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FIRST MODERN RECORD OF WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL IN GEORGIA

Mark W. Oberle

On 30 December 1982, a U.S. Forest Service employee, James Jones of Blue Ridge, GA, observed a male White-winged crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) in Fannin County. The bird was feeding with a flock of Red Crossbills (*L. curvirostra*) along FS 221 on the eastern boundary of the Cohutta Wilderness Area. According to Harriett DiGioia, Jones is not a birder but is a keen observer of nature who knows songbirds quite well because he hunted them for food during the Depression. She has frequently studied birds while working in the field with him, and is impressed with his observational skills. Before consulting a field guide or seeing any illustrations, he gave her the following description. The bird was slightly larger than the Red Crossbills, had a lighter, more pinkish color and had two white wing bars. Harriett later showed him an illustration and he confirmed the identification.

On 1 January 1983 Luke Oberle and I explored this area and saw no crossbills at all. However, a storm had come through in the interim, and crossbill movements are notoriously unpredictable.

In contrast to the previous winter, few observers reported crossbills in the lower 48 states during the winter of 1982-83. Red Crossbill sightings were scarce, and the most southerly White-winged Crossbill sightings were three separate reports from northern Pennsylvania in late December-early January (Hall 1983). However, given the scarcity of observers in the higher mountains in winter, crossbills could have staged a thin incursion down the high mountains without being noticed elsewhere.

This is the first modern record of the White-winged Crossbill in Georgia. The species has been reported from neighboring areas of North Carolina, Tennessee, and northern Florida, but no reports exist for Alabama or South Carolina (LeGrand 1978, American Ornithologists' Union 1983). In North Carolina the species winters erratically in higher elevation spruce-fir forests (Potter *et al.* 1980). The most recent Tennessee sightings were of two birds at separate feeders in 1985 at Hixon and Chattanooga, less than 50 miles from the location of the Georgia sighting (Hall 1985).

Is this really the first occurrence of the White-winged Crossbill in Georgia? No modern reference to the species appears in any review of the literature (Burleigh 1958, Loftin 1984). However, John Abbot included the species in his illustrations of Georgia birds (Faxon 1896). Abbot resided northwest of Savannah



White-winged Crossbill - Drawing by Elizabeth Traynor.

during the period 1790-1810, but his White-winged Crossbill sketch, like his other sketches, does not include details on the origin of the specimen he used for the illustration.

White-winged Crossbills may well have nested in Georgia during the late Pleistocene. There are several lines of evidence supporting this hypothesis. Fossil remains of this small passerine have not been reported, but if fossil remains were discovered, they would be difficult if not impossible to speciate. Excavations at several locations, including Ladds Quarry near Cartersville, have suggested that during the late Pleistocene, Georgia had a mild, cool climate.

Some locations supported a spruce forest habitat (Holman 1985b). The Spruce Grouse (*Dendragapus canadensis*) occurred in Georgia during this period, 10,000-11,000 years ago (Holman 1985a). Since the current nesting range and habitat preferences of the White-winged Crossbill and the Spruce Grouse are closely matched (Robbins *et al.* 1983), it seems likely that the two species occurred together in Georgia at the same time.

A more tenuous argument for the prehistoric occurrence of White-winged Crossbills in Georgia is the presence of an isolated population of the species in the mountains of Haiti and the Dominican Republic (Stockton de Dod 1978). The ancestors of this population may have passed through, or originated in, southeastern North America. However, it is also possible that the Hispaniolan population originated from a long, overwater migration that bypassed Georgia. Both species of crossbills are capable of long, oceanic migrations. The White-winged Crossbill has occurred in Bermuda (Taber 1968). An isolated, endemic race of the Red Crossbill occurs on northern Luzon in the Philippines, where it presumably evolved after a long, overwater migration (DuPont 1971, King *et al.* 1975).

The Georgia Ornithological Society's checklist committee has accepted the 1982 sight record as the first modern record for the state (Haney *et al.* 1986). However, the species remains on the state's provisional list, pending additional convincing sight records, a photograph, or a specimen.

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**PAST BREEDING DISTRIBUTION OF ELEVEN SPECIES
IN GEORGIA
BASED ON NEST RECORDS FROM EGG DATA SLIPS**

Douglas B. McNair

The breeding distribution of the birds of Georgia is not well known for the majority of species that breed, or have nested, within the state (Burleigh 1958, Denton *et al.* 1977). I have egg data slips from museum collections for eleven species in Georgia and have compared these data with information from Burleigh (1958). The eleven species examined are Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Yellow-throated (*Dendroica dominica*) and Pine (*D. pinus*) warblers, Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*), and Bachman's (*Aimophila aestivalis*) and Grasshopper (*Ammodramus savannarum*) sparrows.

The egg data slips from Georgia for all eleven species span the years 1864 to 1950, though all but eight records are from 1883 to 1933. Egg data slips exist from only sixteen counties and the number of counties represented are about equally divided between the Coastal Plain and Piedmont (Table 1). Oologists focused their collecting on the coast at Chatham County (N = 324 of 553 records, 59%). Few other counties have an appreciable number of breeding records with the exception of Richmond County on the Fall Line (N = 108, 19.5%). Painted Bunting eggs and their nests were most heavily collected from these two counties. Other species were also heavily collected in Georgia if their breeding range was primarily restricted to the southern United States, e.g., Brown-headed Nuthatch, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, and Bachman's Sparrow.

Egg data slips provide confirmation of breeding for species in counties where breeding is not confirmed in Burleigh (1958) for twenty of forty-eight possibilities, an appreciable percentage (42%, Table 1). Two of these locality records are unusual. The nest and eggs of Painted Bunting collected by Greene Johnson in Putnam County will be discussed elsewhere (McNair in press). The other two reliable records from Putnam County were also collected by Johnson (MCZ). Dr. A. Gerhardt collected three nests and their eggs of the Bachman's Sparrow in Whitfield County in the Appalachian Valley (USNM 1651, 3361, and 20141; identity confirmed by J.P. Angle, Collection Manager). (USNM 20141 was an incomplete set without an egg data slip and was therefore excluded from Table 1.) Several of Gerhardt's other breeding records of other species are considered unreliable or controversial (Griffin in Burleigh 1958). Burleigh (1958) recorded Bachman's Sparrows breeding only as far north as Cherokee County in the north Georgia Piedmont.

Aside from providing new distributional information, egg data slips provide additional information for species in counties where breeding is confirmed in Burleigh (1958), primarily Chatham and Richmond counties.

Table 1. - Number of confirmed nest records from egg data slips by county in Georgia for one dendrocacipid and ten passerines.

County	Species ¹										Total
	HAWO	ETTI	YTWA	SUTA	PABU	GRSP					
	RWSW	BHNU	PIWA	BLGR	BASP						
Coastal Plain											
Bibb	1*	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Camden	-	2*	-	13*	1	-	-	-	18*	-	34
Chatham	-	5	3	51	17	6	31	68	131	12	324
Liberty	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
McIntosh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	1
Richmond	-	1*	2	-	-	11	16	70	3*	5	108
Thomas	-	-	-	22*	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Wayne	-	-	2*	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Piedmont											
Clarke	1	1	2	2	-	11	3	3	-	-	28
Elbert	-	-	-	3*	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Fulton	-	-	3	-	-	5	2	-	1	-	11
Haralson	-	-	-	2*	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Oglethorpe	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1*	-	-	-	2
Putnam	-	-	1*	1*	-	-	-	1*	-	-	3
Stephens	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Appalachian Valley											
Whitfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	2
Unknown	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	5
Total	2	11	13	96	18	54	89	203	39	10	553

¹ Abbreviations from Klimkiewicz and Robbins (1978): HAWO = Hairy Woodpecker, RWSW = Northern Rough-winged Swallow, ETTI = Tufted Titmouse, BHNU = Brown-headed Nuthatch, YTWA = Yellow-throated Warbler, PIWA = Pine Warbler, SUTA = Summer Tanager, BLGR = Blue Grosbeak, PABU = Painted Bunting, BASP = Bachman's Sparrow, GRSP = Grasshopper Sparrow.

* Denotes counties for species where breeding is not confirmed in Burleigh (1958).

T.D. Perry, of Savannah, collected 242 egg sets of the 324 total egg sets of the nine species collected in Chatham County (Table 1). Perry collected all these egg sets from 1883 to the year of his death in 1925. Of the five decades, his most productive was 1900-1909. Perry's set/mark notation was inconsistent except for Painted Bunting. Using his notation for this species only and available data from the eight other species, I estimate that Perry must have collected a minimum of 1800 egg sets of all species. Most of these eggs sets were collected after Perry's major publication period in the 1880's, e.g., Oologist (see Greene et al. 1945).

M.T. Cleckley, of Augusta, collected 101 egg sets of the 108 total egg sets of the seven species collected in Richmond County (Table 1). Other individuals collected extensively for Cleckley in Richmond County, i.e., John and Barnie Smith and perhaps others. Likewise as Perry, the decade of 1900-1909 was the most active for Cleckley, though he collected from 1896 to 1926. Cleckley's set/mark notation was inconsistent, and it is difficult to estimate the number of egg sets he collected (or were collected for him) of all species.

These two men then, T.D. Perry and M.T. Cleckley, were responsible for collecting or having collected for them over half of all egg sets collected of these eleven species in Georgia, from only two counties. I.F. Arnow of St. Mary's, Camden County, also collected many egg sets in Georgia though this is not apparent from table one. Arnow's set/mark notation was consistent and consecutive, however, and the latest egg set I have that he collected is number 643 (19 May 1909).

The activities of I.F. Arnow, M.T. Cleckley, T.D. Perry, and many other oologists were well known to Burleigh (Greene et al. 1945, Griffin in Burleigh 1958). Burleigh did correspond with several oologists, especially G.R. Rossignol, Jr. of Savannah, for breeding data and relied extensively on his own field notes or notes of other (post-oology) field workers. For example, Burleigh used data for Painted Bunting from only one nest in Augusta (his own), and only Rossignol's data for Savannah. Presumably, Burleigh did not have immediate access to egg data slips in museum collections. Earlier, Murphey in Greene et al. (1945) had not recognized the worth of these data, probably because much of these data were so dispersed, though Greene et al. (1945) cited many oological publications which were later ignored by Burleigh (1958).

The information from egg data slips given here on the past breeding distribution of eleven species in Georgia provides baseline survey data from which to measure changes in a species' population status. More important, perhaps, egg data slips are the primary source on breeding information, e.g., clutch size, date of clutch initiation, for the majority of these eleven species in Georgia. I discuss the significance of this breeding information elsewhere (McNair 1985).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank the curators and staff of North American museums who provided me with egg data slips which allowed me to write this paper. These museums are cited in McNair (1985). Clemson University provided support for use of the computer. I thank W. Post for constructive criticism.

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 303 Robinson St., Rockingham, NC 28379.

WOOD THRUSH SONG AND SPRING RAINFALL

Robert L. Crawford

Environments, as habitats for birds, are seldom stable. Usually plant communities will evolve into another type if time and circumstances allow. This vegetative succession is invariably correlated with changes in the bird community, and many studies have investigated this process. One study has been on the Tall Timbers Research Station, Leon County, Florida. The study site, called NB66, is about one-half mile south of adjacent Grady County, Georgia. The 8.6 ha (21.3 acre) plot was established in 1966 to document the effects of fire exculsion on an annually burned pine forest. The open pine forests of the southeastern United States are considered an arrested stage of succession, maintained as fire kills back encroaching hardwoods. The design of the NB66 experiment was to test the prediction that a closed-canopied, deciduous forest would develop and replace the upland pine forest in the absence of fire. The plot was last burned in March 1967 and then allowed to grow up with fire excluded. Breeding bird censuses were made annually during 1967-1986. All birds seen and heard were recorded during eight early morning counts each year, mostly in April and May. Counts were of about one hour duration, and mornings after rainfall were avoided because of dense, soaking vegetation. Engstrom *et al.* (1984) discussed in detail the study plot, methods, and results of the first 15 years of study, including the changes in the species composition of the bird community. Bird species typical of open pine forests disappeared; for a while, as the plot grew into dense shrubs, species such as Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), and White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) became common but then disappeared as the shrubs grew up into a hardwood subcanopy and shaded out the ground-floor vegetation. The next stage, perhaps the most dramatic, was the appearance of hardwood-forest species such as Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*), and Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) where there were once Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) in an open pine forest.

ERRATIC OCCURRENCES DURING 1979-1986

Engstrom *et al.* (1984) presented only the first evidence of the appearances of the hardwood-forest species, as that report included data only through 1980. While I continued the annual censuses during the next five years, I had the impression that, although generally the hardwood-forest species increased in numbers of individuals and species, the progression was not steady. Instead, some species seemed to wax and wane, especially the Wood Thrush. I also knew that the southeastern United States experienced some unusually severe spring droughts during that time, and I wondered if spring rainfall affected the presence of the hardwood species in NB66. After the 1986 spring census I compared the counts from 1979-1986 to the rainfall recorded at the weather station maintained by Tall Timbers Research Station; the rain gauge is about one-half mile from NB66.

RESULTS

Figure 1 compares the Wood Thrush counts to rainfall at Tall Timbers. Thrush counts are the total individuals recorded (virtually all by song) on all eight counts each year; rainfall is expressed in inches recorded during April and May of each year. Clearly there is a strong positive association between spring rainfall and Wood Thrush song in NB66. No other hardwood forest indicator species censused (Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) and Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)) had sufficient numbers recorded to show a similar pattern.

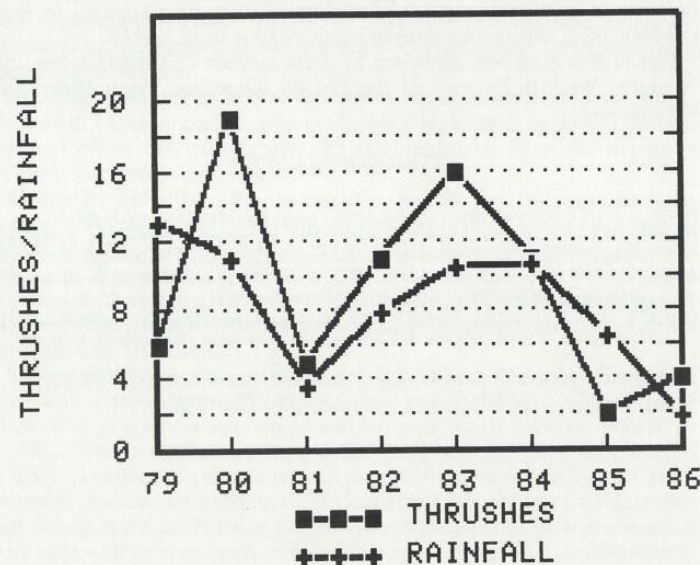


Figure 1. Numbers of Wood Thrushes detected in NB66 by year 1979-1986, and April-May rainfall in inches.

DISCUSSION

Two factors make interpretation of this association difficult. First, as noted, the birds are recorded virtually entirely by song; thus more birds may have been on the plot, but were silent. Second, the plot and its birdlife are changing annually so several dynamics are occurring simultaneously. Nevertheless, it seems evident that in NB66, spring rainfall affected Wood Thrush breeding activity, at least as manifested by song.

Bertin (1977) demonstrated that soil moisture is important in habitat selection for the Wood Thrush, and Petit *et al.* (1985) concluded that atmospheric moisture micro-climates, supporting large numbers of arthropods, might attract insectivores more than vegetatively similar but drier sites. James *et al.* (1984) noted that the Wood Thrush requires mud for nest construction and suggested this as a limiting factor for the species. Dry spring seasons could limit opportunities to acquire mud. Whether these limiting factors operate separately or together, the results from NB66 indicate that a spring drought may affect the progression of avian succession in response to plant succession by, in some circumstances, suppressing breeding activities for some species.

Part of this work was supported by grant number GFC-84-004 from the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

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Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 678, Tallahassee, FL 32312.
(Present address: 208 Junius St., Thomasville, GA 31792).

1984 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Kenneth Turner Blackshaw

This article is the third in a series begun by Moore (1983) and continued by the present author last year (Blackshaw 1986). The figures are arrayed in the same format used last year, with the exception that this year's count totals are compared to an average of the 1982 and 1983 count figures. The counts are still sequenced from northwest to southeast, so that as you look from left to right across the page, you can gain an impression of the geographical distribution of the species across the state.

The original data were obtained from Drennan (1985). Table 1 uses the following abbreviations for the count locales: DAL - Dalton; CHA - Chattahoochee National Forest; ATL - Atlanta; PEA - Peachtree City; ATH - Athens; CAL - Callaway Gardens; PIE - Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge; COL - Columbus; MAC - Macon; AUG - Augusta; DUB - Dublin; ALB - Albany; OKE - Okefenokee; HAR - Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge; THO - Thomasville; SAP - Sapelo Island; and GLY - Glynn County. There are no new counts added this year.

Participation was higher in 1984 with twenty-one more observers than normal, grouped in 7% more parties, who put in thirty-eight more hours and covered 143 more miles. This paid off with 185 total species, six above the average of the preceding two years.

Species for 1984, that were not reported over the past two years were the Common Merganser and Broad-winged Hawk at both Callaway Gardens and Sapelo; two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Columbus; a hummingbird of unknown species at Thomasville; two Bewick's Wrens at Dalton; two Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Athens; two Ovenbirds at Thomasville; a Yellow-breasted Chat and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Atlanta. All these sightings are unusual enough to warrant publication in *The Oriole*.

Species with significantly rising numbers included the Pied-billed Grebe with fairly high numbers coming from the central part of the state. 1984 was also an excellent year for Gannets whose numbers were nearly ten times 1983 (zero in 1982). The Brown Pelican count of 392 was back up to the level observed in 1982, so perhaps it's time to resume our optimism about this species' DDT problems. Twenty-five Wood Storks at Okefenokee brought that total up higher than normal as did the 21 Snow Geese at Harris Neck. Wild Turkeys continued to increase with good counts from both Athens and Albany. Common Moorhens were up generally across the state with a total nearly three times the previous average. Marbled Godwit counts of seven at Sapelo and six at Glynn County were much better than previous year, similarly with Red Knots at thirty and forty-one. Forster's Terns were strong this year at 800 as were the Black Skimmers at 1757. Palm Warblers came in with generally higher numbers throughout the state, totalling 164. Common Grackles were up 500%, mainly due to a flock of over 50,000 seen at Dalton. Siskins and goldfinches were significantly higher than the preceding two years.

On the other hand, some species declined in 1984. Redheads only showed up at two places, Peachtree City and Piedmont NWR. Surf Scoters disappeared

Table 1. 1984 Georgia Christmas Counts.

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUS	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1984	AVG
Red-thr Loom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	14
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	8
Pied-b Grebe	2	-	9	52	11	20	157	8	18	45	13	110	-	11	14	6	49	525	250
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	23	51	33
Northern Bannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	24	92	5
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	273	392	255
Double-c. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	4	-	13	1	18	-	205	394	644	577
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	1	1	8	2	2	27	17
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	4	1	20	9	9	10	23	14	21	16	7	11	13	8	17	33	59	275	255
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	57	-	26	45	13	-	54	40	239	251
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	40	61	84
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	11	-	8	14	43	39
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	4	30	19
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
Green-b. Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	11
Blk-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	22	26
Yel-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	161	4	-	29	101	456	333
Glossy Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wood Stork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	2	-	-	-	-	27	3
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Gr. White-f. Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	21	-	-	-	22	1
Canada Goose	36	-	-	-	-	6	284	12	-	-	37	100	-	-	-	-	-	475	367
Wood Duck	8	-	70	12	19	24	129	2	15	11	27	230	32	18	540	7	-	1144	1218
Green-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	32	-	48	-	33	150	10	2	291	192	-
Am. Black Duck	-	-	-	-	50	-	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	118
Mallard	17	1	56	93	128	43	105	28	39	8	2	26	11	8	27	6	49	647	934
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	39
Blue-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	20
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	17	41	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	4	-	-	-	38	-	1	-	50	88	-
American Wigeon	-	-	1	2	5	-	3	1	10	289	-	20	-	22	60	-	2	415	467
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	13	9
Redhead	-	-	7	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	35
Ring-n. Duck	50	-	106	95	-	40	1740	485	207	635	-	82	-	132	-	18	3590	3347	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	4	179	2	79	11	-	4	-	1	-	-	220	501	261	-
Scaup (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1500	-	1500	330
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	8	20	134
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87
White-w. Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11	3	-
Scoter (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	12	50
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Bufflehead	-	-	21	-	34	3	84	60	2	-	-	-	8	-	20	75	307	232	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	30	4	4	-	33	-	3	-	1	65	-	11	-	34	165	350	346
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	-
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	48	109	352
Ruddy Duck	-	-	74	4	3	29	1	73	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	4	262	152
Duck (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Black Vulture	7	-	-	3	13	19	1	4	-	4	10	6	39	103	15	38	7	269	191
Turkey Vulture	48	4	1	88	122	18	140	3	6	-	51	100	72	65	122	60	23	923	710
Osprey	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Northern Harrier	1	-	-	2	2	5	4	-	2	1	7	6	1	9	9	8	5	62	61
Sharp-s. Hawk	1	-	3	3	6	-	-	3	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	2	9	33	33
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	-	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	13	22
Accipiter (sp.)	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUS	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1984	AVG
Red-s. Hawk	6	-	12	15	10	8	9	5	10	9	4	15	11	3	9	9	-	135	115
Broad-w. Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-t. Hawk	9	2	11	19	15	16	16	43	21	17	10	20	1	7	34	8	23	272	327
Buteo (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Am. Kestrel	12	5	5	7	4	2	2	5	10	13	24	8	7	5	14	15	19	157	185
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	5
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hawk (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	20	3	-	-	-	-	-	26	3	-	-	2	1	55	19
N. Bobwhite	-	3	18	23	15	8	18	14	-	-	-	43	-	7	59	-	2	210	378
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	109	61	182	186
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	38	17	36	10	109	37
American Coot	27	-	-	291	-	-	542	140	254	46	-	18	-	8	44	15	11	1396	899
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	-	-	-	-	62	210
Black-b. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	225	338	569	534
Wilson's Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Semi. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1600	385	1985	1798
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	13
Killdeer	58	5	48	27	56	36	9	72	85	9	126	115	14	1	134	2	29	826	1504
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	13	28	34
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	51	68	30
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	11	-	2	-	1	45	61	26
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	139	213	354	248
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	15	25	19
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13	2
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	32	64	201
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	41	71	3
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	8	-	-	-	750	246	996	454
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	-	3	-	1	38	43	108	37	37
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	26	2
Peep (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3600	596	4196	3525
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sandpiper (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	632	651	649
Short-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000
Long-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	18	1
Dowitcher (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151	1351	1502	103
Common Snipe	-	-	3	6	2	-	-	1	8	1	3	29	3	2	20	1	8	87	7
Am. Woodcock	-	-	4	2	3	4	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	23	17
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151	1351	1502	103
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	3	47	50
Ring-b. Gull	-	-	1	-	2	1	48	390	401	48	-	-	46	7	750	2178	3872	3111	2111
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	378	74	58
Great Black-b. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	1
Gull (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	6	19	2
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	150	249	400	12
Common Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	184	611	800	22
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	1477	1757	445
Rock Dove	153	5	197	29	480	11	19	400	455	113	177	9	-	-	10	-	70	2128	186
Mourning Dove	300	25	660	95	136	33	102	195	168	258	151	184	5	16	122	34	186	2670	254
Common Ground-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	16	-	1	20	4
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Barn-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	6	1

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1984	AVG
E. Screech-Owl	2	-	23	8	1	4	2	6	3	-	3	5	-	1	4	16	11	89	47
Great Horned Owl	1	-	6	2	5	4	3	3	-	-	-	14	-	-	16	9	9	72	39
Barred Owl	-	-	1	1	-	14	3	4	1	4	2	17	-	-	10	-	-	57	23
Hummingbird (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Belted Kingfisher	5	5	31	11	13	22	11	9	21	10	13	15	3	13	14	26	52	274	218
Red-h. Woodpecker	-	-	-	1	2	5	1	2	-	3	23	31	-	2	12	3	1	86	59
Red-b. Woodpecker	25	6	90	22	81	68	22	22	48	16	24	30	14	15	57	19	25	584	538
Yell.-b. Sapsucker	7	2	10	19	10	12	13	8	14	15	8	11	4	2	30	13	12	190	239
Downy Woodpecker	6	5	103	49	51	23	25	9	31	10	21	14	6	5	11	22	8	401	363
Hairy Woodpecker	8	3	15	2	14	3	5	5	3	2	6	-	-	3	3	1	-	73	60
Red-c. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	1	-	17	20
Northern Flicker	21	4	109	33	48	45	39	29	67	46	17	51	7	20	54	19	45	654	709
Pil. Woodpecker	7	6	35	24	16	45	24	41	12	4	11	25	18	19	22	24	29	362	195
Eastern Phoebe	10	5	39	28	18	14	3	4	17	9	18	28	13	10	40	23	15	294	186
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	375	54	-	200	441	1070	988
Barn Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Blue Jay	82	14	193	93	138	127	48	110	80	17	158	129	13	9	143	29	117	1500	2601
American Crow	245	54	705	544	265	303	179	480	138	35	70	80	47	66	113	84	58	3466	4012
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	2	50	1	175	1135	1370	614
Carolina Chickadee	137	30	446	192	231	73	53	31	121	37	77	89	1	40	41	87	48	1734	1623
Tufted Titmouse	64	10	136	67	156	46	21	38	63	9	49	46	1	16	47	-	-	871	871
Red-b. Nuthatch	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	17
White-b. Nuthatch	14	7	5	-	-	17	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	16	-	-	64	50
Brown-h. Nuthatch	5	-	180	92	66	42	34	19	21	14	15	8	5	-	18	124	1	644	597
Brown Creeper	5	1	13	7	9	2	-	4	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	47	87
Carolina Wren	67	36	224	157	189	58	31	17	107	27	39	61	9	13	80	41	47	1203	944
Bewick's Wren	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
House Wren	-	1	5	6	1	2	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	3	23	25	14	85	71
Winter Wren	2	4	14	3	12	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	41	52
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	14	1	17	12
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	21	30	59	27
Golden-c. Kinglet	8	5	322	95	90	16	5	21	6	2	4	-	-	-	8	1	-	583	842
Ruby-c. Kinglet	13	4	231	198	165	60	46	40	104	54	100	85	17	13	125	143	130	1528	1571
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	6	3	1	20	10
Eastern Bluebird	100	22	321	272	159	124	63	58	24	19	52	19	26	5	70	167	-	1501	1422
Gray-c. Thrush	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Hermit Thrush	1	1	38	33	13	5	3	14	1	4	2	3	1	-	36	12	3	170	220
Thrush (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Robin	115	12	296	299	126	811	77	480	71	10	450	306	623	325	2305	930	941	8177	7924
Gray Catbird	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	15	-	8	10	1	44	40
N. Mockingbird	56	21	130	75	75	41	14	26	45	34	43	25	16	7	32	20	44	704	946
Brown Thrasher	6	4	21	17	17	9	3	7	19	3	11	12	2	2	34	6	12	185	277
Water Pipit	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	25	39	250	102	-	-	35	2	10	551	275
Cedar Waxwing	90	53	630	110	125	183	146	104	32	143	363	143	-	12	176	115	32	2457	2793
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	7	14	10	10	-	3	11	9	35	4	3	7	23	1	10	149	130
E. Starling	805	232	1795	163	16797	24	91	1500	528	735	464	218	91	94	61	54	351	24003	21775
White-e. Vireo	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	8	10	5	31	26
Solitary Vireo	-	-	2	3	7	1	-	1	7	1	2	-	-	-	19	16	8	67	60
Orange-c. Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	7	2	2	18	30
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-r. Warbler	13	8	244	405	237	101	110	198	409	415	330	41	631	674	420	2060	1600	7896	5507
Yellow-t. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	10	2	18
Pine Warbler	1	2	61	218	23	100	52	48	16	11	62	34	16	12	51	128	62	897	638
Palm Warbler	1	3	9	11	5	4	-	4	3	12	7	49	-	2	14	16	24	164	87
Blk & white Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	1	7	1	13	29	34	-
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	1	7	1	-	1	1	4	3	12	3	1	-	38	14	8	94	73
Yellow-br. Chat	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1984	AVG
Warbler (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
N. Cardinal	65	32	283	120	173	123	39	21	115	88	127	150	4	20	87	73	118	1638	1856
Rufous-s. Towhee	42	14	269	109	97	39	50	32	54	16	41	35	16	7	112	50	70	1053	1058
Bachman's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Chipping Sparrow	3	2	865	470	268	338	86	60	87	1	142	260	-	32	37	41	-	2692	2346
Field Sparrow	88	40	882	390	255	5	39	15	23	18	107	19	-	2	8	2	8	1901	2033
Vesper Sparrow	3	1	28	17	3	-	3	1	-	1	20	109	-	9	50	1	-	246	90
Savannah Sparrow	7	-	44	71	43	15	8	4	55	33	42	108	-	18	64	95	35	642	682
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharp-t. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	10
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	15	8	29	19
Fox Sparrow	1	-	14	6	11	3	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	41	73
Song Sparrow	177	41	808	341	551	47	118	13	74	76	184	29	2	5	47	79	44	2636	2258
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Swamp Sparrow	15	1	117	60	41	2	41	5	16	11	19	50	-	4	92	55	15	544	535
White-t. Sparrow	160	61	1098	457	581	100	75	69	232	169	132	176	3	10	101	46	100	3570	4230
White-c. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	17	27
Dark-e. Junco	66	320	393	223	197	153	114	35	69	55	133	-	-	-	7	6	-	1771	4154
Sparrow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	233
Red-w. Blackbird	51286	2	428	501	31191	78	136	3000	193	481	193	1172	750	261	1170	337	626	91805	267620
East. Meadowlark	115	54	156	188	79	42	1	44	164	83	90	66	12	42	25	29	31	1221	2205
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	27	3	-	-	8	530	45	-	-	-	63	-	-	-	676	7982
Brwer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	260	-	-	-	-	-	-	265	107
Boat-t. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	-	137	1046	1267	1424
Common Grackle	51118	55	49	128	4673	137	6	6000	546	562	26	2049	51	40	544	32	383	66399	10569
Brown-h. Cowbird	1	2	27	18	15185	30	2	28	15	150	85	52	-	10	1	-	1	15607	7534
Blackbird (sp.)	-	2402	-	-	-	-	-	10000	348	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12750	1451
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	9	2
Purple Finch	3	1	7	5	14	1	5	12	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	58	645
House Finch	1	-	58	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	129
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pine Siskin	113	-	7	4	150	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	298	59
Aw. Goldfinch	56	97	1708	231	194	117	93	240	183	42	59	80	-	17	124	32	14	3287	1842
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
House Sparrow	168	87	167	76	180	-	4	500	48	7	117	8	4	-	5	-	6	1372	1277
Total Individuals	166153	3824	15157	7799	74207	4001	5649	25441	6914	5258	5182	7658	3323	2722	8358	17466	19288	318386	421664
Total Species	72	56	78	88	90	77	81	95	88	86	76	99	61	94	97	132	136	185	179
Number of Observers	17	7	42	20	35	37	15	9	23	12	10	13	13	11	12	15	29	320	299
Number of Parties	9	3	15	9	14	9	4	6	7	5	3	4	6	8	5	6	11	124	116
Party Hours	54	22	123	77	117	55	36	46	65	31	28	41.5	37.75	44	47	57	70	951	913
Party Miles	287	135	690	512	270	264	277	197	296	109	190	122	175.5	59	192	126	273	4174	4031
Date of Count	12/15	12/16	12/15	12/15	12/29	12/17	12/15	12/15	12/22	12/22	12/30	12/27	12/23	12/29					

completely, down from an average of 87 per year. Red-breasted Mergansers virtually disappeared from everywhere except the coast. There were no Bald Eagles reported in 1984 and Avocets fared similarly. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, only found on two counts. This was also a poor year for juncos, down to just more than a third the average of the last two years. Purple Finches were also low, perhaps supplanted by the high numbers of siskins and gold-finches. This was the second year in a row without Evening Grosbeaks.

If anyone would like a copy of the Lotus spreadsheet data on diskette, please contact the author.

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2536 Cedar Canyon Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30067.

GENERAL NOTES

AN EARED GREBE IN MONROE COUNTY - While conducting a weekly waterfowl survey for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on 19 November 1985, I discovered an Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) on the ash pond at Georgia Power's Plant Scherer. The bird was sighted in close proximity to a loose group of Pied-billed (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*), which facilitated easy comparison of the 3 species.

The bird was found at approximately 1630. It was still present when I terminated the observation to complete the waterfowl count some 20 minutes later. The bird was viewed through a 15-60X variable scope at a distance of about 36 m.

On 20 November 1985, I brought fellow wildlife biologist, James T. Hicks to the ash pond in hopes of his being able to substantiate the presence of the species in Monroe County. Arriving at the ash pond at approximately 0915, we discovered an Eared Grebe within 50 m of the location where the sighting was made on the previous afternoon. The bird was actively diving for food. On 23 November efforts to locate the bird with Don and Joyce Duncan proved fruitless.

The bird exhibited a distinct blackish, triangular-shaped head; the neck and back were also dark. A white spot was located on the side of the head. The eye was scarlet in color, while the bill was thin and slightly upturned at the tip.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Publication No. 10, 1986) lists the Eared Grebe as an accidental in Spring and Fall. Five previously reported sightings place the species in Georgia at four separate locations - Eufaula N.W.R., Pendergrass, Jackson County; Lake Lanier; and the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant (also see Raney and Moore this issue). The sighting here falls well beyond the extreme dates previously reported as being 22 March (1979) and 21 October (1980).

Terry W. Johnson, Rte. 3, Box 891, Forsyth, Georgia 31029.

SECOND RECORD FOR THE EARED GREBE IN ATLANTA - On 2 September 1986 I found a winter plumaged Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant about 20 miles south of Atlanta. The bird was identified by its dark neck, whitish ear patch and upturned bill. It was diving actively during the entire time I saw it and it was easily lost in the large number of Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) also present. The bird was last seen on 4 September 1986 by Dale Johnson and Bill Pulliam.

This is the second record for the Atlanta area the first being a breeding plumaged bird which remained at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant from 18 August 1984 to 5 September 1984. This also appears to be the seventh record for the state of Georgia according to the *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986). (See Johnson and Raney this issue).

Terry S. Moore, 13000 Bucksport Drive, Woodstock, GA 30188.

FIRST RECORD OF EARED GREBE ON THE GEORGIA COAST - Around 1100 on 28 September 1986 Robert Manns, Nell Kirkland and I were stranded at the drawbridge leaving Jekyll Island. It looked like a long wait for fishing boats to pass when Bob spotted our first waterfowl after two days of birding. Speculation ran wild including Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) as Bob hurried to get his Questar spotting scope. Initially beyond effective 7X binocular range, the grebe obligingly swam rapidly toward us eventually passing under the drawbridge almost directly beneath us.

The Questar revealed a small, red-eyed grebe with a tiny sharp-pointed bill (ruling out *P. grisegena*). The entirely gray neck and gray "ear" contrasting with a white throat and white cheek, identified the bird as a winter plumaged Eared Grebe (*P. nigricollis*) rather than a Horned Grebe (*P. aurinus*) which shows much more white (particularly the front of the neck) and a more angular head-shape. The bill was slightly upturned, being a difficult fieldmark at any distance.

The *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists 6 widely scattered inland records for Eared Grebe in Georgia from 1979 through 1985 (see Johnson and Moore this issue).

Paul Raney, Jr., 961 Briar Creek Ct., Conyers, GA 30207.

WHITE PELICAN IN MCINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA - The American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) is an infrequent visitor to coastal and inland Georgia. Since 1903 there are 17 recorded sightings. Thirteen of these sightings are in Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1958) while the others are in *The Oriole*. Most sightings, 12, have been in the fall, September through November.

An additional sighting on 26 May 1986 therefore seems worthy of note. While aboard the Sapelo Queen, we saw one American White Pelican in company with five Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) afloat on Doboy Sound about one-half mile west of the Duplin River and Sapelo Island. The locality is in McIntosh County, Georgia. There could be no mistaking the bird's identity as we passed quite close to the bird and a clear color slide was made.

Robert L. Humphries, 1597 Milford Church Rd., Marietta, Georgia 30060 and Donald C. Scott, Beech Creek Rd., Athens, Georgia 30606.

SOME UNUSUAL OBSERVATIONS FROM THE PIEDMONT - The following are four interesting observations made over the past few years in the Atlanta and north Georgia areas.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) - On 8 December 1985 a female Greater Scaup was found on a small pond inside the subdivision where I reside near Stone Mountain in Dekalb County. Around 1200 I noticed a sleeping duck on the pond. I returned around 1600 with a telescope. My wife Donna and a neighbor, Terry Miller, joined me a few minutes later. The bird's rounded head shape and well marked whitish ear patches were observed. While preening, the bird showed

white wing stripes going from the secondaries well into the primaries allowing us to positively identify this species. The bird was last seen the afternoon of 14 December.

Also on 14 December 1985 I went to the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant south of Atlanta to check for possible wintering shorebirds. Sixty-eight scaup were present. Most of these were in the largest pond and were Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). A group of seven birds, 3 males and 4 females, was by itself in another pond. One of the males was definitely a Greater Scaup. It was a bright sunny morning which allowed me to see the green gloss on the head and its rounded shape. Some of the male Lesser Scaup were showing green glossy patches on their heads but not as uniformly as the male Greater Scaup. A few times I had males of both species in the same scope from 30 m away using 30-40 power. In comparison, the Greater Scaup was slightly larger, its bill was definitely wider with a longer nail. Conclusive identification was made 10 minutes later when the bird flapped its wings and revealed its wing stripes which extended well into the primaries.

These are only the third and fourth records for the Atlanta area. Father Martin saw the first one near Conyers on 18 March 1963; Terry Moore, John Swiderski, Hugh Garrett and I saw another one at Sweetwater Creek State Park about 20 miles west of Atlanta in Douglas County on 7 March 1982. The species is rarely recorded inland in Georgia and only a handful of records exist north of the Fall Line.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - On 6 August 1982 Robert Manns learned of two birds reported to Frank McCamey from near Sautee in White County, GA. I received a call from Bob and since it was a lifebird for me, we decided to drive to White County the next morning. The two birds were reported feeding over a field which was being plowed. The directions were accurate and we found one bird as soon as we arrived. Although we did not see two birds at the same time during the next hour, we felt that there were probably two birds present. The species is rare north of the Fall Line and according to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) only three previous records exist this far north in Georgia.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) - Peachtree City Lake, located in Fayette County, 25 miles south of Atlanta, is one of the best places to find ducks in the Atlanta area. For the past five years Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) have been the only ducks summering at the lake other than Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*). During the summer of 1985, a male and female Ruddy Duck were observed until 15 June. After that date only the female was seen at the same place through late fall. This represents the first summering record for the Atlanta area.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) - On the morning of 24 June 1985 while doing some backyard birding in Stone Mountain, I noted a single Ruby-crowned Kinglet among Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) and Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*). I had a good view of the bird, observing wingbars, eyering and the special way the species flicks its wings. This appears to be the first June record for the species in Georgia.

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

AN EARLY NESTING RECORD FOR THE OSPREY IN GEORGIA - In conjunction with a statewide census performed by the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources Nongame and Endangered Species personnel, aerial surveys of 19 artificial nesting platforms for Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base were conducted during the 1986 nesting season. During the first flight on 21 April, observers (Ron Odom, Jim Armstrong, and I) noted 8 occupied platforms, 3 containing eggs (3, 3, and 2) and 3 with nestlings (all with 2).

Of the three nests with young, one was particularly interesting in that the nestlings were at least 2 weeks of age, judging from their size and their ability to move about the nest with ease. With an incubation period of 28 days (Bent 1961), the time of laying could be no later than 10 March 1986. No mention was made of nesting dates by Denton *et al.* (1977), but this is a month earlier than Rossignol's record of 9 April for fresh eggs (Burleigh 1958). Other authorities (Newton 1979) give an incubation period as long as 38 days, making the egg date even earlier (1 March 1986).

Rossignol's egg record was in the Savannah region, wherein may lie the reason for the much earlier date at King's Bay. The Naval Base is located near St. Mary's, Georgia; approximately 100 miles south of Savannah. In the neighboring state of Florida, dates for Osprey egg laying range from December to April (Bent 1961).

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 Denton, J.F., W.W. Baker, L.B. Davenport, Jr., M.N. Hopkins, Jr., and C.S. Robbins. 1977. Annotated checklist of Georgia birds. GOS, Occas. Publ. No. 6.
 Newton, I. 1979. Population ecology of raptors. Buteo Books, Vermillion, SD.
 Kenneth A. Riddleberger, Jr., University of Georgia, School of Forest Resources, Athens, Georgia 30602.

INDICATIONS OF A LARGE MIGRATION OF RING-BILLED GULLS AT MORGAN FALLS LANDFILL - Reports of inland gull migration are usually of individual gulls or small flocks. Therefore, the following observations occurring at Morgan Falls Landfill in north Fulton County, Georgia indicate a much greater gull migration than previously suspected.

On 12 March 1986 at about 1700 I noted 26 gulls flying north from the landfill. Over the next half-hour 3 more flocks departed northward for a total of 107 birds. These were identified as Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) mostly in adult plumage. On 22 March at 1630 I witnessed about 60 Ring-billed Gulls already departing northward at high altitude. Eighty to ninety Ring-billed Gulls feeding at the landfill likewise departed 15 minutes later for a total of 140+ gulls. On 28 March at 1200 at least 180 Ring-billed Gulls alternated feeding and resting at the landfill. Observations on 30 March, 2, 4 and 5 April yielded no gull sightings. Further observations at Morgan Falls and similar areas are necessary to determine the extent of gull migration in inland areas of Georgia.

Paul Raney, Jr., 961 Briar Creek Ct., Conyers, GA 30207.

GULLS AND TERNS TOLERANT OF UNUSUAL HUMAN APPROACH - Shorebirds on the coast of Georgia are not excessively wary, although it is normal for gulls, terns, and other larger species to fly in alarm when humans approach as close as 50-100 m. However, one flock of 30-40 mixed gulls and terns was tolerant of an unusual approach. At the central public beach on Jekyll Island, Georgia, on 15 Oct. 1985, the observer waded into the ocean 200 m south of this flock, went 100 m offshore, came abreast of the flock, then floated toward it with only my head out of the water. The birds were resting very near the shore, at the high water mark of the waves. As I drifted to within 20-30 m, several in the flock seemed to take notice, raising their wings and giving what seemed to be alarm calls. But none flew, and many continued to preen without concern. I continued in till I was fully beached, from which point I wriggled closer with knees and elbows. The birds stayed. At a distance of 10 m I stopped, though I might have come closer. Observation lasted 5-10 minutes. Details such as the yellow tips on the bills of the Sandwich Terns (*Sterna sandvicensis*) were clearly visible. The observer then retreated into the ocean. The birds did not fly until alarmed by a pair of beach strollers several minutes later. Apparently the birds were not able to recognize a human being in that unaccustomed posture and coming from that direction; in any event, the mechanism that triggers alarm at humans was not stimulated.

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

OBSERVATION OF A RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD AT FITZGERALD, BEN HILL COUNTY, GEORGIA - On 18 and 19 September 1986 a male Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was observed at our feeders. (Our feeders are usually removed before this date each year; however, we still had 3 up at this time.) These feeders were also being used at the same time by 6 to 8 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*). The Rufous Hummingbird was observed frequently and at close range along with the Ruby-throats during this two day period.

The most immediately obvious and striking observation was the bird's predominantly rusty-brown coloration which contrasted distinctly with the predominantly green coloration of the Ruby-throats. Its tail, as well as the sides of its breast and most of its back, was unmistakably rusty-brown (rufous) in color. The only green coloration was its wings and to a somewhat lesser extent on its head. The gorget was not obvious; however, it did show small patches of dark coloration on its throat. These small patches along with the mostly brown (rufous) back led me to believe it to be an immature male.

Observations were made at close range in mostly bright, sunny situations over the two-day period. We were able to observe the bird as it fed at our feeders at a distance of 2-3 m and as it perched some 5-7 m away. It was easily observed and compared with the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. While it was easily observed without binoculars most of the time, we did use 7X and 8.5X binoculars to observe and confirm details. Of further interest, this bird displayed the "guarding" behavior commonly observed in the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The Rufous Hummingbird would frequently drive the Ruby-throats away from one of the feeders.

I attempted to photograph the bird as it fed at our closest feeder which happened to be in a shady area. With the shady situation I was forced to use a rather slow shutter speed and therefore only got blurry results. The best of these pictures shows the general rufous-brown coloration but unfortunately not much detail.

This appears to be the third record for the Rufous Hummingbird in Georgia. The first was at Athens on 6 Nov. 1978 and the other was a bird at Duluth from early Oct. 1984 to 11 Jan. 1985 (Haney, J.C. *et al.*, *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds*, GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

Frank Parrish, Route 2, Box 152, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

BROODING EASTERN SCREECH-OWL NOT FOOLED BY BLIND - It is well known that the Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) will "buzz" (attack with shrieks and bill-clicking) human intruders in its nest area. More precisely, the present observer's experience with these owls over the last six seasons indicates that this buzzing occurs only during the final stage of nesting when chicks are about to leave, or have already left, the nest. Moreover, buzzing is restricted to the hours of dusk, night, and dawn. The behavior defeats the owl's purpose, of course, as far as birdwatchers go for it alerts one to the presence of a nearby nest. Accordingly, when this observer was recently buzzed in his suburban driveway, he discovered that an apparently empty nesting box there was in use. Later, while attempting to observe that nest more discretely, he found that the guarding adult was very much aware of his activities and reacted to them in an unexpected manner.

On 10 May 1986 at 1945 (sunset on that date being 2022) I repaired to the cab of a pickup truck which habitually remained parked 8 m from the nest box. It was my belief, based on casual experience, that birds are not alarmed by persons inside vehicles; and it was thought that they (with the exception perhaps of crows) lack a concept of the continued existence of objects which have disappeared. In this case I was obscurely visible through the truck's windows. The blind proved totally ineffective. Within ten minutes a first protest was heard from the adult owl, which was roosting in the woods 15 m behind the truck. Its cry was a "moan" (high, soft, muffled, throaty). The moan was repeated three more times at five minute intervals. Then, beginning at 2015, the adult launched buzzing attacks on the truck and occupant. These came at approximately eight minute intervals for the next hour. During the buzz, the owl would fly beside or in front of the truck with wings very outstretched, clicking the beak and uttering guttural shrieks and cries. Twice it perched in a small tree near the truck. Since this behavior showed no signs of stopping, and since I wanted to witness feedings rather than buzzings, and (furthermore) did not wish to interfere unduly with the owls' feeding schedule, I retired at 2115.

At 2300 another tactic was tried. I covered myself with a dark blanket and began slowly crawling along the straw-covered drive from the door of the house to the nest box 25 m away. Before going 3 m I was attacked with clicks and shrieks. A dim flashlight revealed the red-phase owl perched 2 m away. Retreating to the door, I waited until the owl was seen in fast flight down the driveway away from the nest. I then ran quickly to the nest, under which I laid

flat on the ground covered by the blanket. An adult owl soon appeared, however, and for fifteen minutes stayed in the vicinity making moans and perching nearby, even on the ground. It did not, however, offer to buzz. Eventually it or another began feeding the chick at the nest hole entrance. Three quick feedings took place, after which there was nothing. I again retired.

Several items may be of interest here. Foremost is the owl's awareness of an observer under imperfect cover. Second is the regularity and persistence of the buzzing. The moans during the period preceding buzzing might also be part of a regular behavior pattern. On the previous day, at 1500, the adult moaned twice in the distance while I watched the chicks in the nest box entrance. Moans, it seems, may occur during the day, while shrieks and clicks are confined to hours of darkness.

Two days later (12 May) I entered the truck at 2015, the weather being overcast and dusky. No moaning or buzzing occurred. At 2035 an adult perched near the box but was not seen to feed. At 2115, there being no more activity, I exited the truck. Immediately an adult owl, which had been in the small tree under which the truck was parked, began shrieking, clicking and shaking branches. The owl, it seems, had been perfectly aware of my presence. Its reaction in this slightly varied situation was to watch the truck rather than buzz it immediately.

It should be noted, by way of caution, that the buzz, in the extreme case, issues in a physical strike against the intruder. On 13 May at 2245 I was cruising the driveway, aware that one chick was out of the box and in the area. I was calling with the adult's low trill of greeting and the young's soft hiss. With no warning whatsoever, the adult flew by striking me in the forehead, leaving four scratch marks and a little blood. A wide-brimmed hat might be adequate protection against such an event.

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

SAY'S PHOEBE IN IRWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA - At approximately 1430 on 14 October 1985, my son and I noted a small bird perched on the top strand of a barbed wire fence facing an open Pensacola Bahia pasture about 1.6 km WSW of Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia. The bird flew down the fence row and alighted again on the wire very much in the manner of an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).

We noted the pale gray back and the cinnamon underparts. The first sight impression was that we were viewing an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), but the bird's actions were markedly like those of a flycatcher. The bird was collected and proved to be a Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*). The skin will be deposited with Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida. This is evidently the second record for the species in Georgia with the first being a sight record near Cordele from 17 March to early April 1984 (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

Milton Hopkins, Jr., Rt. 5, Osierfield, Georgia 31776.

INTERACTIONS OF FISH CROWS WITH AMERICAN CROWS AT A LANDFILL NEAR ROSWELL, GEORGIA - Arriving at Morgan Falls Landfill near Roswell, Fulton County, Georgia on 2 April 1986 at 1100, I observed at least 30 crows feeding around the treeless landfill. These were identified as American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) by their "caw" calls. My attention was drawn to a flock of 20 crows approaching the landfill from the northwest due to the abrupt and nasal quality of their "cah" calls. These calls were consistent with the calls of Fish Crows (*C. ossifragus*) I have observed in southwest Georgia and northwest Florida over a number of years.

Nearing the landfill, the 20 Fish Crows landed in treetops immediately outside the landfill. These crows then proceeded to disperse along the treeline and became silent except for two crows at the original landing point. Four American Crows flew from the landfill to meet the newly arrived crows. Centering their attention on the two vocal Fish Crows, the four American Crows proceeded to scold aggressively. The silent Fish Crows were then able to fly one or two at a time into the landfill without harassment.

Further observations were made on subsequent days. An occasional crow was chased from the landfill by vocal American Crows. When vocal, these pursued crows were identified as Fish Crows. No Fish Crows or suspected Fish Crow displayed any aggressive behavior. The "cah-hah" note of the Fish Crow was heard only rarely. One American Crow uttered a "caw-haw" note readily distinguished from any Fish Crow call. The Fish crows appeared smaller and slimmer than the American Crows and possibly glossier in bright sunlight; however, these characters may not be very reliable as regards isolated, individual crows.

Paul Raney, Jr., 961 Briar Creek Ct., Conyers, GA 30207.

LATE PINE SISKINS IN BEN HILL COUNTY - From 16 March 1986 to 10 April 1986 I observed several Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) at my home near Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, GA. They frequented a thistle feeder and occasionally lit in surrounding pine trees. They were readily accepted by the American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*) which had been using the feeders during most of the winter. Unlike the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), this finch was noted feeding in groups no larger than five at a time.

These birds are rare winter visitants to Fitzgerald and nearby Irwin County. At one time in the early 1940's they appeared to be common in Fitzgerald but only a couple records have come from Irwin County (Hopkins, M.N., Jr. *Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia and adjacent areas*, GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 5, 1975).

In the state as a whole, the status of the species has been erratic with the latest record being 23 May 1947 (Haney, J.C. *et al.*, *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds*, GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986). It has sometimes been very abundant and at many times absent altogether. However, it has never been overly common in the south portion of the state.

W. Brian Brown, Rt. 2, Box 106, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following income and expense information has been provided by the Treasurer:

Balance as of 1 October 1985 \$22,993.62

Sources of Funds

Dues	\$3,179.00
Life Membership	1,850.00
Interest	2,158.85
Sales	1,498.10
Meetings	6,311.54
Other	43.00
Total	15,040.49

Uses of Funds

Oriole (4)	3,993.60
Goshawk (3)	406.66
Postage	724.40
Meetings	4,178.08
Other	776.53
Total	10,079.27

Increase in Funds 4,961.22

Balance as of 30 September 1986 \$27,954.84

FROM THE FIELD

January - May 1986

Reports for the period were remarkably lackluster. The only truly rare sightings were the first specimen of the Masked Booby for the state and another Common Redpoll from the Atlanta area. Other than that the season seemed rather dull as the warbler migration continued the pattern of low numbers which we have seen during the past few years.

Abbreviations used include: AS - Audubon Society, CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CCWTP - Clayton County Water Treatment Plant about 20 miles south of Atlanta, CNC - Chattahoochee Nature Center about 15 miles north of Atlanta, MBBT - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company in Augusta, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PCL - Peachtree City Lake about 20 miles southwest of Atlanta and SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park about 20 miles west of Atlanta.

RED-THROATED LOON - The species outnumbered Common Loons along the coast during the first weeks of the year. Bill Pulliam reported six off Cumberland Island on 3 Jan., 19 off Jekyll Island on 4 Jan. and 26 off Tybee Island on 5 Jan. Patrick Brisse and Terry Moore saw 15+ off Jekyll Island on 2 Feb.

COMMON LOON - Further offshore, Common Loons predominated as 50+ were noted during the 1 Feb. Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip off Jekyll Island. Inland, a late bird was spotted by Terry Johnson in the Plant Scherer area near Macon on 17 May.

HORNED GREBE - Inland, Terry Johnson also reported a late bird on 29 May from the Plant Scherer area.

MASKED BOOBY - Probably the rarest sighting of the period was the dead Masked Booby found by Dale Hardee, Bill Pulliam and Chris Haney on Cumberland Island on 2 Feb. This is only the 7th record for the state.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Small numbers were noted inland: Anne and Vernon Waters saw 17 at MBBT on 18 April; Patrick Brisse, Ty Ivey and others counted 22 at MIA on 16 March and a few more were noted near Dublin during the GOS meeting on 12-13 April. Anne Waters mentioned that the species is becoming so common at MBBT that it is now expanding to smaller ponds in the Augusta area. North of the fall line, John Paget was the only one to report the species, a bird on Commerce Lake on 5 April.

ANHINGA - Anne Waters noted one bird at MBBT on 22 Feb., and 3 more were sighted near Dublin during the GOS meeting on 12-13 April. More unusual was the bird found during the 15 Feb. Ocmulgee A.S. trip to the MIA in Macon.

AMERICAN BITTERN - One found by Bill Pulliam at the Okefenokee NWR on 1 Jan. is worth mentioning since the species is rarely reported in the winter. Inland migratory sightings came from NE Laurens County on 12 April where four were flushed during a marsh wade at the GOS meeting; from MBBT on 18 April (Anne and Vernon Waters) and from Lake Juliette on 1 May (Terry Johnson).

LEAST BITTERN - Anne Waters is noticing a decline in the Augusta area mostly due to habitat losses. She saw only one, on 10 May off the levee. What is the status of this species in the rest of the state?

GREAT WHITE HERON - An early bird was photographed by Lydia Thompson at Blackbeard Island on 23 April for one of the few records of that subspecies in Georgia.

GREAT EGRET - One bird seen at Callaway Gardens on 15 Jan. by Terry Moore was assumed to be a wintering bird. Around Atlanta a couple birds arrived early according to Paul Raney. One was at SCSP on 14 March and the other was at Stone Mountain on 18 April.

SNOWY EGRET - This spring the species was more common than usual inland with sightings from Forsyth County on 29 March (John Paget), Douglas County on 20 April (Dennie and Pam McClure) and twice from the MIA on 20 April and 4 May (Ty Ivey and others).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Five adults at the Macon airport on 16 March were early for an inland location (Donna and Patrick Brisse, Don and Joyce Duncan).

CATTLE EGRET - The first birds were back at Jekyll Island on 19 Feb. according to Lydia Thompson. In the piedmont area only one report was received from Athens on 18 May (Bill Pulliam).

GLOSSY IBIS - The Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien played host to a large number of birds with 100+ on 24 March and 45 on 26 April (Lydia Thompson).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Bill Pulliam spotted the only bird of the period at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 25 May.

TUNDRA SWAN - Only single birds were reported: the first in Laurens County in Jan. and Feb. (Tom Patterson), another in Banks County from 1 Feb. through 5 March (John Paget) and the last at MBBT on 22 Feb. (Jack Cooper).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - A single individual was noted in different places in Laurens County on 2 and 15 March and 12 April according to Tom Patterson.

SNOW GOOSE - The last inland winter sighting came from Banks County on 2-8 Feb. where John Paget found a single bird.

CANADA GOOSE - Interesting was a small form of this species (hutchinsie or minima) seen on Ken and Arlene Clark's property near Lake Tobesofkee on 19-21 Jan.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - A flock of 22 at Shamrock Lake on 25 Jan. (Patrick Brisse) was one of the largest reported recently from the Atlanta area.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Anne and Vernon Waters spotted 6 birds in Augusta on 20 Jan. and 3 females were still there on 8 Feb. The first birds in Atlanta were back on 2 March according to Paul Raney.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Terry Moore reported a male and female at PCL on 15 Jan. for a rare Atlanta winter record. A late bird was seen by Bill Pulliam at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 26 May.

CANVASBACK - Only two inland reports were received. Billy Dunbar noted the species at Commerce Lake on 1 Jan. and Paul Raney sighted an individual in Atlanta on 26 Jan.

REDHEAD - This species had a better showing inland this winter than the previous one. In Atlanta, 2 were at PCL on 4 Feb. (Paul Raney), up to 14 were at CCWTP between 27 Feb. and 1 March (Patrick Brisse) and an excellent count of 65 was at Groover's Lake on 2 March (Paul Raney). Ten more birds were noted on 15 Feb. during an Augusta A.S. field trip. Stuart Coward mentioned another very good inland count of 47 from Worth County on 22 Jan.

GREATER SCAUP - The species was definitely on the increase inland this winter. A female stayed at CCWTP from late Dec. until 8 Feb. (Patrick Brisse and others), a male was at MBBT on 10 Jan. (Anne Waters) and one was at MIA on 16 March (Ty Ivey). The species is normally accidental in the piedmont area.

BLACK SCOTER - A single bird at MIA in Macon on 16 March seen by Donna and Patrick Brisse, Don and Joyce Duncan and Ty Ivey provides only the second inland record for Georgia. Of note was a White-winged Scoter seen along with the Black Scoter which is a less rare inland occurrence.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Two females were at CCWTP in Jan. (Ken Blackshaw and others) and 2 pairs were there on 24 Feb. (Phil Northman). These were the only inland sightings received.

COMMON MERGANSER - Two birds were noted at the Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area on 19 Jan. by Don and Joyce Duncan and Terry Johnson. Although extremely rare in the last 10 years, during the last two winters the number of sightings have increased.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - A late bird was found by Terry Johnson in the Plant Scherer area near Macon on 29 May.

OSPREY - The inland migration was about normal with about 10 reports received from 17 Feb. through 20 April (many observers).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Bill Pulliam sighted a very early bird in Appling County on 22 March.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - An early bird was noted by GOS members during the spring meeting in Dublin on the record date of 12 April according to Tom Patterson. Clarence Belger reported the first one in the Augusta area on 30 April, a more expected date.

BALD EAGLE - Other than the 12 April record of an immature during the GOS meeting in Dublin and the 31 May record of an adult and an immature near Commerce Lake by Jack Caruso and John Paget, most of the sightings came from the fall line near Macon. There, 6 sightings were received from 19 Jan. through 30 May (many observers).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Rare in the winter in Georgia, even on the coast, was one seen by Lydia Thompson on Jekyll Island on 6 and 16 Jan.

VIRGINIA RAIL - Jack Cooper identified one on 13 April during the GOS meeting in Dublin for a rare inland record. Rather late along the coast were 2 near Darien on 26 May according to Bill Pulliam - could they have been nesting?

SORA - Five was a very good inland count at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Atlanta on 3 May as noted by Ken Blackshaw, Patrick Brisse and Terry Moore.

COMMON MOORHEN - Rare inland was a bird found near a shopping center in NE Atlanta on 20 April. The bird was released at Fernbank Forest the next day (*fide* Georgann Schmalz).

SANDHILL CRANE - The first ones were reported as early as 16 Feb. in Macon (Ken and Arlene Clark) and 17 Feb. in Atlanta (Hugh Garrett, Peggy Moore). Ken and Arlene Clark sighted as many as 350+ on 16-17 Feb. The main group flew over Atlanta in early March as usual, but only 250+ birds seen on 8-9 March (*fide* Terry Moore). A late bird was above Fernbank Forest in Atlanta on 5 April (Georgann Schmalz).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - One was noted at MIA on 12 April by Ty Ivey and Jerry and Marie Amerson for a rare inland record.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER - Although not in good numbers, the species was reported from the usual areas. Tom Patterson saw one on 15 and 30 March and 2 on 5 April in NE Laurens County. In Atlanta, Terry Moore and other observers reported birds from 16 through 23 March with a high of 12 individuals on the later date. John Paget had the last report from the Gainesville Airport on 16-17 March with one bird remaining as late as 23 April.

WILSON'S PLOVER - A very early bird was back at Jekyll Island on 21 Feb. (Lydia Thompson) and 20 there on 28 March was a good count (Bill Pulliam).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - A decent count inland was 8 at MBBT on 10 May as mentioned by Anne Waters.

PIPING PLOVER - Reports from Cumberland Island this winter were encouraging as the species seems to be increasingly rare in the state. Bill Pulliam saw 11 on 2 Jan., 30 on 2 Feb. and 20 on 23 March.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - The species was noted as early as 25 March on Jekyll Island by Lorraine Dusenbury.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - A fairly early bird was noted at CCWTP on 15 March by Patrick and Donna Brisse.

LEAST SANDPIPER - A few wintered in Laurens County as 2 were seen on 26 Jan., 9 on 9 Feb. and 10 on 22 Feb. (Tom Patterson). Twenty-two birds seen at MBBT on 9 March (Anne Waters) were the first inland migrants.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Early birds were noted in a small pasture in Laurens County on 28 April (Tom Patterson) and at CCWTP on 26-29 April (Patrick Brisse, Paul Raney). Three more birds were at PCL on 3 May (Terry Moore and others) and the last ones were at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 25-26 May (Bill Pulliam).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Twenty birds were already back at CCWTP in Clayton County on 8 March according to Patrick Brisse.

DUNLIN - Ty Ivey and Jerry and Marie Amerson saw and heard 3 individuals at MIA near Macon on 23 March for a very rare spring record of that species inland.

POMARINE JAEGER - Two were seen from the Cumberland Island beach on 3 Jan. by Bill Pulliam and 2 more were noted by many observers during the 1 Feb. Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip off Jekyll Island.

PARASITIC JAEGER - Bill Pulliam saw one from the Cumberland Island beach on 3 Jan. and up to 5 were seen during the 1 Feb. Atlanta A.S. pelagic trip previously mentioned.

RING-BILLED GULL - Over 1000 Ring-billed and 12 Herring Gulls used the Augusta landfill throughout the winter period (*fide* Anne Waters).

GULL-BILLED TERN - Bill Pulliam saw one on Cumberland Island as early as 27 March.

SANDWICH TERN - Also early was a bird found by Anne and Vernon Waters on 9 April on Tybee Island.

FORSTER'S TERN - The only inland sightings were reports of single birds at SCSP on 14 April (Dennie and Pam McClure) and at MBBT on 27 May (Clarence Belger).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - The only report received came from Atlanta on 3 May (Ken Blackshaw, Patrick Brisse and Terry Moore).

SHORT-EARED OWL - Three birds were seen on 16 Feb., from a previously discovered field near Cordele, by Patrick Brisse and Bill Pulliam. Could the species prove to be regular in that area?

WHIP-POOR-WILL - The first ones were noted near St. Mary's on 22 March (Bill Pulliam), Columbus on 27 March (*fide* Sam Pate) and Atlanta on 31 March (Peggy and Terry Moore).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - The species was a few days late as the first ones were seen near Macon only on 24 March by Jerry and Marie Amerson and near Columbus on 28 March according to Sam Pate.

HORNED LARK - Rarely reported outside the Lookout Plateau area anymore, a few were seen in Athens on 6 Jan. and at Watkinsville on 8 Feb. by Bill Pulliam.

PURPLE MARTIN - The first birds were seen at Hawkinsville on 30 Jan. by Ken Fowler. Other early dates around the state were 7 Feb. in Warner Robins by Don and Joyce Duncan, 9 Feb. in Laurens County by Tom Patterson and 15 Feb. in Augusta by Anne Waters and others. Three birds that Patrick Brisse saw in Atlanta on 8 March were a later than usual first sighting.

CLIFF SWALLOW - A bird at CCWTP on 6 April by Dale Hardee was early for the Atlanta area and the only report for the period.

FISH CROW - The species was more common this year in the piedmont area than ever before. In Atlanta the first ones were reported at the Morgan Falls landfill on 4 March by Paul Raney and stayed through the end of the period. The high count was 27 on 17 May. Other birds were noted in Athens on 4 April by Bill Pulliam and Gainesville on 25-27 April by John Paget. The species was also seen in good numbers at MIA near Macon (many observers).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Around Atlanta, after a good invasion flight in the fall of 1985, few birds lingered until the early part of the year with numbers picking up again a little in March and April according to Terry Moore. The species was common in Augusta in Jan. as mentioned by Anne Waters, but practically absent from Laurens County during the period (*fide* Tom Patterson).

BROWN CREEPER - Late birds were noted on 20 April near Dunwoody by L.L. Clardy and on 11 May near Cartersville by John Swiderski.

MARSH WREN - A lone bird seen at Pendergrass by John Paget on 20-23 May was rather late.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - A large number (6) was sighted by Bill Pulliam on 18 May in the Athens area. Normally birders are lucky to see one during any migration.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Early migrants were noted on Jekyll Island on 22 March (Lorraine Dusenbury), in Stone Mountain on 26 March (Patrick Brisse) and on Cumberland Island on the same day (Bill Pulliam).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - Wintering birds were found near Kathleen around 6 Jan. by Don and Joyce Duncan and in Augusta on 22 Feb. by Ann Waters. The second bird could possibly have been an early migrant.

WARBLING VIREO - Rarely seen in Georgia, a bird was found by Robert Manns and Paul Raney on 11 May along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta. The bird was identified by sight only as it never sang.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - The only winter sightings were received from Anne Waters in the Augusta area where she saw one on 1 Jan. and 3 on 8 Feb.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - One bird was in Athens on 28 April according to Bill Pulliam.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - A rare winterer was found on Cumberland Island on 2 Feb. by Chris Haney and Bill Pulliam.

CERULEAN WARBLER - Reports from the Atlanta area were way down from previous years as Terry Moore heard of only four sightings from mid-April through 8 May.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - In Atlanta a bird was heard on 11 May during a migration walk along the Chattahoochee River. In Athens Bill Pulliam felt that the species is probably more common than thought but just takes some searching in right habitat as he saw a female on 13 May, a male on 15 May and saw and heard another male on 23 May.

WILSON'S WARBLER - A male was near Cumming on 17 May (Joe Greenberg) and another bird was at Gainesville on 21-22 May (John Paget).

BLUE GROSBEAK - A bird seen at CCWTP on 13 April by Paul Raney and Nell Kirkland was early for the Atlanta area.

PAINTED BUNTING - Quite unusual during the winter was a bird coming to a feeder at Jekyll Island, according to Lydia Thompson. Inland, the species was back in Laurens County on 21 April (Tom Patterson), at MBBT in Augusta on 10 May (Anne and Vernon Waters and Clarence Belger) and a pair was noted in Macon on 24 May (Ty Ivey and others).

DICKCISSEL - Of note were two: one carefully described by Carolyn Lattimer near McDonough on 1 May and a singing male seen and heard by Steven Guy at MBBT on 3 May.

- SAVANNAH SPARROW - A bird of the Ipswich subspecies was carefully studied by Patrick Brisse, Terry Moore and Bill Pulliam at the south end of Jekyll Island on 2 Feb.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - The bird reported during the fall in Banks County was still there as late as 1 Feb. according to John Paget. The species is definitely rare in the winter in the piedmont.
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Bill Pulliam sighted one near Darien on 28 March. Records of the last few winters, especially from Bill Pulliam, are proving this to be a rare wintering species along the Georgia coast.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Four records were above normal for this species. Bill Pulliam saw the first one on 4 Jan. near Darien and Don and Joyce Duncan had another on 25 Jan 5 miles north of Abbeville. Bill Pulliam found another, a singing male, near Athens on 30 March and 5 April, and the last one was seen along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta on 11 May by Jack Carusos for a rather late date.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Anne Waters mentioned the species as being hard to find around Augusta with records of three immatures on 15 Feb. and an adult on 18 April. Near Pendergrass a few were found during the spring with one as late as 6 May according to Bill Pulliam.
- SNOW BUNTING - Hugh Garrett noted a bird on Cumberland Island on 2 Jan. for a rare state record. The bird was seen later that day by Bill Pulliam. About a dozen records exist for the state.
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - A male found by Candice McCloskey on 7 Feb. provided Atlanta's fourth record.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Tom Patterson mentioned 150 birds wintering in NE Laurens county for a good coastal plain record.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE - Jerry and Marie Amerson spotted a rare winterer in Macon on 19 Jan. More unusual for the area were the 7 nests located at the Macon Central City Park during a May Ocmulgee A.S. fieldtrip; the first birds were noted in early May.
- COMMON REDPOLL - Georgia's sixth record was a female coming briefly to Eleanor Lehner's feeder in Dunwoody on 25 March. This is the second successive year that a redpoll was noted in Atlanta during a non-invasion year for the species.
- PINE SISKIN - Small numbers were seen all around the state during the spring with some staying as late as 10 May in Martinez (Steven Guy).
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - An amazing count (1250+) was estimated along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta on 4 May during an Atlanta A.S. migration walk.
- EVENING GROSBEAK - Very few reports of small numbers were received from around the state. The best flock was 30 individuals coming to Steven Guy's feeder in Martinez from 19 Jan. through 7 May. In Atlanta, Terry Moore received only 5 records, with a high count of 45 birds on 25-27 April. In Laurens County Tom Patterson mentioned only 2 sightings of single birds in mid-April.

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

NOTICE

PURPLE MARTIN COLONY REGISTRY

The Purple Martin is a bird which has been managed by man longer than any other North American bird species. Even before European man colonized the New World native American Indians were enticing these companionable birds to nest in their villages by attaching hollowed-out gourd nest boxes to the support poles of their wigwams. Modern man has continued this gourd-using tradition to attract martins but he also has taken to using elaborate wooden, plastic, or aluminum multi-compartmented bird condos (i.e. martin houses) which he mounts on poles and proudly displays on his lawns.

Today however this man-dependant species is declining within parts of its breeding range. In an attempt to remedy the situation, the Purple Martin Conservation Association has been formed to help coordinate the management efforts of North America's martin landlords. Through its Colony Registry Program it is attempting to locate and register most of the martin colonies in North America in preparation for several worthwhile projects including a continent wide nest record card scheme.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

If you know of someone who has a martin colony or is trying to attract one or if you are interested in starting a colony yourself, please write to the P.M.C.A. You can further assist by looking for martin houses or gourds in peoples' yards during your travels. If you locate some, please try to obtain the mailing addresses from either the street and house numbers, rural mailboxes, phone books, or by stopping to inquire. Please send addresses to: P.M.C.A., P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, PA 16412.

BOOK REVIEW

The Marsh Hen - A natural history of the Clapper Rail of the Atlantic Coast salt marsh - Brooke Meanley. 1985. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, Maryland 21617. 123 pages. \$8.95.

Although birders along the Georgia coast are very familiar with the loud clattering call of the Clapper Rail, rarely do they get much more than a glimpse of the bird. It is very seldom that one of these looks lasts for more than a few seconds before the rail lowers its head, raises its tail, and runs at high speed back into the salt marsh grass. For this reason it is a pleasure to read the account of the Clapper Rail by Brooke Meanley who has probably studied the species more than any other person.

The various sections of the book include the discovery and history of the species, its preferred habitat, its food and feeding behavior, its courtship and nesting, its molt, post breeding, migration and wintering habits and a section on natural catastrophes, predation and pollution. In addition there are several appendices covering the subspecies of the Clapper Rail, ageing and sexing techniques, methods for capturing and methods for censusing the species.

Taxonomy of the Clapper and King Rail complex was discussed but Meanley takes a neutral position on the question. On the one hand he points out several instances of mated pairs of King and Clapper Rails producing viable young. On the other hand he mentions a consistent behavior difference he has observed at over one hundred nests of each species. The difference is that Clapper Rails always leave their nest as an observer approaches but Kings either do not leave at all or stay very close to the nest.

While the book does not go into the great amount of detail that some life histories have done, it certainly does have a good deal of worthwhile information and is quite enjoyable to read. - TERRY MOORE, 13000 Bucksport Drive, Woodstock, Georgia 30188.

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