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CONTENTS

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MARINE DISTRIBUTION, SEASONAL ABUNDANCE, AND ECOLOGY OF PHALAROPES IN THE GEORGIA EMBAYMENT

J. Christopher Haney

Phalaropes breed circumpolarly in boreal and tundra zones of the northern Holarctic between 50° and 80° N latitude. Both Red-necked (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Red phalaropes (*P. fulicaria*) nest in moss-sedge tundra and near marshes with small ponds (Hildon and Vuolanto 1972, Mayfield 1979), although the Red Phalarope is more coastal in its nesting distribution (Hohn 1969). During migration and winter, however, Red-necked and Red phalaropes occur in marine habitats of continental shelves and in deep-sea pelagic waters (Taning 1933, Stanford 1953, A.O.U. 1983). For most of the year phalaropes are thus dependent upon the sea for food.

Both phalarope species have been recorded in Georgia (Denton *et al.* 1977), but most records are for inland locations. Clapp *et al.* (1983) give summaries of Georgia inland records through 1979. The paucity of offshore phalarope records is indicative of lack of observation rather than actual abundances within the waters of the southeastern U.S. continental shelf. Both species occur regularly and occasionally in very large numbers in the offshore zones of Georgia. This paper describes aspects of the marine ecology of Red-necked and Red phalaropes in the northern Georgia Embayment, that part of the South Atlantic Bight between Cape Romain, South Carolina and Cape Canaveral, Florida.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Surveys were confined to the South Atlantic Bight (Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Cape Canaveral, Florida). Most counts were made in the southern part of the bight, primarily in the Georgia Embayment between 30°30' N and 33° N latitude. This area is primarily in Georgia offshore waters (Haney 1983), but some counts were also made off northern Florida and southern South Carolina.

The details of the oceanography of the Georgia continental shelf are summarized in Atkinson *et al.* (1983). The shelf is very broad and shallow, and lacks any subterranean relief in the form of ledges, banks, or deep-sea canyons. Four different water masses occur, three on the continental shelf that correspond to the zones given in Table 1, and the Gulf Stream over the upper continental slope. These water masses differ in their physical (circulation,

Table 1. – Seabird count effort. Number of counts and surface area censused (km^2, in parentheses) are shown as a function of shelf/slope zone and season.

	Season				
Location	Jun-Aug	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb	Mar-May	Total
Inner shelf*	84(93)	118(141)	60(81)	102(143)	364(458)
Middle shelf	126(135)	160(205)	104(141)	158(181)	548(661)
Outer shelf	272(270)	182(209)	53(61)	127(129)	634(669)
Upper slope	182(180)	98(126)	15(11)	277(371)	572(688)
Total	664(679)	558(681)	232(294)	664(823)	2,118(2,476)

*Inner shelf: 0-20 m depth; middle shelf: 21-40 m; outer shelf: 41-200 m; upper slope: 201-400 m.

temperature), chemical (salinity, nutrients), and biological (productivity) properties (Dunstan and Atkinson 1976, Atkinson *et al.* 1983, Yoder 1985). These characteristics of water masses can exert indirect influences on seabirds by affecting the locations, kinds, or abundances of prey.

Seabird observations were made between May 1982 and June 1985. During this period 2,118 15-minute seabird counts were made using a 300 m band transect (Tasker *et al.* 1984). Counts were conducted during 159 days of ship time in all seasons and in each of the major shelf zones (Table 1). Observations were made from research vessels participating in oceanographic, zooplankton, or fisheries surveys. In addition to the in-transect timed counts, the numbers and species of seabirds were recorded when ships were on station.

The following environmental measurements were made during counts: date, latitude and longitude, distance from land, heading of ship and birds, ship speed, time of day, visibility, sea height, wind speed and direction, depth, and sea surface temperature. The behavior and feeding associations of phalaropes were recorded as well.

SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

Phalaropes were generally most abundant in fall and winter (Fig. 1). No phalaropes were observed in June and July. The phenological distributions of the two phalarope species differed. Red Phalaropes appeared later in the fall (earliest date: 16 November, but see Moore 1982) and departed earlier in the spring (latest date: 8 March, Moore 1982). Red-necked Phalaropes were observed over a greater seasonal time span, occurring between 17 August (earliest) and 16 May (latest). Red-necked Phalaropes were generally more abundant than Red Phalaropes except during midwinter when the latter species outnumbered the former by a factor of 2-3 (Fig. 1, Table 2).

Abundances of phalaropes peaked in midwinter when local environmental conditions were most favorable for feeding (Haney 1985). Phalaropes may have been more abundant in January than the data indicate (Fig. 1). Very few counts were made in that month because of rough seas. The large phalarope flocks observed during midwinter (Table 2) were somewhat unexpected. The

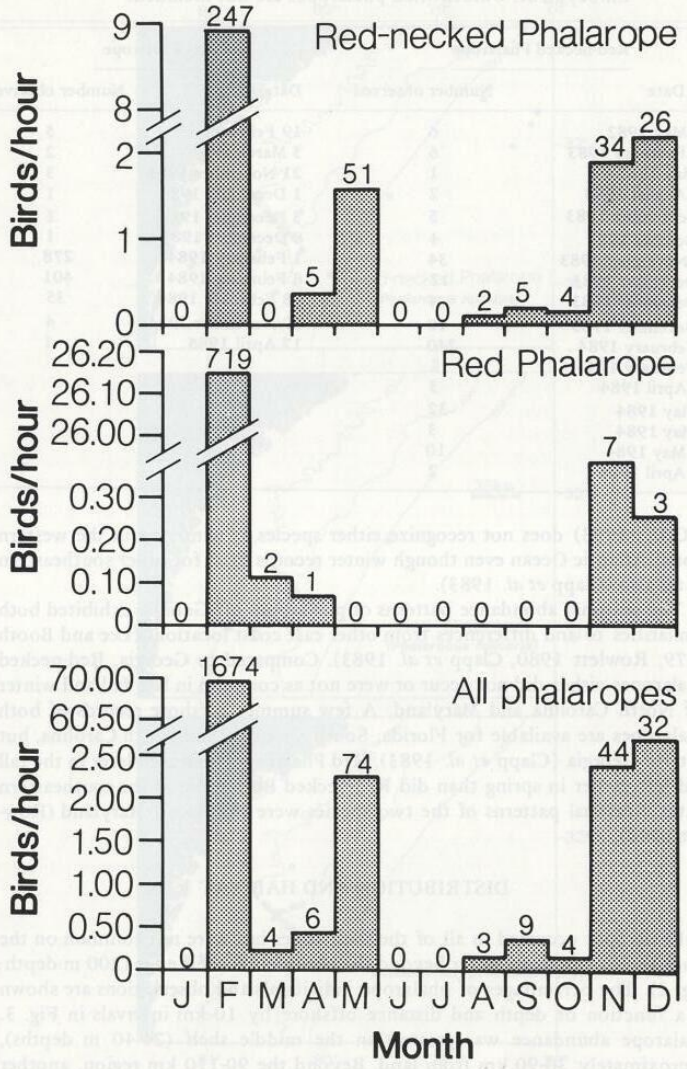

Fig. 1. – Seasonal abundances of Red-necked, Red, and all phalaropes by month. "All" phalaropes includes unidentified individuals. Abundances are expressed as number of phalaropes observed per counting hour. Numbers at the top of vertical bars indicated the total number observed that month. Vertical indices of abundance are not to scale.

Table 2. – Species, date, and size of phalarope flocks observed in the Georgia Embayment. Unidentified phalaropes are not included.

Red-necked Phalarope		Red Phalarope	
Date	Number observed	Date	Number observed
16 May 1982	6	19 February 1983	5
19 February 1983	6	5 March 1983	2
7 May 1983	1	21 November 1983	3
17 August 1983	2	1 December 1983	1
4 September 1983	5	3 December 1983	1
6 October 1983	4	8 December 1983	1
21 November 1983	34	1 February 1984	278
1 December 1983	12	8 February 1984	401
3 December 1983	4	18 February 1984	35
8 December 1983	10	29 November 1984	4
1 February 1984	240	17 April 1985	1
8 February 1984	1		
29 April 1984	3		
5 May 1984	32		
9 May 1984	3		
11 May 1984	10		
17 April 1985	2		

A.O.U. (1983) does not recognize either species as wintering in the western North Atlantic Ocean even though winter records exist for other southeastern states also (Clapp *et al.* 1983).

The seasonal abundance patterns of phalaropes off Georgia exhibited both similarities to and differences from other east coast locations (Lee and Booth 1979, Rowlett 1980, Clapp *et al.* 1983). Compared to Georgia, Red-necked Phalaropes either did not occur or were not as common in late fall and winter off North Carolina and Maryland. A few summer offshore records of both phalaropes are available for Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, but not for Georgia (Clapp *et al.* 1983). Red Phalaropes appeared later in the fall and left earlier in spring than did Red-necked Phalaropes in the southeastern states. Seasonal patterns of the two species were similar off Maryland (Rowlett 1980).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

Phalaropes occurred in all of the shelf zones but were not common on the inner shelf or in deep water beyond the continental shelf edge (200 m depth; Fig. 2). The percentages of phalarope individuals and observations are shown as a function of depth and distance offshore by 10 km intervals in Fig. 3. Phalarope abundance was greatest in the middle shelf (21-40 m depths), approximately 30-90 km from land. Beyond the 90-110 km region, another peak in abundance is apparent (Fig. 3).

These two regions of phalarope distribution correspond closely to the areas of the shelf dominated by ocean frontal systems. Phalaropes aggregate on the shoreward side of the middle shelf front during midwinter (Haney and

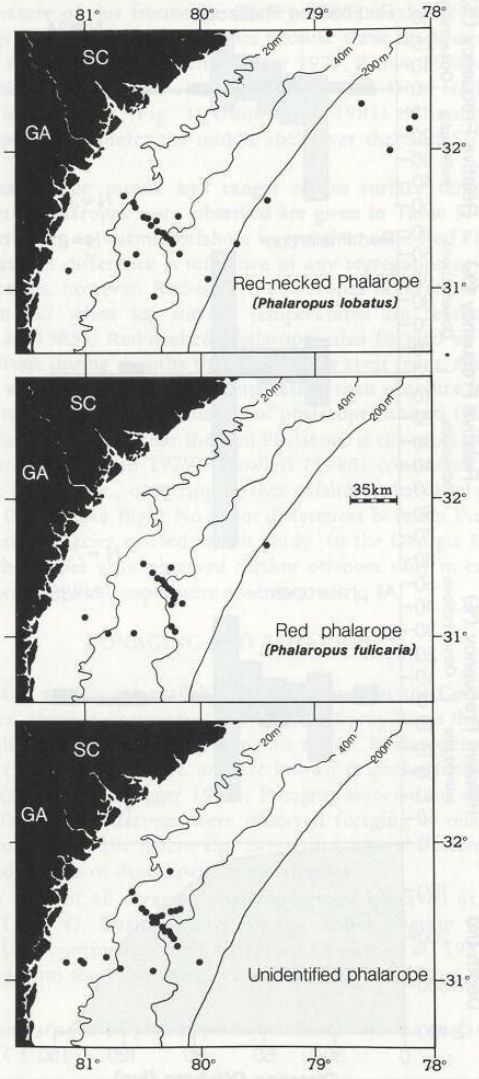

Fig. 2. – Geographic distribution of Red-necked, Red, and unidentified phalaropes within the Georgia Embayment. Dots represent locations of observations (one or more individuals). The 20, 40, and 200 m depth contours are illustrated in the top of each figure.

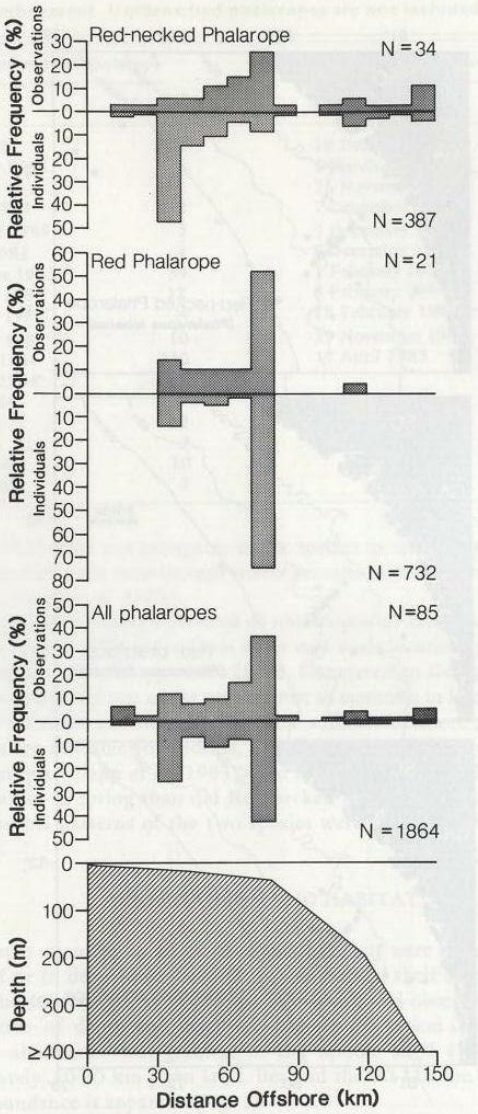

Fig. 3. – Cross-shelf distribution of phalaropes in relation to depth and distance offshore in kilometers. Data are presented as frequency histograms of the number (N) of phalarope individuals and observations for each 10 km interval across the continental shelf.

McGillivary 1985), and phalarope seasonal occurrences may be influenced by the seasonal nature of this front-type (Haney 1985). Surface-foraging phalaropes are largely dependent upon fronts because these features concentrate prey near the surface (cf. Ainley and Sanger 1979, Brown 1980). Phalaropes (mainly Red-necked) were less common 100-150 km from land where the Gulf Stream is dominant (Fig. 3; Olson *et al.* 1983). It is not clear why phalaropes appeared to prefer the middle shelf over the Gulf Stream frontal system.

Comparisons of the means and ranges of sea surface temperatures at locations where phalaropes were observed are given in Table 3. Red-necked Phalaropes were seen in warmer offshore waters than were Red Phalaropes. It is unlikely that this difference is reflective of any segregation or partitioning by the two species, however. Red-necked Phalaropes occurred later in spring and earlier in fall when sea surface temperatures are seasonally higher (Atkinson *et al.* 1983). Red-necked Phalaropes also foraged at or near the Gulf Stream front during months that the middle shelf front, their preferred feeding area, was absent. Steep gradients rather than obsolute values of sea surface temperature are better predictors of phalarope habitats (Haney 1985).

Other studies have found that the Red Phalarope is the most pelagic of the phalarope species (Mayfield 1979), Rowlett (1980) considered Red Phalaropes as more pelagic, i.e., occurring further offshore, than Red-necked Phalaropes in the Chesapeake Bight. No major differences between the habitats of the two phalarope species existed in this study. In the Georgia Embayment, Red-necked Phalaropes were observed further offshore only in early fall and late spring when Red Phalaropes were absent.

FORAGING AND BEHAVIOR

No food habit studies are available for phalaropes in the Georgia Embayment. However, there is circumstantial evidence of prey items that are accessible and possibly taken by phalaropes in this region. Phalaropes are opportunistic feeders (Briggs *et al.* 1984), and are known to prefer feeding on larger zooplankton (Dodson and Egger 1980). Foraging associations of phalaropes are given in Table 4. Phalaropes were observed foraging at relatively large-scale ocean fronts, near the macro-alga *Sargassum*, near the micro-alga *Trichodesmium*, and at rafts of dead *Spartina* marsh grass.

More than 95% of all foraging phalaropes were observed at the middle shelf front (Table 4). During winter, pelagic fishes migrate to the outer southeastern U.S. continental shelf to spawn (Yoder *et al.* 1981). The fish larvae hatching from these spawning events then migrate inshore to develop in

Table 3. – Comparisons of phalarope distributions and sea surface temperatures (°C).

Species	Mean	Range	N
Red-necked Phalarope	14.8	10.0-29.0	362
Red Phalarope	13.8	10.0-23.8	731

Table 4. — Phalarope foraging associations. Numbers and percentages (in parentheses) of all foraging individuals are given by species.

Foraging association	Phalarope species			
	Red-necked	Red	Unidentified	Total
Ocean front	286(16)	723(39.5)	734(40)	1743(95.5)
Sargassum	35(1.9)	7(0.5)	33(1.6)	75(4)
Trichodesmium	4(0.25)	0(0)	0(0)	4(0.25)
Spartina	0(0)	2(0.12)	2(0.12)	4(0.25)
Total	325(18)	732(40)	769(42)	1826(100)

the coastal estuaries (Yoder 1983). Larval fish may be aggregated at the front because the circulation at the front limits their shoreward dispersal (Haney and McGillivary 1985). Phalaropes may in turn be aggregated at the front because these larval fish (mainly Clupeidae or herrings) and the copepod *Eucalanus pileatus* provide localized prey concentrations. Phalaropes consume both copepods and larval fish (Brown 1980, Briggs *et al.* 1984).

Both Red-necked and Red phalaropes were also observed foraging near the large alga *Sargassum* (Table 4). *Sargassum* patches often harbor large numbers of invertebrates and fishes that seabirds may exploit for food (Butler *et al.* 1983, Haney 1986). Phalaropes were seen picking at items near these *Sargassum* patches. Although cyclopoid and harpacticoid copepods are abundant in *Sargassum*, these zooplankton may be too small for phalarope feeding purposes. Phalaropes prefer zooplankton >1 mm in length (Dodson and Egger 1980). The large, abundant *Latreutes* shrimp (Stoner and Greening 1984) may be their preferred prey at the alga.

Phalaropes frequently feed in or around lines of detritus in the ocean (Rowlett 1980). In warm tropical waters, blooms of the blue-green alga *Trichodesmium* form large, oily slicks in late summer and early fall. Surface-foraging copepods, particularly the large (ca. 3 mm) Pontellids, are common in these surface slicks. On 17 August 1983, four Red-necked Phalaropes were seen feeding in a *Trichodesmium* slick off the Georgia coast. Another source of ocean surface detritus is dead *Spartina* marsh grass. *Spartina* dies off in coastal salt marshes in fall and winter, and large rafts are transported offshore by winds and tidal currents. On 5 March 1983, 2 Red Phalaropes and 2 unidentified phalaropes were foraging on unknown items around *Spartina* rafts 40-50 km off the Georgia coast.

Greater than 95% of phalaropes were observed on the ocean surface. Very few were observed in flight during the study period. When research vessels passed through feeding or resting groups, the flocks would generally fly only short distances and resettle on the ocean surface.

Phalaropes were observed with other seabirds but no inter-specific interactions were recorded. Phalaropes foraging at a large line of *Sargassum* off northeast Florida on 5 May 1984 were accompanied by Wilson's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanites oceanicus*), Common (*Sterna hirundo*), Least (*S. antillarum*), Bridled (*S. anaethetus*), and Black terns (*Chlidonias niger*) that were also foraging at the weed line. On 1 February 1984, an extremely large flock of phalaropes was foraging at the middle shelf front off Georgia. A total of

1,067 Red-necked, Red, and unidentified phalaropes were counted within the 300 m transect path alone during nine consecutive 15-minute counts. Phalarope flocks beyond the perimeter of the count zone extended to the horizon toward the south and north perpendicular to the cruise track. I estimated that as many as 10,000 total individuals may have been present. Other seabirds at the front included over 700 Northern Gannets (*Sula bassanus*), 2 Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*), 77 Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*), 28 Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), and 8 Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*).

SUMMARY

Red-necked (*Phalaropus lobatus*) and Red phalaropes (*P. fulicaria*) are regular and occasionally abundant in marine habitats of the continental shelf in the Georgia Embayment. Peak abundances of both species occurred in fall and winter. Red Phalaropes arrived later in the fall and departed earlier in the spring than Red-necked Phalaropes. Phalaropes were not observed in summer between 16 May and 17 August. Phalaropes were most abundant within the middle shelf zone, in 21-40 m depths and 30-90 km from land. No significant differences in habitat preferences existed for the two phalarope species. Foraging flocks of phalaropes were observed at ocean fronts, at *Sargassum* patches, and near detritus lines of the alga *Trichodesmium* and the marsh grass *Spartina*.

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BIRDS OF THE CLAYTON COUNTY WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Patrick Brisse

The Clayton County Water Treatment Plant has turned out to be the most interesting and reliable shorebird habitat discovery in years for the Atlanta area. This small article will describe the treatment plant and the results of studying shorebirds there since it began to be birded on a regular basis in early 1983.

Since mid-1982 the Clayton County Water Authority has been operating one of the largest totally forested year-round land treatment spray irrigation systems in the United States. The E. L. Huie, Jr. Land Treatment Facility is located about 20 miles south of Atlanta in the southeastern part of Clayton County. The systems includes two activated sludge plants on the Flint River and a transfer pumping facility for delivery of the treated effluents to the holding ponds at the Land treatment facility itself, a few miles away. These ponds can hold up to 12 days flow. From there the water flows through 18,000 sprinklers to water about 3000 acres of timber, mostly Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*). The operational goal of the facility is to treat the wastewater effectively so that ground and surface waters leaving the site will meet primary and secondary drinking water standards. The site feeds Pate Creek then Reeve Creek where Clayton County has a water filtering plant. The treatment plant is generally not open to the public but permission to enter the area can be obtained by contacting the on-duty personnel.

The prime shorebird habitat studied in 1983 and 1984 were the five holding ponds (70 acres). One pond, the one nearest the pumping station, is permanently full with varying water levels. The other ponds vary from totally empty and dry (normally in summer) to completely full (normally in winter). This also depends on the kind of weather the Atlanta area is experiencing. For example, July 1984 was one of the wettest months in history and the ponds were full in late July and were not emptied until early September, maintaining very good shorebird habitat in September and October. It is the variation in water levels in the ponds creating shorelines or the drying out of these ponds which may result in good feeding habitat for shorebirds. In contrast, the fall of 1983 was of little interest due to the drought which had dried out most of the shores and ponds. The only chance one had to see shorebirds was after late summer storms left rainpools in the bottom of the ponds. Despite this, a few interesting birds were observed late that fall.

I started birding the treatment facility on 21 Feb. 1983 and between that day and the end of 1984 I personally took 105 trips there. From January through December the following are the number of trips per month: Jan.-2, Feb.-4, March-6, April-8, May-17, June-12, July-9, Aug.-10, Sept.-11, Oct.-12, Nov.-10 and Dec.-4. On most of these trips I was by myself but I also was accompanied on a few of the trips by one or more of the following observers: Carole Anderson, Donna Brisse, Chris Haney, Hugh and Liz Garrett, Joe Greenberg, Robert Manns, Francis Michael, Terry Miller, Peggy and Terry Moore, Bill Pulliam and Paul Raney.

During these two years I personally saw 22 species of shorebirds at the site. Three were new to the Atlanta area and 6 others were classified as accidental

or occasional. It is clear that a two-year sample leaves much to be desired but already much valuable information has been obtained. The problem in the past has been to find suitable shorebird habitat as the birds seem to fly over the area if habitat is not available. The species account will mention status and dates and will not describe some of the rare species, this will be done in later separate articles. Some of the records are not mine and the original observer will be given credit after the date of the record. The status given for each species reflects its status at the treatment plant only and does not imply that the species has that status throughout the Atlanta area.

SPECIES ACCOUNT

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) — Only one record on 25 March 1984; Atlanta's 7th record.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) — Mostly a rare spring transient from 25 April - 5 June. High count was 6 on 26 May 1984. One bird was observed during the fall from 1-6 Sept. 1984.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) — A common permanent resident with numbers varying from a few to over 50 in late fall. Six chicks were seen on 13-14 May 1983.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*) — An uncommon transient in the spring from 12 March - 26 May and in the fall from 16 Sept. - 3 Nov. The high count was 12 on 20 April 1984. Bill Pulliam and Mary Ann Vernocy saw a very early bird there on 17 Feb. 1984.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) — Common transient in the spring from 21 Feb. - 14 May and uncommon transient in the fall from 7 July - 4 Nov. The high count was 30 on 25 April 1983.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) — An uncommon transient in the spring from 31 March - 19 May and in the fall from 8 July (Peggy and Terry Moore) - 23 Sept. The high count was 20 on 15 April 1983. Like the Lesser Yellowlegs, the Solitary Sandpiper was seen on most of the trips I took between the extreme dates of occurrence.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) — An uncommon transient in the spring from 11 April - 5 June and in the fall from 21 July - 24 Sept. The high count was 12 on 17 May 1983. Except for the high count day, I generally observed only 1-3 birds. Nuptial dance was observed in the spring of 1983 but no nesting occurred.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) — The only record was one bird on 11 Aug. 1984 which appears to be Atlanta's 4th record.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) — A common transient in the spring from 25 April - 9 June but uncommon in the fall from 25 Aug. - 23 Sept. The high count was 90 on 2 June 1983. As the ponds were dry in the early fall of 1983 no records were obtained. All fall records total so far only 6 birds.

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) — An extremely rare transient with spring records on 2 June 1983 and 1984 and a fall record of 3 birds 27-31 Oct. 1984.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) — A transient more common in the spring than in the fall. Spring migration is from 25 March - 26 May and fall

migration starts on 8 July. Recently the species has started wintering at these ponds so the end of the fall migration is difficult to judge. Up to 8 birds were found during the winter of 1984. The high count was 50 on 4 and 9 May 1983.

White-rumped Sandpiper (*Calidris fusicollis*) – A rare spring transient from 5 May - 5 June. The high count was 20 on 17 May and 2 June 1983. This was followed the next spring with a high count of only 2 birds. More years of observation are necessary to determine the true status of the species.

Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) – An extremely rare transient with one spring and two fall records. The spring record was on 30 May 1983 (Robert Manns, Terry Moore and Patrick Brisse) and the fall records were 8-9 Oct. 1983 (Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse) and 1-2 Sept. 1984 (Patrick and Donna Brisse). These represent the first, second and third Atlanta records.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) – A common transient in the spring from 22 March - 9 May and in the fall from 7 July - 10 Nov. The high count was 40 on 30 March 1984. On 15 Sept. 1984 Hugh Garrett and I observed a strange Pectoral Sandpiper in that it was close to twice the size of a regular member of the species. Other than that it had all the field marks of the species.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) – There is one record of a single bird on 3 Nov. 1984. This is Atlanta's first record and Georgia's only inland record. The bird unfortunately did not stay long enough to be seen by other birders.

Dunlin (*Caldris alpina*) – This species is an extremely rare transient in the fall with records on 3 Oct. 1983, 3-11 Nov. 1984 and 22 Dec. 1984. The high count was 4 on 3 Nov. 1984. This species could prove to be more regular in the late fall. The 22 Dec. 1984 record represents the first wintering of this species in the Atlanta area and as of Feb. 1985 the bird was still present.

Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*) – Primarily a rare fall transient with 5 records from 28 July - 20 Oct. There is one spring record on 12 May 1984. The high count was 2 on 20 Oct. 1984. Atlanta had only one record of this species before 1982.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) – Francis Michael discovered one bird on 5 Sept. 1984 and I personally saw 2 there the next morning.

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*) – Sightings of single individuals were made on 14 April 1983, 25 April 1984 and 18 Aug. 1984. Another bird seen on 8-9 Oct. 1983 could not be identified as to species.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – Robert Manns found a bird on 21 Oct. 1983 and it was seen by many observers through the 23rd; Francis Michael and Paul Raney reported another one on 24 Sept. 1984 and the last one was seen from 4 Nov. through 2 Dec. 1984. This last bird was very weak when discovered as I was able to approach to within a few feet of it before it would fly a short distance.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) – A common winter visitor from 16 Sept. - 20 April. The high count was 40 on 17 Nov. 1984.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) – Chris Haney and I found a female in alternate plumage on 19 May 1984. Photos were taken of this sighting.

During the limited time I have birded the Water Treatment Plant I have recorded a total of 109 species with 5 other species being seen by other observers. Some of these records, in addition to the shorebirds already discussed, are of interest as they are uncommon or rare in the Atlanta area.

Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) – The first Atlanta record and only Georgia's fifth was a bird in alternate plumage from 19 Aug. - 5 Sept. 1984. The bird disappeared in early Sept. when the ponds were drained.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) – Twelve was an unusually high count for the area on 15-24 Sept. 1984.

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) – Up to 4 birds were seen between 5 Aug. and 3 Sept.1984. This species is rarely seen in the Atlanta area.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerula*) – On 22 July 1984 a high count of 46 birds was seen. Of these only one adult was observed. Such a concentration is unusual for the area although the species is a regular summer visitor.

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) – Francis Michael observed the species on 31 Oct. 1984.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – A single bird was observed on the early date of 7 Sept. 1983.

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) – Francis Michael saw a bird on 7 Oct. 1984.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) – Although the species has been seen at the Treatment Plant a few times during the winter, 2 birds on 22 July 1983 provided Atlanta with its first summer record.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) – On 31 July 1983 Hugh Garrett and I found one bird at the Treatment Plant. This species appears to be on the increase as a rare transient as there were no records prior to 1982 and now there are over 10 in the Atlanta area.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) – One bird was noted on 13 May 1983. It was seen a little later by Robert Manns and Joe Greenberg. This represents another first record for Atlanta and one of the few inland records outside the Columbus and Augusta areas.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*) – A bird in breeding plumage on 9 May 1983 was Atlanta's first spring record. In the fall a maximum of 7 was observed on 4 Aug. 1984.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) – This species is a rare spring transient from 15 April - 2 June. There is only one fall record of a bird seen on 11 July 1984.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) – A few birds spend the winter at the Treatment Plant but the largest numbers are seen during migration. The extreme dates of occurrence are 1 Oct. and 14 May.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) – Francis Michael observed one bird on 2 Oct. 1984.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) – This species has been seen in good numbers in the spring from 24 April - 14 May.

I would like to thank the people from the Water Treatment Plant for allowing us to bird the area, especially Lonnie Philpot, the manager. I hope

this article will let people know how good such facilities can be, especially at an inland location where shorebird habitat is scarce and encourage them to regularly cover such areas.

4960 Gatehouse Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.

GENERAL NOTES

RED-NECKED GREBE SIGHTED AT CLARK HILL RESERVOIR – On 31 March 1985 a Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) was discovered by Clarence Belger on the Georgia side of Clark Hill Reservoir, north of Augusta. This grebe was in the company of 2 Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and 2 breeding plumaged Common Loons (*Gavia immer*). When observed, the Red-necked Grebe was approximately 80 m away and was diving. One unusual feature which was studied for approximately 30 minutes was its manner of diving. First, the bird seemed to shuffle its body around in the water similar to movements used when settling on a nest. After this it would point its head toward the water and then dive without arching its body out of the water at all. Observations were made from shore with 7X binoculars.

Field marks noted indicating that the bird was still in winter plumage included the dusky sides and neck, white cheek patch and dark brown cap on the grebe-shaped head. The size and shape were also distinctive when compared to the Common Loons and smaller Pied-billed Grebes. A search of the area on 1 April revealed that the grebe was gone.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) lists this species as a "rare transient in the interior at Rome 22 Nov. 1957, Atlanta 4 Nov. (1932) - 27 Mar (1917), Augusta 13 Feb (1904) - 3 Mar (1927), and Columbus 7 Dec 1973 and 14-15 Dec. 1966". From these records, it would appear that this is the latest spring sighting of this species in inland Georgia.

Clarence Belger, 539 Tubman Street, Augusta, Georgia 30906.

COMMON REDPOLL IN DUNWOODY AREA – In the early afternoon of 2 March 1985 a lone female Common Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) came with a flock of American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) to a feeding station in the Dunwoody, Georgia area. It fed only on the ground under the feeders, probably gleaning seed bits, since it is apparently unable to crack the seed coat of the sunflower seeds (Dennis, J. V., *A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding*, Alfred A. Knopf Inc., New York, N. Y., 1976). When the flock of goldfinches moved off, the redpoll left with them but appeared late that day and fed under the feeders.

On 3 March the redpoll appeared again in mid-morning with a small flock of goldfinches. It reappeared alone in late afternoon. It left after about 10 minutes of feeding.

On 5 March, it showed up again just before noon and remained most of the afternoon. Frank McCamey was able to get some pictures with a telephoto lens. Although a reasonably careful watch was maintained, the bird did not appear again. A Common Redpoll was sighted several times at the feeder of John Forbes on Spaulding Drive roughly 2.25 miles SE of my feeder during this same period. It was assumed this was the same bird.

This species was last reported in Georgia by William F. Terrell and me on 21 March 1981 (*Oriole* 46: 18) at my feeder just 7 miles south of my present location. Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, 1958, University of Oklahoma Press, Nor-

man, Oklahoma) classifies the bird as hypothetical in the state with two sightings at Atlanta on 5 and 11 February 1922 and a single Macon observation in January 1951. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occl. Publ. No. 6, 1977) accepts the bird as an occasional winter visitor and adds a Brunswick observation on 6 April 1972.

Robert G. Raymund, 9400 Roberts Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30338.

LATE WINTER OCCURRENCE OF A CAPE MAY WARBLER AT ATHENS – At about 1130 on 12 February 1985, I noticed a warbler in one of the Virginia Pines (*Pinus virginiana*) in the courtyard of the Ecology Building on the University of Georgia campus in Athens. To my amazement, it proved to be a female Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*). At the time, there was light snow falling and about an inch of snow on the ground. The temperature was 28 F with a wind chill below zero. The bird was perched just outside the window by which I was sitting (about 2 m from me) allowing excellent views. It was overall a yellow-green warbler with a conspicuous yellow rump and white tail spots. Its back was green and streaked and the yellow undersides were havily streaked. It had distinct wingbars and a green auricular patch outlined by a yellow superciliary line, throat, and neck spot. I saw this bird intermittently through the next afternoon, always low in the shrubs and trees near the walls of the building. On 15 February, after the weather had warmed and the snow had melted, I saw a yellowish warbler with prominent white tail spots fly into a bare oak adjacent to the Ecology Building. I suspect that this bird was the Cape May, but I cannot be sure that it was not a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*). The possibility that the Cape May Warbler might have endured several days of sub-freezing weather is interesting. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occl. Pub. No. 6, 1977) does not list a winter record of this species or a spring arrival date earlier than 4 April 1925.

Bill Pulliam, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.

OPPORTUNISTIC FEEDING BEHAVIOR IN RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS – On 22 March 1985, I observed six Red-shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) hunting in the Myakka River State Park (Sarasota County), Florida. These hawks were all of the Florida light-colored morph. Due to drought conditions the broad part of the river, normally one mile wide, had a perimeter band of exposed former lake bed about 30-40 m wide. The shoreward half of this band had sprouted a good bit of young vegetation and showed signs of extensive foraging by deer and feral hogs. In addition, there were numerous dung beetles and many burrows of small rodents in this zone.

Of the six Red-shouldered Hawks observed hunting, four were still-hunting from perches in the typical manner. The other two were seen to be hunting from the ground in the zone rich in small rodent burrows. They positioned themselves so that the burrow was between the hawk and the sun, presumably to optimize the shadow of the prey, and at a distance of 3 to 4 m from the burrow. Prey were struck from a hopping flight and either eaten on

the ground, in the case of one hawk, or taken to a perch by the other. Several serial episodes of hunting and capture were observed for both hawks and photographed with a 600mm telephoto lens. For each one, after a successful capture the hawk returned to the ground at a point 20 m further away from the sun and repeated the hunting behavior. The hawk which eschewed a perch for feeding would fly shoreward in a deep arc before coming down on a new hunting site.

This modified, opportunistic hunting behavior appeared to be quite successful. I suggest that feeding behavior in raptors may not be as rigidly stereotyped as one might be led to believe, but rather that behavioral plasticity allows the predator to capitalize on rich variation in the prey organism populations.

Stuart J. Coward, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.

OBSERVATIONS OF WILD TURKEYS ON A SEA ISLAND, A CONTINUATION – Data on visual observations of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) at Little Cumberland Island, Camden County, Georgia have been presented in two previous communications (*Oriole* 45: 49-51 and *Oriole* 47: 17-18). In those publications we recorded a period of many years with no sightings whatsoever of Wild Turkeys on this isolated barrier island. Subsequently there were sightings in 1976, followed in succeeding years by a rapid, almost explosive, increase in frequency of sightings and in numbers of individuals observed, both adult and immature.

Beginning in the winter of 1980-81 and spring of 1981, the frequency of sightings and numbers of individuals observed declined precipitously. The number of observers and number of observer-days during this year were comparable to those of preceding years. Not a single young bird was seen in 1981. A pair of adult birds were watched and three young were observed in 1982. A pair of adults were watched during the winter months of 1983 and three young of the year were observed on numerous occasions in the summer and fall months of that year.

Sightings were markedly more frequent in 1984 that in the preceding three years but still were not nearly as many as in the peak year of 1980. On 2 Oct. 1984 six individuals in one flock were found. While being watched, two members of this group flew easily into nearby trees. On 20 Oct. one of us (GWS) saw a group of seven sub-adult, well-feathered individuals foraging on the ground in the maritime live oak forest-floor litter. These were clearly young of the year. They were so closely matched in size, plumage and general development, as well as in coherence of group, that it was believed that they were nest mates. On 27 Oct. six individuals were observed (RB) in a group. On this occasion, three flew easily and smoothly to perches in trees.

Wild Turkeys continued to be encountered on numerous occasions during the succeeding several months, with several adult birds known to be present concurrently.

On 14 Feb. 1985 one of our associates observed a large gobbler in full and extended sexual display before two mature hens. The following day, one of

us (GWS) had two nearly full grown closely-associated individuals walk within 3 m of the observer's hidden position. These birds were believed to be hatched during the spring of the preceding year. No other Wild Turkeys were seen with these two, and they appeared to be free-ranging, near-adults not immediately allied with other similarly-aged birds.

As of the date of this writing, 31 May 1985, small, downy young are known to be present; however, we are as yet uncertain as to their numbers.

George W. Sciple, 2601 Parkwood Drive, Suite One, Brunswick, Georgia 31520 and Gerry Newman and Rebecca Bell, P.O. Box 3127, Jekyll Island, Georgia 31520.

ROSEATE TERN AT TYBEE ISLAND – On 28 May 1985, at 1600 hrs, Ms. Rose Marie Johnson and I were birding the North Beach of Tybee Island immediately fronting the new condominium complex some few hundred feet north of the old fort. It was sunny and hot. To the south of us, bathers were in the water and abundant numbers of sunbathers settled in beach-chairs on the sand. An occasional walker in front of us raised a cloud of shorebirds, gulls and terns that circled and re-settled. Two passes by a military or naval helicopter raised the birds again. Birding could hardly be privately conducted.

But, despite the human occupation of the beach, the birds insisted on returning time and again to a flat large enough for the fifty or sixty to perch on. The group was largely Royal Terns (*Sterna maxima*), perhaps ten Sandwich Terns (*Sterna sandvicensis*), Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) in several plumages, Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) and edgeward Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*). The only other *sterna* tern present hid itself behind four Royal Terns and exposed itself only in parts. The first part, however, was the bill, and that led to accelerated further investigation. Both mandibles appeared solid black under a solid black breeding cap. Cheeks, sides of breast and breast front were very white. Leg color wasn't discernible. Lower breast and belly appeared suffused with gray or pink, but was a different "hue" than face and breast.

On approaching closer (to about 25 m) and scoping with 20X, the belly hue was even more evident and the tail was seen to extend well beyond the primary tips. Looking, incidentally, at this area of the bird for identification can be disconcerting. The author found that when the wings were "folded", i.e., the primaries crossed over the bird's rump, they could look shorter than they actually were. Only when the tips were dropped alongside the tail could the accurate difference in size be told. It was then guessed there might be a full inch. Prior positions put both tips well forward of the tail end, perhaps by 2 or more inches.

At the closer distance, a small amount of deep red could be seen at the gape of the mouth. Very little of the color, however, appeared on either mandible with the mouth closed. Although the red was the color of bill markings on Arctic Terns (*Sterna paradisea*) it was more limited in area, the legs were too long and neck and breast too white for that species.

Leg color does not seem to be a differentiating factor between the *hirundo, paradisaea, dougallii* and *forsteri sternas*, so little effort was expended on behalf of this fieldmark.

It was felt by both observers that, if bill coloration was diagnostic, the bird was a Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) and that other characters would corroborate this.

It was also felt by the author that, if at no time in the life of the Forster's Tern is its bill black with a blood red gape, the bird could not be a Forster's. It is noted, though, that both Forster's and Arctic Terns have tails of greater length than primaries (*Birds of North America*, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.). So, too, could the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) appear to have the same with wings folded high on its back or rump. Also, the angle that the bird is from the observer plays havoc with wing/tail lengths. In addition, I have no idea of the incidence of pre-nuptial wear on the fragile outer retrices of terns. If there is any measurable amount, then, I suppose, woe to the habitual wing/tail length observers.

The bird's behavior was interesting. It always remained at least 1 m away from the Royal Terns. If they moved closer, it moved off. The same was true of the Sandwich Terns, intrusion caused it to move away. It was watchful and wary. I have never seen a need in Forster's for this. The bird was also responsive to beach walkers when the other species ignored them.

A final overflight by the helicopter made academic who was nervous and who was not. All took to the air and the study was finished. I had seen the Roseate Tern before in Maine and Florida; Ms. Johnson was sufficiently satisfied to credit herself a "life bird".

Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1958) considered the species hypothetical in the state based on a specimen (since lost) from Camden County. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occas. Publ. No. 6, 1977) does not list the species at all. Apparently the only positive record for the state was a bird banded in Massachusetts on 6 July 1953 and recovered near Everett in Sept. 1954 (*Journal of Field Ornithology* 55: 1-17).

Robert Manns, 877 Glenbrook Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

NOTES ON THE MOBBING OF GREAT HORNED OWLS BY CORVIDS – Because of the ability of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginiensis*) to conceal itself in high foliage, its day roost is very difficult to discover unless revealed by mobbing birds. Some knowledge of mobbing, then, will be of service to birders. The Great Horned Owls periodically present on this wooded suburban property are routinely subjected to mobbing by American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). The following rather general and anecdotal notes on these mobbings may not reveal anything new to science, but could be of utility to observers not well acquainted with such activities. The notes are based on direct observations made over a period of four years.

1. Though crows and jays are both common in the area, the crows are much more likely than the jays to mob the owl. The crows, when present, are also usually in considerably greater numbers than the jays. Mobbings by crows are perhaps six times as frequent as mobbing by jays.

2. The crows visiting this site seem to be aware of the owls' continued presence, and for some periods congregate almost daily for mobbing. There is

normally one or at most two mobbings per day. The crows arrive around the same time each morning – an hour or two after sunrise. They come in varying numbers: usually about ten, only rarely as many as twenty or as few as three. An average jay mob consists of four or five birds, and will occur at irregular hours. (It is not known where the crows' rookery is; the jays are resident in the neighborhood.)

3. Prior to mobbing, one or two "scout" crows search the owls' roosting area (two acres of very tall pines and tulip poplars). The scouts circle over the tree-tops, cawing. Once an owl is located, mobbing cries begin and other crows are "called in."

4. The quality of the mobbing calls is noticeably distinct. The crows caw and the jays jay, but louder and more stridently than usual. The voice quality suggests what one might want to call hysteria. (I have neglected to note whether the jay gives its hostile "rattle" at this time.)

5. A mobbing by corvids usually lasts ten to fifteen minutes or longer. A jay mobbing is thus distinguished from the normal quarrels of jays, which are usually of much shorter duration, more dispersed, and likely to shift from area to area. An owl-mobbing is stationary and focused.

6. Mobbing crows occupy a spherical area fifty feet or more in diameter; jays considerably less. Most individuals in the mobbing flock "point": that is, they face the owl, giving away its location. The corvids change perches during the mobbing, both when making passes at the owl, and when remaining on the periphery. (I have not tried to determine whether most passes are made by certain more aggressive individuals, or indiscriminately by all.)

7. A bird attacking the owl seldom comes closer than one or two feet. Jays tend to fly closer to the owl than crows do. I have never seen a crow actually graze an owl, though I have seen a jay's pass ruffle the owl's feathers.

8. An owl undergoing mobbing is naturally quite alert, usually following the movements of the more threatening mobbers with its head. The owl remains silent. I have never observed an owl making any physical retort or attacking a mobber.

9. An owl accustomed to mobbing (as were the individuals studied here) will usually sit tight for the duration of the attack. But if there are as many as fifteen or twenty crows, and if the mobbing lasts longer than about twenty minutes, the probability increases that the owl will flee to another perch, usually at least three or four hundred feet away. The close approach of a human observer during such times seems to increase greatly the probability of the owl's flight.

10. Jays mob with crows only infrequently; I have never seen a crow enter into a mobbing initiated by jays. Various other birds, however, sometimes participate in a jay mobbing. Indeed, the presence of other birds is almost a guarantee that a genuine mobbing is in fact taking place. The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) often assist at jay mobbings. Migrants, too, will on occasion mob along with the resident jays: especially the Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), but also occasionally a tanager or the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). The mobbing voice of these birds is a cluck or chuck. In this high forest, ground-dwelling birds seldom take part; nor do the smaller birds, which, along with jays, are the primary mobbers of the Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*).

11. If the owl flies, the mobbing birds raise a great cry of excitement, something like a triumphant shout, audibly distinct from the ordinary level of mobbing noise. The fleeing owl keeps several feet ahead of the pursuing corvids. Mobbing will continue at the owl's new location, but usually for a shorter time, as if the attackers were satisfied with their success. But the owl will reappear at the former roost the following day.

Anselm Atkins, 2525 McKinnon Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE SIGHTINGS IN THE CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA – One Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) was observed on a grassy lawn near downtown Augusta on 19 Oct. 1984 by Vernon Waters. The overall small size and rufous in the wings when flushed were noted. Another bird of this species was observed at Merry Ponds, Augusta, on 3 Nov. 1984 by Anne Waters. It was noted that this small dove had a rounded tail with an absence of white on it and rufous primaries when the bird flushed from the clay road where it was feeding. Both birds were observed in good light with 7X binoculars.

Since that time, Dan Connelly, manager of the Silver Bluff Plantation Audubon Sanctuary in South Carolina across the river from Augusta, has observed the Common Ground-Dove twice on the sanctuary on 30 Jan. 1985 and 9 May 1985. The sanctuary has been in existence since 1975 and these are the first sightings of this species made there.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 6, 1977) lists the Common Ground-Dove as "uncommon to locally common permanent resident in Coastal Plain, breeding north to Fall Line; occasional in Piedmont and in Dade County". Despite the fact that Augusta is on the Fall Line, we had not observed this species in Augusta prior to these sightings (a period spanning approximately 15 years). Clarence Belger reported that the last Common Ground-Dove he observed in Augusta was one northwest of the city on 31 Nov. 1942 at which time it was considered an unusual sighting.

In Murphey's book *Observations on the bird life of the middle Savannah Valley, 1890-1937* (Contrib. Charleston, (S.C.) Mus., No. IX, 1937) he states that the Common Ground-Dove is ". . . a resident, never abundant and now to be found in only a few isolated localities". John Hatcher has seen several Common Ground-Doves in the Savannah River swamps on the South Carolina side of the river below Augusta and feels that the species is expanding up the river. Whether or not these recent sightings constitute northern expansion of the species into the Central Savannah River area remains to be proven by future sightings.

Anne and Vernon Waters, 1621 Apple Valley Drive, Augusta, Georgia 30906.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT AT LAKE EUFAULA – On 20 April 1985, around 1200, a Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) was closely observed about 10.5 km north of Lake Point State Park on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee River. The bird was first observed walking along a sand spit near the water's edge and from a distance appeared to be a small "peep". We maneuvered the boat

to within 8 to 10 m of the bird and observed it closely through 8X binoculars with the sun to our backs for a full 10 minutes. The prominently striped back and flesh colored legs were noted. The bird finally flushed, flew up river for about 200 m and landed in a mass of tree stumps exposed by low water. We approached to within 4 m this time before the bird flushed and flew to a grassy area. The bird was flushed for the third time and flew toward the Georgia side about 200 m distance. At no time during our observation did the bird wag its tail.

Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. and Betty G. Stewart, Rt. 5, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750.

HOUSE FINCHES BREED IN AUGUSTA – Throughout May 1985 a pair of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) visited feeders in my south Augusta backyard. On 15 June 1985 five apparent juveniles visited the backyard but, being unable to land on the feeders, they fed on the ground underneath. Their lack of coordination in flying and in landing suggested their juvenile status to me. Nothing about their plumage confirmed juvenile identification although breast streaks seemed heavier on these than on the female feeding on the hanging feeder above and their bills also seemed to be slightly heavier. On 17 June while watching the same group feeding, Vernon Waters observed a male feeding one of the immatures who was still unable to perfect landing on the feeder perch.

House Finches have been visiting feeders in the Augusta area since 31 Oct. 1979 when Clarence Belger recorded one female at his feeder. Since that time, they have increased in the area with nesting suspected but not confirmed. Although no nest was located, I feel that the behavior of these five birds with the two adults indicates that nesting did indeed occur nearby.

Anne Waters, 1621 Apple Valley Drive, Augusta, Georgia 30906.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following income and expense information for Fiscal Year 1985 has been provided by the Treasurer:

Beginning balance 1 October 1984		$21,708.43
Income		
Dues	2,829.00	
Life Members	1,688.00	
Interest	1,886.11	
Other	2,704.60	
	9,107.71	
Expenses		
Oriole (4 issues)	3,249.55	
Goshawk (4 issues)	597.39	
Occasional Publications (2)	2,375.42	
Other	1,600.16	
	7,822.52	
Ending Balance 30 September 1985		$22,993.62

FROM THE FIELD

January - June 1985

Although there were a number of rarities reported during the period, the spring landbird migration was largely a dud. Few if any observers reported large numbers of migrants and most observers were lucky to see most of the more common species. Most of the rarities centered around pelagic birds with an especially productive pelagic trip on 29 June out to the Gulf Stream. Other sightings of interest included Harlequin Duck, Mourning Warbler, Western Tanager, Common Redpoll, Sprague's Pipit and a possible Roseate Tern.

Abbreviations used are A.S. for Audubon Society, CCWTP for the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant in Clayton County about 20 miles south of Atlanta, SCSP for Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County about 20 miles west of Atlanta, MBBT for Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company ponds in Augusta, PCL for Peachtree City Lake about 20 miles south of Atlanta, AWMA for the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien and CNF for the Chattahoochee National Forest in northwest Georgia.

COMMON LOON – An early bird was already back in Laurens County on 9 Feb. (Tom Patterson) and the same day 50+ were seen during an Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip out of Jekyll Island. Two birds at Clark Hill Reservoir on 31 Mar. were in breeding plumage (Clarence Belger). On 2 May Dennie and Pam McClure reported the last one from SCSP west of Atlanta, and LuAnn Stall noted 7 birds the same day at Callaway Gardens.

PIED-BILLED GREBE – A lone bird was at Twin Lakes near Fairburn, in south Atlanta, on 5 June for a rare but now regular summer record (Dennie and Pam McClure).

RED-NECKED GREBE – Extremely rare inland was a bird found by Clarence Belger on 31 March on the Georgia side of Clark Hill Reservoir.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL – Except for a single bird found on 29 June during an Atlanta A.S. sponsored pelagic trip off Jekyll Island, Chris Haney was the only observer to report the species. The counts and dates were the following: 2 on 20 Feb., 1 on 22 Feb., 2 on 23 Feb., 3 on 5 May and the last one on 13 June. All reports were from near the Gulf Stream.

CORY'S SHEARWATER – The excellent 29 June Atlanta A.S. trip yielded 100+ Cory's with the first ones being seen as close as 15 miles offshore.

GREATER SHEARWATER – On the trip mentioned above 5 Greater's were seen about 90 miles offshore on 29 June (Atlanta A.S.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER – Chris Haney found a single individual offshore on 2 May for only the 4th record for Georgia.

MANX SHEARWATER – This is the third year the species has been observed during the winter Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip. This year 3 birds were seen on 9 Feb. off Jekyll Island. The first 2 were 35 miles offshore but the third one was seen as close as 9-10 miles off the coast. Chris Haney had an additional individual on 24 Feb. These represent Georgia's 7th and 8th records, all within the last 3 years.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER – Numbers of seabirds were down in 1985 in comparison with Chris Haney's trips in 1983 and 1984. He noted only 4 on 5 May and single birds on 12, 14 and 15 June. The 29 June trip yielded only 2 birds (Atlanta A.S.).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL – The earliest record was 3 birds seen by Chris Haney on 4 May. Additional reports were 11 on 5 May, single birds on 11, 15 and 16 June, 3 on 12 June and 8 on 14 June. A very good count for Georgia was the 50+ observed on 29 June mostly far offshore (Atlanta A.S.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL – A first for an Atlanta A.S. sponsored pelagic trip was 5 birds found 50 to 70 miles east of Jekyll Island on 29 June. The species was just discovered in Georgia in the summer of 1983.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD – An adult with black upperwing bars was noted offshore on 6 May (*fide* Chris Haney). This represents only the 6th or 7th record for Georgia positively identified as to species.

MASKED BOOBY – The 6th record for the state was a single adult seen about 50 miles east of Jekyll Island on 29 June (Atlanta A.S.).

NORTHERN GANNET – A very late individual was seen offshore by Chris Haney on 20 April.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – This species continues to increase inland: small numbers were in Laurens County on 24 and 31 March, 14 and 23 April and 5 May (Tom Patterson); single birds were in Atlanta on 29 March (Paul Raney) and 5 May (Dennie and Pam McClure); and the best numbers were reported from MBBT in Augusta with 1 on 5 Jan., 2 on 19 Jan., 16 on 7 April, 8 on 29 April, 5 on 4 May and 1 on 1 June (Anne and Vernon Waters).

ANHINGA – An Augusta A.S. field trip to MBBT on 15 Jan found a single bird and Anne Waters saw it again on 19 Jan. Five members of the Augusta A.S. waded a rookery in Midville on 8 June, but because of the heat wave the rookery was deserted and they could only find one Anhinga nest with 3 large young. Worth mentioning, for an inland location, were the 10 nests found by Tom Patterson at Bracewell's Pond in East Dublin, Laurens County, in April and May. The first birds were on the nest by 14 April.

AMERICAN BITTERN – Jeff Petit sighted 2 birds at the AWMA near Darien on 6 April. Tom Patterson reported the first one from Laurens County on 7 April and he also flushed 5 from a marsh on 27 April. These are two of the most reliable places in Georgia for American Bitterns.

LEAST BITTERN – Although declining as a nester around Augusta, this species was found in two different territories on 30 April and 25 May (*fide* Anne Waters). Even rarer in Atlanta as a summer resident was one found in a Norcross parking lot on 8 June and turned over to the Chattahoochee Nature Center which released it the next day (*fide* Terry Moore).

SNOWY EGRET – One at Murphy Candler Lake in north Atlanta on 11 May was a rare spring visitor in the Piedmont (Jerry Brunner).

LITTLE BLUE HERON – Early wanderers were at Callaway Gardens on 30 March (LuAnn Stall), the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon on 7 April (Jerry and Marie Amerson) and near Winder on 9 April (John Paget). Inland roosts were not heavily used in Dublin and Augusta. Anne Waters mentioned that the roost at MBBT had only 13 birds in early May, down to 10 by late June, and Tom Patterson could only find 3-4 pairs nesting in late May in the Dublin area.

CATTLE EGRET – Near Dublin the species was nesting by 23 April and Tom Patterson estimated around 2000 nests by the end of May. At MBBT in Augusta, Anne Waters and Clarence Belger reported 85 birds on 4 May and 120 on 27 June. Only one report was received from Atlanta where the species is still a rare transient. Dennie and Pam McClure had 3 birds in Douglas County on 2 May.

GREEN-BACKED HERON – A late migrant or wintering bird was at Gainesville on 8 Jan. as mentioned by John Paget.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON – Up to 10 birds wintered in the Augusta area, *fide* Anne Waters, and Clarence Belger still had 4 birds on 16 April. One was sighted by Roger Doxsey on 28 April along the Chattahoochee River for a rare Atlanta record.

WHITE IBIS – Tom Patterson counted as many as 200-250 adult birds at Bracewell's Pond in East Dublin in May. No nesting occurred but a juvenile on 27 May at the same spot was rather interesting!

GLOSSY IBIS – Five were at the AWMA on 6 April according to Jeff Petit. Up to 10 birds were there on 20 April as mentioned by Terry Moore and others.

WOOD STORK – Marie and Jerry Amerson sighted a Wood Stork near Dublin as early as 29 March.

TUNDRA SWAN – Don and Joyce Duncan sent in a report of 2 immatures from a pond east of Lake Blackshear near Macon on 6 Jan. In Augusta, only 3 birds reached MBBT on 9 Feb. (Jack Cooper) and stayed just until 16 Feb. (Anne Waters and others).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE – A single bird was at Callaway Gardens on 25 Feb. as noted by LuAnn Stall and Sue Chambliss (*fide* Sam Pate). The bird was seen through 24 March (Dennie and Pam McClure). The species is rarely sighted anywhere in Georgia outside Eufaula NWR.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL – Peggy and Terry Moore noted 10 birds along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta on 6 Jan. for a rare local winter sighting.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL – High counts this spring were 150+ at the AWMA near Darien on 6 April (Jeff Petit) and 14 inland in Atlanta on 23 March (Patrick Brisse). Two birds were late in Atlanta on 28 April (Patrick Brisse).

NORTHERN SHOVELER – Very rare in mid-winter in Atlanta was a single male seen near the CNC on 6 and 19 January (Peggy and Terry Moore, Patrick Brisse). Anne Waters reported a late bird from Augusta on 6 April.

GADWALL – This species was not widely reported during the period. Four were in Atlanta on 6 Jan. (Peggy and Terry Moore), a few were at Berry College near Rome on 14 Jan. (Donna and Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett), and 6 were in Augusta on 19 Feb. (Clarence Belger).

AMERICAN WIGEON – Five were uncommon at PCL on 1 Jan. (Patrick Brisse). Noteworthy were 100+ birds on a small pond at Berry College near Rome on 14 Jan. (Donna and Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett) for a very good mid-winter count for the piedmont area.

REDHEAD – Tom Davis reported 8 from SCSP on 26 Feb. The species was definitely less common than in previous years in the Atlanta area.

RING-NECKED DUCK – A large wintering group, 500+, was noted in Augusta by many observers (*fide* Anne Waters). A small group of 200 birds wintered at PCL and as usual a few, 5 this year, stayed during the summer but no nesting occurred (many observers).

LESSER SCAUP – On 9 Feb., a few miles offshore, members of the Atlanta A.S. were surrounded by at least 15000+ ducks flying in every direction. Most of them were likely Lesser Scaup but around 500 were Black Scoters. A good inland count was 65 at CCWTP in Clayton County on 9 March according to Patrick Brisse. But the most unusual record came from Augusta where Anne and Vernon Waters noted a female on the late date of 25 May and a male on 1 and 27 June.

HARLEQUIN DUCK – A male at Tybee Island on 10 March provided Georgia's second record just a year after the first sighting in the same area (Jim Clark).

SURF SCOTER – Of note was a bird at SCSP in Douglas County on 19 Jan. as reported by Georgann Schmalz. The bird was seen by many observers through 17 Feb. This is only the second record for the Atlanta area.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER – Although rare inland, this species seems to be becoming more regular in the last few years. A single individual was on Lake Lanier from 28 Feb. to 2 March (John Paget).

COMMON MERGANSER - Paul Raney sighted a female plumaged bird near Carrollton on 12 Jan. for the third winter record in the piedmont area this winter.

RUDDY DUCK – Late birds were reported from Augusta on 6 April (Anne Waters), SCSP on 5 April (Patrick Brisse), PCL on 5 April (Patrick Brisse), and Gainesville through the month of April (John Paget). Very unusual were a male and female staying at PCL through 15 June. No nesting occurred as only the female could be located during the rest of the summer.

OSPREY – The species was widely reported with sightings from Laurens County on 13 March, 7 April and 5 May (Tom Patterson), Augusta on 6 and 30 April and 12 May (*fide* Anne Waters), Atlanta on 2, 13 and 14 April (*fide* Terry Moore), Columbus on 28 March (Sam and Nan Pate) and Lake Tobesofkee near Macon on 1 April (Arlene and Ken Clark).

MISSISSIPPI KITE – A very early bird was near the Augusta levee on 22 April as mentioned by Anne Waters. Near Macon, Marie and Jerry Amerson saw the first bird back at the Ocmulgee National Monument on 11 May. In Laurens County, Tom Patterson suspects that there is a new breeding area.

BALD EAGLE – Outside the coastal area and Eufaula NWR, I received just a few reports. On 1 Jan. Tom Davis saw one in Haralson County and Ray and Mildred Mangham saw another at Callaway Gardens. Ronnie Shell reported another

individual at the Piedmont NWR on 14 Jan. At Eufaula NWR the maximum was 3 adults and 3 imm. on 18-20 Jan. (Robert Manns, Vince Jackson). Although the birds were seen from the Alabama side, they move freely on both sides of the river.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK – One bird in Whitfield County on the early date of 10 Feb. was probably an early migrant (Delano Crowe).

GOLDEN EAGLE – Jean Manly reported a bird in Calhoun, near the Chattahoochee National Forest on 17 Jan. Could it be one of the birds released last year on the Lookout Plateau? Four eagles on 3 April in the CNF was a very good count by Harriett DiGioia.

RUFFED GROUSE – Atlanta's second record was a bird at SCSP on 30 March by Paul Raney. The bird was seen on the ground and then flushed.

WILD TURKEY – Reports of 2 birds from Lookout Mountain on 14 Jan. during an Atlanta A.S. field trip and 4 more near Commerce on 3 March (Donna and Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett) were noteworthy as I do not receive very many reports of the species from the piedmont or mountain areas.

SORA – Always difficult to find inland, one bird was flushed from a Laurens County marsh on 27 April by Tom Patterson.

COMMON MOORHEN – Tom Patterson noted a pair as early as 14 April and presumed nesting. A rare transient in Atlanta, one was found dead along the Chattahoochee River by Mary Ann Vernocy on 5 May.

AMERICAN COOT – As usual a few were found summering in Atlanta at two different locations: SCSP (Dennie and Pam McClure) and PCL (Patrick Brisse). No nesting occurred.

SANDHILL CRANE – This year the last southbound birds almost met the first northbound birds. Rod Smith (*fide* John Paget) had 40 in Hall County on 13 Jan. The first northbound birds were noted on 27 Jan. over Marietta by Wally Dreyfoos. Don and Joyce Duncan sighted 50+ near Kathryn and Ken Clark had another 60 near Lake Tobesofkee near Macon on 23 Feb. From the Dalton area, Harriett DiGioia reported 25 and Robert Lankford and Emma Brown saw around 250 both on 28 Feb. The main migration over Atlanta took place on 3-4 March when close to 1000 birds were reported to Terry Moore.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER – Two different individuals were reported from Augusta on 29 and 30 April (Anne Waters, Clarence Belger). In Atlanta a few birds were noted 18-27 May with a maximum of 4 on the 19th (Patrick Brisse).

BLACK-NECKED STILT – Two individuals were early at the AWMA near Darien on 6 April (Jeff Petit). Terry Moore and others reported 10 more from Brunswick on 20 April. Does anyone find the species nesting in Georgia anymore?

AMERICAN AVOCET – The maximum spring count was 42 at Jekyll Island on 4 April as noted by Dennie and Pam McClure. Five were still there on 20 April when seen by Terry Moore and others.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS – The species was noted from 23 March to 27 May at CCWTP in Clayton County. The maximum count was 14 on 27 April (Patrick Brisse, et al.). In Augusta the dates were 7-29 April with a high of 13 on the last date (Anne Waters).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER – Four were at CCWTP, Clayton County, on the late date of 27 May (Patrick Brisse). Although Spotted's have been found summering a few times in the past at Atlanta, no birds have been found recently any later than the first week of June.

UPLAND SANDPIPER – John Paget noted an early bird at the Gainesville Airport on 31 March. Anne and Vernon Waters sighted 16 at the Augusta Airport on 10 April and Tom Patterson had 3 in Laurens County on 14 April. The last one was found by Dennie and Pam McClure in south Fulton County on 2 May.

WHIMBREL – Six was a good count near Brunswick on 31 March as reported by Dennie and Pam McClure.

MARBLED GODWIT – A few were noted at their usual spot, St. Simons Island East Beach, in early Jan. (Peggy and Terry Moore, Patrick Brisse) and were seen as late as 6 April when Dennie and Pam McClure saw 5 birds.

RUDDY TURNSTONE – Atlanta's second record was a bird found at CCWTP, Clayton

County, on 18 May by Patrick Brisse. Peggy and Terry Moore saw the bird the next day.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER – Forty-seven was a good count at CCWTP on 18 May and 14 were still there on 1 June (Patrick Brisse). In Augusta, 22 were at MBBT on 14 May with only 5 remaining on 25 May (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters).

WESTERN SANDPIPER – In Augusta, one was early on 9 March and 2 others were seen on 14 May (*fide* Anne Waters). In Atlanta, one was at CCWTP on 18 April (Francis Michael) and two more on 28 April (Patrick Brisse). This is one of the rarer spring transients inland.

LEAST SANDPIPER – One bird wintered at CCWTP (Patrick Brisse) and another was in Forsyth County on 20 Jan. (John Paget). The first migrants were 16 at Augusta on 16 March according to Anne Waters and 4 seen at CCWTP on 30 March by Patrick Brisse. The maximum number in Atlanta was 35 on 27 April.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER – Two were rare near Dublin on 18 May as mentioned by Tom Patterson. In Atlanta, the first one was seen at CCWTP on 27 April and the last one there was on 1 June (Patrick Brisse). The maximum was a very good count of 18 on 25 May.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER – John Paget discovered one bird at Pendergrass on 19 Jan. for a very rare winter record for Georgia. The bird stayed through 17 Feb. There is only one positively identified winter record for the state. Patrick Brisse had a very decent inland count of 85+ at CCWTP on 22 March.

PURPLE SANDPIPER – Six were at Tybee Island on 3 Jan. as reported by Patrick Brisse and 4 were still there on 10 March as sighted by Jim Clark.

DUNLIN – A single bird wintered at CCWTP and was seen off and on by many observers through the end of April. This represents the first wintering record for the Atlanta area.

STILT SANDPIPER – Although rare in the spring, one was seen in Augusta, at MBBT, on 30 April (Clarence Belger) and another at CCWTP on 18-19 May (Patrick Brisse, Peggy and Terry Moore).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER – In Augusta, 5 seen by Anne Waters at MBBT on 6 April was a very good inland count.

PARASITIC JAEGER – Two were seen during the 9 Feb. Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip. One, a dark phase, showed everyone how to rob a meal from a gull. A very late bird was seen by Chris Haney offshore on 5 May.

BONAPARTE'S GULL – Spring records were received from SCSP on 3 April (Paul Raney), CCWTP on 4 April (Patrick Brisse) and Jackson County on 21 April (Bill Pulliam).

HERRING GULL – A very unusual sighting, probably the largest number ever for the Atlanta area, were the 32 seen by Didi Manns at the Atlanta Waterworks on 22 March.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL – An adult was seen a few miles from shore by some of the participants of the 9 Feb. pelagic trip (Atlanta A.S.). Although a regular fall visitor now, this represents only the third winter record. Along with the Lesser, 2 Great Black-backed Gulls were seen that day.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – As in the last few years, a few were sighted by Chris Haney during his offshore trips: 2 on 17 Jan., 1 on 18 Jan., and 2 more on 21 Feb. Only one was seen on 9 Feb. by members of the Atlanta A.S.

CASPIAN TERN – A bird seen at one of the ponds at Plant Scherer near Macon on 13 April was a rare inland record (Ocmulgee A.S.).

ROSEATE TERN – Robert Manns sighted one individual on Tybee Island on 28 May. The record is still being evaluated by the Checklist Committee. So far no previous accepted record exists for the state and an old specimen has since been lost.

BRIDLED TERN – Chris Haney recorded 5 on 20 April and 1 on 14 June and the 29 June Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip yielded only about a dozen birds.

SOOTY TERN – In the last few years Chris Haney has been the only observer to find Sooty Terns in Georgia waters. This year was no exception as he noted 42 on 5 May and 1 on 14 June.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO – Only one sighting was reported this season. That one was by Dennie and Pam McClure in south Fulton County on 12 May.

SHORT-EARED OWL – Up to 10 birds were near Cordele in Feb. (Gregory Valpey). Don and Joyce Duncan saw the owls on 17 Feb. and a few Atlanta birders saw them in late Feb. and early March (Joe Greenberg and others).

WHIP-POOR-WILL – One bird was very early near Columbus on 8 March (Helen Stutts, *fide* Sam Pate) and also early for the Atlanta area was another bird in north Fulton County on 31 March (Peggy and Terry Moore).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD – Early arrivals were in south Columbus on 5 March (Eleanor Crawford, *fide* Sam Pate), Macon on 15 March, a window kill (Lois Birch), Augusta on 22 March (Kathryn May) and Atlanta on 3 April (Francis Michael).

WESTERN KINGBIRD – The only report was an early spring arrival along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 30 March by Dennie and Pam McClure.

GRAY KINGBIRD – Two were seen near The Cloister on 30 June by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. Although it is the usual nesting area, no evidence of nesting was found this period. Does the species nest there every year?

PURPLE MARTIN – Except for Columbus where the first ones were seen on 23 Feb. (Sam Pate), the species was almost a month late in Augusta on 17 March (*fide* Lee Gibbs) and in Atlanta on 22 March (Dennie and Pam McClure).

TREE SWALLOW – Of note for an inland location were the 100+ found by Patrick Brisse on 6 April at CCWTP.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW – Paul Raney reported an early bird in NW Atlanta on 8 March.

BANK SWALLOW – Close to 100 birds were seen by Patrick Brisse on 18 May at CCWTP in south Atlanta, a very decent inland count; along with the Bank Swallows one Cliff was noted which is a fairly late date.

FISH CROW – The species arrived in Augusta as early as 8 March and around 40 were seen the next day (Anne and Vernon Waters). Bill Pulliam reported some from the University of Georgia campus in Athens during the month of April.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET – One was late on 14 April during an Atlanta A.S. migration walk along the Chattahoochee River in the north part of the city.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET – A single bird was near Stone Mountain on 24 June (Patrick Brisse). This is probably the first June record for Georgia.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER – Anne Waters saw one in Augusta, at MBBT, on 2 Feb., for a rare inland winter record.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH – Clarence Belger sent the only report for the period, from the Augusta levee on 11 May. This species can sometimes be hard to find in Georgia.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT – Milton Hopkins spotted one along the Chattahoochee River near Eufaula NWR on 20 April for a very rare state record.

WHITE-EYED VIREO – Early birds were found by Jerry and Marie Amerson near Macon on 24-25 Feb. and on 2 March during an Augusta A.S. field trip.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER – John Paget reported one on 3, 16 and 17 Feb. in Forsyth County. Another was seen during an Augusta A.S. field trip on 2 March. What could have been an early migrant was along the Chattahoocheee River in north Atlanta on 31 March (Atlanta A.S.).

NORTHERN PARULA – Early migrants were in Augusta on 16 March (*fide* Anne Waters) and Atlanta on 31 March (Atlanta A.S.). A few always stay around during the summer in the piedmont area, so it was not that unusual to locate a pair in south Atlanta on 15 June (Patrick Brisse).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER – More common in spring in Atlanta than before, six reports were received by Terry Moore from 28 April to 10 May.

CAPE MAY WARBLER – Laurie Jones reported an early migrant near Washington on 2 April (*fide* Sam Pate).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER – Of note was a late bird found by Tom Patterson in Laurens County on 2 June.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER – The warbler migration was worse than previous years and very few people were lucky to see large numbers. The best count of Bay-breasted Warblers was only 6 at Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County, on 9 May by Paul Raney. The same day, Paul noted about 40 Blackpolls. Except for

that report the species was well below average.

CERULEAN WARBLER – Only two birds were reported this spring, both on 28 April. One was near Stone Mountain by Patrick Brisse and the other in south Atlanta by Liz and Hugh Garrett.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER – Rather early for the piedmont was one seen by John Paget near Commerce on 1 April.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER – Birds on their breeding grounds (most likely) were noted in late April. Anne Waters had a singing bird at Phinzy Swamp in Augusta on 20 April, Bill Pulliam heard another in Clarke County on 21 and 28 April, and Tom Patterson heard males along the Oconee River in Laurens County on 28 April. One bird took up residence along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta during the month of May (*fide* Terry Moore) and the last one was heard by Peggy and Terry Moore near Stockbridge on 22 June.

OVENBIRD – Since this bird is very unusual in the Atlanta area during the summer, the report of 10 nesting pairs within .5 mile of Terry Moore's house in north Fulton County was most surprising. Nesters were also widely reported from Harris County (*fide* Sam Pate).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH – John Paget had an early bird in Hall County on 19 March.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER – No reports were received from Atlanta for the first time in a few years. Noteworthy was one at MBBT in Augusta on the late date of 25 May (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters, Jim Clark). This appears to be only the second record in the last 15 years for the area.

MOURNING WARBLER – With such a poor spring migration, a singing bird seen in Atlanta on 18 May by Georgann Schmalz was a real find.

HOODED WARBLER – A singing bird near Stone Mountain on 31 March was early and already on territory as the bird was heard for the next two months and nesting occurred (Patrick Brisse).

CANADA WARBLER – A female was rather late in north Fulton County on 25 May (Peggy and Terry Moore).

SCARLET TANAGER – Although a rare summer resident in Atlanta, the species was found to be more common than the Summer Tanager in north Fulton County by Peggy and Terry Moore.

WESTERN TANAGER – A male arrived at Dr. Saucier's home in Americus in the first week of April and stayed until 11 May. Photographs were taken and Alan Ashley and W. C. Holman verified the sighting on 8 May. Another male visited Tom Williams' feeder in Columbus on 29 April (*fide* Sam Pate). Two records of this accidental species in Georgia during the same period is extremely unusual.

PAINTED BUNTING – A pair was noted in Dublin as early as 25 April and remained through the end of the period (Tom Patterson).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW – A bird found by Bill Pulliam in Clarke County on 28 April was thought to be a rare local breeder.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW – It was encouraging to find a single singing bird at the Augusta Airport on 30 April since it is scarce in the Augusta area (Anne Waters). South of their usual breeding range were 2 birds found by Mark Oberle near Americus on 27 May. This is the second year that Mark has reported the species from the Americus area in early summer.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW – Relatively late were 4 birds in Augusta on 16 April (Clarence Belger) and another individual in Clarke County on 28 April (Bill Pulliam).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD – A female plumaged individual visited Hunter Patterson's feeder in Atlanta on 11 Jan. for that city's third record.

PURPLE FINCH – Most of the people who normally see large numbers were lucky to see one or two this winter in Atlanta and some active birders missed the species completely. In Dublin, they did not appear until 6 Feb. and were in very small numbers.

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

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