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1986 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS COUNTS

Terry Moore

This is the fifth Georgia Christmas Count summary begun by the present author (1983) and continued by Blackshaw (1986a, 1986b, 1986c). The data in Table 1 are presented in the same format as before with the counts arranged roughly from the northwest to the southeast in order to help understand the distribution of various species across the state in the early winter.

The original data were obtained from Drennan (1987). Table 1 uses the following abbreviations for the count names: 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; HNR - Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge; SAP - Sapelo Island; GLY - Glynn County; and CUM - Cumberland Island. Although the Thomasville count was not conducted this year we added a new count on Cumberland Island.

Our species count of 184 was the highest we have ever recorded and our number of individual birds was also rather high but not a record. Since the individual count can be greatly influenced by how many blackbird flocks occur within the various count circles, it is not surprising this number can fluctuate widely. Our participation continues to inch upward in all categories but especially where it counts - in party hours with over 100 more party hours than in any of the four previous counts. We hope our counts will become even more popular so we can attract enough participants to adequately cover all our count areas completely.

Several new species were reported for the first time since we started our report. They were American White Pelican from Cumberland Island, Stilt Sandpiper from Glynn County, Say's Phoebe from Dublin, and Swainson's Thrush from Athens. In a departure from our previous four counts, one of these sightings, the Say's Phoebe, has been documented in *The Oriole* (Patterson 1987). Observers are reminded that publication of a sight record in the *American Birds* Christmas Count issue does not mean acceptance by the Georgia Checklist Committee. Unless you submit details of your observation to the committee or *The Oriole*, your sighting cannot be considered for inclusion in the Georgia checklist. You are doing both yourself and Georgia birding in general an injustice by not submitting your sighting details to the committee or *The Oriole*.

Of the 184 species recorded on the 1986 Christmas Bird Counts, only 24 were recorded on all 17 counts. Those species were Red-shouldered and Red-tailed

Table 1. 1986 Georgia Christmas Counts

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	CUM	TOTAL		
Red-thr Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8		
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	10		
Pied-b Grebe	2	3	14	15	15	20	97	4	23	39	6	2	6	6	3	61	-	316		
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	2	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	45	85		
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5		
Am. White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	92	188	37	329		
DbI-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	11	30	1	2	-	-	87	373	333	125	968		
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	11	-	22		
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	36		
Great Blue Heron	15	3	12	13	15	16	34	12	19	14	14	13	12	18	40	101	15	366		
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	16	-	6	54	42	58	249	20	456		
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	43	162	2	222		
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9	20	89	7	134		
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	32	2	49		
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2		
Green-b. Heron	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	11		
Blk-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	35	12	60	2	114	
Yel-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	15		
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	15	13	451	-	483		
Wood Stork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	1	39		
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Canada Goose	37	-	179	5	4	11	206	21	20	-	34	59	-	2	-	-	-	578		
Wood Duck	-	-	7	2	46	-	18	4	26	50	2	4	7	7	6	1	-	180		
Green-w. Teal	-	-	-	19	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	20	-	6	-	1	-	52		
Am. Black Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	16	-	-	2	-	-	-	9	8	-	-	36		
Mallard	16	-	112	102	40	79	96	47	69	8	3	46	-	35	3	42	-	698		
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	7		
Blue-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	5	2	1	-	16		
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	6	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30		
Gadwall	-	-	-	14	-	-	3	2	8	15	2	-	-	18	-	-	-	62		
American Wigeon	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	46	8	2	18	-	85	-	13	-	177		
Canvasback	-	-	-	4	1	-	2	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18		
Redhead	-	-	-	16	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	25		
Ring-n. Duck	56	-	75	677	6	27	288	281	332	510	6	6	25	-	1	2	-	2292		
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	20		
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	100	6	69	18	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	129	1000	1327		
Scaup (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	225	-	240		
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110	8	118		
Common Goldeneye	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	14		
Bufflehead	-	-	13	13	6	21	23	52	56	2	-	-	-	14	6	70	-	276		
Hooded Merganser	-	-	205	4	2	-	127	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	31	159	20	560		
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	85	74	5	190		
Merganser (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4		
Ruddy Duck	-	-	3	30	-	-	107	9	225	1	1	-	-	-	16	-	-	392		
Black Vulture	-	-	-	25	15	5	55	6	-	-	7	6	29	120	115	26	20	429		
Turkey Vulture	17	-	-	84	78	6	102	7	26	3	124	17	112	24	76	71	18	765		
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	9		
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	2	5	1	4	-	3	2	13	1	4	18	5	17	3	78		
Sharp-s. Hawk	-	-	2	2	2	1	-	4	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	1	21		
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	13		
Accipiter (sp.)	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5		
Red-s. Hawk	11	2	14	11	23	12	4	7	16	7	4	4	10	2	1	2	3	133		
Red-t. Hawk	14	4	15	27	44	10	12	23	36	34	26	16	2	12	10	22	1	308		
Buteo (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4		
Am. Kestrel	10	12	7	13	18	2	3	6	17	15	27	5	16	16	20	19	2	208		
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3		
Ruffed Grouse	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	57	
N. Bobwhite	4	6	60	28	68	50	11	14	-	-	16	12	6	6	-	-	-	281		
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	49	77	2	141		
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	26	17	2	68
American Coot	12	-	110	681	1	-	589	31	376	27	2	-	-	44	7	13	-	1893		
Sandhill Crane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	131	-	-	-	-	133		
Black-b. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	123	84	347	
Semi. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	15	274	511	840
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	4	
Killdeer	65	4	21	37	36	46	11	16	77	37	95	32	1	19	2	34	17	550		
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	46	25	81	
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	6	
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	46	1	40	7	98		

Species Name	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	CUM	TOTAL		
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	15	18	44	
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	210	105	376	
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	17	2	28	
Whimbrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	4	
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	71	12	103	
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	6	16	47	
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	118	323	569	
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	200	299	1	568	
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	24	-	
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	750	1202	883	2835		
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	
Short-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	429	103	532	-	
Dowitcher (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	
Common Snipe	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	12	-	2	11	-	-	13	2	-	-	44	
Am. Woodcock	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240	689	153	1082		
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	53	
Ring-b. Gull	-	-	3	3	-	-	18	305	408	14	-	-	-	-	70	1000	1004	233	3058	
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	31	-	-	-	-	-	64	300	53	127	576	
Great Black-b. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6	12	
Gull (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	15	-	27	
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	262	94	417	
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	58	152	42	268
Tern (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	307	300	615	
Rock Dove	263	6	139	85	443	19	7	480	482	86	129	4	2	-	-	-	23	-	2168	
Mourning Dove	152	200	697	439	634	142	61	195	281	288	103	165	33	36	75	478	132	411	2981	
Common Ground-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	27	13	-	-	9	6	6	62	-	
Common Barn-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
E. Screech-Owl	-	3	12	1	5	-	2	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	9	-	-	42	
Great Horned Owl	-	1	4	1	8	-	2	3	2	-	-	15	1	-	-	9	7	1	54	
Barned Owl	-	1	3	-	2	1	1	3	-	2	1	12	2	-	-	1	1	30	-	
Belted Kingfisher	10	4	26	15	32	19	25	6	20	14	14	1	7	11	20	79	3	309	-	
Red-b. Woodpecker	2	-	4	3	2	2	11	2	14	-	11	2	7	1	3	1	1	59	188	
Red-b. Woodpecker	32	6	133	75	87	37	44	22	43	21	20	17	18	20	29	65	19	688	-	
Yel-b. Sapsucker	12	2	14	14	18	36	14	10	34	22	6	1	-	-	3	22	38	4	250	
Downy Woodpecker	7	17	97	52	50	19	20	12	29	10	12	2	3	2	15	23	5	375	-	
Hairy Woodpecker	5	11	14	13	9	2	4	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	9	2	76	
Red-c. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	12	
Northwestern Flicker	29	8	52	44	72	35	30	11	47	55	22	29	12	18	43	49	5	561	-	
Pl. Woodpecker	8	29	20	16	26	20	31	19	18	5	11	2	19	10	10	34	10	288	-	
Eastern Phoebe	6	6	20	45	53	15	8	5	28	38	17	8	26	26	23	19	5	348	-	
Say's Phoebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Western Kingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1197	255	6300	137	100	7869	-	
Swallow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Blue Jay	120	80	836	356	336	138	126	58	78	21	55	36	5	4	45	133	-	2427	-	
American Crow	403	387	641	710	489	309	243	436	139	80	68	92	195	21	26	7	9	4255	-	
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	59	950	90	9	1212	-	-	
Carolina Chickadee	101	89	441	283	255	119	83	51	108	55	44	35	-	21	66	76	63	1890	-	
Tufted Titmouse	52	58	217	132	165	45	37	32	46	11	20	8	2	14	-	-	1	840	-	
Red-b. Nuthatch	6	9	-	-	5	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	29	-	
White-b. Nuthatch	14	17	16	1	2	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	58	-	
Brown-h. Nuthatch	12	1	112	175	45	23	35	28	18	42	10	3	13	-	134	21	4	676	-	
Brown Creeper	4	3	9	4	7	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	38	-	
Carolina Wren	37	27	219	192	164	31	44	28	106	46	29	34	16	7	51	70	26	1127	-	
House Wren	-	-	4	3	5	2	-	1	1	3	1	1	-	3	18	9	-	51	-	
Winter Wren	2	17	23	6	7	1	2	1	4	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	66	-	
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	7	-	21	-	
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	20	10	10	34	-	
Golden-c. Kinglet	14	31	217	181	116	17	64	31	27	23	29	8	-	5	1	5	-	769	-	
Ruby-c. Kinglet	12	2	125	202	140	29	29	24	91	128	68	29	14	24	133	156	33	1239	-	
B.g. Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	12	9	4	11	-	42	-	
Eastern Bluebird	76	33	256	466	144	164	133	49	83	50	69	31	107	19	97	-	-	1777	-	
Swainson's Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Hermit Thrush	1	3	29	25	22	3	2	4	1	5	12	1	1	2	19	10	5	145	-	
Thrush (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	
American Robin	39	12	129	200	214	178	1128	400	406	-	520	4	212	9	104	219	-	3774	-	
Gray Catbird	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	-	14	19	3	51	
N. Mockingbird	44	12	105	102	93	44	8	26	101	22	46	23	23	24	27	139	2	841	-	
Brown Thrasher	1	2	49	27	46	17	3	3	5	3	5	5	-	2	2	2	14	-	19	

Species Name	1986																CUM	TOTAL
	DAL	CHA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	DUB	ALB	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY		
Water Pipit	-	-	-	20	11	1	-	16	1	50	153	22	-	-	-	1	-	275
Cedar Waxwing	82	43	296	138	199	508	570	89	124	224	123	-	-	13	4	35	-	2448
Loggerhead Shrike	3	6	2	30	7	9	7	2	16	9	44	8	9	13	-	5	-	170
E. Starling	375	242	5439	400	70815	40	30	3050	1031	287	75	1	23	56	12	968	-	82844
White-e. Vireo	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	3	20	1	31	
Solitary Vireo	-	-	2	6	4	-	1	2	2	4	6	2	-	2	5	3	1	40
Orange-c. Warbler	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	
Northern Parula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Yellow-r. Warbler	11	2	28	71	94	56	36	280	101	241	45	7	401	148	1800	3835	359	7515
Yellow-t. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	7
Pine Warbler	7	5	191	129	20	38	31	22	16	39	21	27	96	19	130	30	4	825
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Palm Warbler	2	-	-	3	2	-	3	32	8	4	5	15	15	12	12	-	-	116
Blk & white Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	1	6	1	14
Ovenbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	4	1	2	3	1	18	6	-	44
N. Cardinal	53	51	299	198	219	77	66	27	134	84	65	119	14	20	69	153	28	1676
Rufous-s. Towhee	24	18	236	144	151	22	66	13	44	2	41	19	3	5	72	79	12	951
Chipping Sparrow	16	38	269	1001	101	75	509	35	467	31	792	283	120	51	25	-	1	3814
Field Sparrow	110	59	804	340	311	164	133	14	6	3	42	3	1	2	8	-	-	2000
Vesper Sparrow	-	4	36	3	3	8	3	3	2	-	7	55	-	30	-	1	-	155
Savannah Sparrow	1	1	7	78	62	8	324	7	52	44	53	257	-	56	130	42	7	1129
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Sharp-t. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	11	-	37
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	10	38
Fox Sparrow	4	3	10	3	6	1	10	4	1	-	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	51
Song Sparrow	240	144	593	355	274	48	91	39	79	121	76	11	-	14	24	17	6	2132
Swamp Sparrow	27	5	150	19	31	19	14	25	15	22	18	6	-	4	50	2	-	407
White-t. Sparrow	107	37	503	309	591	70	112	81	115	114	27	-	5	2	15	25	-	2113
White-c. Sparrow	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	48
Dark-e. Junco	37	366	454	186	251	115	229	67	92	40	29	25	1	-	-	-	-	1892
Sparrow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	381	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	399
Red-w. Blackbird	28	1050	484	422	40052	132	198	135	32	489	3359	724	351	224	127	186	110	48103
East. Meadowlark	24	32	132	243	103	45	81	32	71	66	106	2	38	107	87	2	3	1174
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	8	38	52	-	-	-	-	200	500	-	-	15	5	-	-	818
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	25	1	-	-	-	-	951	-	-	-	-	-	-	977
Boat-t. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120	88	489	12	709
Common Grackle	1459	5151	2130	600	71621	19	35	800	44	370	3316	204	1	40	170	226	321	86507
Brown-h. Cowbird	-	-	14	-	70026	2	-	4	151	60	872	-	-	5	-	21	-	71155
Blackbird (sp.)	10500	-	-	200	-	-	472	2000	2595	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	15917
Purple Finch	14	20	56	15	68	1	12	28	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	217
House Finch	9	156	18	49	61	-	1	4	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	329
Pine Siskin	1	89	6	37	52	9	-	9	-	164	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	367
Am. Goldfinch	57	191	345	353	243	98	297	40	192	30	125	19	1	10	6	30	-	2037
Evening Grosbeak	-	64	38	-	1	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
House Sparrow	144	78	287	64	178	27	13	250	29	10	73	-	-	1	-	19	-	1173
Total Individuals	15072	8970	18356	11168	259918	3390	7976	9934	9694	4647	12681	2889	3454	2695	15758	16357	5688	408647
Total Species	68	65	81	93	96	77	98	93	97	85	82	80	61	109	133	141	86	184
Number of Observers	15	14	36	31	34	36	19	10	23	12	12	10	18	18	14	49	7	358
Number of Parties	7	5	16	13	15	9	7	8	7	7	3	2	6	9	7	16	4	141
Party Hours	42	41	127	104	121	46	50	47	60	36	24	17	46	73	58	128	29	1049
Party Miles	378	309	632	804	357	264	370	178	310	135	218	108	189	178	121	427	55	5033
Date of Count	12/20	12/27	12/28	12/20	12/20	12/27	12/22	12/20	12/20	12/27	12/27	12/27	1/2	1/2	1/3	1/3	12/29	

Hawks, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, American Crow, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark and Common Grackle. Several species which didn't make this list

were rather surprising: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue Jay (only missed on Cumberland Island - is this another example of a rather common bird not found on one of our barrier islands?), Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping, Savannah, Song, Swamp, and White-throated Sparrows, American Goldfinch and (for those lucky four counts), House Sparrow.

THE SHORT TERM

Interesting sightings included 5 Common Loons, 97 Pied-billed and 23 Horned Grebes on the Piedmont count, the continued increase of Double-crested Cormorants and Great Egrets in the lower Piedmont and the upper coastal plain counts, a Green-backed Heron on the Atlanta count, 14 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and 38 Wood Storks on the Glynn County count and a Snow Goose on the Albany count. The rapid increase of the Canada Goose continues in almost all areas except the lower coastal plain. An Oldsquaw on the Glynn County count was exciting but only one species of scoter, the Black Scoter, was reported on all the coastal counts. Rather high inland counts of some waterfowl species were the 10 Common Goldeneyes at Dalton, the 205 Hooded Mergansers at Atlanta and the 7 Red-breasted Mergansers at Piedmont.

Noteworthy for an inland locality was an Osprey at Augusta. The total of 3 Bald Eagles is about average. Two Ruffed Grouse on the Chattahoochee National Forest count are noteworthy in that this is probably the only count with a reasonable chance of getting the species. Twenty-one and twenty-seven Wild Turkeys on the Athens and Piedmont counts were certainly good sightings. Two Sandhill Cranes on the Albany count were the only ones recorded outside of the Okefenokee. Only four Piping Plover were recorded with one on Sapelo and 3 at Glynn County. Inland shorebirds included a Greater Yellowlegs at Augusta and a Spotted Sandpiper at Columbus. Interestingly enough, there were more Least Sandpipers reported inland than along the coast.

A tern (sp.) was certainly unusual for the Piedmont count but the bad news was that only one Common Barn-Owl was found, this one on the Macon count. We need to do a better job of locating this troubled species and monitoring its population. Fifteen Great Horned Owls was a good count on the Albany count considering that Georgia counters have traditionally not put that much effort into owling. A total of 12 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on three counts was certainly below average but we didn't have the Thomasville Count to rely upon this year. A Western Kingbird on Sapelo, 19 Horned Larks at Athens and a swallow (sp.) at Atlanta were all excellent sightings. There were a scattering of Red-breasted Nuthatch sightings, mostly in the northwest, but three reached Sapelo Island.

Gray Catbirds were seen away from the coastal areas in Atlanta, Callaway Gardens and Macon. Cumberland Island should consider themselves fortunate in being the only count without European Starlings. A White-eyed Vireo at Athens was unusual and Orange-crowned Warblers were unexpectedly more "common" inland than along the coast (6 birds vs. 4). A Northern Parula, although probably a regular winter visitor along the coast, was still a good find on the Sapelo count. Other interesting warbler sightings included a Prairie Warbler at Peachtree City (Oberle 1986) and an Ovenbird on the Glynn County count.

Grasshopper Sparrows were only encountered on the Athens and Callaway Gardens counts but two Henslow's Sparrows were seen on Sapelo. Was there a misprint on the Albany count as no White-throated Sparrows were printed but 44 White-crowned Sparrows were? A total of 951 Brewer's Blackbirds on the Dublin Count was certainly a good total as the species is often unreported. House Finches continue their increase, this year outnumbering the Purple Finch for the first time in our report. A few Pine Siskins made it into our area, mostly in the northwest, but the highest count came from Augusta. Evening Grosbeaks were spotty with only four counts reporting with the highest count of 64 in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

THE LONG TERM

With only five years of data to analyze, it's still rather difficult to discern long term trends in our bird populations. There are, however, a few species which show a rather significant decline in numbers. Crawford (1987) pointed out that House and White-throated Sparrows had evidently declined in the Thomasville area during the past 20+ years. Figures 1 and 2 show the decline to be statewide and not confined to Thomasville. Two more declining species are Rufous-sided Towhee (Figure 3) and Eastern Meadowlark (Figure 4). Whether these trends reflect a habitat deterioration within the respective count areas or an overall population decline cannot be measured with only the Christmas Count data. It would be necessary to have some measure of habitat change within a count area to analyze the data. Georgia observers are encouraged to bring to the attention of the author other species which deserve attention.

Figure 1. House Sparrow numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1986)

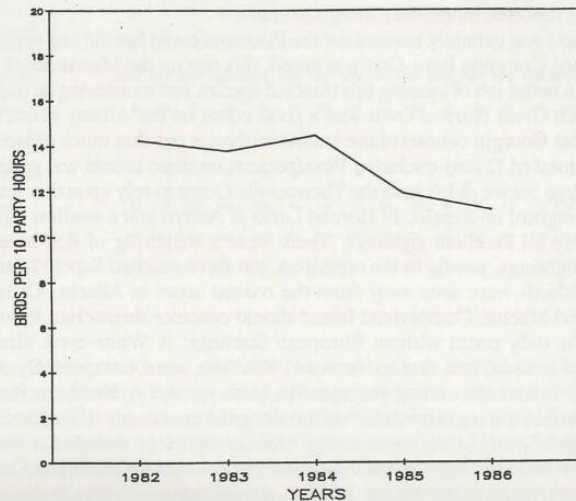


Figure 2. White-throated Sparrow numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1986).

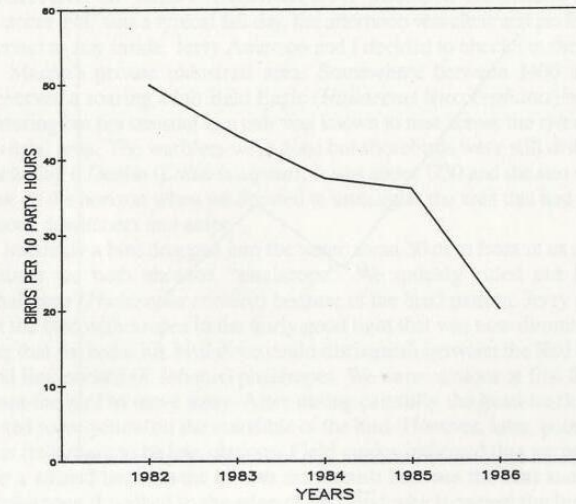


Figure 3. Rufous-sided Towhee numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1986).

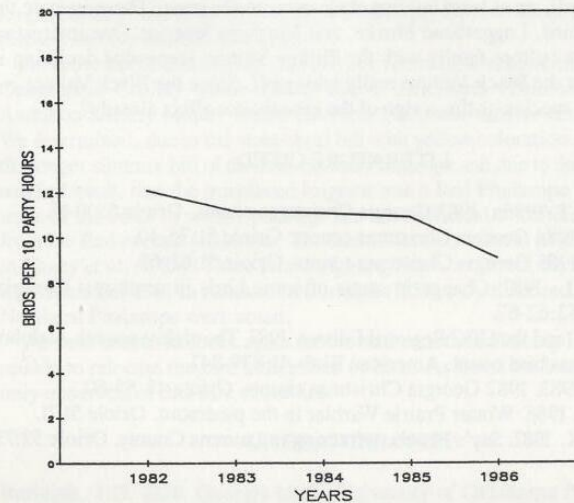
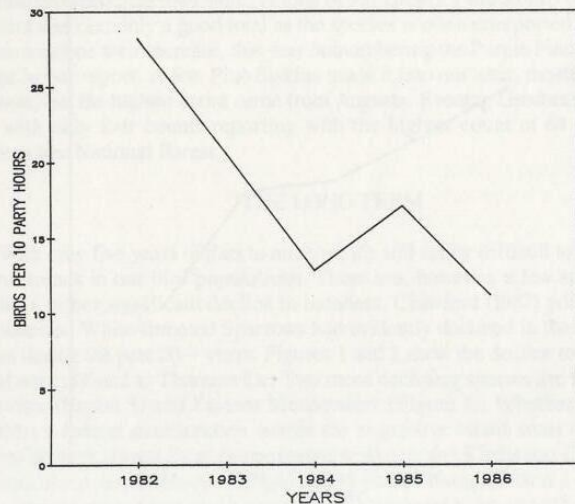


Figure 4. Eastern Meadowlark numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1986).



On the other hand, several species which are causes for national concern seem to be doing well, or at least holding their own, in the state. These include the Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, and Northern Harrier. One interesting sidelight is the vulture family with the Turkey Vulture somewhat declining in population but the Black Vulture really taking off. Since the Black Vulture is a more tropical species, is this a sign of the greenhouse effect already?

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Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Ct., Woodstock, GA 30188.

GENERAL NOTES

SIGHTING OF RED PHALAROPE AT MACON, GEORGIA - Sunday, 25 October 1987 was a typical fall day, the afternoon was clear and perfect; much too perfect to stay inside. Jerry Amerson and I decided to check out the bird activity at Macon's private industrial area. Somewhere between 1400 and 1500 we observed a soaring adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) which was interesting but not unusual as a pair was known to nest across the river from the industrial area. The warblers were gone but shorebirds were still drifting through including 6 Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). It was about 1730 and the sun was dropping low on the horizon when we decided to investigate the area that had recently produced dowitchers and snipe.

Suddenly a bird dropped into the water about 30 m in front of us and almost in unison we both shouted "phalarope". We quickly ruled out the Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*) because of the head pattern. Jerry and I observed the bird with scopes in the fairly good light that was now diminishing, knowing that we had a life bird if we could distinguish between the Red (*P. fulicaria*) and Red-necked (*P. lobatus*) phalaropes. We were cautious at first for we did not want the bird to move away. After noting carefully the head markings we both noted some yellow on the mandible of the bird. However, later, poor light caused this field mark to be less obvious. Field guides indicated that we needed to look for a striped back on the bird to distinguish between the Red and Red-necked phalaropes. I walked to the edge of the pond which caused the bird to fly. The back of the bird both swimming and in flight showed a plain gray back with no stripes. Fortunately the bird returned to the same area to feed and Jerry and I abandoned our scopes and approached it. At a distance of approximately 10 m we were able to study the bill of the bird. The bill appeared much stouter than the longer slimmer bill of the Red-necked Phalarope. By now about 35 minutes had elapsed and the sunlight was gone.

We drove home and double-checked our references, researching the National Geographic Society guide (Scott 1983), Peterson's (Peterson 1980), The Audubon Society Master Guide (Farrand 1983) and various other fieldguides. We determined, due to the stout short bill with yellow coloration as compared to the longer slimmer bill of the Red-necked Phalarope and due to the plain gray unmarked back, that the misplaced migrant was a Red Phalarope. The head patterns of the birds in winter plumage are not sufficient to differentiate the Red from the Red-necked phalarope. The Red Phalarope is listed as accidental inland in Haney *et al.* (1986). Three inland sightings have occurred, the most recent being September 1981 in Atlanta. In Burleigh (1958) only three records of the then Northern Phalarope were noted.

We were unable to check again for the bird until the following Friday and were unable to relocate the bird either then or later. As far as we know we were the only observers of this rare shorebird.

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Ty Ivey, 752 St. Andrews Drive, Macon, GA 31210.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE SIGHTED ON SAPELO ISLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - On 1 Jan. 1988 while birding the old skeetfield during the Sapelo Island Christmas Bird Count, Vernon Waters spotted a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) perched in a dead tree in the middle of the field. The time was approximately 1000 and the sky was clear. Vernon observed the white line on the folded wing edge from approximately 20 m away. Realizing it was a White-winged Dove, he approached within 15 m causing the dove to fly at which time he observed the two white wing patches. When Dan, our son, and I joined Vernon a few minutes later, we were able to locate the bird again in the back part of the skeetfield in bare trees. Most of the skeetfield is mowed but there are scattered trees throughout the field. We approached to approximately 20 m and could see the white line on the wing edges and its bright red feet. When the bird turned its back to us, we could see that the tail was rounded rather than pointed as a Mourning Dove's (*Zenaida macroura*) would be. When the bird flew away from us, the two white wing patches were very obvious as were the white areas on either side of the tail. Also, the primaries below the white areas were darker than other pale brown parts of the wing.

The skeetfield was thoroughly searched the next day but the dove could not be relocated. A weather front moved through the area that day bringing slow steady rains which may have caused the dove to move on.

It appears this is the tenth recorded sighting of this species in Georgia. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists 9 other records (assuming the birds seen on Sea Island during July 1972 and on 30 Dec. 72 were separate birds).

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

A UNIQUE NESTING SITE OF A BARRED OWL - On 26 February 1988 a teen-aged boy, Wesley Thompson, observed an owl through a 10 cm crack of a section of the Sand Bar Ferry Bridge which was being destroyed to make way for a new bridge. The standing span of the bridge which connected Georgia and South Carolina was on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River near Augusta, GA. The owl was sitting on a ledge under the bridge about 1 m below the surfaced roadtop. Wesley observed two eggs through the crack when the adult bird flew into a nearby swamp.

On the morning of 27 February, Wesley called me and asked if I would come and identify the owl, and then see if something could be done to save the nest from destruction. On the afternoon of 27 February my husband and I met Wesley at the bridge. Expecting to see a Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*), we were surprised to find a sitting Barred Owl (*Strix varia*).

By the time we arrived at the bridge, the eggs had been moved about 1 m from their original location to a corner of the ledge. Wesley was with us and stated the eggs had been moved from under the crack on the bridge. We then went under the bridge and observed the owl with 8X40 binoculars. The ledge on which the owl was sitting was approximately 10 m from the ground. The bird sat tight during the time we observed her both from the top of the bridge through the crack and underneath the structure. A few days later Clarence Belger saw the owl and confirmed the identification as a Barred Owl. The Augusta Audubon group also viewed the sitting bird.

No reference to the species nesting on a ledge appears in any review of literature available to me. The usual nesting site of this owl is hollow trees or old hawk, Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) or squirrel nests (Bent, A.C. 1958, *Life histories of North American birds of prey*. Vol. 2, Dover Publ., Inc., New York, NY).

To avoid destroying the bird, the Fish and Wildlife Service gave Vick Van Sant of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources permission to net the bird and take the eggs. The eggs were received by Dr. Ruehle, a veterinarian of Thomas, Georgia, on 18 March and he immediately placed them in an incubator. On 24 March the eggs hatched, 27 days from the date the owl was first discovered brooding the eggs.

Bent (*op. cit.*) gives an incubation period of from 21 to 28 days, but believes the latter figure is more nearly correct, and this hatching seems to confirm the 28 day period.

Dr. Ruehle noticed the nestlings appeared weak and listless and two days after hatching, on 26 March, the owlets died. Mr. Van Sant was unable to net the adult owl as it left the eggs and flew into the Savannah River Swamp when the rescuers approached the nest.

Eulalie (Lee) Gibbs, 816 Hammond Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841.

HOUSE FINCHES IN THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA - The steady range expansion of the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) (Haney *et al.*, 1986, Occ. Publ. No. 10, GOS; Leck 1987, *Records of NJ Birds* 13:18-19) has reached the southern tier of counties in Georgia. On 12 December 1987 Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Woodham saw a male House Finch on their feeder in Thomasville. By 27 December 1987, the day of the Thomasville Christmas Bird Count, the Woodham's had eleven finches visiting their feeder, seven males and four females. The finches were usually associated with flocks of feeding Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*); siskins were experiencing a major irruption year. On 29 December 1987, William Thomas had one male and possibly a female on his feeder, about 2.5 miles northeast of the Woodham's house. Mr. Thomas took several photographs of the birds on his and the Woodham's feeders; one photograph was submitted with the Christmas Bird Count form. On 7 January 1988, I saw a male House Finch on my feeder, about 0.5 miles from Mr. Thomas'.

At the Woodham's, the flock of House Finches remained until 26 February 1988. Mr. Woodham said that about 2 days prior, Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) began to appear on his feeder in moderate numbers for the first time that winter and whether or not coincidentally, the House Finches stopped feeding then.

Robert L. Crawford, 208 Junius Street, Thomasville, GA 31792.

FROM THE FIELD

August - November 1987

This period was quite an exciting one with a number of excellent reports. How else could you describe a period which had Eared Grebes, Black Rails, Long-billed Curlews, a Baird's Sandpiper, a Red Phalarope, a Long-eared Owl, Rufous Hummingbirds, a Western Kingbird, a first ever for Georgia MacGillivray's Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrows. This hardly leaves room for other exciting reports such as a Wood Stork at Lawrenceville, a Surf Scoter at Macon, Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Gainesville, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Augusta, and a Western Kingbird at Jekyll Island.

What is really sad is that I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg. I have to believe that very few of the interesting sightings around Georgia are ever reported to *The Oriole*. Only a few observers send in their sightings and they are generally from the major piedmont cities. We still have very few sightings from the coastal areas and south Georgia. These areas are where most of our rarities occur (especially the coast) and yet we have the fewest reports from those areas. If you can suggest ways to improve this record (we are the most poorly reported coastal area along the eastern seaboard) please let me have your ideas.

Abbreviations used include: CCWTP - Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, MBBT - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company at Augusta, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, RCWMA - Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

EARED GREBE - This species is increasing in the fall inland: three reports were received this year. Single birds were spotted twice by Terry Johnson at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 2 Sept. and 19 Nov. Another winter plumaged bird was near Lawrenceville on 25-26 Sept. according to Joel Volpi. This represents the 10th through 12th records for the state.

ANHINGA - Anne Waters mentioned an increase of this species in the Augusta area where it used to be uncommon. Birds were noted from 1 Aug. until 20 Nov. with a high of nine individuals on 1 Oct. Elsewhere a single bird was at the MIA on 5 Sept. (Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark).

HERON ROOST - The MBBT post breeding roost had a peak of 3780+ birds on 17 Aug. (Anne Waters). The following high counts were recorded this fall:

Great Egret	74 on 30 Sept.	Cattle Egret	3246 on 17 Aug.
Snowy Egret	15 on 30 Sept.	Green-b. Heron	116 on 8 Aug.
Little Blue Heron	436 on 8 Aug.	White Ibis	104 on 8 Aug.
Tricolored Heron	8 on 17 Aug.	Glossy Ibis	2 on 5 Sept.

GREAT EGRET - Terry Moore and other observers saw 11 birds on 8 Aug. at the Morgan Falls Dam for a good Atlanta count. Another interesting report was the 100+ seen by Terry Johnson on 4 Sept. at the West Point WMA.

SNOWY EGRET - Unusual for the Atlanta area were the eight Snowy Egrets along the Chattahoochee River during most of August (many observers). A few more birds were noted at the RCWMA on 5 Sept. (Terry Johnson) and at the MIA on 27 Sept. (Ty Ivey).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - A single bird at the MIA on 31 Oct. seemed late (Ty Ivey, Jerry and Marie Amerson).

WHITE IBIS - Immatures were sighted in Atlanta on 17 Aug. (Hugh Garrett), 5 Sept. (Dale Johnson) and at the Piedmont NWR on 3 Oct. (Sarah Williams).

WOOD STORK - One of Atlanta's rarest sightings this fall was an immature Wood Stork flying near Lawrenceville on 9 Aug. (Hugh Garrett). This is Atlanta's second record. More expected but still an interesting count were the 120 seen near Darien on 18 Oct. by Paul Raney and Nell Kirkland. Around Macon, four were sighted near Gordon on 19 Sept. by Ray Mangham and five more in Jones County on 27 Sept. by Dwight Harley.

SNOW GOOSE - A blue morph summered at Lake Lanier with Canada Geese (John Paget). This is very rare and could well be the first summering record for Georgia.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - Three birds were very early at the CCWTP on 11 Sept. (Patrick Brisse) as was another near Roswell on 19 Sept. (Peggy and Terry Moore).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - A good count for Atlanta was 45 at the CCWTP on 11 Sept. (Patrick Brisse). In Macon, Ty Ivey and others counted 50+ birds at the MIA on 13 Sept.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Two birds at the CCWTP on 16 Aug. were the earliest ever for the Atlanta area (Patrick Brisse).

RING-NECKED DUCK - Terry Johnson sighted an early migrant at the Rum Creek WMA on 3 and 17 Sept. High counts later during the season were 896 at the RCWMA by Terry Johnson on 2 Nov. and 2000+ at PCL by Patrick Brisse and others in late Nov.

LESSER SCAUP - About a month early was a bird reported by Terry Johnson on 5 Sept. from the RCWMA.

SURF SCOTER - Jerry and Marie Amerson and Ty Ivey sighted a bird at the MIA on 31 Oct. for a rare inland record.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - The only report received was of a single bird at the Griffin Reservoir on 7 Nov. by Paul Raney.

HOODED MERGANSER - Terry Johnson and his daughter counted a "whopping" 362 mergansers at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 25 Nov. for a local high count record.

TURKEY VULTURE - Over 270 birds were migrating over Columbus on 11 Nov. (*vide* Sam Pate).

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Anne Waters reported the last bird in Augusta from the levee on 18 Aug. and nine were still around Macon on 1 Sept. according to Terry Johnson.

BALD EAGLE - John Paget saw an immature bird at Lake Lanier on 1 Sept. and Tom Patterson saw an adult in northeast Laurens County on 6 Sept., the first one he has personally seen in the county. In the Macon area at least seven reports were received from many observers. With the species nesting in the area all these sightings could well be of the same birds.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Terry Moore mentioned a poor migration over Atlanta. Vast numbers of Broad-winged Hawks must move through the state in the fall but they are poorly reported. Where and when do they go through?

GOLDEN EAGLE - Dan Guynn saw an eagle near McRae on 15 Nov. for a rare sighting in central Georgia.

MERLIN - Reports came from west Bibb county on 16 Oct. (Ken and Arlene Clark), Laurens county on 1 Nov. (Tom Patterson) and the Chattahoochee National Forest on 19 Nov. (Harriett DiGioia).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Probably the same bird was spotted in different places around Macon on 27 Sept. (Ty Ivey, Jerry and Marie Amerson, Don and Joyce Duncan and others). A first for Laurens county was a bird found in Jackson Pasture by Tom Patterson on 25 Oct.; it was sighted again on 31 Oct. Jim Shirah saw the species near Mauk from 25 to 28 Nov. (*vide* Sam Pate). The last report was received from Terry Moore who commented that there was a lackluster migration along the Georgia coast this fall.

BLACK RAIL - Fred Granitz and Chris Ridley flushed a few Black Rails in early Oct. near Lake Juliette while mowing goose grazing plots (*vide* Terry Johnson).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Unusual inland, one was flushed from a field near Plant Scherer on 9 Oct. (*vide* Terry Johnson).

COMMON MOORHEN - Single birds were spotted at Peachtree City Lake on 20 Sept. (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore) and at MBBT on 7, 14, and 21 Nov. (Anne Waters).

AMERICAN COOT - Terry Johnson counted 521 individuals at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 2 Nov. which is a good count for that location.

SANDHILL CRANE - The fall migration started as early as 29 Oct. when Don and Joyce Duncan counted 13 birds over Kathleen. Around Atlanta, Terry Moore received reports totaling only 187 birds from 5 to 22 Nov.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER - A few were noted inland as usual. Patrick Brisse, Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark noted the first one at the CCWTP on 26 Sept. Two birds were noted there on 3 Oct. Another bird was in Laurens county on 23-25 Oct. according to Tom Patterson.

PIPING PLOVER - The only reports came in from Mark Oberle who mentioned 11 birds on Cumberland Island on 11 Oct. and Anne Waters who saw 3 birds on Jekyll Island on 17 Oct. Please keep sending information on this decreasing species.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Always rare inland, a single bird was sighted by Tom Patterson in Laurens county on 10 Oct. and 21-25 Oct. Only two previous records exist for Laurens county.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Three birds were seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 16-18 Oct. by many GOS members attending the fall meeting.

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Always of note inland, one was at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 20 Sept. (Terry Johnson).

SANDERLING - Also from the same area, the species was noted by Terry Johnson on 20 Sept. This species is almost completely a coastal migrant with few inland sightings.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Sixteen birds found by Anne Waters at MBBT on 29 Nov. were most likely late migrants.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Seldom seen inland in the fall, two birds were seen by Tom Patterson in a pasture in Laurens county on 21 Oct.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - A single bird was found by Patrick Brisse at the CCWTP on 19 Sept. and was seen again the next day by Terry Moore and Hugh Garrett. This represents the fifth record for the Atlanta area (all from the CCWTP) and only the seventh record for Georgia.

DUNLIN - From one to five birds were present in Laurens county from 31 Oct. to 14 Nov. (Tom Patterson). The few inland sightings of this species in the fall indicate it is a late migrant.

STILT SANDPIPER - One to two birds were at the CCWTP from 16 Aug. to 20 Sept. (*vide* Patrick Brisse). In Laurens county, Tom Patterson saw two on 6 Sept. and one on 3 Oct. The last ones were found by John Paget on Lake Lanier on 19 Oct.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - Only John Paget mentioned the species this fall. Five birds were seen at the Gainesville Airport on 8 Sept., up to nine on 10 Sept. and then two on 13 Sept. These would be very decent counts anywhere in Georgia.

COMMON SNIPER - An early bird for the Atlanta area was at the CCWTP on 23 Aug. (Patrick Brisse).

RED PHALAROPE - Ty Ivey and Jerry Amerson discovered a single bird at the MIA on 25 Oct. The bird was not relocated the next day. This is only the fourth inland record of the species in Georgia.

LAUGHING GULL - Of note inland, a single bird was seen by Terry Johnson at the Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 5 Sept.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Five birds at Ben Hall Lake, Laurens county, on 21 Nov. were the first seen in a few years by Tom Patterson.

COMMON TERN - Atlanta's third record consisted of two birds at the CCWTP on 30 Aug. (Patrick Brisse).

BLACK TERN - The CCWTP hosted all the sightings of this species in the Atlanta area: one on 8 Aug. (Patrick Brisse and others), seven on 23 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Didi and Robert Manns) and the last one on 2 Sept. (Peggy and Terry Moore). The only other report was of five immatures on Jekyll Island on 11 Aug. (Anne Waters).

LONG-EARED OWL - On 1 Nov. a dead owl was found near Smyrna and turned over to the Chattahoochee Nature Center where it was identified as a Long-eared Owl. This is the fourth record for the Atlanta area and the first one in over 25 years (*vide* Terry Moore).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - The migration was not really spectacular as the best report received was only 200+ birds seen by Peggy Moore in north Fulton county on 8 Sept.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Four reports were received this fall. All sightings of this species need to be documented either in *The Oriole* through the Checklist Committee since the species is still regarded as accidental in Georgia and it is very difficult to separate this species from other possible vagrant hummingbirds. The first bird was photographed at a feeder in Dalton on 27 Aug. and most likely the same bird was at another feeder in Dalton in late Sept. according to Harriett DiGioia. Another bird showed up in Macon on 1 Sept. as reported and photographed by Ray Mangham. The last report was seen in Atlanta around 20 Nov. and stayed through the end of the period (*vide* Terry Moore).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - Anne Waters reported the species twice from Augusta on 29 Aug. and 23 Sept. In Atlanta, a well described bird was noted by Georgann Schmalz on 3 Oct. at Fernbank Forest.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Peter Yawkey heard and saw five birds near Athens from 15 to 17 Sept. and the banding group on Jekyll Island banded single birds on 2 and 5 Oct. (*vide* Terry Moore).

WESTERN KINGBIRD - The usual fall coastal report was received when GOS members sighted a lone bird perched on a wire on Jekyll Island on 18 Oct. (*vide* Tom Patterson).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Tom Patterson found a single bird at Ben Hall Lake in Laurens county on 21 Nov. which beat the latest departure date for the state by three weeks.

CLIFF SWALLOW - One seen off the Augusta Levee on 26 Sept. was the latest ever for Georgia (Anne Waters). Outstanding was another bird spotted by Anne at MBBT on 29 Oct.

- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - A bird in southern Harris county on 18 Oct. was the only sighting for the period (*vide* Sam Pate).
- BEWICK'S WREN - Jack Carusos found a bird in north Atlanta on 4 Oct. for a rare area record. This is only the second sighting for the Atlanta area in the last ten years.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Georgann Schmalz saw a rather late bird in Fernbank Forest in Atlanta on 31 Oct.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Terry Moore received ten reports from the Atlanta area from 10 Sept. to 4 Oct. This seems a little better than usual. Elsewhere, Don and Joyce Duncan sighted a bird near Kathleen on 27 Sept.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - One bird banded on Jekyll Island on 8 Oct. was the first one banded there in ten years of study (*vide* Terry Moore).
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER - Anne Waters spotted a male off the Augusta Levee on 18 Aug. for a rare record of this hybrid.
- TENNESSEE WARBLER - Late birds were noted in Augusta on 11 Nov. (Anne Waters), Gainesville on 10 Nov. (John Paget), and Roswell on 15 Nov. (Peggy and Terry Moore).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - Relatively early was a bird banded on Jekyll Island on 10 Oct. (*vide* Terry Moore).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER - Five reports were more than the average number for the period. Terry Moore received four reports from the Atlanta area from 26 Sept. through 11 Oct. Mark Oberle submitted the last report of a bird seen on Cumberland Island on 12 Oct.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER - Worth noting were the 23 birds counted by Anne Waters in less than .75 mile along the Augusta Levee on 23 Sept. "Warbler migration the way it used to be" was Anne's comment on her sighting.
- CERULEAN WARBLER - As usual all sightings came from Atlanta where Terry Moore received 11 reports from 1 Aug. through 7 Sept. with a high count of six seen on 1 Aug. by Jack Carusos.
- OVENBIRD - One to two birds showed up in downtown Atlanta starting on 12 Nov. and staying through the end of the period (Patrick Brisse).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - One bird came to Nancy Iha's bird bath in Marietta on 24 Oct.
- MOURNING WARBLER - New to the Jekyll Island Banding Station was a single bird banded on 7 Oct. (*vide* Terry Moore).
- MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER - Obviously the best "*Oporornis*" warbler of the season, this species was banded on Jekyll Island on 2 Oct. Measurements and photographs have been submitted to the Checklist Committee. If accepted this represents a new record for the state of Georgia.
- WILSON'S WARBLER - Three sightings of single birds were reported from Atlanta on 19 Sept. (Joel Hitt) and on 20 Sept. and 17 Oct. The last two were seen during Atlanta Audubon Society Migration Walks. A fourth report was a bird banded on Jekyll Island on 22 Oct. (*vide* Terry Moore).
- CANADA WARBLER - Rare in the Coastal Plain, one was spotted by Anne Waters off the Augusta Levee on 25 Sept.
- PAINTED BUNTING - Late for Augusta, a bird was still present off the levee on 10 Oct. (Anne Waters).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Two birds were banded on Jekyll Island on 8 Oct. and another was banded on 14 Oct. (*vide* Terry Moore). About a dozen previous records exist for the state!
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Peggy and Terry Moore observed a bird preening near Roswell on 31 Oct. and Ken Blackshaw sighted another one along the Chattahoochee River in north Atlanta on 9 Nov.
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR - John Paget saw a single individual on 25 Nov. at the Gainesville Airport for what seems to be now a regular fall appearance.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Once again Anne Waters reported early birds from MBBT on 12 Sept. when she saw 15 individuals; about 20 were there on 25 Sept. and 2 Oct. and 8 males and one female were still there on 7 Nov.
- PINE SISKIN - The first sighting for the period in the Atlanta area was seen near Roswell on 29 Oct. (Terry Moore). The species was quite common in the Atlanta area through the remainder of the period.

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

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