

# THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. 51

DECEMBER 1986

NO. 4

# THE ORIOLE

(ISSN 0030-5553)

## EDITOR

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

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

H. Branch Howe, Jr., Chr.; I. Lehr Brisbin, Jr.; Leslie B. Davenport, Jr.; Milton N. Hopkins, Jr.;  
R. Allen Rhodes; Emil K. Urban.

THE ORIOLE is mailed to all members of the Georgia Ornithological Society not in arrears for dues. Classes of membership are as follows.

Regular .....	\$12.00	Library .....	\$10.00	Patron .....	\$ 50.00
Student .....	\$ 8.00	Sustaining .....	\$20.00	Life .....	\$150.00

All manuscripts and books for review columns should be submitted to the Editor.

All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer of the Society: John M. Swiderski, P.O. Box 1278, Cartersville, Georgia 30120.

Inquiries concerning back issues of THE ORIOLE or OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE G.O.S. should be directed to the business Manager: Dr. Carolina H. Lane, 869 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

## CONTENTS

### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Betsy Phillips ..... 57

### 1985 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Kenneth Turner Blackshaw ..... 62

GENERAL NOTES ..... 69

### FROM THE FIELD - JUNE-JULY 1986

Patrick Brisse ..... 72

EDITOR'S COMMENTS ..... 75

AVAILABLE FROM THE GOS ..... 76

Publication Date - August 1988

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded December 13, 1936

# THE ORIOLE

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

VOL. 51

DECEMBER 1986

NO. 4

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Betsy Phillips

Many members of the Georgia Ornithological Society attended our fiftieth anniversary celebration at the Ramada Inn in Macon, Georgia, during the weekend of 7-9 November 1986 but very few realized how much hard work and planning was required by many volunteers to put the celebration together.

The planning started over two years before the anniversary (5 October 1984) at a G.O.S. Executive Committee meeting when the upcoming anniversary was first discussed. It was decided to form an Anniversary Committee, and Robert Manns, President, asked Richard A. (Dick) Parks to chair the committee. This anniversary celebration would never have occurred without the hard work and time Dick spent on it. Dick asked Frank McCamey to serve with him on the committee so it began as a committee of two. It was also Dick's idea to ask Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, founder and charter member of G.O.S., to be the speaker at the anniversary banquet.

Dr. Peterson was invited to be the speaker and not only did he agree to do that but also offered to paint a new, original Orchard Oriole for the cover of *The Oriole*. Needless to say Dick accepted his offer with alacrity!

As plans proceeded and brainstorming for ideas began, two things came under discussion: (1) whether to use the new *Oriole* cover on an anniversary program as its introduction to the membership or whether to keep it new for *The Oriole* to use in its fifty-first year, and (2) whether the anniversary celebration would be a full-fledged semiannual meeting (complete with field trips) or a one day celebration with a separate semiannual meeting at another time. Decisions were made to introduce Dr. Peterson's new Orchard Oriole as the cover for a special commemorative anniversary program and to plan the anniversary celebration as a regular, but special semiannual meeting. Several locations were suggested, but it was decided to hold the celebration as close to the geographic center of the state as possible. Macon was chosen as the site and Don Duncan, Second Vice President of G.O.S. and President of Ocmulgee Audubon Society, offered to host the meeting.

Planning proceeded and much work was done over the two year period. Dick began looking for an author to write a history of G.O.S. for the meeting. Eulalie (Lee) Gibbs graciously agreed to do this, and she and Dick worked very closely together to produce "A Golden Year for the Georgia Ornithological Society". J. Christopher Haney was named chairman of the Checklist Committee and was requested to revise the annotated checklist in time for the anniversary. Carolina





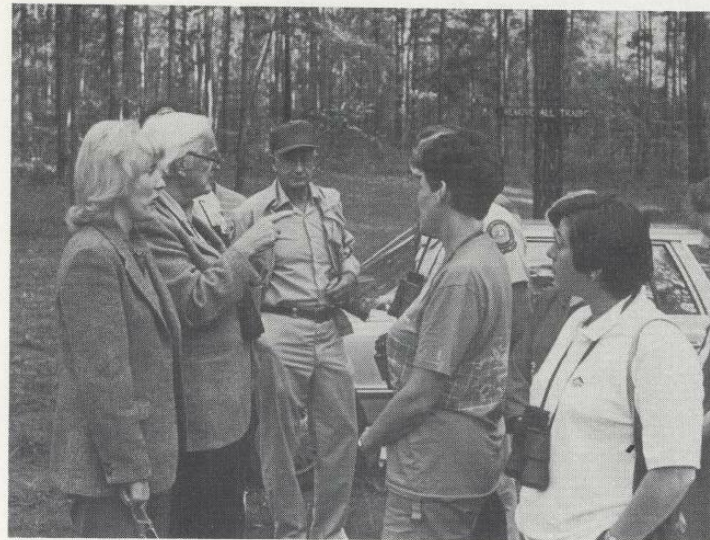
Roger Tory Peterson, Ty Ivey, Ginny Peterson and others. All photos by John Swiderski.

Lane, G.O.S. Business Manager, worked with Dick on an anniversary decal. Dick also designed a patch which was silkscreened on hats. Don and Joyce Duncan were busy making arrangements in Macon, and Dick and Frank were busy with all kinds of plans.

By August 1986 everything was falling into place. Betsy Phillips had agreed to serve on the Anniversary Committee and to handle preregistration for this meeting. She worked with Dick, Don and Thomas K. Patterson, the new President, to write up the meeting and press releases, type a program, and get registration organized. Preregistrations started coming in quickly: 100 within the first ten days and 200 within the first month. Press releases were distributed throughout Georgia and contiguous states with the help of many volunteers.

The weekend finally arrived and everyone was anxious that the meeting go smoothly. The registration desk, staffed by two volunteers from Ocmulgee Audubon Society (Jim and Joyce Harrison), opened and checked people in for three hours. Registration went smoothly, but Friday afternoon a message was received that Bob Loftin (the Friday evening speaker) had called and said, "He may or may not have car trouble". Dr. Peterson arrived and a few who had worked so hard on this meeting took Roger and Ginny Peterson to a quiet dinner.

Bob Loftin, only slightly delayed, gave an excellent slide presentation and commentary of the scenery, birds, and wildlife he saw in Alaska during his ten weeks there with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Roger and Ginny Peterson attended this program and they participated in all events the entire weekend.



Ginny and Roger Tory Peterson, Frank McCamey and others.



Dick Parks, Ginny and Roger Tory Peterson and others.





Norman Giles, Dick Parks and Roger Tory Peterson.

Saturday morning arrived. The weather was unseasonably warm (high of 85°) and overcast with a possibility of rain. (It didn't). The field trips had staggered departures starting around 0800. Ty Ivey, John Thompson, Terry Johnson, Jerry and Marie Amerson, Don and Joyce Duncan, and Ken and Arlene Clark did a great job of organizing and leading the field trips and keeping the caravans together.

The original plan was for the Petersons to go with one group to the Macon Industrial Ponds, leave there after an hour, and meet a second group at Plant Scherer. There was a mixup in directions and the Petersons were taken to Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area. Needless to say, there were disappointed people waiting to bird with the Petersons at Plant Scherer. For those who were able to bird with the Petersons that morning, they were very accomodative in posing for pictures and answering questions.

All field trips returned in time for lunch. Afterwards, Roger and Ginny held an autographing session for about one and a half hours. It was scheduled for an hour, but they continued until they had signed everything. The lines looked like those waiting for rides at Six Flags!

Following the autographing session, Ron Pulliam presented his slide program and commentary on population trends and behavioral ecology of birds. Both Roger and Ginny Peterson participated in the discussion which followed Ron's presentation. Committee meetings followed and the most notable comment was Dick Parks' when he finalized the Anniversary Committee's report to the

Executive Committee. Dick's report was, "You've been seeing the Anniversary Committee's report all day".

The banquet hall was packed Saturday night. It was encouraging to see all the younger (mostly ages 12-19) "birdwatchers" (Peterson's preferred terminology) who attended this anniversary weekend. There were 301 actually seated at the banquet. Of these, 276 were registered for the entire weekend and there was representation from six states: Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Connecticut. Six participants were charter members: Anne Hamilton, Grace Boddiford, Norman Giles, Bill Griffin, Dick Parks and Roger Tory Peterson.

As the participants surrendered their banquet tickets at the door, they were handed the special commemorative anniversary program with the new Peterson cover. There were an additional 50 of these programs which Peterson had autographed earlier that were for sale at \$5.00 each. (It wasn't enough! There were people in tears who did not get one of those 50.). A special thank you was deserved by the two volunteers who took tickets and to Ty Ivey who acted as marshall in directing people to the buffet tables. When the final table was allowed to go, there was a great cheer in the banquet hall.

Following the banquet, Tom Patterson made several announcements, Bob Brown (President of the Florida Ornithological Society) wished us well on the occasion, and Don Duncan thanked all those who helped in making the weekend so successful. He announced the Petersons had agreed to go to Rum Creek Sunday morning for those who missed him on Saturday, and turned the program over to Dick Parks. Dick added his thanks and introduced Frank McCamey who then introduced Dr. Roger Tory Peterson.

Dr. Peterson's slide presentation, "Around the World with Roger Tory and Ginny Peterson" was excellent. His slides were beautiful and his/their commentary was interesting, humorous, and educational.

After Dr. Peterson's program, Dick Parks presented the Earle R. Greene Award to two men who were both founders of the G.O.S. (the only two founders who were present) and who receive international acclaim in their respective fields: Dr. Roger Tory Peterson and Dr. Norman Giles.

Sunday morning was bright and sunny. The Petersons went to Rum Creek and then left to catch their plane. They were very friendly and actively involved all weekend, and they thanked us for having them! The countdown was held by the Ramada Inn pool about noon. There were 97 species reported.

The fiftieth anniversary celebration of the G.O.S. was well worth the time and energy so many spent in putting it together and all those involved should feel a sense of accomplishment. It was a huge success and everyone left with memories that will last a lifetime.

5110 Marbury Circle, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327.



Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PTE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1985
Red-thr Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Pied-b Grebe	6	-	15	22	2	1	61	3	15	25	11	4	3	13	7	33	221
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	10	49
Northern Bannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	43	309	371
Double-c. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	18	27	6	2	6	9	274	402	748
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	2	-	-	11	22	22
Great Blue Heron	8	-	19	4	13	11	23	6	36	17	18	25	13	19	62	74	348
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	18	43	29	61	9	32	93	299
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	57	78
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	-	8	13	29
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	9	16
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	-	-	7
Green-b. Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	10
Blk-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	37	57
Yel-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	33	36	-	177	1	250
Gr. White-f. Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Snow Goose	-	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Canada Goose	23	-	20	-	14	5	377	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	15	461
Wood Duck	-	-	7	1	44	7	23	10	7	-	42	3	9	30	12	-	195
Green-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	90	3	-	5	125
Am. Black Duck	-	-	9	-	-	-	17	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	6	2	38
Mallard	10	-	137	157	186	57	229	23	35	1	35	1	4	7	-	34	916
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	8
Blue-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	1	-	-	9
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	17
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	16	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	32
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	32	33	-	-	38	100	-	-	204
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ring-n. Duck	75	-	130	22	-	45	124	231	302	51	18	-	198	-	13	1209	
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	100
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	4	24	37	98	37	31	9	1	-	-	-	-	1183	1424
Scaup (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5030	-	5030
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	10	57
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bufflehead	-	-	9	11	2	22	52	26	37	3	-	5	1	-	109	277	477
Hooded Merganser	-	-	138	18	2	-	48	3	59	-	75	-	1	-	35	58	257
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	262	18	284
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	18	1	-	120	1	45	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	198
Duck (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	800
Black Vulture	4	-	-	9	80	6	36	23	-	-	32	41	82	38	1	30	382
Turkey Vulture	7	2	17	19	357	6	152	64	2	1	39	47	41	64	38	3	859
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Northern Harrier	1	1	-	4	3	1	1	-	1	2	4	2	6	8	6	12	52
Sharp-s. Hawk	-	-	6	1	1	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	-	2	2	2	24
Cooper's Hawk	2	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	2	2	-	18
Accipiter (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Red-s. Hawk	3	-	21	11	8	12	8	9	11	4	3	24	1	4	2	2	123
Red-t. Hawk	18	4	22	16	28	16	5	17	28	21	30	1	12	33	14	18	283
Am. Kestrel	12	2	7	12	16	5	3	6	16	7	20	9	12	19	14	24	184
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Hawk (sp.)	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4



Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUS	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1985
Ruffed Grouse	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 N
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	1	16	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	21
N. Bobwhite	-	10	24	-	16	14	12	28	13	-	10	-	15	51	-	35	193
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	41	84
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	37	28	78
American Coot	30	-	2	120	-	1	194	51	158	18	1	-	3	7	1	12	598
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	-	53
Black-b. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	145	48	216
Seal. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	525	236	761
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
Killdeer	52	2	97	61	106	17	3	16	50	127	25	32	2	317	27	39	973
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	26	34
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	5	5	65	78
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Yellowlegs (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	122	172
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	14 D
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	21	88
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	87	222
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	90	398
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
Peep (sp.)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	52
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1523	145	1818
Short-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	363	363 D
Dowitcher (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Snipe	1	-	12	3	-	-	-	2	2	12	10	-	8	62	2	22	136 U
Am. Woodcock	-	-	5	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	370	2338	2708 U
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	19
Ring-b. Gull	-	-	1	2	1	-	5	192	543	1071	-	-	18	-	538	917	3288
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12	-	-	19	-	184	35	252 D
Great Black-b. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	13 U
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	20	27
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	197	248
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	97	299	404
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	562	572
Rock Dove	45	25	216	96	536	3	5	408	575	60	3	-	-	40	-	16	2028
Mourning Dove	234	212	349	207	258	72	42	290	72	69	156	23	115	151	84	772	3106
Common Ground-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	7	-	16	1	2	43
Common Barn-Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
E. Screech-Owl	-	-	12	-	8	-	1	6	1	1	4	-	1	-	8	2	44
Great Horned Owl	-	-	5	-	4	4	1	3	-	4	18	-	1	2	2	6	50
Barred Owl	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	2	1	1	9	5	-	4	-	-	28
Belted Kingfisher	6	3	29	9	27	16	12	5	30	7	3	16	12	12	46	42	275
Red-b. Woodpecker	-	-	3	2	5	3	7	2	4	-	8	-	1	13	6	-	54
Red-b. Woodpecker	22	2	96	53	101	53	19	17	33	15	45	16	23	42	35	52	624
Yel.-b. Sapsucker	3	2	19	23	17	5	5	5	24	17	7	7	7	18	26	5	190
Downy Woodpecker	14	4	70	33	38	31	12	9	24	6	15	1	15	15	32	8	327
Hairy Woodpecker	4	2	10	8	8	6	1	1	-	-	2	-	3	1	2	8	56
Red-c. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7	1	16
Northern Flicker	28	4	56	51	68	81	33	-	36	31	41	13	14	41	83	89	669
Pil. Woodpecker	8	12	25	11	9	13	8	6	8	3	10	26	17	7	30	35	228
Eastern Phoebe	4	-	25	31	21	7	4	5	14	12	25	43	23	29	22	7	272
Western Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	OKE	HNR	THO	SAP	GLY	1985	
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	-	-	77	59	205 D
Blue Jay	161	44	723	310	273	289	50	51	75	12	34	16	1	39	19	209	2306	
American Crow	211	139	580	339	364	540	107	233	234	27	103	145	24	86	56	17	3215 D	
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	7	42	2	27	131	215
Crow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	20	
Carolina Chickadee	104	44	400	171	175	101	76	37	90	35	78	1	40	44	145	99	1640	
Tufted Titmouse	46	15	214	91	134	56	18	21	36	15	14	8	27	27	-	4	726	
Red-b. Nuthatch	6	2	7	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	12	7	53 U
White-b. Nuthatch	34	2	8	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	9	1	65	
Brown-h. Nuthatch	17	1	135	77	46	24	30	-	24	3	2	1	1	21	101	3	486	
Brown Creeper	2	-	12	3	5	11	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	39	
Carolina Wren	23	8	189	120	84	72	14	26	66	32	37	24	22	47	57	85	906	
Bewick's Wren	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 U	
House Wren	2	-	5	1	2	-	-	3	2	-	6	-	3	18	42	3	87	
Winter Wren	1	5	20	3	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	39	
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	
Golden-c. Kinglet	8	14	188	100	71	17	3	14	8	24	5	-	-	-	9	1	463	
Ruby-c. Kinglet	17	3	76	91	160	14	29	27	76	86	68	24	38	83	233	62	1087 D	
B.-g. Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	6	5	
Eastern Bluebird	116	14	188	255	136	49	112	61	60	17	78	98	33	82	62	4	1365	
Hermit Thrush	4	4	41	28	30	12	1	6	9	15	3	2	12	16	39	24	246	
American Robin	13	34	187	134	38	871	114	547	742	1479	10	1190	102	155	231	79	6126	
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	33	1	10	15	23	
N. Mockingbird	69	12	137	110	114	86	12	21	96	41	21	52	8	40	34	128	981	
Brown Thrasher	13	-	53	25	41	38	1	5	9	5	2	4	-	18	5	23	242	
Water Pipit	2	-	-	103	100	1	-	-	1	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	290	
Cedar Waxwing	27	1	100	188	42	41	44	38	649	417	-	1	20	44	-	-	103	
Loggerhead Shrike	4	-	3	12	8	6	2	4	9	6	14	2	3	32	-	-	109 D	
E. Starling	1068	138	2681	501	41942	152	37	862	1054	1253	12	21	36	23	10	429	50219 U	
White-e. Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	7	18 D	
Solitary Vireo	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	5	3	-	10	6	11	42 D	
Orange-c. Warbler	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	3	2	2	-	8	6	1	2	
Yellow-r. Warbler	3	-	32	101	70	293	19	129	142	445	22	633	250	303	4292	1741	8475	
Blk-thr. Green Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
Yellow-t. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7	2	17
Pine Warbler	8	2	71	151	37	21	70	49	24	1	108	29	17	62	85	116	851	
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 N	
Palm Warbler	5	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	3	4	49	-	5	34	5	4	114	
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
Blk & white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	7	5	6	24 D	
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	2	5	-	1	-	-	2	3	2	8	2	10	20	27	7	89
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
N. Cardinal	115	22	373	239	212	267	38	42	158	75	108	15	50	97	91	119	2021 U	
Indigo Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
Painted Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 N	
Rufous-s. Towhee	26	29	355	114	139	31	26	18	24	12	20	9	6	46	91	48	994 D	
Chipping Sparrow	8	-	670	742	260	424	316	107	136	2	45	200	16	127	89	-	3142	
Field Sparrow	97	6	608	646	275	29	7	15	38	5	-	33	4	23	-	-	1786	
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	1	3	7	1	2	-	4	-	55	-	9	90	-	-	172	
Savannah Sparrow	6	-	14	94	74	-	19	2	89	76	22	-	10	14	38	24	482 D	
Sharp-t. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 D	
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	7	16
Fox Sparrow	1	2	24	29	7	7	-	5	-	7	13	-	-	8	6	-	109 U	
Song Sparrow	167	68	637	557	293	138	54	69	83	67	10	4	18	64	30	24	2283	
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Swamp Sparrow	6	-	122	110	47	13	3	6	10	2	6	1	3	38	36	3	406 D	
White-t. Sparrow	97	44	1006	587	523	228	29	62	167	183	86	-	47	96	73	68	3296	



Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	OKE	HMR	THO	SAP	GLY	1985
White-c. Sparrow	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	12
Dark-e. Junco	101	429	881	712	558	368	110	78	280	22	20	-	4	-	20	-	3583
Sparrow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	118	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
Red-w. Blackbird	80	295	493	1583	25089	236	417	300	299	16	1629	552	34	1490	780	192	33885
East. Meadowlark	64	14	224	320	189	124	3	27	168	87	99	6	76	80	70	28	1561
Rusty Blackbird	100	50	10	2	39	-	140	2	2514	27	-	2	2	10	-	-	2898
Boat-t. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	-	-	249	459	1022
Common Grackle	536	30	197	1707	30098	1627	-	452	90	630	49	104	79	185	125	1408	37317
Brown-h. Cowbird	27	-	-	55	55028	-	-	8	79	60	19	-	-	20	-	-	55358 U
Blackbird (sp.)	1298	-	-	-	-	-	123	8000	61597	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71018
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
Purple Finch	100	6	176	19	38	71	35	70	200	12	-	-	-	4	-	5	736
House Finch	35	-	105	167	69	24	-	5	39	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	460 U
Pine Siskin	1	20	6	4	3	40	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4	91
Am. Goldfinch	114	103	556	390	146	149	48	47	87	54	74	13	3	88	71	41	1984
Evening Grosbeak	1	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
House Sparrow	126	32	262	59	258	2	10	160	97	34	-	10	-	10	-	26	1086 D
Total Individuals	5697	1932	14656	12122	159265	7054	3931	13175	72821	7324	3764	3797	2235	5404	17927	15928	347032
Total Species	72	50	84	86	86	84	78	92	94	84	87	70	98	102	118	139	183
Number of Observers	22	17	41	19	33	36	9	9	29	9	8	17	12	14	13	54	342
Number of Parties	7	3	18	11	13	11	3	7	5	6	3	5	6	5	6	16	125
Party Hours	47	25	135	90	100	62	27	51	50	31	32	39	48	45	48	82	912
Party Miles	217	142	724	747	582	344	151	82	294	141	190	206	75	187	103	277	4462
Date of Count	12/21	12/28	12/22	12/21	12/21	12/28	12/18	12/29	12/21	12/21	12/29	1/02	1/03	1/05	12/28	1/04	
Total Species - All Counts, 1982-1985	213																

Table 2. Species with greater than 2 standard deviations from their 1982-1984 average.

Species Name	1985 Total	No. of Standard Deviations	Average (1982-1984)	Standard Deviation	1982	1983	1984
Gray Catbird	89	+22.2	41	2	39	40	44
Great Black-b. Gull	13	+18.4	4	0	4	5	4
Greater Scaup	100	+13.9	8	7	17	4	2
House Finch	460	+11.8	109	30	119	139	68
Lesser Scaup	1424	+9.5	341	113	250	272	501
Brown-h. Cowbird	55358	+6.7	10225	6762	688	14380	15607
E. Starling	50219	+6.3	22517	4384	16562	26987	24003
Red-b. Nuthatch	53	+5.8	13	7	21	13	4
Laughing Gull	2708	+5.7	1193	264	1220	857	1502
Blk-c. Night-Heron	57	+5.2	24	6	18	33	22
Common Snipe	136	+5.0	79	11	87	63	87
Great Blue Heron	348	+4.7	261	19	235	274	275
Double-c. Cormorant	748	+4.7	599	32	583	571	644
Great Egret	299	+3.4	247	15	268	233	239
Fox Sparrow	109	+3.2	62	15	73	72	41
Black Vulture	382	+3.1	217	54	143	238	269
Merlin	8	+2.9	4	1	3	6	4
Bewick's Wren	3	+2.5	1	1	-	-	2
Osprey	4	+2.4	2	1	1	3	2
Hooded Merganser	457	+2.4	347	47	289	403	350
N. Cardinal	2021	+2.3	1783	103	1848	1864	1638
Savannah Sparrow	482	-2.1	668	90	789	574	642
Am. Black Duck	38	-2.1	116	37	72	163	114
Sharp-t. Sparrow	6	-2.1	9	1	9	10	7
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-2.1	160	74	109	105	265
Loggerhead Shrike	109	-2.2	136	12	139	120	149
American Crow	3215	-2.3	3830	268	4106	3917	3466
White-t. Sparrow	3296	-2.3	4010	311	4242	4217	3570
Swamp Sparrow	406	-2.3	538	56	604	466	544
Rufous-s. Towhee	994	-2.4	1056	26	1026	1090	1053
Spotted Sandpiper	14	-2.5	21	3	19	19	25
Tree Swallow	205	-2.5	1015	326	592	1384	1070
Solitary Vireo	42	-2.6	62	8	51	68	67
Virginia Rail	-	-2.8	1	0	1	2	1
House Sparrow	1086	-3.1	1310	73	1208	1346	1377
Short-b. Dowitcher	363	-3.2	649	89	539	758	651
White-e. Vireo	18	-3.4	28	3	28	24	31
Black-and-white Warbler	24	-3.7	32	2	34	33	29
Cedar Waxwing	1715	-4.2	2681	230	2998	2588	2457
Little Blue Heron	29	-4.5	40	2	37	41	43
Herring Gull	252	-5.2	640	74	579	596	744
Common Loon	4	-7.8	8	0	8	7	8
Ruby-c. Kinglet	1087	-11.9	1556	39	1612	1529	1528



The Brown Pelican at 371 appears to be holding it's level well. It is also good to see the Bald Eagle and Avocet back on the count after not being reported at all in 1984. A scattering of Evening Grosbeaks returned to the northwest corner of the state. © Species for 1985 that were not reported over the past three years were Ruffed Grouse, 2 at the Chattahoochee Forest; a Parasitic Jaeger on the Glynn County count; Eastern and Western Kingbirds showed up at Callaway and Glynn County, respectively; warblers were interesting with a Black-throated Green at Sapelo, a Bay-breasted at Athens (excellent details, needs to be submitted to The Oriole), a Prairie at Okefenokee, plus two more at Glynn County (no details on either report), and a Wilson's in Athens; finally, a Painted Bunting at Glynn County, and an Indigo Bunting at Thomasville were also new.

Other species information that seems interesting include 85 Vesper Sparrows at Albany; 80 Black Vultures and 357 Turkey Vultures at Athens, as well as 55,028 Brown-headed Cowbirds at that location.

The Lincoln's Sparrow in Atlanta was unusual. In Augusta, the 1071 Ring-billed Gulls seemed like a high count for so far inland. The Brown-headed Nuthatch up at the Chattahoochee Forest is unusual that far up into the mountains.

Interesting reports from Columbus included the Green-backed Heron, one adult Bald Eagle with 2 immatures, and a Northern Oriole. The Dalton count picked up 3 Bewick's Wrens along with a high count of 5 Palm Warblers, unusual so far up in the state.

At Glynn, the 100 Greater Scaup represent perhaps the largest number ever reported at one time, and 5 Merlins were also worthy of attention. They also saw a hummingbird. The Macon count included a Northern Oriole and at Peachtree City, a Spotted Sandpiper teetered north of his normal range.

The Piedmont counters were rewarded with a Bald Eagle. At Sapelo, a Merlin and a Red-cockaded Woodpecker made the day in the field worthwhile. Down at Thomasville, a Cattle Egret showed up. They also saw 2 Greater White-fronted Geese and an immature Bald Eagle.

The data this year was again compiled using a Lotus spreadsheet on an IBM Personal Computer. I'm indebted to Terry Moore for going through the actual "grunt" work of keying the data into the spreadsheet from the text in *American Birds*. He also got me started off with the analysis of the data. If anyone would like a copy of the spreadsheet data on diskette, please contact the author.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Blackshaw, Kenneth Turner 1986a. 1983 Georgia Christmas Counts. Oriole 51:10-15.  
 Blackshaw, Kenneth Turner 1986b. 1984 Georgia Christmas Counts. Oriole 51:35-40.  
 Drennan, S.R. and the CBC Regional Editors. 1986. The eighty-sixth Audubon Christmas bird count. *American Birds* 40:549-564.  
 Moore, Terry S. 1983. 1982 Georgia Christmas Counts. Oriole 48:55-60.

2536 Cedar Canyon Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30067.

#### GENERAL NOTES

CANVASBACKS IN FITZGERALD - On 19 November 1986 five Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*) were observed on an oxidation pond south of Fitzgerald, Georgia. They were noted feeding alongside two Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). The ducks were first thought to be Redheads (*Aythya americana*) but when brought into close binocular range, distinguishing field marks were obvious. I had not observed them on the pond before and subsequent visits did not yield other sightings.

Hopkins (*The birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia and adjacent areas*, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 5, 1975) lists the species as a rare winter visitant during most years. It is possible that several individuals pass through the area annually; however, none have been recorded in the past several years. A probable factor that contributed to this record was the rainy weather which was widespread throughout most of the state during the week of the sighting. This may have forced the birds to put down inland instead of continuing to the coastal areas.

W. Brian Brown, Rt. 2, Box 670, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750.

EIGHT SURF SCOTERS AT SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK - A 1400 check of the reservoir at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County, Georgia on 26 October 1986 revealed 8 dark waterfowl which were larger than a nearby Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*). A spotting scope (28X) showed each bird to have an all dark "humped" scoter bill and 2 prominent white head spots. One spot was forward and below the eye and the other spot behind and below the eye. Flushed by a fishing boat, the scoters showed all dark wing surfaces in flight thereby confirming identification as immature Surf Scoters (*Melanitta perspicillata*).

After the scoters landed in the south-east corner of the reservoir, Nell Kirkland and I approached to within 40 to 50 m and studied the birds for several minutes. Individual variation in size and shape of the head spots was noted, particularly in degree of elongation. No spot was perfectly round, and some pairs of spots connected horizontally to varying degrees. No nape spots were present.

There are two previous records for the Surf Scoter in the Atlanta area. Sweetwater Creek played host to single birds from 19 March to 12 April 1983 (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) and from 19 January to 17 February 1985 (*Oriole* 50:12-13).

Paul Raney, Jr., 961 Briar Creek Court, Conyers, Georgia 30207.

KING EIDER AT CUMBERLAND ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE - On 31 December 1984 my wife Peggy and I were birding with Hugh Garrett and Bill Pulliam along the beach of Cumberland Island. The weather was cool but sunny with little wind. We had already walked to the south jetty to see the usual large congregation of gulls, terns, and shorebirds and were walking back north to take the boat back to St. Mary's. We had seen numerous flocks of Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) during the day both close to land and further away from the beach. I happened to notice another group of about 15 scaup which were



accompanied by a much larger brown duck. When I was able to view the bird through the telescope, I saw the orange bill and immediately knew that the bird was a King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*).

We all had excellent looks at the bird as the flock slowly moved southward about 50 m or so off the beach. We all observed the large size, dark brown plumage and orangish bill with the "eider" extension onto the forehead. Although the plumage was generally dark brown, the chest area was definitely lighter in color which along with the bill color identified the bird as an immature male.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as an accidental visitor on the coast from 9 Nov. to 5 May. Evidently the 9 Nov. (1953) date is the most recent one before this sighting.

Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Drive, Woodstock, Georgia 30188.

**BARN SWALLOWS NESTING IN WILCOX COUNTY** - On 23 June 1986 while birding the Bowens Mill State Fish Hatchery in southern Wilcox County, I was informed of a nesting pair of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) by an employee. The nest was located on the side of a roof-beam in a supply shed which was adjacent to a medium-sized pond. Three young were in the nest. the Barn Swallow in Wilcox County.

Statewide, the species' breeding status has changed during the past 80-90 years. From the 1904 disappearance of a Wassaw Island colony until the 1942 discovery of a nest on St. Simons Island, there was no conclusive evidence of breeding activity in Georgia (Greene *et al.* 1945). Then, in the 1950's in north-western Georgia, the species began widening its breeding range and by the late 1960's had reached the southern Piedmont (Denton 1967). In 1976 Patterson reported two nests from Laurens County in the Upper Coastal Plain (Patterson 1976). Since that time, Hopkins has found it in two other counties in the region (pers. comm.).

Therefore, in addition to the aforementioned records, this latest breeding record from Wilcox County is an indicator that Barn Swallows are continuing their breeding range expansion and will more than likely nest in many other areas in years to come.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Denton, J.F. 1967. The Barn Swallow nesting in Columbia and Lincoln Counties, Georgia. *Oriole* 32:32-33.  
 Greene, E.R., W.W. Griffin, E.P. Odum, H.L. Stoddard, and I.R. Tomkins. 1945. Birds of Georgia, A preliminary checklist and bibliography of Georgia Ornithology, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 2.  
 Patterson, T.K. 1976. Barn Swallow nesting extends from Piedmont to Upper Coastal Plain. *Oriole* 41:39-40.

W. Brian Brown, Rt. 2, Box 670, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750.

**WINTER PRAIRIE WARBLER IN THE PIEDMONT** - Toward the end of the Peachtree City Christmas Bird Count on 20 December 1986, Craig Faanes and I were driving on Big Poplar Road near White Oak Creek (Coweta County, Georgia) when we noticed a warbler perched in a leafless deciduous tree in front of a house. The warbler was immobile and was illuminated directly by the setting sun. It had a yellow underside, black streaks on the flanks and the typical facial pattern of a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*).

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as rare in winter on the coastal plain but does not mention any Piedmont winter records. The early winter of 1986-87 was quite mild which may have led to this individual's remaining this far inland.

Mark W. Oberle, 7533 30th Avenue, NE, Seattle, Washington 98115.

**A LATE SCARLET TANAGER IN NORTH FULTON COUNTY** - In the late afternoon of 2 November 1986 my wife Peggy and I noticed a medium-sized greenish bird which flew in front of us near our home in north Fulton County, Georgia. When we were able to view the bird through our binoculars we identified the bird as a female plumaged Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) on the basis of its overall yellow-greenish color (no hint of orange or warm coloration as would be expected on a Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)) and the bold contrast of its very dark wings against its green body.

Evidently this is the latest departure date for the Scarlet Tanager in the state. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists 29 October 1946 as the previous latest date for the species.

Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Drive, Woodstock, Georgia 30188.

**A HARRIS' SPARROW IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA** - On 22 November 1986 at 0900 Terry Chesser, Liz Lathrop and I saw a Harris' Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) in adult winter plumage at the old fish ponds at the Georgia Game and Fish Division office at Armuchee, Georgia. The bird was first spotted by Lathrop as it came into "pishing" and/or screech-owl calls. We observed the bird through binoculars as it sat on a branch less than one m off the ground about 10 m away from us.

Other birds in the pond-side brushy, wet area were mostly Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) and one Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*). The bird did not reappear at 0945 when we attempted to call it up again for the remainder (16 members) of the birdwatching class. However, at 1530 it was coaxed up again at almost exactly the same spot as originally seen. What we saw was a large sparrow with a brown streaked back, white wingbars, white chest and stomach, black crown, face and bib, buffy cheeks and a pink bill.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists as many as seven occurrences of this species in Georgia with the most recent being in 1977 at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Of the dates given, this 22 November date is the earliest arrival date.

Joe Greenberg, Apt. 1210, 2460 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30305.



## FROM THE FIELD

June - July 1986

This nesting season was quite uneventful. Other than a good pelagic trip out from Jekyll Island, a number of early shorbirds sightings and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along the coast there was little to excite Georgia observers. We continue to get the vast majority of our reports from the Piedmont area. Reports from the coastal areas and also the mountains are badly needed. For example this year no one reported on looking in the extreme northeastern part of Georgia for our nesting Least and Willow Flycatchers and the rarer nesting warblers. Whenever you visit one of these areas, remember to send in your reports so that this section of *The Oriole* will be more complete.

Abbreviations include: CCWTP - Clayton County Water Treatment Plant about 20 miles south of Atlanta and MIA - Macon Industrial Area at Macon.

**PELAGIC SPECIES** - An Atlanta Audubon Society trip from Jekyll Island on 14 June went as far as 100 miles out. Most of the expected species were observed: 10 Cory's Shearwaters, 12-15 Audubon's Shearwaters, 2 Greater Shearwaters, 35+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels and 4 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. One Black-capped Petrel, relatively far from the boat, was identified only by Chris Haney.

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** - The only inland sighting was received from Macon where Ty Ivey saw an immature on 1 and 14 June.

**AMERICAN ANHINGA** - Tom Patterson counted approximately 20 nests at Bracewell's Pond in Dublin where most of the birds had fledged by the end of July. Elsewhere inland, Nancy Iha saw one at Hamburg State Park on 7 June and Ty Ivey recorded 2 females at the MIA from 14 June through 27 July.

**GREAT EGRET** - A good inland count was 35+ at the MIA on 27 July (*vide* Ty Ivey). The species was rather scarce further north as the maximum was only 3 birds on 19 July at Peachtree City Lake in south Atlanta (Patrick Brisse).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** - Billy and Brenda Dunbar mentioned one adult and 2 immatures on 16 June for a possible nesting record in the Athens area. The species was also rather rare in the Piedmont area and 30 individuals was a good count along the fall line at the MIA on 27 July (Ty Ivey).

**CATTLE EGRET** - The drought did not affect the species in Laurens County as Tom Patterson still noted 1500 to 2000 nests at the Bracewell's Pond rookery in Dublin during the period.

**WHITE IBIS** - Ty Ivey, Jerry and Marie Amerson recorded the species at the MIA as early as 29 June and Ty and Ken and Arlene Clark noted it again on 27 July. These were the only inland sightings reported for the period.

**WOOD STORK** - Tom Patterson saw 40 birds feeding at a pond in west Laurens County on 7 July. He also mentioned that reports of roosting birds in the north part of the county are not yet confirmed.

**RING-NECKED DUCK** - Because of dredging, no strays were observed at Peachtree City Lake this year. Elsewhere, 2 males and a female were noted by Terry Johnson in June at Lake Juliette near Forsyth.

**BLACK SCOTER** - Rare in the summer, a male was seen in the Sapelo River by Emmie Minor on 8 June. As many as 5 birds were noted by Lydia Thompson off Jekyll Island on 7 July and 2 were still there on 31 July according to John Thompson.

**HOODED Merganser** - Of note was a single bird at Bracewell's Pond in Dublin on 2 June (Tom Patterson).

**RED-BREASTED Merganser** - What was most likely a late bird was noted by Emmie Minor in the Sapelo River on 4 June.

**OSPREY** - Rare in the summer in the Piedmont, the following records are worth mentioning: Georgann Schmalz saw one near Cartersville on 21 June and Joel Volpi noted another along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta on 12 July.

**AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** - Individuals were noted on 13 and 15 June south of Savannah by Bill Pulliam and on 25 June at Waycross, a more usual location, by Lydia Thompson.

**MISSISSIPPI KITE** - Nesting birds were sighted in Laurens County (Tom Patterson) and Macon (Ty Ivey). In Columbus, 2 birds were first discovered on 2 July by Jake Burrus and Sam Pate verified the sighting on 4 July for the first Columbus record since 1963.

**KING RAIL** - The species nested again in Buckeye Marsh in northeast Laurens County before the marsh became virtually dry by the end of July (Tom Patterson).

**COMMON MOORHEN** - Tom Patterson sighted six juveniles at Bracewell's Pond in Dublin on 26 July.

**AMERICAN COOT** - Summering single birds were reported by Patrick Brisse from Peachtree City Lake in south Atlanta and by Tom Patterson in Laurens County.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** - An early bird was sighted at the MIA on 26 July by Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark. Two birds were there the next day.

**PIPING PLOVER** - One bird was on Jekyll Island on 14 June according to Paul Raney. Was this bird a late migrant or a rare summer visitor?

**BLACK-NECKED STILT** - A decent coastal count of 250 was reported by Hugh Garrett on 4 July from Andrews Island, a dredge spoil area near Brunswick. We have no recent information concerning the nesting of this species along the Georgia coast.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER** - An early bird was already back in Laurens County on 6 July according to Tom Patterson.

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** - A very good inland count was the twenty (+) found at the MIA on 26 July by Ty Ivey and others.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** - Tom Patterson again found birds as early as 6 July from the northeastern part of Laurens County.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** - A few very late birds were seen on the south beach of Jekyll Island on 13 and 15 June by Craig Faanes and Elizabeth Traynor.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** - Probably the first summering record for Georgia occurred at the MIA in Macon. Ty Ivey saw 4 birds on 1 June and 2 on 29 June. The ponds were not checked between these dates. Twenty birds were back there on 26 July.

**STILT SANDPIPER** - Hugh Garrett noted a very early bird at Andrew's Island near Brunswick on 4 July and another was at the MIA on 27 July according to Ty Ivey.

**DOWITCHER (sp.)** - Although in breeding plumage, a bird at the MIA on 27 July could not be identified as to species (Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - Hugh Garrett saw 3 very early birds on 4 July at Andrew's Island and a fourth phalarope could not be positively identified as to species.

**GREAT BLACK-NACKED GULL** - Lydia Thompson mentioned a bird on Jekyll Island on 13 July for a rare summer record.

**COMMON TERN** - Unusual were the few individuals found by Craig Faanes and Patrick Brisse on the south beach of Jekyll Island on 13 and 15 June.

**FORSTER'S TERN** - Ty Ivey and others sighted a bird at the MIA on 27 July.

**SOOTY TERN** - Over 30 birds were seen near the Gulf Stream, east of Jekyll Island, during the 14 June Atlanta Audubon Society pelagic trip. The same day 16 Bridled Terns were also counted.

**BLACK TERN** - Joel Brenner noted a lone bird on Lake Lanier as early as 12 July. Then five more were seen by Tom Patterson over Ben Hall Lake in Laurens County the next day. The last ones were noted at the MIA by Ty Ivey and near Kathleen by Don and Joyce Duncan, both on 26 July.

**WHIP-POOR-WILL** - Rare that far south was a bird heard calling near Hawkinsville on 1 June by Don and Joyce Duncan.

**SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** - The best record of the period was the bird photographed by Lydia Thompson on 9 June near Darien. Although a few people looked for the bird later, it was not relocated.

**HORNED LARK** - The species was noted near Watkinsville by Billy and Brenda Dunbar on 10 and 13 June. The birds were singing and doing their territorial flight displays. This is the second year that they have evidently nested in the Watkinsville area.

**TREE SWALLOWS** - Two birds at the Merry Brothers Brickyard ponds in Augusta on 7 June were late (Steven Guy). For the first time the species nested outside the Lake Chatuge area: Terry Johnson found nesting birds at Lake Juliette near Macon on 6 June. The first migrants were already back on Jekyll Island on 30 July according to John Thompson.





Bridled Tern photographed east of Jekyll Island by Russ Wigh.

BANK SWALLOW - Patrick Brisse noted the only 2 individuals of the period at CCWTP on 20 July.

CEDAR WAXWING - Craig Faanes reported a somewhat out of place bird in Athens on 13 June.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Following a strong thunderstorm, 2 early birds were seen along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta on 27 July (Paul Raney).

CERULEAN WARBLER - Elizabeth Traynor sighted an early bird in Atlanta on 22 July and 2 more were noted in Atlanta on 27 July by Patrick Brisse and Paul Raney in two different places.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - Outstanding were the 8 nests found in a Macon park and observed by many Ocmulgee Audubon Society members throughout the period.

HOUSE FINCH - A pair feeding young in July provided a first breeding record for Laurens County (Tom Patterson).

CORRECTION - The Masked Booby mentioned in the previous issue of *The Oriole* (51:50) was found to be a Northern Gannet after the specimen was cleaned (Bill Pulliam).

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

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Although *The Oriole* continues to attract an adequate number of major manuscripts for publication, there are several areas where the input from members has actually decreased over the past couple years. Since these areas do not require extensive research or technical writing expertise, all GOS members can help provide input to make *The Oriole* an even more interesting journal.

The first of these areas is what we refer to as General Notes. For some reason the number of general notes being submitted has slowed to a mere trickle. While there are many exciting bird sightings and observations every year in Georgia, very few find their way into *The Oriole*. It is relatively easy to write a general note. The format is basically the who, what, when, where and why details of the observation. A quick look at any past *Oriole* can be used as a guide for writing a note. It would seem to me that every member of GOS at some time during the year has a significant enough sighting to warrant publication in *The Oriole*. If you would just take a few minutes to jot down the details, we can provide assistance to you to finalize the note.

The second area is the From the Field section of *The Oriole*. We do get regular notes from a number of the Georgia localities but certainly not as many as we should get. Very noticeable is the lack of reports from the coastal areas, across southern Georgia and the northeast corner of the state. Your observations, even the ones you don't especially think significant, may help to shed light on some changes in bird populations that may only be apparent when a number of reports are analyzed.

The final area also concerns the From the Field section. We would like to encourage those members with a knack for photography to submit their photos of interesting birds they have photographed in Georgia. Not only does this add quite a bit to *The Oriole* but it is also a fine way to document unusual sightings.

I would like to encourage each member of GOS to set a personal goal for themselves to submit something to *The Oriole* each year. That can be either a general note, regular submission of field notes or photographs. The important thing is for everyone to understand that *The Oriole* is their journal and they are the ones responsible for having it reflect what is happening to birdlife in Georgia.



## AVAILABLE FROM THE GOS

The Georgia Ornithological Society offers the following items for sale:

Occasional Publication No. 10 - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds. 1986. Prepared by the Georgia Ornithological Society Checklist Committee. A blank page faces the text for personal notes. 53 pages. 6" x 9". \$5.00 postpaid.

Occasional Publication No. 9 - An Index to Georgia Bird Records in American Birds (Volumes 25-37, 1971-1983) and its predecessor, Audubon Field Notes (Volumes 1-24, 1947-1970) compiled by Robert W. Loftin. 1985. Professor Loftin has searched for all the records of Georgia birds in the National Audubon Society's field publications. This index combined with the indices to *The Oriole* are the most accessible listings of published records of Georgia birds. 28 pages. 6" x 9". \$4.00 postpaid.

Occasional Publication No. 8 - A Birder's Guide to Georgia edited by Joe Greenberg and Carole Anderson. 1984. A guide to birding locations throughout the state of Georgia. Also lists Georgia bird clubs. 62 pages. 5 1/2" x 8". \$7.00 postpaid.

Occasional Publication No. 5 - The Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and Adjacent Areas by Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. 1975. Habitats and observations by the author and others from about 1939. 93 pages. 6" x 9". \$4.00 postpaid.

Occasional Publication No. 4 - The Birds of the Savannah River Delta by Ivan R. Tompkins. 1958. Gaviiformes through Charadriiformes from the Savannah River delta. Habitats, observations and emergent theory. 68 pages. 6" x 9". \$2.00 postpaid.

These publications can be ordered from Caroleena H. Lane, Business Manager, GOS, 869 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30307-1223. Please make checks payable to GOS.

## A Statement of Policy

Application for membership may be made to the Treasurer. *THE ORIOLE* is sent without charge to all classes of members not in arrears for dues. Send changes of address, claims for undelivered or defective copies and requests for information relative to advertising, subscriptions and back numbers to the business manager.

All articles and notes submitted for publication and all books and publications intended for review should be sent to the editor.

Original papers in the field of Ornithology are published in *THE ORIOLE*. Papers are judged on their contribution of original data, ideas, or interpretations and on their conciseness, scientific accuracy, and clarity.

**COPY** - Type manuscripts *double-spaced* throughout. Underscore scientific names only. Number pages in the upper right hand corner. Arrange contents in sequence: title page, text, reference, tables, figure legends, and figures. Type your complete address and date of submitting manuscript. For longer manuscripts, submission on a diskette readable on an IBM-compatible PC would facilitate the editing process.

**STYLE** - The guide for preparation of copy is the CBE STYLE MANUAL (Fifth Edition) available from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Bethesda, MD 20814.

**TITLE** - The title should be concise, descriptive, and not more than 10 words in length. Avoid use of scientific names in titles if possible.

**FOOTNOTES** - Avoid footnotes by incorporating such material in the text.

**NOMENCLATURE** - Vernacular names should be capitalized in text. They are to be accompanied by appropriate scientific names the first time each species is mentioned. Show reference for long lists of scientific names (i.e., A.O.U. Checklist 6th ed., 1983).

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

**TABLES** - Prepare tables in keeping with size of *THE ORIOLE*. A good table should be understandable without reference to the text.

**ILLUSTRATIONS** - Illustrations should be suitable for photographic reproduction without retouching. Colored plates will be charged to the author.

**REPRINTS** - Request for reprints must be sent with original manuscript and are to be paid for by the author.

The *author* is responsible for putting his manuscript in final form for production. Authors should consult colleagues and specialists for review of papers before submission, and check all literature available to them that might have a bearing on their papers.