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THE ORIOLE

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WOOD STORK NESTING, ROOSTING AND FORAGING AT CUMBERLAND ISLAND, GEORGIA

Susan P. Bratton and Stacia Hendricks

Odum (*Oriole* 43:1-5) first reported Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*), nesting in Camden and McIntosh counties, Georgia, in 1977, and Odum, Guthrie, Rappole and Freeman (*Oriole* 44:88-89) reported storks breeding in Glynn county, Georgia, the following year. Since that time, Wood Storks have been breeding regularly on the Georgia coast, although little is known of their ecology or movements in the region. T.T. Allen (mimeo submitted to: OICC TRIDENT, Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia, July 1986) investigated Wood Stork sightings in the neighborhood of Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, at St. Marys, Georgia . Allen cited an Audubon census that found a colony of 250 pairs at Dover Bluff in 1986, and also cited an "unconfirmed report" by Shiela Willis of Wood Storks nesting on Cumberland Island in 1986, and a report by Marlene Finley of a flock of 100-200 birds on Cumberland Island on 31 October 1985. Allen found no nesting on Kings Bay, but reported nine sightings of Wood Storks on or near the Navy Base between 13 June 1985 and 24 July 1986. Three of these observations noted Wood Storks feeding at two different artificial ponds on the Navy Base.

During 1987, the U.S. National Park Service, Department of Interior, in a project funded by the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense, conducted a habitat use survey for wading birds within the boundaries of Cumberland Island National Seashore, and also conducted a "Wood Stork watch" where park staff and island residents were asked to turn in sightings of Wood Storks. Major wading bird study areas included Beach Creek Marsh, South End Ponds, Lake Whitney and Table Point Marsh (Figure 1). The survey included a variety of tidal creek and salt marsh habitats as well as freshwater ponds of various sizes. In addition, Stacia Hendricks, of Greyfields Inn, monitored Heron Pond, on private property north of Stafford Field, during the breeding season.

METHODS

Sampling was conducted at four seasons. Winter sampling was from 11 Jan. to 3 Feb., spring sampling extended from 30 March to 4 May, summer sampling extended from 17 June to 1 Sept., and fall sampling extended from 5 Oct. to 4 Nov. 1987. The sampling thus was during the same time period when Ruck-

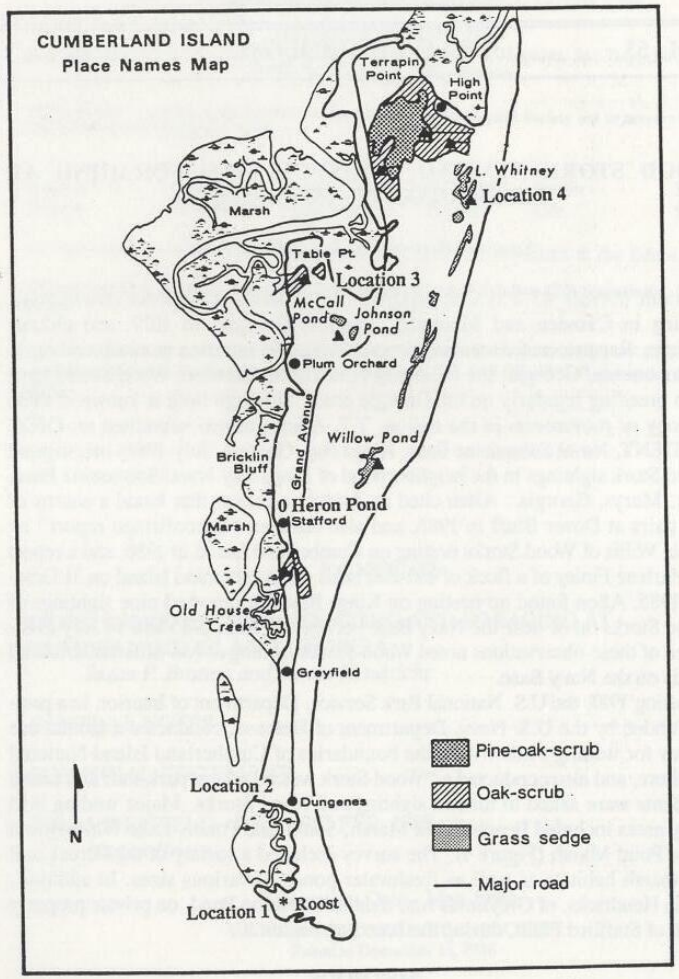


Figure 1: The four major sampling locations, the nesting area at Heron Pond and the roost at South End Ponds.

deschel and Shoop (*Oriole* 52:21-27) investigated stork nesting ecology on Cumberland Island. An attempt was made to sample each location three or four times a day for each of two days within a four day period. This was repeated four times for winter, spring and fall and seven times for summer. Sampling began in the early morning (an attempt was made to start one half hour after sunrise, but transportation availability and tides sometimes slowed the initiation) and ended about one half hour before sunset. The time taken to complete observations at each station was variable, but the sampling periods (the time taken to visit all locations within a study area) generally lasted about one and a half to two hours each. Observers were required to stay ten minutes at each location even if no birds were present. If birds were present, observers stayed about twenty minutes, recording feeding and other activities. During the winter three sampling periods were undertaken on each survey day: one early in the morning, one at midday, and one in the late afternoon (the light was low for observation by 1730). During the other four seasons, early morning, late morning, early afternoon and evening sampling periods were completed. The time between sampling periods was shorter in the spring and fall, due to the shorter day length. On each sampling day, either South End Ponds and Beach Creek were sampled, or Table Point and Lake Whitney were sampled. Thus sampling of freshwater sites was conducted at the same time as estuarine sites. At each location the observer recorded all species of wading birds present on arrival, and recorded others as they flew in during the first ten minutes. The observers recorded date, time of day, and time of the next high tide. Each wading bird species noted was recorded by number of individuals present, micro-habitat used, and behavior. Important micro-habitats for Wood Storks included open water, mud flat, mud bank, low *Spartina alterniflora*, high *Spartina*, (sitting in) trees, floating mat of vegetation, and open sky. Behaviors included: unknown, inactive, preening, flying, courtship, passive hunting (stationary), active hunting (e.g. walking slowly) and aggressive hunting (*e.g.* foot stir, fast walk). Notes were taken on the method of foraging, whenever foraging was observed. The "Wood Stork watch" sheets requested the date, time, geographic location, number of storks seen and basic behavior.

Formal sampling collected a total of 1994 observations of the 14 sampling sites: 369 in winter, 448 in spring, 729 in summer and 448 in the fall. Of these, 19 winter observations, 25 spring observations, 64 summer observations and 25 fall observations included sightings of Wood Storks. Samples with Wood Stork sightings were thus 2.4, 5.6, 8.8, and 5.6 percent of the total observations for each season respectively. The total number of observations reporting Wood Storks was 133 for the formal survey, with an additional 32 sightings from the "Wood Stork watch", and 14 collected by Stacia Hendricks, providing a total of 179 sightings with written documentation.

DISCUSSION

Bird watchers have commented for several years that the South End Ponds was a good area to look for Wood Storks. This survey found storks frequently roosted in the trees at the edge of the largest pond and they were sometimes seen roosting beside the pond nearest Cumberland Sound. Wood Storks were also seen on a number of occasions in trees adjoining Lake Whitney, but there was no evidence

of a repeatedly used roosting area near the lake. Sixty-six of the total of the 133 observations (49%) included storks roosting in trees at the South End Ponds.

The use of the roost varied diurnally and seasonally. Birds were regularly present through the winter (62% of the total observations at the larger South End Pond), and when birds were present there was an average of five storks in the trees. The maximum number seen was eight. In spring the storks were less frequently at the roost (31% of the observations at the pond), and the number of storks present at any one time was lower, an average of two birds per observation of birds present. The maximum number seen in an observation was four storks. In summer, presence at the pond rose again (53% of observations) and group size increased back to an average of five, and the maximum number seen was 15. In fall the Wood Storks were present for most of the earlier sampling runs and then disappeared in late October. There were eight occasions when there were nine birds or more (to a maximum of 17) present (Table 1). The storks were much less frequently seen in the roost in the early morning than during midday or in the afternoon or evening for all seasons except the spring. Although the relationship of roosting to the tides was not as clear, Wood Storks were more likely to be at the roost at high tide. Observation of this roost in the spring of 1988 did not indicate continued regular use by storks. An additional roosting area, on the shore of Cumberland Sound, was observed north of Plum Orchard during the summer of 1988.

Table 1. Wood Stork roosting at South End Ponds (1987).

Season	Percent of observations with storks	Average no. present when observed	Mode	Maximum
Winter	62%	5.1	5	8
Spring	31%	2.2	2	4
Summer	53%	5.1	3 to 6	15
Fall	47%	7.9	10	17

The Wood Storks were using a rookery area on the Ferguson Farm at Heron Pond by 8 April 1987 and continued to use the site through May. (A rookery was also active in the Sweetwater Lakes area but was not monitored during this study, see Ruckdeshel and Shoop (*op.cit.*)). According to Ruckdeschel and Shoop (*op.cit.*) eight pairs attempted to nest in 1987. Stacia Hendricks reported all the nests failed. On 10 April between 1730 and 1830, 55 Wood Storks were observed at the pond. On 22 April at 1630, 48 Wood Storks were observed feeding and sitting in trees along with about a hundred White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). On 2 May, at 1030 there were 20 storks on nests and feeding in the pond. On 7 May at 1630, six Wood Storks were observed in conjunction with the seven nests. On 15 May, at 1300 five storks were observed. By 20 May, drought conditions had lowered water levels so greatly that the pond was becoming an exposed mud flat, and no Wood Storks were observed. On 22 May, an alligator was seen on the Main Road east of Heron Pond, and was thought to be moving out of the area due to drought. The drought may also explain Wood Stork nest failure and abandonment of the site.

Ruckdeschel and Shoop (*op.cit.*) report two active rookeries on Cumberland Island during 1985, 1986 and 1987. The absence of birds from the South End Ponds in the spring is probably due to use of the rookeries on the island. This would also explain the low number of birds present in the evening in the spring when the rookeries were very active. The Wood Storks shared the roosting area with several other species, particularly Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*), Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*). During the warm season White Ibises and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) were frequently present.

During the winter and early spring (Jan.-March) of 1988 several attempts were made to observe Wood Storks at the South End Ponds, but none were seen at the roost site. Wood Storks were observed feeding in Beach Creek, however. By 25 April 1988 no Wood Storks had returned to the nesting site at Heron Pond. This location had also been abandoned by Great Egrets and other species which had used it as a rookery in previous years.

Foraging observations were made during all seasons except the winter. Susan Bratton and Shiela Willis (personal communication) both saw Wood Storks landing or standing along the bank of Beach Creek on at least three occasions during December 1986. A majority of the feeding observations were made during the summer (possibly due to the more intensive survey). The summer observations showed a strong diurnal pattern of morning and, to a lesser extent, evening foraging activity. Observations of Wood Storks remaining stationary or sitting in trees were more common at midday. Due to the small number of foraging observations, extracting diurnal and tidal patterns by season is not possible. There is a general trend, however, of more observations of foraging in the morning than in the afternoon. That this is a behavioral pattern is supported by the data indicating the Wood Storks are not roosting in the early morning, and by observations of stationary or resting Wood Storks. Seven summer foraging observations were before 0900, one between 0900 and 1000, two between 1200 and 1845 and four at 1845 hours or later.

Foraging appears to be strongly related to the tidal cycle. Wood Storks were observed feeding in salt marshes at low to mid-tide almost exclusively, with mid-tide preferred. A review of the marsh feeding observations found almost all were on the incoming tide. One foraging observation (at mid-tide) was on the outgoing tide, as was one observation of Wood Storks landing on the bank of a tidal creek. All the observations of feeding at South End Ponds were very near to ebb tide, while the one observation of feeding at Lake Whitney, during the habitat use survey, was very close to high tide. In addition, Stacia Hendricks made three observations of Wood Storks feeding at Heron Pond and two observations of feeding at Lake Whitney, all of which were within an hour and a half of high tide (Figure 2).

About a third, 37%, of the foraging sightings (from the habitat survey) were in fresh or brackish ponds or lakes. The remainder were in tidal marshes. About 23% of the salt marsh sightings were in low *Spartina* areas, while the remainder were on mud flats, creek banks, and in tall *Spartina* (Figure 3). Actual use of larger creek branches surrounded by tall *Spartina* was probably underestimated due to poorer visibility. On a number of occasions Wood Storks were seen flying into the main branches of tidal creeks, but could not be seen once they landed.

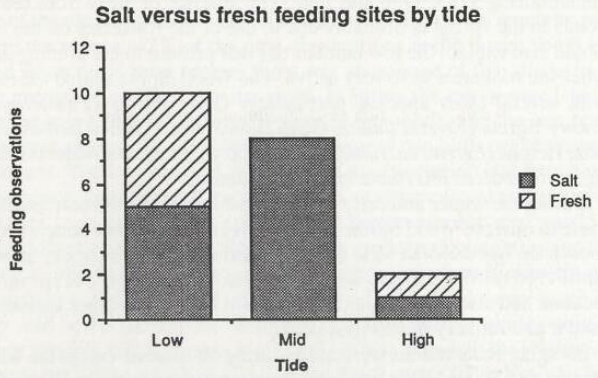


Figure 2. The distribution of Wood Stork feeding observations in salt and fresh water by tide. This graph includes observations of active feeding and storks standing in or near the water and includes only the systematic survey data.

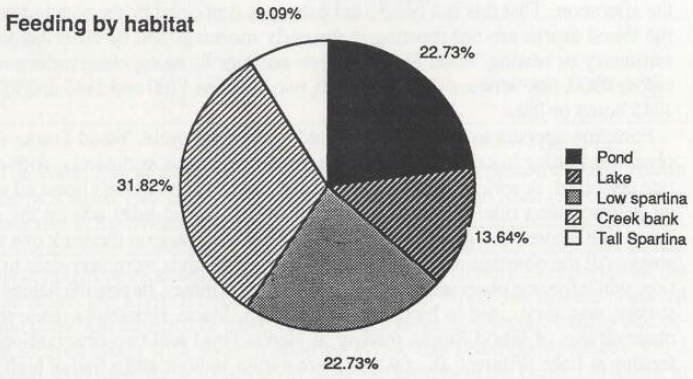


Figure 3. The distribution of Wood Stork feeding observations by habitat type. This is a summary of all seasons. Note the feeding on creek banks may be underestimated due to poor visibility. Stacia Hendricks observations are not included.

Wood Storks used a variety of foraging techniques including probing with the bill, and "groping". Stationary, slow walking, and more aggressive active hunting methods, such as "wing beating" were noted.

Aside from the observations in the roosting and rookery areas, a majority of the observations of Wood Storks on Cumberland Island were of one or two birds. Fourteen of 21 observations of birds feeding or stationary on the ground were of three birds or less. There were four observations of single birds and four observations of six to nine birds feeding in the ponds or Lake Whitney. There were nine observations of one or two birds, two observations of three or four birds, and one observation each of eight and 18 birds feeding in the salt marshes. Thirty-five of 40 observations of birds flying were of three birds or less. The "Wood Stork" watch produced similar results. The largest group observed was in trees at the edge of Lake Whitney and was recorded as "greater than 10 birds". The next largest group was of eight birds on the flats very near the roost at South End Ponds. Twenty-three of the 32 sightings by "Wood Stork watch" were of three birds or less.

These observations indicate that small colonies of Wood Storks were present for at least two years on Cumberland Island. Other such colonies may exist elsewhere in south Georgia, perhaps in association with other species, such as Great Egrets. These data indicate the larger estuaries, with exposed mud banks are potentially important foraging sites for Wood Storks. Their importance may in fact be underestimated here due to poor visibility in tall *Spartina*. Wood Storks forage in small groups in this habitat and may be dispersing their feeding activities over a wide area of marsh. These observations correlate well with Ruckdeschel and Schoop's (*op.cit.*) data that indicate salt water fishes are the predominant food of Wood Storks nesting on Cumberland Island.

Wood Stork movements on Cumberland are strongly related to time of day and the tidal cycle. More Wood Stork foraging was observed in the early morning and Wood Storks tended to be away from the roost at this time. Selection of foraging sites appeared to be partially determined by tides, with freshwater sites being favored at low and high tides, while salt marsh was favored at mid to low tide. The use of South End Ponds very close to low tide may be due to the lack of water and fish in the estuaries at that time. There was more Wood Stork use of the marshes on the incoming tide, which may be a result of a concentration of prey species at this tidal stage. Fish would be swimming up the creeks at this time, and perhaps are easier to catch. Ruckdeschel and Schoop (*op.cit.*) found fish species such as *Fundulus heteroclitus* among the remains of regurgitated fish in stork nesting areas on Cumberland Island. *Fundulus* spp. concentrate in the estuaries as the tide is coming in. We did not collect enough observations, however, to determine if Wood Stork foraging times reported here represent a general pattern.

T.T. Allen (mimeo submitted to: OICC TRIDENT, Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia, July 1986) reported four observations of large flocks - 50, 36, 26 and 18 birds. These observations and Marlene Finley's observation of 200 birds on Cumberland on 31 Oct. 1986, seem to be atypical of the general Cumberland pattern of individual birds, pairs and small flocks, except at the rookery. The birds seen in the Cumberland area may have been coming from more than one roost or rookery. A majority of the birds using Cumberland were

probably roosting in the local area (*i.e.* South End Ponds). Additional birds from other roosts or rookeries, such as the large rookery at Dover Bluff, may utilize Cumberland or Kings Bay as well (and may account for the larger flocks at Kings Bay).

CONSERVATION

Wood Stork conservation in Georgia requires detailed recording and mapping of rookery and roost sites. Some small colonies may be present in scattered locations. In the Cumberland Sound region, the tidal creeks are key foraging habitats. Protection of the estuaries as well as the fresh water ponds and lakes is critical to Wood Stork survival on the Georgia coast.

Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 and Greyfields Hotel, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

GENERAL NOTES

GREAT WHITE HERON IN CHEROKEE COUNTY - On 4 July 1988 my wife, Peggy, and son, Mathieu, and I were returning from an unsuccessful search for the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) which had been seen the previous day in Floyd county (see White this issue) when we spotted a white heron in a small farm pond about 8 km south of Canton, Georgia near the intersection of Georgia highway 140 and Stringer Road. We thought little of it for a couple minutes as Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) are not that uncommon during the summer on piedmont lakes. We had gone perhaps 3-5 km when both of us remarked we should really take a closer look at the bird since it seemed larger than an egret.

Sure enough, when we had a chance to look closely at the bird through a telescope it turned out to be the white phase of the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) which was called in the past the Great White Heron. Besides its large size it had the large horn-colored bill and grayish legs typical of immatures of this phase.

The *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney et al., GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists only three previous inland records of this form with one of those sightings being a bird Peggy and I saw in Morgan county on 21 June 1981 (*Oriole* 46:15).

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

1988 OBSERVATIONS ON THE MCKINNEY'S POND HERONRIES AND A NEW NESTING SITE - That the summer of 1988 was extremely dry is no surprise to anyone. However, the effects of this drought on the wading birds of the McKinney's Pond complex may be worthy of note. Information concerning this complex has been previously published by the author (*Oriole* 49:57-63).

I visited the complex on 30 April 1988 and found the water levels in all ponds low for that time of year. In the Old McKinney's Pond Rookery there were 12 adult Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*), one Cattle Egret (*Bulbucus ibis*), and one Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) present. There were seven Little Blue Heron nests with either two or three eggs. The Green-backed Heron was on a nest that was not examined.

In the New McKinney's Pond Rookery, 15 Little Blues were present, as were nine nests, again with two or three eggs. The Ibis Pond was totally dry and no birds or nests were present.

A second visit was made on 8 July 1988 and all the ponds were totally dry with the sinkhole connection to the aquifer obvious. In the Old McKinney's Pond Rookery there were at least 19 nests which had been abandoned, eggs or fragments were yet present, either in the nests or on the ground. While there was

no way to be sure, it was felt that most were of the Little Blue Heron. The same condition prevailed at the New McKinney's Pond Rookery. At that rookery about 30 nests had been abandoned.

On a brighter note, on 9 July 1988, Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. and I examined a more permanent pond beside the Millen-Scott's Corner road, 16.4 km (10.2 mi) NW of Millen, Jenkins county, Georgia. This is a black water pond about two acres in size with Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) as the shallow water vegetation. The pond is dammed by the highway fill and thus seemed to retain its water level. Herons had been noted in this pond in late April but it was not examined at that time. Our estimates of active nests were: Cattle Egret, about 2000; Little Blue Heron, 15-20, and Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*), at least six. In the western end of the pond (away from the road) there was considerable mortality among the nestlings, some 40 or so dead in the nest or in the water underneath. The reasons for the mortality were not apparent but target practice from the road was a possibility.

This new location, if used again, offers a good spot for birdwatchers who can stay on the roadbed and observe all the activities of a heronry.

Robert L. Humphries, 1597 Milford Church Road, Marietta, Georgia 30060.

WHITE IBIS ON THE PIEDMONT PLATEAU - On 5 September 1988 I was fishing on the Flint River, Meriwether county, Georgia, about three miles south of Gay. We observed a total of 11 immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) feeding and resting on rocky and grassy islands in a shallow stretch of turbulent water riffling through predominantly sandstone outcrop. The birds remained in the general area of the rocky islands during our entire visit, approximately 1000 through 1400 hrs.

The decurved bill, white underparts and rump accentuating the dark mantle and back were diagnostic. Along the river banks, in the shallows, I also noted both mature and immature Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*).

According to the *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney et al., GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) the White Ibis is commonly a coastal and coastal plain resident and uncommon elsewhere. Therefore the sighting of 11 above the Fall Line has to be considered unusual.

Russell J. Wigh, 5650 River Oaks Place, Atlanta, GA 30327.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL SEEN IN EAST-CENTRAL GEORGIA - On 29 July 1988 I observed one immature (second year) Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*) foraging in an agricultural pond in Burke county, Georgia 11.75 airline miles southwest of Waynesboro. The sighting was made at 0945 during an aerial Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) survey for the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. The pond in which the spoonbill was spotted was part of the daily survey. On our

first pass over the site, both the pilot, Phillip J. Clark, and I noticed that the bill of one of the white wading birds at the pond appeared somewhat spatulate. During our next pass over the pond we clearly saw a light-colored, spatulate bill in addition to the entirely feathered neck and a distinct pink coloring about the wings in the otherwise white plumage. We circled the pond twice more confirming our identification with 8X30 binoculars and photographing the bird with a 35-105 mm zoom lens, our closest pass being at an altitude of approximately 70 m.

Aerial surveys were flown the day before, 28 July, and the following Monday, 1 August. In addition to the pond the spoonbill was sighted at, the surveys covered 24 wetlands in Burke, Jenkins and Screven counties in Georgia and the swamps of the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina. We failed to see any spoonbills during these or any subsequent survey flights. Apparently the spoonbill was in this immediate area for only the day of the sighting or the weekend at the most.

This work was supported in part by the United States Department of Energy, Savannah River Operations, contract DE-AC0976SROO-819 with the University of Georgia, Institute of Ecology, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

Kent Montgomery, 2153 Golfcourse Village Dr., Lehigh Acres, FL 39936.

FIRST RECORD OF CINNAMON TEAL ON THE GEORGIA COAST - On 16 March 1988, at about 1730, I discovered a male Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) in a brackish marsh impoundment on the east side of US 17, south of Darien, in McIntosh county, Georgia. The site was directly opposite the administrative offices of the Altamaha Waterfowl District.

The bird was actively feeding in the company of several male and female Blue-winged Teal (*A. discors*). There were several other species of waterfowl present in the marsh including Green-winged Teal (*A. crecca*), Northern Shoveler (*A. clypeata*), Northern Pintail (*A. acuta*), Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) and Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).

The teal was readily identifiable with its cinnamon head, neck and underparts. The reddish eye was diagnostic, and the longer more spatulate bill was obvious from those of the surrounding Blue-winged Teal.

Although the distance was significant, the late afternoon light was excellent and I was able to achieve a usable photographic record of this sighting (see accompanying photograph).

This appears to be the sixth record of Cinnamon Teal for the state. According to the *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney et al., GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986), all previous sightings came from the Augusta area between 1977 and 1980. The most recent observation was a wintering individual during 1979-1980.

Subsequent to this sighting, Donna and Patrick Brisse confirmed the identification on 20 March and Robert Manns was also successful in finding the bird on this same pond on 21 March.

Russell J. Wigh, 5650 River Oaks Place, Atlanta, GA 30327.

Male Cinnamon Teal at Darien, GA on 16 March 1988 (photo by Russ Wigh).

LONG-BILLED CURLEWS ON JEKYLL ISLAND - On 30 September 1988 Bruce Dralle and I were scanning, with spotting scopes, huge groups of gulls, terns and shorebirds on the south beach of Jekyll Island, Glynn county, Georgia. At approximately 1430 an individual from another birding group asked us to look at a group of birds further up the beach (toward the east). They thought they were seeing Long-billed Curlews (*Numenius americanus*) but were unsure without a scope. We moved the scopes and found that there were indeed two Long-billed Curlews and two Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*) in a group slightly separated from the gulls and terns. Bruce and I carefully moved closer with camera and were able to document this sighting with film (see accompanying photograph).

Dale Hardee, 140 Montego Circle, Riverdale, GA 30274.

Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits and Ring-billed Gull on Jekyll Island 30 September 1988 (photo by Dale Hardee).

FIRST ATLANTA RECORD FOR THE RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - On 5 September 1988 from 0945 to 1145 I observed a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) resting and feeding in the south pond of the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, Clayton county, Georgia. While driving around the largest pond around 0945 I saw a small shorebird fly into the middle of a small group of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*). The teal flew away after a few minutes but the shorebird did not. I recognized it immediately as a phalarope but for over an hour it did not move, hid in the vegetation and fed only a few times.

From the few markings I could see, I identified the bird as a Red-necked Phalarope and went to call a few friends but no one was home. I returned to the ponds where I finally saw the bird in flight; by then it had become more active. The bird was a moulting juvenile showing a dark eyestripe and dark crown going down the neck. It was showing some buff coloration on the neck and on the side stripes but not as much as the drawing in Birds of North America (National Geographic Society). There was no buff on the forehead. The side of the bird I

Red-necked Phalarope at Clayton County Water Treatment Plant 5-10 September 1988 (photo by Paul Raney).

looked at for the first hour only showed one stripe but when it finally turned around it showed two buffy stripes. The bill was black, long and thin, but not as needle-like in appearance as the Wilson's Phalarope (*P. bicolor*) that I had seen at the ponds a few times. The wing stripes were observed when the bird was on a short flight.

Later that day I contacted Carolina Lane and she was able to see it that afternoon. Joel Hitt was also present and both observers agreed with the identification. The bird stayed through 10 September and was seen by many observers. On 10 September Paul Raney took a few recognizable photographs (see accompanying photograph). This represents the first record of the species for the Atlanta area.

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

LEAST TERN IN NORTH GEORGIA - On 20 August 1988, Bruce Dralle and I were birding the ponds at the Wayne Poultry Plant near Pendergrass, Jackson county, Georgia. The weather had been cloudy and rainy. At about 0930 while pishing for warblers along the fence row near the far left pond (looking down from the parking lot) Bruce noticed a bird with different flight characteristics from the numerous Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) flying over the ponds. It was immediately noticeable that it was a tern, a small tern, not much larger than the swallows. The tern made one circle of the nearest pond and then continued southeast. During this period we were able to discern a predominantly yellow bill, black on the leading wing edges, a forked tail, black through the eye and a black cap. Based on these field marks and the small size, we concluded it was a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) which is regarded as accidental above the fall line with only two records listed in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney *et al.*, GOS, Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

Dale Hardee, 140 Montego Circle, Riverdale, GA 30274.

A BURROWING OWL IN THE GEORGIA PIEDMONT - On 14 April 1988 Davis and Dot Bulluck met me at the Gainesville, GA airport to look at some Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) I had recently seen there. I met them at the airport at about 1700 and very quickly located a small group of Upland Sandpipers. I set up my 25X telescope to view the birds but while observing them another bird came flying by us from behind about 5 m off the ground. About 10 m in front of us and about 20 m to our right the bird landed on the ground. All three of us recognized the bird at once as a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The Bullucks were very familiar with Burrowing Owls when they lived in Florida and I had seen the bird previously in Florida and also in several areas in the western United States. The small, screech-owl sized, long-legged, earless owl bobbed up and down quite a bit as we turned the scope on it. A few minutes later after we had studied the bird at leisure, I flushed the bird attempting to approach it. It flew down into a thickly wooded ravine.

I left the Bullucks rather quickly and made two or three phone calls. Within an hour Robert and Didi Manns, Hugh and Liz Garrett, Greg Valpey and Marta Shelton were at the airport. Everyone present got at least a glimpse of the owl in flight. It was flushed five different times by this second group of birders. Robert Manns was the only observer in the group that got a close look but even he could only observe it in flight. The owl flushed twice within 5-10 m of Bob as we were trying to locate it on the ground. Even though he never got to see it except in flight, he had no problem recognizing the species. As far as I know the bird was not found again after 14 April.

The *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as hypothetical with three records from Sapelo Island on 9 Jan. 1941, Elba Island on 17 Feb. 1953 and Jekyll Island 24 July 1980.

John Paget, 1530 Vine Street, N.E., Gainesville, GA 30130.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER SEEN NEAR TAZEWELL, GEORGIA - Saturday, 4 June 1988 was a sunny, clear day with good visibility as Barbara Brigham, Pat Fincher and I were doing a preliminary run of my Tazewell, Georgia Breeding Bird Census route which is located northeast of Columbus in Marion county, along state highways 26 and 137. At 1540 we were on route 137 northeast of Tazewell between mile markers 18 and 19 when we sighted a bird on the roadside telephone line above a bare field. As the sun was behind our backs and the bird was completely in the open, it was obvious even from our positions inside the car on the other side of the road that this was a strange looking bird with a very long forked tail.

Binoculars came up, bird books opened and I began furiously writing up a description for fear the bird would fly before being identified. The bird proceeded to behave like a flycatcher by snatching passing insects and returning to its perch on the line. My original notes commented on the bird's nearly white head and upper breast, black bill, dark wings, yellowish belly, multi-colored forked tail which was at least as long as the body. The bird's length was estimated to be 2-3" longer than a Mourning Dove's (*Zenaida macroura*). With notes on paper and agreement on the resemblence to the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*) in Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, MA 1980) and Chandler Robbins' *Birds of North America* (Western Publishing Co., Racine, WI 1966), we felt it was safe to open car doors and try a closer approach. There was no need to worry. We observed the bird for nearly an hour from as close as 7 m as it went about its business of feeding and preening.

At one point the bird flew across the road into the top portion of a dead 10 m high tree set in the roadside hedgerow. In this setting, out of direct sun and without the glare of the yellowish bare soil beneath, the bird's color now matched the field guides: the whitish color appeared pearl gray, the yellow a cream color and a slight rosy color showed along the sides near the base of the wings. At 1630, with no question about the bird's identity, and half of the route ahead, we proceeded.

After a quick run through the remainder of the route we returned at 1730 to find the flycatcher sitting in the top third of the same tree just below an Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*) and across from a Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). At 1745 the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher left the area heading east.

While taking the census the following day, I counted Eastern Kingbirds, Northern Bobwhite (none in a tree), but no Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. This part of the route was covered at mid-morning and I wasn't able to return later in the day.

Nancy Iha, 501 Boyds Drive, Marietta, GA 30067.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN NORTHERN FLOYD COUNTY - On 3 July 1988, while riding with a friend, I spotted an unusual bird at about 1215 on a power line near the intersection of Georgia highway 140 and Bells Ferry Road in northern Floyd county. After turning around several times we were able to see the bird well enough to agree it had a very long tail. On our third pass the bird flew into a group of trees and we were unable to find it there.

I went home and told my wife, Harriet, that I was sure I had seen a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). Harriet and I then returned to the area at 1430. As we drove past there was no sign of the bird. However, we parked the car and walked back to the power line and when we got there the bird was on the line. We confirmed from a distance that it was indeed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

The bird flew down to a plowed field and we were able to observe it as it worked the field, mostly from the higher clumps of dirt. It appeared to be feeding on grasshoppers, which were abundant. The bird had worn tail feathers which I suspect was the result of feeding in the freshly plowed field and not from nesting behavior. We left the bird in the field at 1515.

We returned to the field at 1840 but did not see the flycatcher until 1900 when it flew up from the field into a wild cherry tree across the road and then back to the field. We watched the bird until 1928 when it was disturbed by shots or fireworks beyond the woodline. It was last seen flying northwest over another tree line. The flycatcher was also seen by Robert and Didi Manns at approximately 1830 the same day.

We visited the site several times during the next few days but did not see the bird again.

Richard White, Route 1, Armuchee, GA 30105.

AUDUBON'S SUBSPECIES OF YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER SEEN IN AUGUSTA - While participating in an Augusta Audubon Society field trip on 9 April 1988, an "Audubon's" subspecies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendrioca coronata audubonii*) was seen by Clarence Belger, Jack Cooper, George Reeves and Anne Waters. The bird was seen foraging in a Black Willow along Lover's Lane with Yellow-rumped Warblers of the more expected "Myrtle" subspecies (*D.c.coronata*). Although not in full spring plumage, there was an area of black on the upper breast with the throat being yellow. Yellow spots were on the sides of the white breast. The face and back were dark brown with black streaks on the back and we noted the usual white wing bars on the brown wings. We were able to watch the bird for about 10 minutes as it foraged in the lower parts of the willow. The throat was not a brilliant yellow as it would have been on a full spring male but it definitely was yellow seen from all angles in good light from about 4 m away. We feel this was an immature male "Audubon's" subspecies but it is also possible we were seeing an "Audubon's X Myrtle" hybrid. According to the *Annotated checklist of Georgia birds* (Haney et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) this subspecies has not been seen in Georgia in recent years. It does state that "a specimen of subspecies *D.c. audubonii* was found but not saved at Brunswick 17 Feb. 1936 (Burleigh, T.D. 1958. *Georgia birds*, U. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK).

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

NESTING DICKCISSELS IN CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA - On the morning of 12 May 1988 I discovered a new singer in my hedgerow. A quick reference to the Peterson fieldguide (Peterson 1980) identified the bird as a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). The bird was perched atop a privet bush and possessed all the characteristic field marks, i.e. yellow breast, black bib, finch bill, yellow line over the eye, white throat, and chestnut patch on the wings.

Our property consists of approximately 50 acres of open, flat, unimproved fields located at the southern foot of Taylor Ridge in the northwest corner of Chattooga county, Georgia, 7.5 km northeast of U.S. Hwy. 27, along county road 329. The property is dissected by a channelized dry creek bed which runs from the edge of mixed pine/deciduous woods, 600 m out to the culvert where it passes under the county road. The creek's edge is overgrown with blackberry and privet, punctuated by young winged elm and sycamore trees. The fields to either side have lain fallow since the fall of 1986 and are covered with hairy vetch and johnsongrass.

Subsequent observation revealed a total of 5 singing males, perched at regular intervals upon various high points in the vegetation along the creek bed. At the same time, I observed female Dickcissels gathering nest materials near the creek bed, and carrying them to nesting sites in the high weeds on the northern side of the creek, approximately 40 m away from the males.

Dickcissels are rare summer residents and erratic local breeders in the Appalachian Valley, piedmont, and upper coastal plain (Haney, *et al*. 1986).

I checked several recent journals for other reports of Dickcissels breeding in the eastern U.S. In general, the reports are sporadic with nesting often interrupted by the mowing of the fields. Although I, too, mow my fields once or twice during the growing season, I resolved that the Dickcissels would remain undisturbed for as long as they wanted to stay.

Dickcissels are most commonly found in the midwestern states where prairie and open fields abound. The female lays and incubates 3 to 5 pale blue eggs for a period of 12 to 13 days. The young leave the nest when 7 to 9 days old (Terres 1982).

The male Dickcissels could be heard singing from dawn to dusk every day from 12 May through 27 June. Our driveway follows the path of the creek and it was a simple matter to observe the birds whenever we were leaving or entering the property.

As there is much similar habitat in this corner of Georgia, one would expect to find Dickcissels in the adjacent vicinity. However, neither a cursory survey of the fields along our road or our Breeding Bird survey which runs through farmland from LaFayette, Georgia to Lyerly, Georgia, revealed any more of the birds.

During the week of 20-26 June, I observed females carrying food items to the nesting area and males singing closer to the nests. I was absent from the property from 27-30 June. When I returned home on the afternoon of 30 June all the Dickcissels were gone.

LITERATURE CITED

Haney, J.C. *et al.*, 1986, Annotated checklist of Georgia birds. GOS. Occ. Publ. No. 10.

Peterson, R.T. 1980. A field guide to the birds east of the Rockies. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Terres, J.K. 1982. The Audubon Society encyclopedia of North American birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

David A. Brown, Rt. 4, Box 61-B, Summerville, GA 30747.

HOUSE FINCHES NESTING IN BEN HILL COUNTY - Since House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) were first noted in Ben Hill County in 1985 (*Oriole* 50:60-61), several individuals of this species have been visitors to my feeders during the winter months. Although the birds seemed to be diminishing in number in the years that followed, I took note of their departure dates. Until 1987, they never remained past April, but in that year a female spent the entire summer. I never observed a male during this time so I did not believe nesting occurred.

1988 was the best year in terms of House Finch numbers in Ben Hill county. As spring progressed, I noticed again that the birds were lingering in the area and I strongly suspected breeding. In contrast to the 1987 record, both a male and a female were present at routine checks of my feeders. On 31 May 1988 I noticed three finches that had not previously used the feeder. It was believed that these were the young of the two adults which visited the feeder within several minutes. These birds were thought to be the parent birds, a brightly colored male and a female. The yard was searched for a nest but one was not located; however, there is a large pecan grove behind the property and the nest was more than likely in one of those trees.

This record suggests that the House Finch is now nesting as far south as Fitzgerald. It is often compared to the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) as an invasive species and is often as abundant in western cities. It is safe to say the House Finch is in Georgia to stay and in the years to come may become much more abundant.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Balance as of 1 October 1987		$23,615.34
Sources of Funds		
Dues	$2,799.00	
Life Membership	300.00	
Interest	877.75	
Sales	901.55	
Meetings	2,767.50	
Other	7,981.34	
Total	15,627.14	
Uses of Funds		
Oriole (2)	1,844.97	
Goshawk (1)	154.84	
Postage	720.79	
Meetings	2,616.23	
Other	3,040.83	
Total	8,377.66	
Increase in Funds		7,249.48
Balance as of 30 September 1988		$30,864.82

FROM THE FIELD

December 1987 - February 1988

Even for what first appears to be a rather lackluster period, there were still a number of excellent reports. Just think what is out there to be discovered (and reported) if Georgia observers would get out into the field and report their findings. We had a first state record of the Common Eider (Checklist Committee decision pending) plus a first Eurasian Collared Dove for the state which still needs to be documented.

One problem area which needs to have a lot of attention is wintering hummingbirds. A lot of Georgia observers seem to assume that a wintering hummer is either a Ruby-throated or a Rufous. That is not necessarily the case and each observation needs to be documented as carefully and thoroughly as possible. Although several southeastern states already have records of Black-chinned and other hummingbirds, our observers don't even seem to be considering the possibility. When you report an odd hummingbird, please remember to document it as well as possible. Remember, if Ashville, NC can have a Green Violet-ear, why can't we?. Report any "wierd" hummers as soon as possible.

Abbreviations used include CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CCWTP - Clayton County Water Treatment Plant, MBBT - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company (Augusta), MIA - Macon Industrial Area, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, and PCL - Peachtree City Lake.

ANHINGA - One bird on 13 Dec. and two on 9 Jan. were rare for the Macon area at the MIA (Ty Ivey). This season the species was harder to find in Augusta than usual with only one bird seen at MBBT on 23 and 30 Jan. (Anne Waters).

CATTLE EGRET - Eight birds seen near Sunbury on 18 Dec. by Anne and Vernon Waters were probably late migrants.

GREEN-BACKED HERON - One was at Thundering Springs Lake in Laurens county on 24 Jan. as noted by Tom Patterson.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Jerry and Marie Amerson and Ty Ivey observed five birds at the MIA on 23 Jan. for a rare Macon winter record. In Augusta the species was noted roosting at MBBT throughout the period with a peak of 21 individuals (11 immatures and 10 adults) on 7 Feb. (Anne Waters).

TUNDRA SWAN - As usual the only report was received from Augusta where Anne Waters mentioned that a single bird was seen by many observers during Jan. on the Savannah River near the I-20 and 5th Street Bridges.

SNOW GOOSE - A single bird seen by Liz Horsey near Hamilton on 27 Dec. was the only report received.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - A decent count for Atlanta was the 27 birds at PCL on 5 Dec. (Patrick Brisse).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Eighteen at Shamrock Lake near the CCWTP on 26 Dec. was also a good count for the Atlanta area. The species has been seen regularly at the lake in recent years (Patrick Brisse).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Donny Screws mentioned four individuals wintering in middle Georgia at the Chester Sewage Ponds. Three more birds were at MBBT on 23 Jan. for a rare Augusta winter record (Augusta Audubon Society).

RING-NECKED DUCK - Excellent counts were received from PCL where up to 2000 birds wintered (Patrick Brisse and many observers) and from the MIA where 700 to 800 birds were sighted on 13 Dec. (Ty Ivey).

GREATER SCAUP - Always of note inland, a few birds were reported by Paul Raney from Sweetwater Creek State Park, west of Atlanta with two on 15 Dec., three on 27 Dec. and seven on 16 Jan.

COMMON EIDER - A good description of a female was received from J.T. Parks. The bird was observed at Tybee Island on 24-27 Dec. and represents Georgia's first record (*Oriole* 52:68-69). The record is presently being processed by the Checklist Committee.

HOODED MERGANSER - A total of 376 on the Piedmont NWR CBC on 21 Dec. was not a bad total for the area.

COMMON MERGANSER - In recent years the species has been noted with regularity along the Georgia coast and this year was no exception. Two were found during the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 19 Dec. and eighteen more on the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan. (*fide* Anne Waters).

RUDDY DUCK - Ty Ivey counted 207 birds at the MIA on 28 Feb. which is a high number for the Macon area.

OSPREY - Rare in the winter in Laurens county, a bird spent the period at Ben Hall Lake (Tom Patterson). Single birds were also observed during the Ocmulgee CBC on 19 Dec. and at the MIA on 23 Jan. (Ty Ivey, Jerry and Marie Amerson).

PEREGRINE FALCON - One was spotted during the St. Catherine's CBC on 19 Dec. and Clarence Belger saw another at MBBT on 26 Dec. (*fide* Anne Waters). The species still occurs rarely in the winter in Georgia.

SANDHILL CRANE - The fall migration was about normal in numbers. A few individuals were noted later than usual: three were seen during the Peachtree City CBC on 19 Dec. and the next day (Chris Lambrecht); six were seen on the Dalton CBC on 19 Dec. (Harriett DiGioia); one was on the Eufaula NWR CBC on 21 Dec. (Sam Pate); and the last one was at MBBT on 26 Dec. (Clarence Belger). Unusual were the three birds at Eufaula NWR on 10 Feb. (Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett). Could they have wintered on the refuge? The first northbound birds were reported from the Chattahoochee National Forest and Whitfield county on 17 Feb. by Harriett DiGioia and Vernon Gordon.

PIPING PLOVER - Small numbers were sighted along the coast with 11 during the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 19 Dec. and nine more during the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan. (*fide* Anne Waters).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - A few birds spotted by Ty Ivey at the MIA on 23 Jan. were most likely early migrants.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - Jerry and Marie Amerson saw a bird at the Indian Mounds near Macon on early Dec. As this bird was a month late and no Georgia winter record exists, it would be an interesting record to document in *The Oriole*.

MARBLED GODWIT - Fifty birds were counted on the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 19 Dec. (*fide* Anne Waters).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Accidental inland in the winter, a single bird at MBBT on 16 and 30 Jan. was well described by Anne Waters.

LEAST SANDPIPER - The species was found wintering at MBBT by Anne and Vernon Waters and Clarence Belger with a high count of 17 on 7 Feb. In Macon an early count of 28 was noted on 28 Feb. by Ty Ivey at the MIA.

DUNLIN - Although a late migrant inland, eight individuals seen on the Ocmulgee Audubon Society CBC on 19 Dec. seem later than usual.

LAUGHING GULL - Clarence Belger reported one from MBBT on the unusual date of 26 Dec.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Dick Parks, Milton Hopkins and Betty Stewart saw one on Sapelo Island on 31 Dec. for a rare report outside the fall season. Most of the Georgia records are from Aug. though early Nov.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - A bird seen by Anne, Vernon, and Dan Waters during the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan. was well described (*Oriole* 53:10). This represents the 9th record for Georgia.

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE - A first for Georgia was a female shot by a hunter two miles NW of Whigham, Grady county, on 9 Jan. (*fide* P.W. Smith). The bird is now a specimen at the Tall Timbers Research Center in Florida (#3870 TTRS). Full details have yet to be received by the Checklist Committee.

SHORT-EARED OWL - One bird was at the usual place near Cordele (A&B Farms) on 6 Dec. (Joe Greenberg and Dale Hardee).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - John Paget and Jack Carusos provided the only report of the period with a bird on Jekyll Island on 21 Feb.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - A female plumaged bird was in the Atlanta Morningside area from Nov. through the end of the period (Mimi Foster). Georgann Schmalz caught and measured the bird in Jan. On 2 Dec. one bird was found dead in Dalton by Benton Basham (fide *Dan Jacobson*). It was probably the same bird seen in the area during the fall. Two more birds were in the Albany area from mid-Dec. until mid-Jan. (Alan Ashley). All these records should still be published in *The Oriole* as the species is still accidental in Georgia. During the Ocmulgee Audubon Society CBC on 19 Dec. a bird was identified as hummingbird sp. only.

PURPLE MARTIN - As usual a few birds were back by mid-Feb. Don and Joyce Duncan saw a male near Kathleen on 17 Feb.

SWALLOW (sp.) - New to the Atlanta CBC, a swallow was sighted by Anselm Atkins and Joe Gould on 20 Dec.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Only two sightings were received. Two birds were noted during the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 19 Dec. (Harriett DiGioia). Another was sighted near Pine Mountain on 10 Feb. by Christa Lindo (*fide* Sam Pate).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Unusual was a wintering bird near Pendergrass on 5 Dec. and 6 Jan. (John Paget).

CEDAR WAXWING - A few large concentrations were reported this year. Jerry and Marie Amerson saw a few thousand in downtown Macon on 14 Feb. and Paul Sykes and Cam Kepler saw over three thousand in downtown Athens on 23 Feb.

WHITE-EYED VIREO - Tom Patterson reported that one was found during the Dublin CBC on 26 Dec. and Don and Joyce Duncan spotted another one near Kathleen on 10 Jan.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - Always of note inland in the winter, single birds were seen near Gainesville on 3-11 Dec. (John Paget), Pendergrass on 5-6 Dec. and 25 Dec. (John Paget) and during the Dalton CBC on 19 Dec. (Benton Basham).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Tom Patterson reported one from St. Simons Island on 23 Dec. for only the third winter record for Georgia.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - Tom Patterson noted a wintering bird coming to his feeder in Dublin during most of the period. The species is uncommon even in the lower coastal plain during the winter.

OVENBIRD - The two birds reported from downtown Atlanta during the last period were last seen on 24 Dec. for a first wintering record for the area (Patrick Brisse).

NORTHERN WATERHTRUSH - Rare along the coast in the winter, one was seen during the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan. (Clarence Belger and Hunter Patterson).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - A female came to Gregory Valpey's feeder in Gainesville starting 7 Jan. and was seen through the end of the period. This represents only the third wintering record for Georgia.

DICKCISSEL - Of note was one coming to Jerry Amerson's feeder in Macon on 21 Feb.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Anne Waters mentioned two being sighted during the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 19 Dec. and one more was found by Emil Urban during the Sapelo Island CBC on 1 Jan.

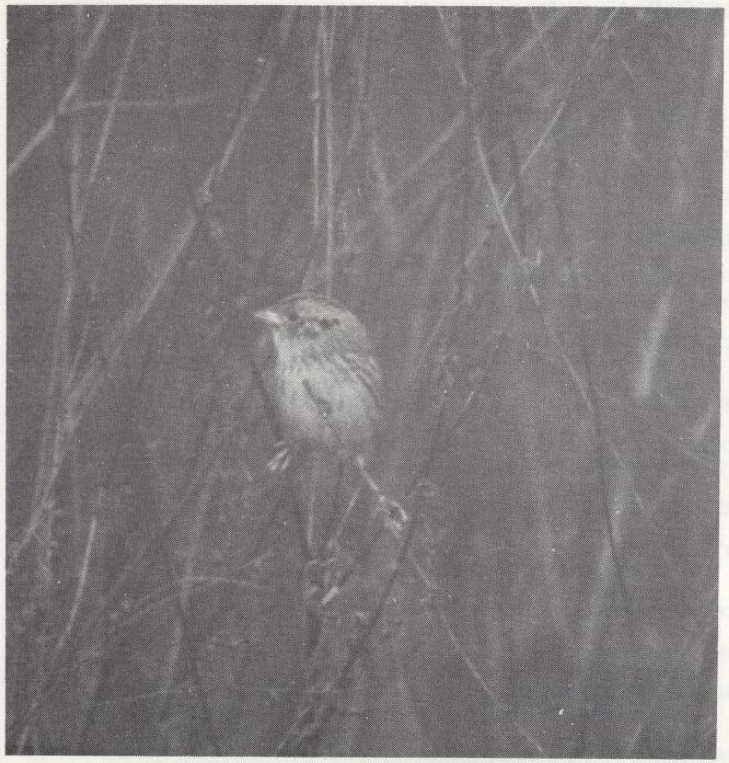
LECONTE'S SPARROW - Dale Hardee took excellent photographs of a bird at the A & B Farm near Cordele on 5 Dec. This is one of the few verified records of this secretive species in Georgia.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - All three records came from CBC's. Terry Moore and Ken Blackshaw saw the first one in Marietta on 20 Dec. Anne Waters saw the second in Augusta on 26 Dec. and Harriett DiGioia observed the last one at the Chattahoochee National Forest on 27 Dec.

PINE SISKIN - The species was present everywhere and in large numbers during the period. Florence Lynn had 300+ near her home in Harris county in Feb. for one of the largest counts (*fide* Sam Pate).

EVENING GROSBEAK - This was also a good year for this species although the numbers were relatively small. Terry Moore received 10 reports from the Atlanta area and other reports came from the mountains, Augusta and Columbus.

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



LeConte's Sparrow near Cordele on 5 December 1988 (photo by Dale Hardee).

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