encouraged. The second most important site for U.S. oil development on the Atlantic outer coastal shelf is in the center of the Georgia Embayment that extends from Cape Romain, South Carolina to Cape Canaveral, Florida (Goodman and Klose 1978).

The South Atlantic Bight area may prove to be the center of abundance or principal North American range of such species as Black-capped Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, and Bridled Tern. Seabird distributional and abundance data are essential in oil spill contingency planning. Clearly, a thorough understanding of seabird biology in this region is warranted before major modifications of the offshore marine environment are undertaken.

SUMMARY

Monthly offshore surveys conducted during 1982 and 1983 in Georgia waters alleviated knowledge gaps relative to the distribution and species rich-

ness of seabirds in the south-central portion of the South Atlantic Bight. Seven species previously unrecorded in Georgia were observed. Of these, the occurrence of three (*Pterodroma hasitata*, *Puffinus puffinus*, and *Catharacta maccormicki*) were substantiated with photographs and/or specimens. Multiple sight records were made of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, *O. castro*, and *Sula dactylatra*. *Fulmarus glacialis* was observed only once. Three species on the state's hypothetical list were observed and the occurrence of two (*Phaethon lepturus* and *Rissa tridactyla*) documented with photographs. The status of *Sula leucogaster* remains undocumented in Georgia. It is suggested that records of occurrence for all ten species, with the possible exception of *Fulmarus glacialis*, are due to increased observer effort in an under-studied region rather than to legitimate range extensions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project would not have been possible without the aid of a great many persons and organizations. I am grateful to G. Grossmann, D. Menzel, G. Paffenhof, L. Pomeroy, M. Rawson, and T. Targett for permission to participate in their cruises. P. Christian, M. Harris, D. Kearns, P. McGillivray, G. Rogers, and P. Stangel gave much needed advice and field assistance. I am especially indebted to the captains and crews of the research vessels "Bluefin", "Bulldog", "Cape Hatteras", and "Delaware II". The manuscript profited from advice given by R. T. Damian, H. B. Howe, D. R. Jacobson, J. H. Jenkins, J. Laerm, R. Manns, and E. P. Odum. Financial support was provided by the Burleigh-Stoddard Fund, the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and the Department of Zoology and the Marine Extension Service of the University of Georgia.

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NESTING OF THE HOUSE FINCH AT ATHENS, GEORGIA

H. Branch Howe, Jr.

On 7 May 1983, I observed a male House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) singing from a utility wire above a large Photinia hedge behind the Beechwood Shopping Center in Athens. A search the next day revealed that the male was paired with a female which was actively nest-building and that the pair was associated with a small flock of two other males and one other female. The paired female was repeatedly gathering nesting material near the base of the hedge, immediately below the nesting site, and returning the short distance to the site with the material dangling conspicuously behind. Her mate frequently accompanied her but seemed to participate little in actual construction. Two days later, nest-building was still in progress. On 22 May, the male was still in song above the nesting site, and on the following day the rest of the flock were perched on the wire as well, but were not seen subsequently.

On 1 June, as the parents scolded me from the wire, I located the nest, which contained two young. The nest was concealed about three feet from the top of the twelve-foot hedge, which was about six feet wide and over 500 feet in length. Brown Thrashers, Cardinals, and Mockingbirds frequented the hedge, but no attempts were made to find their nests. Upon reexamination on 3 June the nest was empty, and neither the parents nor the young were again seen in the nesting area, although the species may raise two or more broods per season (Harrison 1975). The compact, well-constructed nest was removed on 16 June and deposited in the collection of Eulalie E. Gibbs, North Augusta, South Carolina.

According to the A.O.U. checklist (1957), the House Finch bred, and was largely resident, from southern British Columbia to Mexico and eastward to western Nebraska and western and south-central Texas. About 1940, however, individuals were introduced into Long Island, New York (Elliot and Arbib 1953), and the species has spread widely in the East since that time. The first sighting in Georgia was by Galbreath on 29 Jan. 1970 at McDonough (Einhorn 1970); then five were seen at a feeder by James Miller (fide L. A. Wells) on 5 Mar. 1972 at Columbus (Teulings 1972). The first specimens (two males and two females) were collected by Hamilton on 25 Feb. 1974 at Athens (Denton *et al.* 1977). Doris Cohrs (1978) reviewed records for 1976-1977 at other locations as well: Madison, Atlanta (Dunwoody and East Point), Dalton, Pendergrass, and Marietta. Since Cohrs' report, sightings in 1979 were published for additional locations: Dublin (Patterson and Patterson 1979) and Augusta (Angerman 1980). Thus, the species has been reported in the state as far south as the Upper Coastal Plain.

The House Finch initially spread into Georgia as a winter migrant, with most observations beginning about January. None was reported on Christmas Bird Counts in the state until 1978, and only seven of the twenty localities having Christmas Bird Counts since 1970, the year of the first sighting at McDonough, have reported House Finches, 83% of which were found at Athens (Table 1).

Table 1. — Occurrence of House Finches in Georgia on Christmas Bird Counts, as reported in *American Birds*.

Locality	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	Total
Athens	0	254	117	5	67	443
Atlanta	2	0	2	2	2	8
Augusta	0	7	10	8	14	39
Columbus	0	0	0	0	12	12
Dalton	0	0	0	2	5	7
Dublin	0	0	3	0	0	3
Peachtree City	—	—	—	—	19*	19
Total	2	261	132	17	119	531

*No Christmas Bird Count taken prior to 1982.

This tendency to increase in numbers in Georgia as winter progresses is also shown by certain other finches, such as Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. Unlike these latter species, however, small numbers of House Finches began delaying spring withdrawal, producing a few summer records. LeGrand (1979) reported the first evidence of breeding as supplied from three different locations in the summer of 1978: Terry Moore saw nest-building on 27 June in downtown Atlanta, but the nest and contents were destroyed by rain in July; however, Terrill Soules observed young in this nest before the nest was destroyed (Terry Moore, personal communication). Mrs. Fred Osterburg saw a pair raising young in June, in Stone Mountain. Robert Raymund saw at least two birds at his feeder in June, in Atlanta, including a probable juvenile.

It now seems likely that the House Finch will eventually occur all year over the entire state, mimicking its resident status in much of the West. One wonders whether, and in what manner, range expansion would have occurred if the species had been introduced into the South, perhaps into Georgia or Florida, instead of into New York.

The House Finch is still infrequent enough in Georgia to warrant further comment about its habits. The maintenance of feeders improves the chances of seeing the birds, and many first records in the East, including that in Georgia, were so obtained. The song is loud, has a characteristic ending, and is delivered at frequent intervals during the peak of the singing period. The birds are gregarious and often congregate on utility wires in any season. The House Finch often favors urban habitats and may nest in niches in buildings (Harrison 1975), although the nesting pair at Athens avoided the nearby buildings in the shopping center that House Sparrows and Starlings were using at the same time.

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OBSERVATIONS ON A GEORGIA WOOD STORK NESTING COLONY

Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. and Robert L. Humphries

A nesting colony of Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) in Big Dukes Pond, Jenkins County, Georgia was first reported and described by Tate and Humphries (1980). Since that time we have entered the colony at least twice a year to determine its on-going existence and success in breeding, numbers present, possible new additions to co-inhabitant species, water levels, and to more completely list the flora and fauna occurring there.

We have been accompanied on several trips by Mary and Jim Andrew and their children Franklin and Elizabeth of nearby Birdsville Plantation. The Andrews have been especially helpful in providing lodging, transportation, and guidance in the area. Others who have participated in these inventories have been Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Crossman of the Royal Ontario Museum, Susie Humphries, and Albert Tate.

Big Dukes Pond is located 16 km WNW of Millen, Jenkins County, Georgia. It is a classic Carolina Bay, an egg-shaped depression some 600 ha. in area and with the expected sand ridge around the southeastern quadrant (Prouty 1952). Its long axis is aligned NNW and SSE and it is paired to the east by a similar but smaller bay, Little Dukes Pond. Artificial drainage for timber production has reduced the normally flooded area of Big Dukes by some 20 percent. The remaining basin has up to one m of water in the early part of the year, usually declining to 0.3 m or less in September or October.

The dominant trees are Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*). Common understory plants include: Button bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*), Fetterbush (*Lyonia* sp.), Bullrush (*Scirpus* sp.), Red bay (*Persea* sp.), and Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*). On the water surface in the more open areas occur: Mosquito Fern (*Azolla caroliniana*) and Duckweed (*Lemna* sp.).

The colony is located 380 m west of the east rim of the basin. Nesting occurs in about 25 large (20 to 30 m) cypress around and in an area more open than the surrounding bay. The colony covers a roughly triangular area of approximately 0.4 ha. Some of the larger trees contained as many as 25 nests. Nest heights above the water varied from 12 to 30 m.

Tate and Humphries (1980) estimated 100 adult storks present and 200 young about three to four weeks old. Given the weather conditions we are satisfied that breeding was successful in 1980.

We visited the colony in company with Albert Tate and the Andrew family on 25 April 1981. Our counts suggested a minimum of 150 active stork nests. Most birds seen were incubating while some few had apparently not completed egg laying. Ten nests of Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) with eggs were also present.

Humphries observed the site from the bay rim on 25 May 1981 and saw no storks or egrets while numbers of Turkey (*Cathartes aura*) and Black vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) were wheeling over the site. On 3 July 1981 we again entered the colony and found no storks or other wading birds. Both vultures were occupying the nesting area.

Big Dukes was almost completely dry at this time. 1981 was an extremely dry year in this area and we believe that the drying up of the stork's feeding areas in May and June forced abandonment of their nests.

In 1982, Humphries again observed the site from the bay rim on 2 May. Both storks and Great Egrets were seen in and above the colony. We entered the colony on 16 May and again found about 150 stork nests, most contained eggs, only a few had hatchlings. Fifteen nests of the Great Egret all contained hatchlings, most in advanced stages of growth.

On 10 July 1982 we found almost all the young storks nearly fully fledged though not yet flying. Two nests, however, contained birds only three to four weeks old. The average number of young was just over two. Most nests contained two young while only a few had three. Wood Storks were seen feeding in the vicinity through August indicating another successful breeding season.

An anonymous donor provided us with specially flown infra-red color aerial photography in 1981 and 1982. The 1981 transparencies at a scale of 1" to 500' allowed us to accurately locate the colony although abandoned. In 1982, at a scale of 1" to 1000' we were able to count the adult birds in the trees. A minimum of 213 birds were counted on those photos. This is a minimum number since individual birds standing close together or below another could not be separated. It also includes the Great Egrets. However, this number represents good concurrence with our ground counts. This photo, taken 11 May before significant hatching had taken place, shows the individual storks incubating with probably only a few mates present.

The Humphries and the Andrew families entered the colony on 16 April 1983 and again found a minimum of 150 stork nests, half containing eggs and the remainder still being constructed. About 25 Great Egret nests were present, four with young, the remainder with eggs.

We entered the colony again on 6 May 1983 and found the storks incubating. The estimate of numbers was the same. There were about 25 Great Egret nests, many with young ones to five weeks old.

Our last visit was on 25 June 1983 in company with the Crossmans. We found the young storks almost fully feathered but still with downy heads (Figure 1). The Great Egret young varied from almost fully grown to only 2-3 weeks old.

Coinhabitants seen in the colony but not observed nesting have been: Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*), Little Blue Heron immatures (*Egretta caerulea*), White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*), Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*), and Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*).

On 16 May 1982 we also made a trip into Little Dukes Pond and found a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons with 15 active nests. Eighteen Anhinga nests were also in the same area, four being in the same small Ogeechee Lime (*Nyssa ogeche*). A Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was observed over the colony.



Fig. 1. — Fully feathered young Wood Storks ready to fledge. 25 June 1983.

DISCUSSION

Burleigh (1958) did not mention breeding records for the Wood Stork in Georgia and states the species is "seldom seen during the winter months." Mary Andrew noted three storks near Big Dukes on 24 February 1983. Palmer (1962) indicates no breeding outside of Florida. The first reported breeding in Georgia was in the Okefenokee Swamp (Hall and Cone 1970). Metzen (1977) reported the second record of nesting in the Okefenokee. Odom (1978) reported the third Georgia nesting in Camden County and subsequently found another breeding colony in Glynn County (Odom *et al.* 1979). Tom Murphy (pers. comm.) has had a small breeding colony under observation in southeastern South Carolina in recent years. The colony reported first by Tate and Humphries (1980) and under discussion in the present paper is apparently the largest in the nest numbers in the state and is probably the northernmost in the United States. Roger T. Peterson (1980) does not indicate breeding far from the Georgia coast in his latest range map. He indicates he will show the Jenkins County nesting in the next revision of the Field Guide (pers. comm.).

According to Palmer (1962) the numbers of Wood Storks had decreased 90 percent since 1939. He attributes the decline to gradual loss of extensive unspoiled feeding areas. Certainly, so-called water management practices in South Florida have contributed to, and continue to contribute to this decline and have probably caused the exodus from older breeding areas to the newer areas cited herein. Fortunately, the present owner of the Big Dukes site has entered into an agreement with the State of Georgia that the immediate area of the colony will not be logged or disturbed. Considering the feeding needs

of the Wood Stork and its need for isolation this may not be enough. Certainly a species such as the Wood Stork with its 30-day incubation period and almost 60-day feeding period, all depending for success on favorable falling water levels for food supplies, is in a fragile position. Because of our concern for these birds and this site we have carefully limited our visits to only an hour or two and avoided prolonged absences of adults from their nests. We trust that other students who visit this colony will exercise similar care.

In conclusion, it appears that the Big Dukes colony of Wood Storks has nested successfully in three of four years. However, the uniformity of nest counts in all four years leads one to wonder why there has been no increase. Certainly, there is no lack of additional nesting space at this site. There is a strong suggestion that the population is only being sustained on an annual basis with no net increase in spite of successful nesting. We hope that the nesting site can remain undisturbed and that feeding areas remain available to assure the continued success of this northernmost colony of Wood Storks.

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GENERAL NOTES

AN INTERESTING MORNING IN THE ATLANTA AREA — On 31 July 1983 Hugh Garrett and I were birding the south part of Atlanta which we do relatively often. Peachtree City Lake, Sam's Lake, and the Clayton County Water Treatment plant were on the agenda. We always check Peachtree City Lake for summering American Coots (*Fulica americana*) and Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) since they have been found there in small numbers for the past three years. As expected four American Coots and four Ring-necked Ducks were seen that morning, but we were surprised to find two American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) and a Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) feeding near an island of vegetation located near the bridge off US Route 54. The American Avocets were in breeding plumage and the Stilt Sandpiper was showing most of its summer plumage.

From there we drove to Sam's Lake, just a little south of Fayetteville, where we found five Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) and 45 Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*), three of which were adults. These species are uncommon in the Atlanta area in the summer but such a concentration is unusual and worth reporting. The concentration of birds was probably due to the lake's being drained.

The last stop of the day was the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant. The ponds there had been very productive in the spring but so far this summer nothing of interest had been seen. We were pleased to find a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) flying above the main pond.

This was the second sighting of the American Avocet, the third of a Stilt Sandpiper and the fourth of a Forster's Tern for the Atlanta area. The Avocets and the Stilt Sandpiper were also seen by Paul Raney later that afternoon but were gone by the next morning when Terry Moore arrived. All in all, it was a pretty good morning for July in Atlanta.

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

A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER AT ATLANTA — On 30 May 1983 a Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) was discovered by Patrick Brisse, Robert Manns and Terry Moore at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant which is located approximately 20 miles south of Atlanta. The bird was associating loosely with a group of 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*) and 4 Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*).

When first seen the bird was a quite a distance (200 m) but the general buffy brown color and buffy breast were observed. Efforts were made to get closer but the best that could be done was to get about 100 m from the bird. Observations were made primarily using telescopes up to 60x.

Field marks observed included the size (larger than the nearby Semipalmated Sandpipers more like that of the White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fuscicollis*)), the wingtips extending beyond the tail, the very buffy breast, the brownish back and the lack of spots along the flanks. Its behavior was also characteristic of a Baird's in that it kept to the drier areas of the mudflats and often could be seen picking around small clumps of grass. Its feeding behavior

of picking rather than probing in the mud was quite noticeable in comparison to the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Finally, the bird's general appearance was that of an elongated shorebird which held a very horizontal posture.

The area the bird was discovered in has only recently been covered by local birders. Its five impoundments which vary between being totally dry and completely under water hold great promise for more interesting sightings over the years. Already 18 species of shorebirds and 13 species of waterfowl have been observed there.

It appears that this is the fifth sighting of the species in Georgia. The first was a previously overlooked record of one at St. Mary's seen by Richard Kuerzi on 27 May 1962 (*American Birds* 16: 398). The second was a group of birds seen on five dates from 1977-1979 by Brent Ortego at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (*The Oriole* 44: 47-49). The third observation was that of Clarence Belger at Augusta on 29 May 1981 (pers. comm.). The fourth was a bird at Wayne's Poultry Plant near Pendergrass on 22-26 Dec. 1982 (*The Oriole* 47: 27-28).

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

GROUND-DOVE NESTING IN CORN FIELDS — Until the fall of 1976 we had "custom hired" the combining of the corn crop on our Osierfield, Irwin County farm. At this time we purchased a combine and began discovering several species of birds and mammals using corn fields in late summer and early fall that heretofore we had not realized.

The most regularly occurring of any of these was the Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*). This species is building its frail nest on the top of ears of corn at the point where they are attached to the stalk. Unfortunately, most of these nests are destroyed by the combine for the adult bird sits on eggs or remains on the nest brooding young until a few seconds before the stalks enter the gathering rolls and the presence of the nest is discovered as the adult birds flutter away from the machine.

Nest heights above ground have varied from about .5 m to 1.4 m, depending on the variety of corn planted and its ear height. We have records of Ground-Dove nests on corn stalks as early as 22 August 1983 and as late as 25 October 1979, the latter nest containing two eggs. A nest containing two eggs on 30 September 1982 was saved by stopping the combine. All the corn on both sides of the nest was then harvested and I followed the progress of this nest until the young successfully fledged. Many birds maintain a clean, neat nest until young are fledged but not so with the Ground-Dove. During the last few days of occupancy by the two young doves droppings were piled about 25 mm. deep on the outer edges of the nest.

Milton Hopkins, III operates the combine most of the time and reported to me that he had found five occupied Ground-Dove nests in one nine hectare field during the fall 1983 harvesting of corn.

From past experience, I realize the Ground-Dove exhibits a wide range of nesting sites and is a year round nester similar to the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) although the greater number of nests are found during the spring months in this area.

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

TWO RECENT GEORGIA SIGHTINGS OF THE KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

— In its discussion of the Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication, No. 6, 1977) states that there have been no other records since 1909 except for one at Athens on 2 May 1969. The following are accounts of two sightings for Georgia of which I am aware that have occurred since 1969.

On 17 October 1975 I was birding with Jack Carusos on Jekyll Island. He had left Dick Parks and I temporarily pursuing some bird. As he emerged from some thick undergrowth he very excitedly exclaimed that he had just seen a Kirtland's Warbler. I followed him back in but we never found the bird. According to Jack the bird he saw was an "immature female with a faint breast band." He observed "all field marks including the eye ring except tail wagging." He particularly noticed "its large size for a warbler." We told other G.O.S. members who were attending the fall meeting there but so far as I know no one else ever relocated the bird.

On 7 September 1981 I saw a Kirtland's Warbler while I was walking around the ponds at the Wayne Poultry Company at Pendergrass, Jackson County, Georgia. The first thing I noticed about the bird was that it was a tail wagger. As it came closer investigating my owl tape I noticed the grayish back and bright yellow underparts streaked at the sides. Later I noticed the heavy distinct broken eyering which was the clincher. Even though I got a good look at the bird for only 5-10 seconds I was able to see that it had a skin laceration on the upper breast fully 1.5 centimeters long exposing the pectoral muscles. The warbler seemed in no distress, however.

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

A LARGE NUMBER OF PHILADELPHIA VIREOS IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA — Both Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1958) and the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Pub. No. 6, 1977) regard the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) as an uncommon to rare migrant through Georgia. For this reason the observation of several birds on 25 September 1983 in the area of Lake Conasauga in northwestern Georgia was felt to be interesting if not significant. Several observers mentioned their own independent sightings including the observation of at least 4-5 in one tree at one time. Estimating the total number of birds seen was difficult but 10-12 would probably be an underestimate. Whether this observation represents an aberration of weather that happened to bring a larger number of this species to this particular area or represents a previously unknown migration path for the species through Georgia is unknown. Additional observations in this area during the fall may help to clarify the Philadelphia Vireo's status in northwest Georgia.

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

DICKCISSEL NEAR PLAINS, GEORGIA — At the last stop on the Lacross (Georgia) breeding bird survey route Mark LaPointe and I sighted a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) on 25 June 1983. The site was an abandoned

field about 3 km southeast of New Point Church, between Plains and Americus (Sumter County). The Dickcissel was singing from a hedgerow and turned frequently, allowing good views of its field marks. We did not notice a female and did not return to find out whether the bird maintained a territory in this field.

The Dickcissel is primarily a migrant in Georgia. Even in its regular summer range in the Midwest it is an erratic breeder. South Georgia is beyond its regular breeding range but occasional breeding attempts probably occur. On 31 May 1980 Terrill Soules discovered a male Dickcissel near Henderson (Houston County) and both a male and female were observed at the same site on 6 and 8 June (pers. comm.). No nest was found although this site was searched for half an hour.

With the conversion of over 1 million acres of Georgia woodlands to open country during the 1970's and the idling of farmland during the 1983 Payment in Kind (PIK) program, conditions may be improving for the Dickcissel in Georgia. Georgia birders should be alert for possible breeding by the "little meadowlark."

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

CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS IN THE ATLANTA AREA — Between 12-18 September 1983, up to two Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*) were seen on the Bobby Jones Golf Course in Atlanta. On 12 Sept. at about 1815 while taking my regular afterwork birdwalk, I spotted two male House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) in the middle of a bush between two tennis court levels. Just a few branches below was a sparrow with very sharp head markings and a gray collar very distinct from the breast color. The bird was no farther than 3 m from me at the time. I immediately thought about a Clay-colored Sparrow, but I knew from a previous experience a year ago that to secure the sighting I would have to see the color of the rump. I spent about 15 minutes chasing the bird from one spot to another. It flew about 5 times to different bushes and I was finally able to pick out the brown rump. Now satisfied with the identification, I ran home to call Robert Manns who was on the spot ten minutes later. We were not able to relocate the bird that evening.

I was not able to go back to the area until 15 Sept. after work. That evening the bird was easy to locate and I spent a good hour chasing and looking at the bird. I was very surprised after about 30 minutes to see two Clay-colored Sparrows perched on the same branch. Both stayed in the open for about 10 minutes. The next day one bird was seen in the early afternoon by Robert Manns, later by Peggy and Terry Moore and at about 1800 by Hugh Garrett and myself. I got the last glimpse of one of the sparrows on 18 Sept. at about 1830. The field marks observed on both birds were: sharp head markings, whitish superciliary and crown stripe, strong mustache mark outlined by a very white throat, buffy breast, gray collar and nape, small faint eyering, generally light brown color seen when the birds were flying in comparison with Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) with which the sparrows were associating) and the brown rump.

This is the fourth sighting in the Atlanta area. Robert Manns saw the first one on 1 December 1974. Frank McCamey spotted one during the 1981 Christmas Bird Count on 20 December. I personally saw one at Sweetwater Creek State Park west of Atlanta on 17 October 1982. During that quick sighting, I was not able to verify the color of the rump although all the other field marks were observed.

Statewide, the Clay-colored Sparrow has been banded twice and observed at least nine times. According to the definition used in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occas. Publ. No. 6, 1977), this species should be moved out of the hypothetical list and be given the status of rare transient, mostly in the fall. The species has been observed eight times in the fall, two times in the winter and once in the spring.

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

CORRECTIONS

The following corrections have been brought to our attention in the article "The birds of the 1977 annotated checklist of Georgia birds put into the new A.O.U. order" which appeared in *The Oriole* (47: 31-39).

American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>

The Editor would like to thank Robert Loftin for carefully checking the article and bringing these corrections to our attention.

MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

500 for 50!

Traditionally, the GOS annual membership remains at approximately 300. We suggest a method to raise that number to 500 by our 50th anniversary year. If each member gives a gift membership, or urges a new member to join, we will achieve that goal.

The purposes of the society as originally stated were: to secure statewide co-operation of bird students and clubs; to promote the recognition of the value of birds, ensuring wider conservation efforts; to gain support of protective legislation for birds; to promote acquaintance and fellowship among nature enthusiasts and to issue certain publications.

Surely, we know people who would respond to those stated purposes. Let's see that they become members of our society in 1984-85.

FROM THE FIELD

Jan. - June 1983

- RED-THROATED LOON — Rare inland was one bird seen by John Paget from 2-8 March on Lake Lanier.
- COMMON LOON — Loons were reported more often than usual this spring from around the Atlanta area. The best observations were 1000+ by Dick Parks and John Paget in late April on Lake Lanier and 6 by Dennie and Pam McClure on 23-24 April at Sweetwater Creek State Park (SCSP) west of Atlanta.
- HORNED GREBE — A single individual on 1 April by Thomas Patterson provided the first spring record for Laurens County.
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL — Chris Haney found 6 birds about 130 km east of Sapelo Island during an offshore trip on 21-22 Feb. He found the species again on later trips in May and June with high counts of 100+ and 80+, respectively. This species was almost unknown from Georgia waters before Chris's offshore trips.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER — Chris Haney spent from 16-20 June about 110-130 km offshore. During that 5 day period he saw 114 Cory's Shearwaters. On the same trip he found 59 Greater, 113 Audubon's and 1 Sooty Shearwater plus 138 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. An additional 30 Audubon's Shearwaters were seen on one of his May trips.
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL — Previously unknown from Georgia, the species was found by Peter Stangel about 160 km east of Ossabaw Island on 3 May. In addition to that sighting Chris Haney noted 15 more during his 16-20 June offshore trip.
- WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD — An adult was photographed on 2 May by Peter Stangel about 150 km east of Ossabaw Island and another adult lacking the central rectrices was seen by Chris Haney on 19 June about 146 km east of St. Catherine's Island.
- MASKED BOOBY — The first state record was a sub-adult found by Chris Haney, 131 km east of Cumberland Island. The bird was noted on 20 June and was seen as close as 50 m from the boat.
- BROWN BOOBY — One bird, 135 km east of Ossabaw Island, on 14 May by Chris Haney provides the first modern record for the state. The bird was seen as it was flying directly over the boat.
- NORTHERN GANNET — 100+ birds were seen during the Atlanta Audubon Society sponsored pelagic trip on 5 March out from Jekyll Island. Chris Haney also saw the species in small numbers during his offshore trips until 1 May.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — The species wintered in Dublin (Thomas Patterson) and Augusta (fide Anne Waters) with up to 9 birds in Augusta on 29 Jan. Four inland spring records were reported: 6 March near Commerce by Stacy Caudwell, 24 April at SCSP by Dennie and Pam McClure, 15 May near Commerce and 29 May on Lake Lanier both by John Paget. The species is definitely increasing as a transient in the Piedmont area.
- GREAT "WHITE" HERON — On 5 March, the participants of the Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip noted one bird while the boat was near the Jekyll Island Marina.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON — One juvenile was noted by Thomas Patterson near Dublin in early January for a rare occurrence of the species in the upper coastal plain in the winter.
- TRICOLORED HERON — John Paget and Jack Carusos noted one bird near Commerce on 30 April and 1 May for a very rare inland sighting.
- CATTLE EGRET — Two seen in early Jan. were a rare wintering occurrence of the species near Dublin (Thomas Patterson). Seven birds at the Augusta levee on 8 Feb. by Bill Gibbs were very early as they normally arrive there in early April. A good inland count for the same area was 829 seen in a non-breeding roost as reported by Anne Waters. In the north part of the Piedmont area the species was reported as usual during the spring migration on 9 April to 8 May.
- WHITE IBIS — A good count was 140 just north of Blakely by Sam Pate on 1 April. Rather early for the north part of the state was 1 by John Paget on 29 May near Lake Lanier.
- GLOSSY IBIS — Anne Waters noted a bird near Augusta during 16-23 April for a rare inland sighting.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL — An immature was seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 12 May (Sheila Willis) and 17-18 June (Liz and Hugh Garrett, Donna and Patrick Brisse). This species has been seen regularly in that area for the last few years during the warmer months.
- WOOD STORK — Bob Humphries reported that the Jenkins County nesting colony is

- still thriving as he counted around 150 pairs with eggs on 17 April.
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** — Five birds were seen on 20 Feb. at Eufaula NWR by Dennie and Pam McClure. They were seen on both the Alabama and Georgia sides of the refuge. The species can now be found there with some regularity.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER** — A late bird was noted by John Paget at the Wayne Poultry Plant near Pendergrass on 1 May.
- RING-NECKED DUCK** — For the third year in a row, Ring-necked Ducks spent the summer at Peachtree City Lake near Atlanta (Patrick Brisse), up to 4 birds were noted. In addition 6 birds were seen summering at SCSP (Dennie and Pam McClure) and another 2 at Sam's Lake near Fayetteville (Patrick Brisse). Are there other areas in Georgia where this species summers?
- SURF SCOTER** — Dennie and Pam McClure discovered a bird on 19 March at SCSP. The bird remained through 12 April and was seen by many observers. It was thought to be an immature female.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** — The spring migration in the Atlanta area was rather interesting with the first ones being noted on 24 March at SCSP (Dennie and Pam McClure) and the last ones at the DeKalb County Reservoir on 1 May (Patrick Brisse). Unusual were the high counts of 18 males on 27 March and 15 males and 2 females on 23 April, both sightings at SCSP.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** — The species was reported from late March through April between Folkston and Savannah. Another seasonal report was one by Liz and Hugh Garrett on 14 June in the Okefenokee Swamp.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** — Rather close to the northern part of their breeding range were 2 seen at Hamburg State Park near Sparta on 17 June by Nancy Iha.
- BALD EAGLE** — Noteworthy, because of the possibility of the species being a permanent resident, were 2 immatures during Jan. and Feb. on Lake Oconee (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Nancy Iha) and one adult on 5 June (Terrill Soules). A couple of records were reported from the coast with one on Cumberland Island on 13 May (Sam Pate) and another on 5 April at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien (Dennie and Pam McClure).
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK** — On 23 Jan. a single adult was observed in Fannin County in north Georgia. This is the first record for the state and was observed killing and eating a crow (Ronan and John Fulton, Roger and Georgette Shudes).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** — A few weeks early were one bird on 2 March in Atlanta (Trina Jackson) and another one on 4 March in Alpharetta (Vince Jackson).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** — A very well described bird was a light phase spotted by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore on 9 Jan. north of Atlanta. The same bird or another was noted in the same general area by Robert Manns on 19 Feb. Another light phase bird was observed during an Atlanta Audubon Society field trip to the Lookout Plateau on 30 Jan.
- GOLDEN EAGLE** — Two immatures were seen on the same 30 Jan. trip to the Lookout Plateau by a number of observers.
- SORA** — A bird seen on 30 April by Stephen Daniel near downtown Atlanta was quite unusual.
- PURPLE GALLINULE** — Seldom seen in the Piedmont area this species was seen in Banks County by Jack Carusos, John Paget, Dick Parks and Anne Wyand from 16-24 April. Also worth mentioning was a nest found in Laurens County by Thomas Patterson on 15 May.
- COMMON MOORHEN** — John Paget discovered on individual in Banks County on 1 and 7 May for a rare inland sighting.
- AMERICAN COOT** — Up to 4 birds summered at Peachtree City Lake (Patrick Brisse). This is the fourth year in a row coots summered at the lake but so far no evidence of nesting has been found.
- SANDHILL CRANE** — This was probably the largest migration seen in the Atlanta area in years. The first ones were seen on 26 Feb. (Bill Terrell) and the last ones near Duluth on 19 March (Hugh Garrett). The peak number occurred on 4-5 March with at least 1100 birds being reported. Very late birds were 2 on 5 April (Nancy Iha) and 1 on 8 May (Margaret Harner) both in north Atlanta.
- LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER** — Thomas Patterson noted one bird in Laurens County on 25 March. The other seasonal report was 2 birds in south Fulton County on 27 March by Dennie and Pam McClure. This last sighting provided only the fourth record for the Atlanta area.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** — Clarence Belger and Lee Gibbs noted an early bird on 15 March at the Merry Brothers Brickyard ponds in Augusta. This species was also seen in Atlanta between 25 April (Patrick Brisse) and 5 June (Liz and Hugh Garrett). Up to 4 birds stayed there most of the month of May.

- AMERICAN AVOCET** — A high count of 93 was seen along the Jekyll Island causeway on 6 March by Jack Dozier and 29 were still at the Jekyll Island marina on 3 April as reported by Dennie and Pam McClure.
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS** — Inland early birds were seen on 5 March in Augusta (Augusta Audubon Society) and on 12 March at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant (CCWTP) near Atlanta (Patrick Brisse). The latest birds for the state was one on 26 May at the CCWTP (Patrick Brisse).
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS** — One in Atlanta on 21 Feb. (Carole Anderson, Patrick Brisse, Joe Greenberg) at the CCWTP and another one on 26 Feb. near Dublin (Thomas Patterson) were early birds for inland locations.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER** — Winter sightings were recorded in Augusta on 7 Feb. to early March (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters) and in south Atlanta on 21 Feb. (Carole Anderson, Patrick Brisse and Joe Greenberg).
- UPLAND SANDPIPER** — As usual the species was reported from Dublin with 10 birds on 16 April (Thomas Patterson), north Atlanta from 18 April to 1 May with a high count of 13 on 27 April (Terry Moore et al.) and the Gainesville Airport with 8 birds from 9-30 April (John Paget).
- WHIMBREL** — One at Pendergrass on 29 May by John Paget provided the third inland record for the state.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER** — Very late for the state were 5 birds still at the CCWTP on 8 June (Patrick Brisse). A high count of over 50 was seen at the same place in the late part of May.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER** — Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett observed one bird at the CCWTP on 2 June for a rare inland spring record.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** — An early bird for the Atlanta area appeared on 6 May (Terry and Peggy Moore) and up to 20 were at the same place from 17-22 May and from early June to 5 June (Patrick Brisse, et al.). The discovery of the CCWTP gave the Atlanta birders the opportunity to study a decent shorebird migration for the first time in many years.
- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** — Patrick Brisse, Robert Manns and Terry Moore located one bird at the CCWTP on 30 May. This is the fifth Georgia record. The size (that of a White-rumped), horizontal posture, buffy breast, lack of spots along the side and picking rather than probing action were all noted.
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** — A bird in breeding plumage was identified by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Vince Jackson and Terry Moore on Andrews Island near Brunswick on the rather late date of 23 April.
- RED PHALAROPE** — During the 5 March Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip off Jekyll Island, 25 birds were spotted about 40 km from shore.
- POMARINE JAEGER** — One adult was seen 8 km offshore on 5 March during the same pelagic trip mentioned above. One Parasitic Jaeger was also noted 40 km offshore that day. Chris Haney during his offshore trips between 1 and 15 May saw 13 Pomarines and an additional 6 between 16-20 June. We are just starting to discover the real status of both species in Georgia.
- SOUTH POLAR SKUA** — One bird was photographed on 18 June by Chris Haney 138 km east of St. Catherine's Island. The bird was seen being harassed by an immature Pomarine Jaeger allowing close comparison of both species.
- LAUGHING GULL** — Although mostly a coastal gull, the number of inland reports have lately increased. The species was reported three times this spring. John Paget found one on 9 April at the Gainesville Airport. He reported another one on Lake Lanier on 2 May and the last one near Commerce on 7 May.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** — Almost unknown in Georgia waters before the 1982/83 winter, Chris Haney found 5 adults and 4 immatures between 19-22 Feb. offshore. Another immature was seen 20 km offshore during the 5 March Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip.
- CASPIAN TERN** — Dennie and Pam McClure provided the first record for the Atlanta area when 5 were seen at SCSP on 23 April.
- ARCTIC TERN** — The third state record was 11 birds seen in singles and pairs, well offshore, by Chris Haney from 21 April to 13 May. Chris also noted 5 Bridled Terns in early May during the same trips.
- FORSTER'S TERN** — Single inland reports came from SCSP on 29 May (Dennie and Pam McClure), Pendergrass on 23 April (John Paget) and Lake Lanier from 25-29 April (John Paget). A good inland count was 9 birds at SCSP on 23 April by Dennie and Pam McClure.
- LEAST TERN** — The first Atlanta record was a bird noted on 13 May at the CCWTP by Patrick Brisse and later the same day by Joe Greenberg and Robert Manns.
- BLACK TERN** — One bird in breeding plumage at the CCWTP on 9 May by Patrick

Brise provided the first spring record for the Atlanta area.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO — This was one of the best spring migrations for the Atlanta area. Cuckoos were noted from 30 April (Dennis Tolsma and Billy Pulliam) to 29 May (Mary Ann Vernocy). Mary Ann personally had 9 separate sightings during the same period.

SHORT-EARED OWL — Rarely reported was one on the Jekyll Island Causeway on 5 March by Jack Dozier.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER — One bird was in northwest Atlanta on 27 May (Peggy and Terry Moore).

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER — Vince Jackson reported an early bird in east Atlanta on 15 March.

GRAY KINGBIRD — Donna and Patrick Brise and Liz and Hugh Garrett noted a family on Sea Island on 18 June when an adult and 3 young were seen perched on the same tree.

PURPLE MARTIN — Relatively early for the Augusta area was a male on 7 Feb. as reported by Clarence Belger and Anne Waters.

TREE SWALLOW — A pair successfully fledged 4 young in late spring near Hiawasse fide Arthur Green. A second pair attempted nesting but no eggs were laid. This is at least the fourth summer the swallows have been found near Hiawasse.

BANK SWALLOW — An early bird was noted on 24 March in the Columbus area (Jim Shirah fide Sam Pate) and one on 19 April in Atlanta was early for that area (Patrick Brise).

BROWN CREEPER — One bird from early May through 12 May at Augusta by Anne Waters was about a month late.

VEERY — A late bird was noted also by Anne Waters in Augusta on 21 May.

HERMIT THRUSH — Dick Parks found one in Atlanta on the late date of 11 May.

WATER PIPIT — Terry Moore et al. saw 2 late birds at the CCWTP on 14 May.

WARBLING VIREO — Noteworthy was one reported by John Paget near Gainesville on 30 April.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER — A late bird was found singing on 23 May by Dennie and Pam McClure in south Atlanta. The bird was not relocated later.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER — A male of the hybrid between Blue-winged and Golden-winged was seen by Paul Raney on 3 May at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation area in north Atlanta.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER — The species was reported from 27 April to 23 May in the Atlanta area with a high count of 5 birds on 7 May (Patrick Brise, Terry Moore). This was a much better migration than what is normal for the area.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER — As usual the species was reported from the Atlanta area with 5 records this spring: 2 on 17 April (Jack Caruso, Joe Greenberg), 1 on 7 May (Patrick Brise, Terry Moore), 2 on 8 May at Fernbank Forest (Georgann Schmalz), 1 on 12 May (Paul Raney) and the last one on 14 May near Commerce (John Paget et al.). A good find for Augusta was one reported by Anne Waters on 12 May.

DICKCISSEL — Mark Oberle found a singing male near Plains on 25 June. No followup visits were made to check on the possibility of nesting.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW — Worth mentioning was one along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta on 4 April by Paul Raney. Another one by Patrick Brise and Terry Moore near Folkston on 23 April was rather late.

FOX SPARROW — John Paget sighted a late bird near Pendergrass on 9 April.

HOUSE FINCH — The species was found nesting again in Atlanta where they are on the increase. They also nested in Macon and Columbus.

RED CROSSBILL — A couple birds were sighted with a male in Atlanta by Nancy Iha on 31 Jan. and a female near Augusta by the Knipps in their yard on 15 March.

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

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