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1988 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Terry Moore

This is the seventh summary of Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) begun by the author (Moore 1983) and continued by Blackshaw (1986a, 1986b, 1986c) and Moore (1988a, 1988b). As in previous years an attempt is made to point out the significant sightings during the Christmas Count period and also to analyze the data with an eye out for possible long-term trends in our bird populations. Any ideas readers might have for improvement of this series of articles would be welcomed. 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 early winter.

The original data were obtained from LeBaron (1989). Table 1 uses the following abbreviations for the count names: DAL - Dalton; CHA - Chattahoochee National Forest; AMI - Amicalola Falls; ATL - Atlanta; PEA - Peachtree City; ATH - Athens; CAL - Callaway Gardens; PIE - Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (NWR); COL - Columbus; MAC - Macon; DUB - Dublin; AUG - Augusta; ALB - Albany; THO - Thomasville; BAI - Bainbridge-Lake Seminole; OKE - Okefenokee; HNR - Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge; SAP - Sapelo Island; GLY - Glynn County; and STC - St. Catherine's Island. The only new count conducted this year was the Bainbridge-Lake Seminole count which was a welcome addition as that area of SW Georgia is poorly documented in terms of its avian populations.

Although we were almost 140,000 birds less than our six year average, we did tie last year's record of 188 species. The total number of individual birds is so heavily influenced by the presence or absence of large blackbird flocks that the actual number appears to lack significance. We continue to expand the number of observers and party hours with new records set this year while number of parties and party miles slipped somewhat from record highs last year. It is good to see our participation grow and hope it will continue to do so.

This year we added a rather astounding total of six new species to our list of species seen since the 1982 Christmas Count. These species are Common Eider, Purple Gallinule, Vermilion Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo and Yellow Warbler. Only two of the six sightings have been documented in *The Oriole*. They are the Common Eider (Nichols and Winn, 1989) and Vermilion Flycatcher (see Lane et al., this issue). The other four sightings are certainly worthy of documentation also. As has been pointed out in every CBC summary, merely listing the species in the Christmas Count issue of *American Birds* does

Table 1. 1988 Georgia Christmas Bird Counts.

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	DUB	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Red-thr. Loon																		1	1	35	37
Common Loon								1											1	1	3
Pied-b. Grebe				3	28	4	1	37	4	21	8	24		12	8	1	11	7	57	7	233
Horned Grebe								16										41		15	72
Northern Gannet																		2			2
Brown Pelican																	4	49	118	85	256
Double-crested Cormorant							2	1	15	43		50		6	35		58	400	270	878	1758
Anhinga									3		18	3	12	10				4		3	53
American Bittern												2									2
Great Blue Heron	3	1	1	17	17	21	14	9	21	24	8	19	12	20	19	11	28	25	81	49	400
Great Egret							2		1	14	1	39	29	8	19	15	125	21	81	18	373
Snowy Egret																	18	33	42	19	112
Little Blue Heron																	3	9	14	18	26
Tricolored Heron																	4	19	7	29	59
Green-b. Heron																					11
Black-c. Night-Heron												1					67	1	73		142
Yellow-c. Night-Heron																	6		21		27
Nycticorax sp.																					1
White Ibis																	58	25	4	30	118
Wood Stork														24				13	1	19	5
Tundra Swan																					4
Snow Goose						4															5
Canada Goose	21			105		56	47	375	17	24	30		153	8	6						842
Wood Duck	10			36	11	15	75	396	16	63	38	18	6	39	214		146	2	3	26	1114
Green-w. Teal	4					4					8		6		9		6	62		7	106
American Black Duck	9			7	2			16									30	12	6		86
Mallard	298			127	85	71	75	355	58	59	4	26		4		14	66		43	3	1288
Northern Pintail	2																				5
Blue-w. Teal						8															14
Gadwall								17	2	33		2									56
American Wigeon							3	1	1	10	4	51	6					22	1		99
Cairnsback								4		5	1										26
Redhead							2	2													5
Ring-necked Duck					418	6	88	750	308	361	20	1100		10				15	1	14	3091
Greater Scaup																		1	1	22	1
Lesser Scaup				2	1	1	5	102	6	3		3		1				5	1825	1486	700
Scaup (sp.)										5	4							42	2500	1100	357
Common Eider																					1
Oldsquaw																					1
Black Scoter																					12
Scoter (sp.)																					12
Common Goldeneye																					3
Bufflehead					4	3		13	2	61	44							56	152	79	40
Hooded Merganser	5		2	37	33	4		87	5	156			2			3	1	51	76	17	479
Red-breasted Merganser																		272	57	29	23
Ruddy Duck							26	2	80	1								40	7	1	158
Duck (sp.)								51	30	50	5	8									152
Black Vulture	3		1		71	47	42	43	21	9	60	2	18	12	16	72	257	6	63	102	845
Turkey Vulture	15		2	13	68	296	34	134	17	17	45	1	165	14	35	154	79	26	192	77	1384
Osprey										1						1	2	4	3	15	4
Bald Eagle								2	1							1			1	1	6
Northern Harrier	1				7	7	1	7	2	2	9		8	4	2		14	5	9	10	88
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2		2		1	2			2	6	2	3	36
Cooper's Hawk	1	1		1	1	4	1			1	1							1	1	3	2
Accipiter (sp.)								1		1			1								3
Red-shouldered Hawk		1	2	38	14	8	24	4	5	11	2	11	4	3	6	13	12	2	2	1	163
Red-tailed Hawk	8	4	1	36	30	28	12	25	23	23	4	29	38	39	16	5	12	11	32	24	400
Buteo (sp.)								2													4
American Kestrel	2	4	3	10	11	17	5	7	5	9	16	12	13	14	9	10	17	11	31	15	221
Merlin							1		1												5
Peregrine Falcon	1																				2
Hawk (sp.)								1		1											2
Wild Turkey							5	1											2	3	14
Northern Bobwhite	16	11	6	18	52	11	4	8	3				12	41	57	6					245
Clapper Rail																	38	55	28	29	150
King Rail													2								3
Sora																					2
Purple Gallinule																					1
Common Moorhen																					78
American Coot				47	150			503	61	343		56		1	10			21	3	6	1
Sandhill Crane														6							15
Black-bellied Plover																		1	452	68	157
Wilson's Plover																					8
Semi-palmated Plover																		52	74	70	163

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	DUB	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Piping Plover																		6	2	11	19
Killdeer		5	9	47	94	84	58	36	29	35	40	20	65	139	154	28	10	9	192	2	1056
Am. Oystercatcher																	7	10	4	6	27
American Avocet																			2		2
Greater Yellowlegs												1	11				23	21	53	17	126
Lesser Yellowlegs													3					1	1	6	11
Willet																	5	200	66	66	337
Spotted Sandpiper									3								4	4	6	7	24
Marbled Godwit																			6	4	57
Ruddy Turnstone																			34	15	230
Red Knot																			25	35	54
Sanderling																			265	103	392
Western Sandpiper																	2	142	158	313	615
Least Sandpiper								8		6			29						38	18	99
Peep (sp.)																			100		100
Dunlin													8				95	1830	285	1000	3218
Short-b. Dowitcher																	125	4	136	2	267
Long-b. Dowitcher																				9	9
Dowitcher (sp.)																				25	25
Common Snipe	1			4		2		2	11	6	4	4	18	99	2			3	8	10	174
Am. Woodcock					2	2			1			3		1					1		10
Laughing Gull																	4	209	765	26	1004
Bonaparte's Gull								7											20	22	2
Ring-b. Gull				10		1		6	450	816		111						44	600	1498	717
Herring Gull				1				2	10						5	1	11	180	156	100	466
Great Blk-b. Gull																			4	6	14
Caspian Tern																	2	3	5	5	15
Royal Tern																	3	115	15	18	151
Forster's Tern																	12	146	97	115	371
Black Skimmer								1										48	177	35	260
Rock Dove	51			256	76	345	26	9	420	614	82	312	16	22	10	11			102		2352
Mourning Dove	33	3	456	144	327	91	149	30	206	57	542	168	334	98	29	85	245	1092	130	4467	
Common Ground-Dove									1	6	4		32	12	19	1			9	2	86
Common Barn-Owl																			1		1
E. Screech-Owl	2			8	6	1	1	1	22	1	1	1		2			3	3	11	1	66
Great Horned Owl				6	4	2	1	4	2			1	7	9				4	6	3	49
Barred Owl				2	1	3	1	1	3		1	5	5	8			1	2			1
Belted Kingfisher	3	1	2	26	10	18	21	18	9	14	12	18	4	13	7	3	6	27	59	14	285
Red-h. Woodpecker				5	1	8		6	1		3	3	4	12					7	2	3
Red-b. Woodpecker	11	3	2	111	46	80	48	23	14	30	12	28	42	96	15	23	58	56	73	21	792
Yel-b. Sapsucker	1	2	1	27	15	11	17	14	7	16	2	18	5	30	5	7	12	29	15	9	243
Downy Woodpecker	10	6	1	87	40	35	28	18	6	27	7	15	27	29	1	7	23	40	7	14	428
Hairy Woodpecker	3	5	1	5	11	11	2	1	2			1	2	4		8	1	9		67	
Red-c. Woodpecker								11								8	3		1		24
Northern Flicker	6	5	1	68	31	22	27	24	19	31	11	58	41	74	8	9	57	53	42	21	608
Ph. Woodpecker	5	14	2	12	6	10	16	18		7	4	13	18	30	7	25	41	25	23	15	291
Eastern Phoebe	3	3	1	22	26	22	12	24	3	16	8	22	18	57	7	25	17	23	9	17	335
Vermil. Flycatcher																1					1
Horned Lark					1					3									4		4
Tree Swallow																	32	221	109	2204	6
Blue Jay	78	39	15	547	96	197	140	54	41	40	22	34	36	128	42	13	33	54	166	5	1780
American Crow	95	129	300	888	323	709	292	145	200	169	63	53	77	73	80	36	126	81	27	61	3927
Fish Crow						1						1	4	16			252	136	217	5	633
Crow (sp.)																	5				5
Carolina Chickadee	48	33	12	379	211	184	197	62	31	106	47	77	98	76	22	2	44	248	126	111	2114
Tufted Titmouse	51	15	10	211	39	129	89	39	18	47	20	40	49	89	11	9	58		4	35	963
Red-b. Nuthatch						1											1	1			3
White-b. Nuthatch	16	1	2	5		14						7	30						1	1	77
Brown-h. Nuthatch	2		1	106	67	39	17	42	18	11	15	11	2	25	4	22	5	324	8	36	755
Green Creeper	3	1	1	6	7	8	6	1	3	4		5		2			6				2
Carolina Wren	34	10	8	183	84	72	46	27	25	62	13	55		150	3	23	25	62	40	19	941
House Wren				3	1						2		2	59		1	2	17		1	88
Winter Wren	4	13	6	20	3	12		2	1	4	1			2			1	2		1	74
Sedge Wren													1	1			4	5		10	21
Marsh Wren													1					5	9	4	21
Golden-c. Kinglet	24	13	6	262	225	152	52	52	15	31	18	50	22	87		4	12	83	27	41	1176
Ruby-c. Kinglet	14	3		150	162	89	26	66	29	82	46	107	100	218		35	58	201	135	123	1644
B-g. Gnatcatcher										1		2	11	1					4	1	25
Eastern Bluebird	27	14	14	307	267	164	226	124	29	59	31	35	43	125	7	28	27	182	2	159	1870
Hermitt Thrush	1	3	1	44	37	26	13	24	3	17	2	9	1	41	1	3	21	28	6	4	261
Wood Thrush																					1
American Robin	46	27		574	1379	416	417	597	115	136	14	103	277	309	5	1843	1852	54	5	4	8173
Gray Catbird	3			3					1			8	3	18			7	2	15	4	64
N. Mockingbird	21	13	3	198	71	64	71	23	22	67	24	49	31	52	68	15	31	54	107	9	993

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	DUB	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Brown Thrasher	18	9	1	41	11	24	7	8	4	13	8	16	7	37	8	2	6	6	4	-	230
Water Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	2	2	41	2	25	9	-	-	-	5	2	1	146
Cedar Waxwing	7	3	30	621	173	135	57	80	13	27	30	58	45	38	-	56	662	24	20	262	2341
Loggerhead Shrike	2	-	-	-	35	10	21	9	-	22	20	14	15	41	20	5	20	-	3	1	238
E. Starling	836	172	60	2022	611	37126	236	233	1600	652	59	723	51	28	40	68	36	12	416	49	45030
White-e. Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	5	-	4	17	18	2	61
Solitary Vireo	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	3	1	8	1	-	-	21	1	10	7	27	16	6	106
Yellow-t. Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Orange-c. Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	8	-	-	2	9	2	1	25
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-t. Warbler	25	-	-	111	230	251	119	91	160	98	46	235	29	387	7	632	1511	2104	6413	488	12937
Yellow-t. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Pine Warbler	12	-	2	72	121	20	58	34	17	14	15	17	35	71	-	26	33	192	30	58	827
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	2	1	1	2	4	64	-	-	6	6	7	8	106
Blk. & wh. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	2	2	1	5	19
Com. Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3	2	5	6	78	1	5	8	34	2	30	181
Warbler (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
N. Cardinal	55	22	13	259	131	167	127	54	37	114	42	254	113	200	89	12	44	172	118	56	2079
Painted Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-s. Towhee	23	19	8	208	99	84	44	41	12	44	14	42	20	159	20	13	40	132	72	10	1104
Bachman's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	-	4	-	653	612	87	101	180	60	464	107	138	375	521	57	57	109	208	65	88	3886
Field Sparrow	24	15	5	662	205	259	104	40	26	19	27	20	8	47	105	-	4	122	4	25	1721
Vesper Sparrow	2	2	-	11	5	19	-	-	-	2	6	-	28	72	3	-	1	6	-	-	157
Savannah Sparrow	3	-	4	19	38	31	36	35	2	44	24	1	3	25	12	-	111	115	44	71	618
Grass Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
LeConte's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharp-t. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	31	6	3	45
Fox Sparrow	11	1	1	21	20	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	75
Song Sparrow	101	78	12	656	163	260	41	193	20	67	26	211	31	104	2	-	43	94	13	30	2145
Swamp Sparrow	24	6	15	89	16	52	27	33	8	9	7	39	18	111	5	1	54	189	4	32	739
White-t. Sparrow	192	37	35	767	291	515	124	114	50	261	15	324	32	173	1	1	74	76	64	22	3168
White-c. Sparrow	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	17	-	-	-	-	-	35
Dark-e. Junco	71	66	12	932	338	143	264	201	82	87	12	44	23	22	-	3	41	3	3	4	2351
Sparrow (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	171	-	-	-	-	-	140	-	28	-	-	-	-	339
Red-w. Blackbird	54	28	10	402	389	6199	438	100	1500	433	271	698	7758	600	514	510	465	540	361	807	22077
East. Meadowlark	11	10	11	136	179	154	65	33	48	66	13	3	20	17	37	-	116	59	39	27	1044
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	50	150	1	-	-	6	112	-	-	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	408
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	30	-	500	-	-	-	-	550
Boat-t. Grackle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58	340	313	815	1526
Common Grackle	208	123	10	26	30	21309	120	20	1000	141	46	1448	2159	110	50	20	1764	20	637	59	29300
Brown-h. Cowbird	-	-	-	5	182	9484	100	-	15	20	75	52	89	93	30	-	-	-	9	15	10169
Blackbird (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	148	5000	420	-	-	1585	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7153
Northern Oriole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	6
Purple Finch	30	2	2	11	15	10	63	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
House Finch	58	13	-	76	-	103	28	3	62	10	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	379
Red Crossbill	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	11	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Am. Goldfinch	48	30	50	752	197	390	114	79	60	75	60	64	55	102	1	55	127	51	6	72	2388
Evening Grosbeak	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
House Sparrow	186	49	10	150	47	61	11	33	625	94	32	31	7	20	20	2	-	-	78	-	1456
Total Individuals	2968	1119	712	14310	8786	80807	4713	6567	12970	7424	1863	9336	12913	5969	2223	4788	10396	13713	21498	10140	236215
Total Species	68	53	51	82	83	83	78	87	90	88	75	88	90	94	68	69	121	137	140	132	188
No. of Observers	7	5	10	47	21	44	42	21	10	19	5	15	15	11	11	18	20	15	30	17	383
No. of Parties	6	3	2	15	8	13	10	4	8	6	2	6	6	5	5	5	12	7	14	9	146
Party Hours	25	26	16	111	67	112	45	43	46	51	16	46	39	48	37	39	73	63	103	77	1083
Party Miles	147	161	55	719	432	387	198	332	189	282	95	240	187	224	354	201	191	136	355	124	5009
Date of Count	12/17	12/18	12/21	12/18	12/17	12/17	12/17	12/19	12/18	12/17	12/17	12/23	12/31	12/30	12/26	12/28	12/30	12/31	12/17	12/17	

not mean it can be considered by the GOS Checklist Committee. Your significant sightings need to be documented either in *The Oriole* or submitted to the GOS Checklist Committee so they can be added to our growing knowledge of Georgia birds.

Of the 188 species recorded on the 1988 CBCs, 23 were seen on all 20 counts. These species were Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and American Goldfinch. This is up somewhat from last year's total of 21 species.

Every year some Georgia counts record the highest number of individuals for a few selected species for the entire nation. This year was no exception with four species with either national high counts or tied for the national high. They were 324 Brown-headed Nuthatches at Sapelo Island, one Wood Thrush at the Okefenokee (tied with Johnston, PA, Bastrop, TX and Crawford, TX), 208 Rufous-sided Towhees and 662 Field Sparrows both at Atlanta.

1988 COUNT SUMMARY

The 35 Red-throated Loons on the St. Catherine's count was an excellent count of a species which can sometimes be hard to find along our coast. Sixteen Horned Grebes at Piedmont NWR was a high count for an inland location - the only other counts (two) which recorded the species were along the coast. The only Northern Gannets were two off Sapelo Island. Double-crested Cormorants continued their presence in middle Georgia with three counts (Callaway Gardens, Piedmont NWR and Macon) recording the species. Anhingas were surprising with numbers seen on several middle Georgia counts (Macon, Augusta, Albany, Thomasville and Bainbridge) and very few seen along the immediate coast (Harris Neck and Glynn County).

The only American Bitterns reported were two at Augusta. Rather large numbers of Great Egrets were found in middle Georgia with 29 at Albany, 39 at Augusta, 14 at Macon, one at Dublin and two at Callaway Gardens. This certainly appears to be more than the normal number of reports. For the first time since we have been tabulating Christmas Count results, the Cattle Egret was missed. There are never any sizable numbers of this species reported during the winter but we generally get reports of from one to ten birds each year. Good numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, another semi-hardy wintering bird, were seen on the Glynn County (21) and Harris Neck (6) counts. Wintering Wood Stork numbers continue to hold up with 24 at Albany, 19 at Glynn County and 13 at Harris Neck plus smaller numbers at Sapelo and St. Catherine's.

The only Tundra Swans reported were four at Albany. Snow (Blue) Geese were found on two counts with four at Athens and one at Albany. The spread of Canada Geese reached as far as Thomasville and Bainbridge this year. Eight Blue-winged Teal were not bold-faced on the Athens count although the species is considered to be accidental in the Piedmont during the winter. Surprisingly, there were no counts which recorded Northern Shovelers. Canvasbacks had an excellent showing with 26 birds seen on five counts. The highest count was 12 at

Sapelo. Redheads, on the other hand, were seen on only three counts for a total of five birds. Twenty-two Greater Scaup was a good count for Glynn County of a species which can be easily overlooked. The Common Eider found on the St. Catherine's count is only the second Georgia record for the species. Oldsquaws are quite rare in Georgia so Sapelo was fortunate to record this species on their count. Scoters were poorly reported with 12 Black Scoters on the Glynn County count and 12 scoter sp. on the Sapelo count. Common Goldeneyes were seen on only two counts (Sapelo and Glynn County) for a total of four birds. The only inland count recording the Red-breasted Merganser was Macon.

Four Ospreys at Bainbridge might be normal for that area but the one at Macon was quite a surprise. A total of six Bald Eagles were seen on five counts. Five of the birds were reported as adults and one as an immature. Merlins were seen on the Athens, Columbus, Glynn County and St. Catherine's counts. The only Peregrine Falcons were seen on the Dalton and Harris Neck counts.

Rails were consistently poorly reported with only three King Rails, no Virginia Rails and two Soras plus the usual decent numbers of Clapper Rails. The Purple Gallinule at Harris Neck would be one of the few winter records of the species for Georgia if it were properly documented. While the six Sandhill Cranes at Albany may be fairly regular winterers, the 15 on the St. Catherine's Island count were surprising as there is little documentation of wintering cranes on the coastal islands. Eight Wilson's Plovers at Glynn County was an astounding count for a species regarded as accidental during the winter in Georgia. Piping Plovers were seen on three counts with the best number being 11 on St. Catherine's. Three Spotted Sandpipers on the Columbus count appeared to be an excellent inland count for this species. Forty-seven Marbled Godwits on the St. Catherine's count must be one of the highest numbers ever recorded in the state. Least Sandpipers do winter in inland Georgia as evidenced by six at Macon, eight at Piedmont NWR and 29 at Albany. Eight Dunlin at Albany was a good count for an inland location. The only Long-billed Dowitcher report was nine on the St. Catherine's count. This species' status along the Georgia coast is very poorly understood. A count of 816 Ring-billed Gulls at Macon was good for an inland location. A Forster's Tern at Columbus was an interesting winter sighting.

Dalton was not able to record Mourning Doves on their count. Does this represent a withdrawal of the species from that area during the winter? The one and only Common Barn-Owl was recorded on the Glynn County count. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen on five counts with 11 on the Piedmont count leading the way but eight at Thomasville being a respectable second. The Vermilion Flycatcher recorded on the Okefenokee count is documented elsewhere in this issue of *The Oriole*. Horned Larks were seen only on the Macon and Athens counts.

Fish Crows away from their usual haunts were single birds at Atlanta and Callaway Gardens. It was a poor year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with single birds on the Callaway Gardens, Harris Neck and Sapelo counts. Thirty White-breasted Nuthatches on the Thomasville count was certainly a high count for this sparsely distributed species. I have to admit I don't understand the lack of Carolina Wrens on the Albany count. Was this one of the occasional typos that creep into the Christmas Count issue?

Generally Golden-crowned Kinglets tend to be rather difficult to find even in the dead of winter along the coast and in south Georgia. This year, however,

there were sizable numbers on the Glynn County (27), St. Catherine's (41), Sapelo (83) and Thomasville (87) counts. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Macon was a good find as this semi-hardy species is rarely encountered during the winter away from the coastal areas and extreme south Georgia. A Wood Thrush at the Okefenokee was a new species for our count listing and would be apparently only the second winter record for Georgia if properly documented. Gray Catbirds were recorded in surprising numbers in NW Georgia with three at both Dalton and Atlanta. Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be holding their own with 35 at Peachtree City and 41 at Thomasville (this last total appeared in *American Birds* as 41 Northern Shrikes which shows that mistakes can creep into every type of publication). A Yellow-throated Vireo on the Glynn County count was new to our count listing and apparently would be the third Georgia winter record if properly documented.

A Yellow Warbler on the Albany count was new to our count listing and would be the only Georgia winter record if properly documented. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Dublin was not boldfaced which is surprising as this species is seldom found away from the coastal areas during the winter. Considering the rarity of the species during the winter, a count of five Prairie Warblers on the Okefenokee count is probably the highest winter count for Georgia. The Thomasville counters must have beaten the bushes as they recorded 64 Palm Warblers. A Black-and-white Warbler at Callaway Gardens was a good find for a species which rarely strays that far north during the winter. To go along with their Palm Warbler count, the Thomasville birders must have worked the wet spots also for a total of 78 Common Yellowthroats. A Painted Bunting on the St. Catherine's count was the only one encountered on any of the coastal counts. The only Bachman's Sparrow was one on the Thomasville count. Field Sparrows tend to thin out in numbers in the southern and coastal areas during the winter so counts of 105 at Bainbridge and 122 at Sapelo were interesting. The only Grasshopper Sparrows were single birds at Peachtree City and Glynn County. A LeConte's Sparrow on the Sapelo count was an excellent sighting of a rarely reported species. White-crowned Sparrows were seen on only four counts with the highest numbers on the Albany (14) and Thomasville (17) counts.

Brewer's Blackbirds were seen on only three counts with 20 at Dublin, 30 at Thomasville and a surprising 500 at the Okefenokee. Two Northern Orioles were recorded on the Thomasville count and four were at Augusta for the only reports. As usual the only Red Crossbill reports (if we get any at all) were from the Chatahoochee National Forest with 13. Six counts recorded Pine Siskins with the highest counts at Albany (8) and Atlanta (11). Evening Grosbeaks were found on only two counts with two at Callaway Gardens and three at Dalton. It definitely wasn't a flight year for siskins or grosbeaks.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

The general feeling that Canada Goose numbers have increased dramatically in Georgia over the past few years is certainly backed up by our Christmas Count data. Figure 1 shows that the numbers of Canada Geese seen per 10 party hours has almost doubled during the period from 1982 to 1988.

The three species (Northern Harrier, Eastern Bluebird and Loggerhead Shrike) which have been singled out elsewhere for special attention continue to hold their

Figure 1. Canada Goose numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1988).

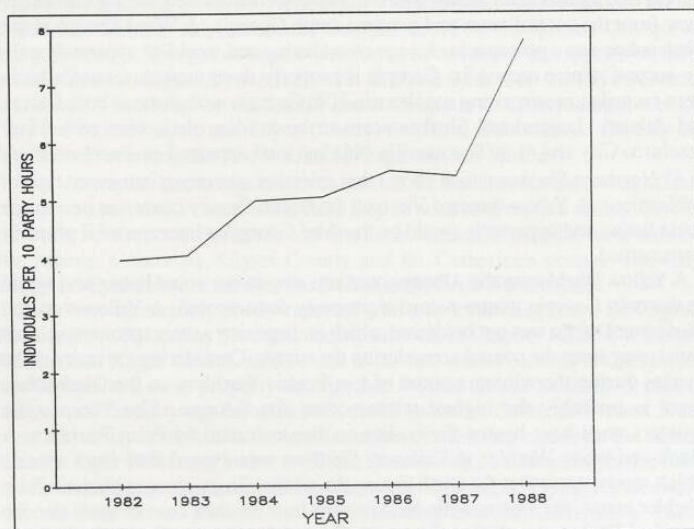


Figure 2. Rufous-sided Towhee numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1988).

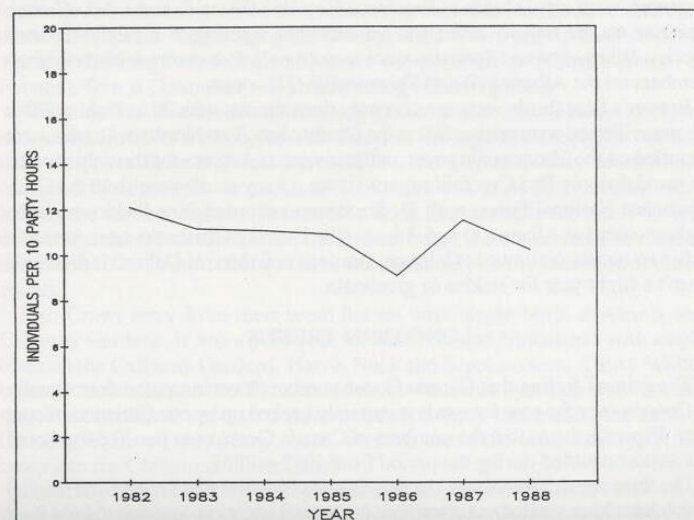


Figure 3. White-throated Sparrow numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1988).

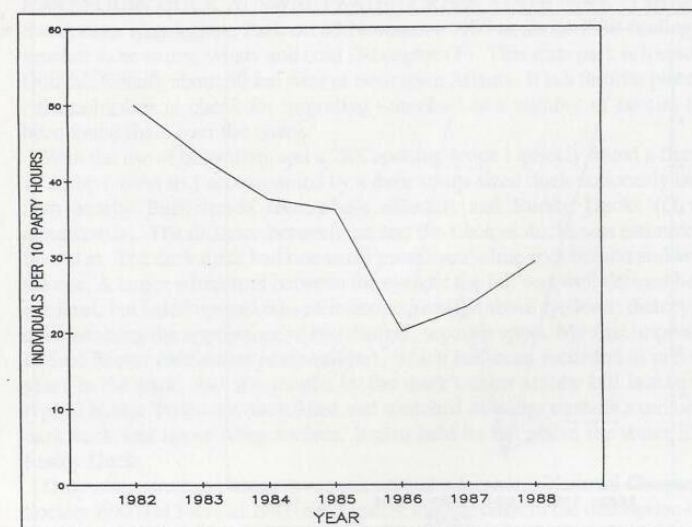


Figure 4. Eastern Meadowlark numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1988).

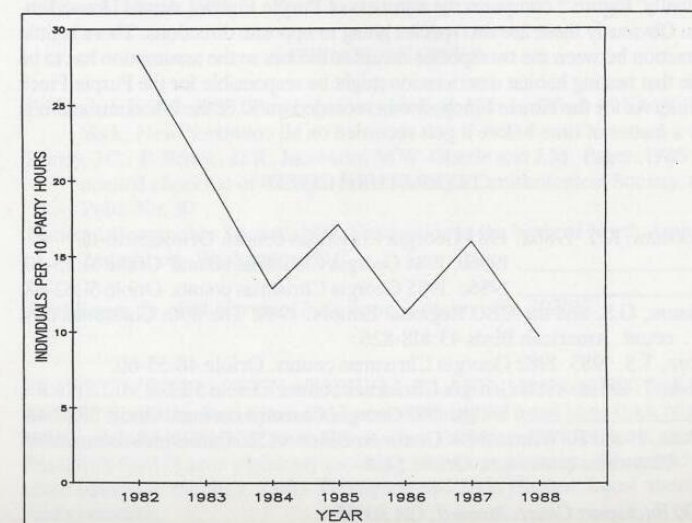
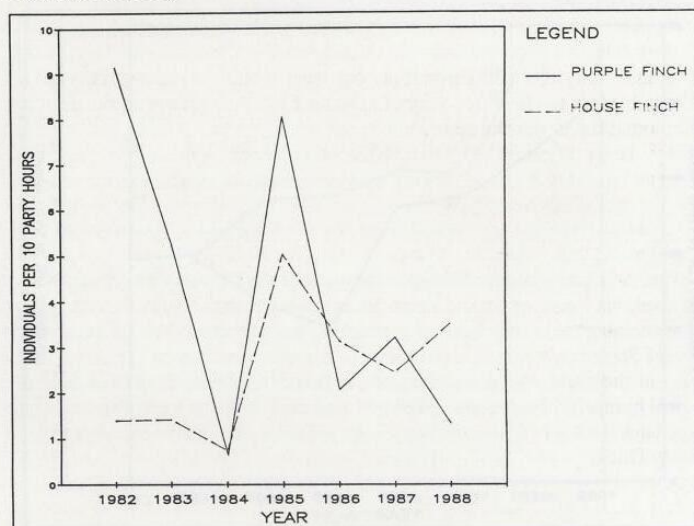


Figure 5. Purple and House Finch numbers recorded on Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (1982-1988).



own in Georgia. However, the three species mentioned in the 1986 summary as showing long-term declines (Rufous-sided Towhee, White-throated Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark) apparently are continuing their downward trends (Figures 2, 3 and 4).

Finally, Figure 5 compares the numbers of Purple Finches versus House Finches. Obviously these are two species going in opposite directions. There is little interaction between the two species except at feeders so the assumption has to be made that nesting habitat deterioration might be responsible for the Purple Finch decline. As for the House Finch, it was recorded on 10 of the 20 counts and it is only a matter of time before it gets recorded on all counts.

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GENERAL NOTES

HARLEQUIN DUCK AT SWEETWATER CREEK STATE PARK - I arrived at Sweetwater Creek State Park on 23 November 1989 at about 1630 finding the weather to be sunny, windy and cold (30 degrees F). This state park is located in Douglas County about 30 km west of downtown Atlanta. It is a favorite place for Atlanta birders to check for migrating waterfowl as a number of rarities have been found there over the years.

With the use of binoculars and a 28X spotting scope I quickly found a flock of 14 scaup (*Aythya* sp.) accompanied by a dark scaup-sized duck noticeably larger than nearby Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*) and Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). The distance between me and the flock of ducks was estimated to be 150 m. The dark duck had one small prominent white spot behind and below the eye. A larger white spot between the eye and the bill was well defined below eye level, but faded upward into an indistinct smudge above eye level; thereby, not quite attaining the appearance of two distinct, separate spots. My first impression of Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), which had been recorded in previous years at the park, was discounted by the duck's short stubby bill lacking the typical hump. Twice the duck lifted and stretched its wings to show a uniformly dark back and upper wing surface. It also held its tail above the water like a Ruddy Duck.

Only after returning home to consult several references (National Geographic Society 1987 and Farrand 1983) did I realize that the duck fit the description of an immature Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*). Unfortunately, neither the scaup nor the duck were seen on subsequent days.

Haney *et al.* (1986) lists the Harlequin Duck as accidental on the Georgia coast with two records from Tybee Island. One record was a bird which remained in that area from 18 Feb. and 10 March 1984 and the other record was a bird seen only on 10 March 1985.

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FRANKLIN'S GULL SEEN AT JEKYLL ISLAND - At about 1000 on 8 Oct. 1989 Bill Blakeslee, Paul Sykes and I were scanning the usual large flock of gulls and terns on Jekyll Island's South Beach when Paul was able to pick out an adult Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) moulting into basic plumage. We quickly let other birders in the area, Lydia Thompson and Dale Hardee, know about the bird's presence.



Franklin's Gull with Laughing Gulls on 8 Oct. 1989 at Jekyll Island. Photo by Dale Hardee.

The bird was with numerous Laughing (*L. atricilla*) and smaller numbers of Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*) and Herring gulls (*L. argentatus*). The most conspicuous field mark of this bird was the almost complete black hood which the species acquires during alternate plumage. This compares to the almost complete lack of a black hood at this time of year shown by Laughing Gulls. This mark is clearly shown in the photograph accompanying this note.

Overall, the bird was slightly smaller than a Laughing Gull in most respects. The bill was noticeably smaller as were the legs, especially the length of exposed leg from the knee up. This mark is also clearly seen in the accompanying photograph. The black hood was accentuated by a broken eye ring. The legs and bill were black with a small amount of red on the tip of the upper mandible. White spots which formed the outermost portions of the longest primaries were much more prominent on this bird than the nearby Laughing Gulls.

We cautiously moved toward the bird and were able to get it to fly a short distance showing us the diagnostic white crescents just interior to the black portion of the outermost primaries. However, there was so much commotion on the beach with walkers plus shrimp boats offshore that other observers just a few

minutes later could not relocate the bird. Total time of observation was about 20 minutes.

Haney, J.C. *et al.* (Annotated checklist of Georgia birds, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as accidental with only four records but all of these have been in the spring from 18 March to 5 May. With the increased number of sightings of this species along the east coast, it would certainly make sense to scan our large flocks of Laughing Gulls in the fall for the presence of this species.

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TWO SAY'S PHOEBES IN CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA - The Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) has been reported three times in Georgia; in 1984, 1985 and 1986-87 (Patterson, T.K., *Oriole* 52:73). Each of these records was apparently of single birds.

On 9 July 1989 I observed two Say's Phoebes at very close range, as little as 2.5 m in my yard in Athens. Each of the birds bathed and each perched in clear view at close range and then perched slightly further away. Peterson's (Peterson, R.T., 1980, *A field guide to the birds*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA) description of looking like "a small Robin" was exactly my initial reaction when I saw the first of the two birds emerge from the birdbath.

The rufous belly was in sharp contrast to the very dark tail, pale breast and throat. Faint narrow bars were observed on the wings. The eyes, legs and beak were black; the beak had a small hook on the tip of the upper mandible. Bristles were evident at the base of the beak. The head was dark without striping and the back was gray.

In the vicinity at the same time for size comparison were the Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) and Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*). I have had the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) nesting in my yard for each of the last three years and thus I am completely certain that this was not a case of aberrant or red clay stained Eastern Phoebes. The total time of observation was approximately 12 minutes. To my knowledge this is the first sighting in Georgia of more than one Say's Phoebe at the same time.

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VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN THE OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - About two weeks before Thanksgiving 1988, Bernnie Smith, a Suwannee Canal Recreation Area guide for the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge spotted a male and female Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) in the Chesser Prairie area of the refuge.

On 3 December 1988 a group of birders from Florida, guided by Jim Petty, saw the flycatchers. The Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge records show that the birds were also seen on 12 Dec. 1988. In mid-December Mr. Petty saw a Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) chasing the male Vermilion Flycatcher. The male was not reported again after this observation.

Hal Belcher, Bo Hornback, Pat Leary and Carol Wyatt, while conducting that section of the Okefenokee Christmas Bird Count held on 28 December 1988, sighted a female Vermilion Flycatcher. CBC participant Helen Ogren attempted to find the bird on 29 December 1988 but was unable to locate it.

On 14 January 1989 Michael and Carolina Lane, their daughter Cynthia, and Laureen Laughnan went to the Suwannee Canal area primarily to see the Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*). The Lanes hired a boat and went out into Chesser Prairie, guided by boatman Robert Lloyd who was familiar with the area and had previously seen the Vermilion Flycatcher. It was 0830, the sky was overcast, visibility was good and there was very little wind. As their boat reached the fork of the trail to Cooter Lake about 0900, Mr. Lloyd pointed out a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) standing on its nest. Carolina Lane looked to the south and saw a phoebe-like bird sitting on a branch about 1 m above the water on a deciduous shrub. The boat was less than 10 m from the bird at this time. The bird flew and its pinkish wash on the belly and underside could be seen. The bird flew behind a small hummock about 100 m away. Mr. Lloyd poled the boat into the Cooter Lake channel and the observers were able to view the bird from about 50 m for 15 to 20 minutes. They were able to consult both National Geographic Society (1987) and Peterson (1980) while observing the flycatcher with the aid of 8X binoculars.

The female Vermilion Flycatcher had streaked sides and breast. The eyeline was very faint. Farrand (1983) states that "Females often appear to have a blackish 'mask' and ... varying conspicuous light eyeline". The pinkish color of the flanks of the bird was also visible when the flycatcher perched on low branches above the water. The Lanes did not see the flycatcher perch any higher than 1.5 m above the water. The pinkish color would have been apparent to an observer even without field glasses.

On 25 January 1989 Sheila Willis, Roy Moore and Ellen Moore traveled to Chesser Prairie by motor boat. After much searching, they located the bird at the junction of the Cooter Lake and Grand Prairie trails at 1155. The bird was sitting in a 2 m cypress tree over the water. Field marks were: peach belly, very faint brown breast streaks on a white chest, a very faint white eyestripe, and brownish gray back. It would fly out periodically over the water and land in small 1 m cypress trees or titi shrubs. At one point the bird remained for 15 minutes in the top of a 10 m cypress tree with an insect it had caught. At 1236 the bird was frightened by a tour boat and did not return. The closest distance the flycatcher was observed was about 7-8 m. The weather was clear and sunny with very little wind. Willis reports that this site has a mix of maidencane grass, cypress and various shrubs.

On 27 January 1989 the female Vermilion Flycatcher was observed approximately 50 to 75 m south of the Cooter Lake and Suwannee Canal Junction by Helen Ogren, Eileen Hutcheson, Lydia Thompson and Walt Borden from 0950 to 1200. The weather was partly to completely sunny with few clouds and little or no wind.

The bird was observed in all positions. When not flycatching, it sat for up to 10 minutes on its perch thereby making viewing quite easy. The observers saw the bird sitting on the tops of 5-7 m bald cypress and swamp bay. While observing the bird on the top of a cypress an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) lit less than 1 m away and remained there for a few minutes. The contrast in coloration, size, pro-

file, and actions were easily seen by all observers who were less than 10 m away. Additional field marks noted were shorter, squared tail that was darker than its grayish brown back. The edges of the feathers on the back, shoulders and secondaries were a paler tan color. The flycatcher occasionally flicked its tail rather than pumping it. It fanned its tail open wide three times. This group used Peterson (1980), National Geographic Society (1987) and Robbins *et al.* (1983) as their references. Their optics were 7X, 8X and 10X binoculars.

Haney *et al.* (1986) lists the Vermilion Flycatcher as an "accidental winter visitor in the coastal plain". The last documented sighting in *The Oriole* of the Vermilion Flycatcher in Georgia was by Fowler (1973) on 13 January 1973 in this same area of Chesser Prairie. This bird was initially sighted by Harry Johnson, concessionaire for the recreation area who remembers it well (Harry Johnson pers. comm.). A search of Okefenokee Bird Club records reveals several other sightings of what probably was the same bird as above from 16 December 1972 into February 1973. In addition, there was a female plumaged bird seen in the Trader's Hill area below Folkston on 1 January 1976 by L. A. and Mary Dillard and Ruth Schwinniger and later verified by Lois Groszmann and Eugene Cypert.

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- Carolina H. Lane, 869 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307; Helen B. Ogren, Rt. 4, 12785 Birmingham Highway, Alpharetta, GA 30201; and Sheila Willis, 326 Pineview Dr., Waycross, GA 31501.

WINTER HABITATS AND BEHAVIOR OF GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS NEAR ATHENS, GEORGIA - In recent winters we have determined that Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*) are regular winter residents in Clarke and Oglethorpe counties, near Athens, Georgia. We have found the sparrows to be fairly common in weedy fields planted with young pine trees, with up to 7 birds recorded per day in this habitat. Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely reported in winter by other observers, however. In the 1989 Christmas Bird Count season, for instance, the two sparrows we recorded during the Athens count were the only individuals reported on Georgia CBCs. In this note we describe both the habitat in which we have recorded wintering Grasshopper Sparrows and some of the species' distinctive behavioral traits that assist in finding them. We hope this information will help Georgia observers locate these

birds, and thus better document their current status in the state during winter.

To pinpoint appropriate winter habitat for Grasshopper Sparrows, it is helpful to understand early plant succession in abandoned fields in the Georgia Piedmont. When cropland is abandoned, it rapidly becomes covered with several species of tall annual weeds, especially ragweed (*Ambrosia* sp.). During the next growing season, these weeds are replaced by thick stands of horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*) and various low grasses, especially crabgrass (*Digitaria ischaemum*). In winter, fields covered with weeds such as these support large numbers of Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*).

After one or more seasons in which weeds dominate the field, grasses become the predominate cover. Around Athens, crabgrass can cover most of the ground at this stage, although other grass species are present. A few clumps of orange-brown broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) may intrude into the field, becoming more common in later seasons. It is at this grass-dominated stage of early succession that we have been most successful at finding Grasshopper Sparrows.

Like the horseweed fields, the older grass-dominated fields hold large numbers of Savannah and Song sparrows in winter. For example, while surveying a 14 ha grassy field near Arnoldsville in Oglethorpe County, WMP recorded 498 Savannah Sparrows, 108 Song Sparrows and 5 Grasshopper Sparrows in three hours on 28 Dec. 1989. Similarly, JBD recorded 161 Savannah, 119 Song and 2 Grasshopper sparrows in a 17 ha grass-dominated field in eastern Clarke County during 3.5 hours on 5 Dec. 1989. As these numbers indicate, finding Grasshopper Sparrows in these fields requires sorting through a horde of individuals of other species, most of which are seen briefly in flight. Birders cannot count on watching each flushed bird until it lands, and then using plumage field marks to identify the birds. Fortunately, each of the sparrow species has distinctive flight characteristics that allow one to focus on the most likely individuals for further pursuit.

Song Sparrows are the easiest species to identify in flight. Compared to Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows, Song Sparrows are long-tailed, broad-winged birds whose flight is somewhat labored. The most obvious characteristic of Song Sparrow flight is their long, reddish-brown tail, which is often held low as if the bird were "dragging" the tail through the air. Song Sparrows usually flush to nearby shrubs, forest edges, or clumps of dense grass, and dive into cover. Savannah Sparrows have short tails and long, narrow wings. When flushed, Savannah Sparrows often fly high above the ground for long distances before landing in shrubs or patches of grass.

Grasshopper Sparrows are similar to Savannah Sparrows in flight. Grasshopper Sparrows are very short-tailed; however, many Savannah Sparrows appear to have little or no tail when flying directly away, so birders can rarely use apparent tail length in identification. The most distinctive characteristic of Grasshopper Sparrows in flight is a peculiar twisting of the tail as the bird drops into thick grass at the end of the flight. Thus, one technique for finding Grasshopper Sparrows is to watch all Savannah-like birds as they land to see which ones twist as they drop to the ground. These birds can then be re-flushed for further study. In addition, while Savannah Sparrows often fly long distances well above the ground, Grasshopper Sparrows usually fly close to the ground and drop back into cover within 20 m. With practice, it becomes surprisingly easy to pick out Grasshopper Sparrows on flushing behavior alone.

All three species will flush to intrusions of cover such as bramble patches and woody vegetation along field terraces (the dikes or dirt mounds that separate level areas of ground in many fields in the Piedmont). Grasshopper and most Song sparrows will land at the base of vegetation, while Savannah Sparrows tend to perch in the tops of bushes. This general rule is often violated, however. Birds that land hidden in the base of cover, especially Song Sparrows, can often be coaxed into view by "pishing".

Along with their distinctive flushing behavior, wintering Grasshopper Sparrows have a characteristic call note, a clear, high pitched "seet". It is longer in duration than the typical "tsip" notes of Savannah Sparrows, and consists of a single clear tone with no pronounced rising or falling inflection. The call is reminiscent of the call of Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), though much shorter and somewhat lower pitched. Learning this call note will be a great help in detecting the presence of Grasshopper Sparrows among large flocks of other species.

Early successional fields also hold smaller numbers of other sparrow species. Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*) are found in small flocks along the edges of fields, until early March, when the males spread out across the fields singing and defending territories. Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*) can be found in small groups in the more open portions of horseweed-dominated fields. In the winter of 1988-1989, Bryan Watts located a LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) that wintered in a wet portion of an Oglethorpe County field covered with low horseweed and grasses. In December 1989, JBD saw a second possible LeConte's Sparrow in a grass-dominated Clarke County field, but the bird could not be relocated for confirmation. Finally, Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and Swamp (*Melospiza georgiana*), White-throated (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), White-crowned (*Z. leucophrys*) and Fox (*Passerella iliaca*) sparrows are common in the forest edges next to old fields, and will commonly move into the fields while feeding.

A large amount of suitable habitat was created during the past several years through the Federal Government's program converting marginal farmlands to pine production. Most of these agricultural fields planted in pines are privately owned, and some are leased to hunting clubs. Permission to bird these fields should be obtained, and bright clothing should be worn during hunting season. The large number of fields converted to pine production in the last 2-4 years suggest that, for a few years at least, suitable habitat will be common for rarer winter residents such as Grasshopper Sparrow.

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FROM THE FIELD

June - July 1989

While many birders rarely venture forth during the heat of summer, those birders that did go birding were rewarded for their efforts. Atlanta's first summer sightings of the Northern Pintail and Double-crested Cormorant were recorded. Also, this summer a carcass of a Brown Noddy was reported washing ashore at Cumberland Island.

Abbreviations used include: ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, CSPA - Curtis Sand Pit Area in Greene County, MBBT - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Co. in Augusta, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- COMMON LOON - A winter plumaged bird spent the period from 12 to 14 July on Murphy Candler Lake in North Atlanta (Hugh Garrett).
- PIED-BILLED GREBE - One bird spent most of the period at the ELHLAF but as many as four were seen there on 23 July while two were seen on 29 July (Patrick Brisse).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Lydia Thompson found seven on Little St. Simons Island on 30 July.
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Five birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 4 June (Patrick Brisse). Atlanta's first summer record was made when three birds lingered at the ELHLAF until 23 July (Patrick Brisse). One bird was seen on Lake Oconee on 6 June by Paul Raney, Jr.
- LEAST BITTERN - One bird at Wahoo Creek on Lake Lanier from 10 to 24 June was of interest as the species is very hard to find inland (John Paget).
- GREAT EGRET - Only a few reports of this species were received with the highest number of three at the ELHLAF on 23 July by Patrick Brisse.
- SNOWY EGRET - Don and Joyce Duncan reported finding two birds near Abbeville on 3 June.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - This species was sparingly reported with six near Duluth on 22 July (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Terry Moore), three (including one adult) at the ELHLAF on 23 July by Patrick Brisse, and six at Pendergrass on 30 July by Bruce Dralle.
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Two reports were received: one at the Conyers Monastery on 13 July (Francis Michael) and one in Rockdale County on 21 July (Paul Raney, Jr.).
- WOOD STORK - Jerry and Rose Payne reported storks using their pond in west Bibb County on 22 July.
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - It is highly unusual to find this species in Georgia in the summer. However, the species was reported from three different locations during the period. Two birds were seen at the MBBT on 1 July (*vide* Lee Gibbs). Mike Chapman sighted one on a sandbar in the Ocmulgee River at Juliette on 3 June. In addition, Ken and Arlene Clark had one join a flock of approximately 50 Mallards summering at their home near Macon on 8 June. A second Black Duck showed up there on 15 June.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL - Patrick Brisse's report of a female at the ELHLAF on 23 July was the first summer record of the species in the Atlanta area.
- RING-NECKED DUCK - Paul Sykes, Jr. and Peter Yaukey reported a breeding plumaged male at CSPA from 3-29 July.
- HOODED Merganser - An unusual summer sighting was that of a female at Wahoo Creek on Lake Lanier on 21 June by John Paget.
- OSPREY - One bird was seen by Joel Hitt at Lake Nottely on 1 July.
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - For the second year in a row, this species appeared at the Monastery in Conyers. This year one bird was seen between 13 and 16 July by Francis Michael and several other observers.
- BALD EAGLE - Phyllis Bowen found an adult on Little St. Simons Island on 24 July.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Hugh Garrett spotted a single bird near Lawrenceville, where it is rare during the summer, on 11 July.

- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Paul Raney, Jr. saw a single bird in the Atlanta area on 6 June. Several members of the Columbus Audubon Society got to observe Broad-wings at Lynn Haven during the period (*vide* Sam Pate).
- AMERICAN KESTREL - Paul Raney, Jr. reported seeing the species in the Atlanta area on 6 June and near Mountain City on 10 June.
- RUFFED GROUSE - Joe Greenberg found an individual along his breeding bird survey route near Baxter on 3 June.
- WILD TURKEY - This species, stocked by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources at the ELHLAF, is apparently doing well and was seen throughout the reporting period (Terry Moore). One such sighting was made by Joel Hitt, Bruce Dralle and Ann Wyand who spotted four on 9 July.
- KING RAIL - A surprisingly tame bird was seen near Abbeville on 3 June by Don and Joyce Duncan. What was apparently the same bird was viewed by Don and Joyce and Milton Hopkins, Jr. at the same location on 4 June.
- AMERICAN COOT - Single birds were recorded by John Paget at Wahoo Creek on Lake Lanier on 12, 14 and 17 June, respectively. Four birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 4 and 11 June by Patrick Brisse. A single bird was then seen through the end of July (Patrick Brisse).
- MARBLED GODWIT - Lydia Thompson found 12 on Little St. Simon's Island on 30 July.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER - One bird was sighted at Providence Canyon by Anselm Atkins on 14 June. This is well outside the known nesting range for the species in Georgia.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER - One bird was found at the ELHLAF on 11 June by Patrick Brisse. This sighting falls between what are traditionally considered to be the spring and fall migration periods.
- BLACK TERN - Over 100 were observed on Little St. Simons Island on 30 June by Lydia Thompson.
- BROWN NODDY - Carol Ruckdeschel reported in a letter to Terry Moore finding a dead bird on Cumberland Island. No additional details are available at this time.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - While hummingbirds were regularly seen throughout the state during the reporting period, many observers felt that their numbers were significantly down. It is hoped that the state's Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program Hummingbird Survey will shed some light on this question.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - It appears that no nest was built in the Cartersville area this year. John Swiderski reports that a single bird was seen in the Cartersville area at least as late as 5 July.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Paul Sykes, Jr. reports that he had four birds calling on territory in a marshy area with scattered willows in the CSPA on 15 July. Peter Yaukey heard as many as seven in this same area this year. Joel Hitt reported finding this species in the vicinity of Lake Nottely near Blairsville on 1 July. Joe Greenberg also reports finding the bird on the Baxter Breeding Bird Census Route on 3 June. This species has its southern-most breeding grounds in Georgia but these are very local and each population of birds needs to be documented.
- HORNED LARK - John Swiderski found the species in the area adjacent to the Etowah Indian Mounds at Cartersville throughout the reporting period.
- TREE SWALLOW - Patrick Brisse reported the first apparent fall migrant of the year at the ELHLAF on 23 July.
- BANK SWALLOW - Paul Sykes, Jr. found nine birds at the CSPA on 15 July.
- BARN SWALLOW - The highest number reported during the period was 150 at the CSPA on 15 July (Paul Sykes, Jr.).
- CLIFF SWALLOW - Paul Raney, Jr. spotted five birds at Lake Oconee on 6 June. Five more birds were seen by Paul Sykes, Jr. at the CSPA on 15 July. Research needs to be done to determine if a range expansion is occurring in Georgia.
- PURPLE MARTIN - In excess of 100 were seen at the ELHLAF on 29 July by Patrick Brisse.
- FISH CROW - Remarkably, only one report was received. Paul Raney, Jr. found two birds at Lake Acworth on 23 June.
- CEDAR WAXWING - An interesting report was of this species being found at the MBBT on 29 July (Lee Gibbs). Jim Shirah reported seeing waxwings in the Columbus area through 5 June (*vide* Sam Pate).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER - A number of observers reported seeing or hearing this bird near the ELHLAF throughout the period (*vide* Terry Moore).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER - This species was seen at the Conyers Monastery on 23 June and 16 July (Francis Michael). Peggy and Terry Moore also found the bird in north Fulton County on 3 July.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Joel Hitt found this warbler near Blairsville at Lake Nottely on 2 July.

YELLOW WARBLER - Paul Raney, Jr. found this bird on 6 June at Lake Oconee and on 10 June near Mountain City in northeast Georgia.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Joel Hitt found this species on Blood Mountain on 2 July while Paul Raney, Jr. found it near Mountain City on 10 June.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - This species was reported from Lake Nottely on 1 July (Joel Hitt).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - An adult male was seen near Duluth on the very early date of 22 July by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. The species was also seen by Joel Hitt on the Richard Russell Scenic Highway on 3 July. Paul Raney, Jr. reported finding the bird near Mountain City on 10 June.

OVENBIRD - The species was found near Mountain City on 10 June (Paul Raney, Jr.).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - Bob and Joy Terhune found this species in their yard in the Upatoi portion of Columbus on 8 July.

KENTUCKY WARBLER - Paul Raney, Jr. found the bird in the Atlanta area on 6 June and near Mountain City on 10 June.

AMERICAN REDSTART - Paul Raney, Jr. reported the species from the Mountain City area on 10 June.

SCARLET TANAGER - Joel Hitt reported finding the species near Lake Nottely on 1 July while Paul Raney, Jr. found the bird near Mountain City on 10 June.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - William Hayes reported seeing an immature goldfinch in his yard near Cataula on 16 June.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - A total of 12 birds were found at three different sites in north Fulton and Gwinnett counties on 22 July by Terry Moore, Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse.

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