

THE ORIOLE

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NOS. 2&3

THE ORIOLE

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1989 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Terry Moore

This is the eighth summary of Georgia Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) begun by the author (Moore 1983) and continued by Blackshaw (1986a, 1986b, 1986c) and Moore (1988a, 1988b, 1989). 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 (1990). Table 1 uses the following abbreviations for the count names: DAL - Dalton; CHA - Chattahoochee National Forest; AMI - Amicalola Falls; BLA - Blairsville; ATL - Atlanta; PEA - Peachtree City; ATH - Athens; CAL - Callaway Gardens; PIE - Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (NWR); COL - Columbus; MAC - Macon; AUG - Augusta; ALB - Albany; THO - Thomasville; BAI - Bainbridge-Lake Seminole; OKE - Okefenokee NWR; HNR - Harris Neck NWR; SAP - Sapelo Island; GLY - Glynn County; and STC - St. Catherine's Island. The only new count conducted this year was the Blairsville count which was a welcome addition from north Georgia.

A new record for total species was set this year with 189. That, combined with a new record for number of observers were the high points for this year's counts. Unfortunately all other categories (number of parties, party hours and party miles) slipped somewhat from the previous high counts. Total number of individual birds counted was astronomically high due to the count of 1,000,000 American Robins at Piedmont NWR. Readers are urged to support not only your local count but also those that could benefit from more coverage.

This year we added two new species to our combined list of species seen since the 1982 Christmas Count. These species were both from the Piedmont NWR - Rum Creek count as they found both an Eared Grebe and a Dickcissel. Both of these sightings are worthy of being documented in the General Note section of *The Oriole*. As has been pointed out in every CBC summary, merely listing the species in the Christmas Count issue of *American Birds* does not mean it will automatically be accepted 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.

Table 1. 1989 Georgia Christmas Bird Counts

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Red-thr. Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	12
Common Loon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	30	-	40
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	4	-	4	5	8	12	25	4	24	29	1	21	8	1	5	6	45	7	209
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	55	25	97
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	8	18
Am. White Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	30	479	105	624
Double-c. Cormorant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	80	13	-	1	69	-	63	1500	964	90	3698
Anhinga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	7	13	-	-	-	5	-	30
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	4
Great Blue Heron	1	1	1	3	16	10	15	20	9	16	29	10	12	17	12	19	25	33	112	55	416
Great Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	23	43	11	4	5	16	12	17	88	56	277
Snowy Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	24	213	33	275
Little Blue Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7	12	37	63
Tricolored Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	7	21	44
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green-b. Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	8
Blk-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	66	7	92
Yel-c. Night-Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Nycticorax (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
White Ibis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	19	62	39	61	15	197
Wood Stork	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Tundra Swan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	38	-	-	43	57	7	105	43	379	45	37	-	31	-	24	12	3	-	4	-	828
Wood Duck	-	4	-	-	42	2	30	6	554	17	11	20	2	272	15	16	13	24	5	35	1068
Green-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	6	-	10	250	-	-	7	80	35	-	395
Am. Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	12	2	21	71
Mallard	36	-	-	8	141	113	74	130	308	125	53	23	2	6	18	87	29	4	39	3	1199
Northern Pintail	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	27	-	-	-	52

Table 1. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Blue-w. Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	2	-	-	-	19
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	6	-	1	3	-	22
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	30	2	1	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	43
American Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	17	166	8	262	8	22	51	-	15	-	557
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Redhead	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	11
Ring-n. Duck	22	3	-	-	35	151	4	268	670	61	281	224	-	595	65	20	51	0	47	1	2498
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	580	0	580
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	67	15	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	452	48	591
Scaup (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1000	5034
Oldsquaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
Black Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	56	6	262
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	2	12
White-w. Scoter	-	-	-	-	6	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	16
Common Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	6	12	3	38	24	64	47	4	-	-	-	-	-	25	79	31	340
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	18	22	-	9	19	8	47	2	-	2	1	14	56	150	188	75	615
Hooded Merganser	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	330	350	90	84	856
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-
Merganser (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	97	-	226
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	87	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	166
Duck (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	40	100	-	2	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Black Vulture	1	-	14	-	-	9	87	103	86	24	7	20	85	10	1	45	97	4	15	86	694
Turkey Vulture	3	1	44	-	9	31	211	51	138	21	22	-	58	23	9	66	225	19	81	85	1097
Vulture (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Osprey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	2	1	5	1	15
Bald Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	10
Northern Harrier	1	-	-	-	-	6	13	9	5	-	2	4	5	3	7	-	12	10	16	12	105
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1	-	-	-	1	3	1	4	1	8	1	3	-	1	2	1	1	2	7	4	41
Cooper's Hawk	1	-	2	1	4	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	3	-	1	3	2	0	25
Accipiter (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Red-s. Hawk	-	2	3	1	22	15	11	14	11	9	8	9	12	3	-	30	3	3	1	-	157

Table I. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Red-t. Hawk	6	4	12	9	41	37	61	18	15	19	28	18	23	11	7	1	10	7	35	17	379
Buteo (sp.)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Am. Kestrel	4	3	5	6	12	11	23	11	6	11	13	7	13	23	6	6	7	12	27	11	217
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	11
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Falcon (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Hawk (sp.)	10	11	1	17	-	-	8	7	6	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	16	46	124
Wild Turkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	231
N. Bobwhite	16	-	5	5	10	10	13	1	1	-	-	-	112	29	23	-	7	-	231	-	5822
Clapper Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	58	68	95	252
King Rail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Sora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Coot	3	-	-	-	45	76	-	4	421	65	86	1	6	13	5039	272	27	16	26	9	144
Sandhill Crane	1	-	-	-	-	145	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	54	4	5822
Black-b. Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	501
Wilson's Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	59	450	72	584
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Piping Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	676
Killdeer	7	3	5	71	56	259	61	14	27	82	13	33	79	27	-	-	-	3	167	506	311
Am. Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	13
American Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	26	24	59
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	7	4	15	20	51
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	12	-	47	1	64
Yellowlegs (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Willet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	55	121	131	311
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	11	13
Marbled Godwit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	9	21
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	10	22
Red Knot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	32	205	289
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	20	36
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	23	54	228	310

Table I. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	51	2628	328	3051
Least Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	71	4	192
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1950	1469	1106	4530
Sandpiper (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Short-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	395	35	482
Long-b. Dowitcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	37
Dowitcher (sp.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	28	-	123	156
Common Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	2	4	11	1	25	59	1	1	3	6	34	2	156
Am. Woodcock	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	4	11	1	1	29
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Laughing Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	99	77	185
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	538	0	557
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	150	20	2	4	23	550	751	458	-	4	-	-	87	650	3940	455	7094
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	2	1	47	-	-	-	10	-	30	140	460	68	767
Great Black-b. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Gull (sp.)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	205	-	-	1	7	5	248
Caspian Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	21	26
Royal Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	146	20	215
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	123	112	323
Black Skimmer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	280	105	385	2100
Rock Dove	214	1	26	11	321	26	247	1	13	318	550	219	2	22	12	3	15	25	74	-	3243
Mourning Dove	182	53	10	103	383	204	470	229	19	260	246	264	62	55	124	10	58	26	357	128	31
Common Ground-Dove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
E. Screech-Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	4	2	3	20	4	14	15	5	8	21	8	7	8	1	3	5	20	53	35	238
Red-h. Woodpecker	2	-	-	-	5	11	3	4	25	1	12	-	5	25	1	4	7	2	3	2	112
Red-b. Woodpecker	14	6	5	4	156	76	96	57	27	31	51	31	39	59	13	27	43	48	116	21	920
Yel-b. Sapsucker	5	6	2	3	26	16	20	29	20	5	41	48	10	33	3	1	10	40	29	21	368
Downy Woodpecker	5	8	5	12	83	51	45	33	11	6	13	7	11	14	1	2	9	28	27	12	383

Table 1. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Harry Woodpecker	-	2	2	1	12	6	9	7	2	-	1	-	2	4	2	1	1	-	1	1	54
Red-c. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	10	-	3	-	-	-	-	23
Northern Flicker	6	3	3	8	96	38	42	48	36	37	45	47	30	24	7	15	10	26	69	31	621
Pileated Woodpecker	1	9	3	12	19	11	9	16	12	9	6	9	25	20	3	24	16	17	30	13	264
Eastern Phoebe	3	2	11	8	17	32	37	36	9	5	19	13	12	31	8	38	12	11	20	10	334
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	527
Blue Jay	36	48	38	25	989	364	279	235	109	42	51	33	50	55	45	9	44	60	313	12	2837
American Crow	62	422	215	61	682	379	356	473	176	340	202	20	105	80	40	114	110	106	41	69	4053
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	120	71	50	487	14	745
Carolina Chickadee	44	73	36	35	401	240	171	148	83	47	84	29	44	38	11	1	28	102	159	126	1900
Tufted Titmouse	29	39	18	30	263	96	136	90	24	32	53	19	31	39	5	2	43	2	19	44	1014
Red-b. Nuthatch	-	5	1	-	6	1	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	2	34
White-b. Nuthatch	10	6	2	21	9	-	-	18	-	2	-	-	2	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	103
Brown-h. Nuthatch	6	-	5	4	127	77	21	30	33	12	19	3	6	27	-	6	1	144	15	86	622
Brown Creeper	1	3	2	-	20	3	4	2	1	2	4	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	48
Carolina Wren	13	12	15	25	212	145	94	46	33	26	78	41	53	80	4	25	18	52	109	22	1103
House Wren	2	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	16	-	3	2	10	10	5	66
Winter Wren	1	10	3	5	11	1	4	-	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	44
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	6	19	38
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	12	21
Golden-c. Kinglet	5	107	5	23	363	140	148	63	10	29	13	12	27	27	-	5	-	25	1	12	1015
Ruby-c. Kinglet	6	4	12	5	522	567	151	155	90	44	170	41	65	65	-	23	13	171	214	191	2509
B-g. Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	17
Eastern Bluebird	5	28	50	63	202	168	190	264	74	65	65	9	43	92	20	58	20	46	7	239	1708
Hermit Thrush	-	8	3	5	36	39	42	23	14	4	15	24	4	11	1	2	15	30	20	15	311
American Robin	11	5	20	69	135	73	101	971	1000000	885	3333	1606	252	437	175	977	529	211	243	29	1010062
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	1	14	5	16	12	3	61
N. Mockingbird	16	22	3	11	238	124	151	125	35	48	101	65	52	35	47	31	42	38	156	17	1357
Brown Thrasher	12	6	6	-	105	23	44	34	8	7	16	24	8	8	1	2	3	4	15	-	326

Table 1. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
Water Pipit	20	50	42	-	-	82	76	30	-	2	13	-	-	-	-	7	4	4	58	5	281
Cedar Waxwing	2	4	1	-	244	128	536	253	1305	51	1226	250	43	175	242	30	265	360	1125	-	6345
Loggerhead Shrike	834	281	150	101	2732	556	36642	504	165	2050	467	1385	33	35	40	9	1	31	756	6	46778
E. Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	7	13	34
White-e. Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	19	-	1	4	13	27	9	90
Solitary Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Orange-c. Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	6	-	-	2	1	2	-	1
Yellow-r. Warbler	5	6	-	3	166	279	132	335	60	250	283	89	31	530	15	650	1310	2850	4860	690	12544
Yellow-l. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	23	7	39
Pine Warbler	-	1	-	2	1	82	138	37	75	60	31	38	7	57	142	34	16	61	34	99	926
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	2	3	1	-	30	-	2	2	6	18	4	71
Bl. & wh. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	1	-	4	9	8	28
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	1	3	3	2	1	3	29	-	4	-	9	2	9	75
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
N. Cardinal	65	32	36	43	517	275	275	243	130	51	184	186	103	97	40	24	29	56	164	33	2583
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-s. Towhee	16	15	12	12	265	179	125	35	39	6	42	23	44	65	22	16	12	68	55	12	1063
Bachman's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	5	14	-	1	599	973	289	300	103	129	253	6	71	491	-	73	-	91	130	139	3667
Field Sparrow	15	52	-	43	419	204	216	19	14	9	25	1	5	4	139	125	1	6	1	5	1302
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	1	8	4	35	1	-	6	1	3	-	69
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	6	57	441	6	6	2	26	1	3	17	-	-	116	32	23	59	795
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Henslow's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sharp-l. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Seaside Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Fox Sparrow	-	1	-	1	43	13	11	2	2	3	2	6	2	-	2	-	21	3	4	5	33
Song Sparrow	42	121	26	170	466	251	660	98	119	48	67	94	33	51	17	1	11	91	33	54	2453
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swamp Sparrow	4	4	-	1	141	52	47	28	22	35	14	22	6	49	-	7	9	142	18	33	634
White-l. Sparrow	55	45	35	35	591	617	508	162	156	91	228	329	76	163	18	22	8	94	184	62	3479

Table 1. Continued

Species Name	DAL	CHA	AMI	BLA	ATL	PEA	ATH	CAL	PIE	COL	MAC	AUG	ALB	THO	BAI	OKE	HNR	SAP	GLY	STC	TOTAL
White-c. Sparrow		1			2	1	14							35							53
Dark-e. Junco	31	293	51	152	1296	1080	432	1161	181	88	169	137	48	12	2	8	7	94	76	40	5358
Sparrow (sp.)					53	53			121		18		250								514
Red-w. Blackbird	3	57			134	665	7119	299	1813	440	84	776	18521	556	25	43	282	750	921	1620	34108
East. Meadowlark	19	77	29	13	102	204	307	220	13	19	188	80	61	8	27	103	47	93	58	138	1806
Rusty Blackbird						2			2		12	33				50	203				302
Brewer's Blackbird										45	10	13									68
Boat-t. Grackle																	248	250	1234	204	1936
Common Grackle	32	12	50		1285	960	15678	529		510	20	47	340	108	114	2	115	12	243	16	20073
Brown-h. Cowbird		25				68	6283	3		7	106	162		10				2	36		6702
Blackbird (sp.)					200				131	1000	462	129	9000		12317					1500	24739
Northern Oriole														9							11
Purple Finch	22	22	18	17	52	6	48	46	14	47	30	5		20	2	4	1		8		362
House Finch	46				11	92	30	117	2	285	57	24		13							687
Red Crossbill		4																			4
Pine Siskin	126	110	35	172	27	9	1	47	1	55	43			6				1	1		634
Am. Goldfinch	74	52	54	130	410	115	188	86	45	172	33	16	88	200		211	128	126	471	51	2650
Evening Grosbeak	1	4			1																6
House Sparrow	24	18	25	5	262	34	154	13	28	245	16	50	4	17		1		1	40		937
Total Individuals	2296	2225	1168	1553	16318	10726	74224	8579	1008251	9107	11328	7505	30483	6080	19305	4047	5615	13634	30301	15067	1277812
Number of Observers	7	9	8	12	56	21	30	60	20	12	20	11	13	10	5	13	16	12	49	19	403
Number of Parties	4	4	2	3	17	8	11	13	5	7	6	6	5	4	2	5	12	6	15	9	144
Party Hours	25	31	20	24	121	65	95	73	35	49	52	42	41	30	18	41	57	53	123	67	1062
Party Miles	107	177	150	123	605	537	385	283	248	181	248	121	247	109	105	192	151	95	378	111	4553
Date of Count	12/16	12/17	12/20	12/29	12/17	12/16	12/16	12/16	12/18	12/18	12/16	12/23	12/30	12/31	12/29	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/30	12/30	12/30

Of the 189 species recorded on the 1989 CBCs, 26 were seen on all 20 counts. These species were Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Eastern Meadowlark. This is up from last year's total of 23 species seen on all counts.

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 five species with national high counts. They were 506 Semipalmated Plovers at St. Catherine's Island, 144 Brown-headed Nuthatches at Sapelo Island, 1,000,000 American Robins at Piedmont NWR (erroneously listed as Piedmont, SC), 265 Rufous-sided Towhees at Atlanta and 973 Chipping Sparrows at Peachtree City.

1989 COUNT SUMMARY

The only Red-throated Loons were 10 at St. Catherine's and two at Sapelo. Glynn County had a good count of 30 Common Loons while Piedmont NWR recorded the only inland birds with three. Fifty-five Horned Grebes was an excellent count at Glynn County. The Eared Grebe at Piedmont NWR was the first one recorded on a CBC during the eight years we have been compiling these statistics. Ten Northern Gannets were noted on the Glynn County count and eight were seen at St. Catherine's. Three American White Pelicans on the Glynn County count were the second time the species has been seen during our eight year summary. Brown Pelicans were numerous on the Glynn County count with 479 recorded. Double-crested Cormorants were abundant along the coast with approximately 3500 recorded on the Sapelo, Glynn County and St. Catherine's counts. Although Anhingas were found on five separate inland counts, only Glynn County found the species along the coast.

American Bitterns were found on the St. Catherine's (2 birds), Okefenokee NWR and Harris Neck NWR counts. Great Egrets were found at a number of inland locations with the peak inland numbers of 43 at Augusta and 23 at Macon. The 213 Snowy Egrets on the Glynn County count seemed to be a fairly high count. The only Cattle Egret was a bird on the Bainbridge count. Green-backed Herons were only noted on the Piedmont NWR, Sapelo and Glynn County counts. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were three on the Glynn County count. A Night-Heron (sp.) was quite unusual at Macon. A White Ibis on the Thomasville count appeared to be out of range for the early winter. I have to admit I'm a little confused by the 15 Greater Flamingoes on the St. Catherine's count. They weren't boldfaced and the editors didn't have any comments about them. Were they part of a captive population of birds on the island or was this just a typo? I chose to ignore this species in Table 1. The only two Wood Storks were seen on the Glynn County count.

Two Tundra Swans at Albany were the only ones noted this year. The

only Snow Geese were 10 (one Snow and nine Blues) on the Okefenokee NWR count. Canada Geese continue to spread with birds found on the Harris Neck NWR, Okefenokee NWR and Glynn County counts. Excellent counts of Wood Ducks were 554 at Piedmont NWR and 272 at Thomasville. Other good puddle duck counts were 250 Green-winged Teal at Thomasville, 27 Northern Pintails at Harris Neck NWR, 17 Blue-winged Teal and 12 Northern Shovelers at Thomasville, 30 Gadwall at Macon, and finally 262 American Wigeon at Thomasville and 166 at Augusta.

The only Canvasbacks reported were five each at Macon and Piedmont NWR. Redheads were likewise low in numbers with six on the Piedmont NWR count, one at Callaway and four at Sapelo. Ring-necked Ducks were most common at Piedmont NWR and Thomasville with 670 and 595 respectively. Glynn County had a very unusual scaup count with 580 Greater identified but only 452 Lessers along with 900 scaup (sp.). I wish we had a little more concrete data on the status of the Greater Scaup along our coast. We know that it occurs there but high counts are always suspect. Oldsquaw were encountered at Augusta (seven birds) and at Glynn County (one bird). Scoters were fairly well represented with the following counts: Black Scoter - 200 at Sapelo, 56 at Glynn County and six at St. Catherine's; Surf Scoter - six at St. Catherine's; White-winged Scoter - eight at Glynn County, two at Sapelo and two at St. Catherine's. Common Goldeneyes were seen at Athens (seven), at Atlanta (six) and at Glynn County (three) for the only reports. Bufflehead were primarily reported from the piedmont and coastal areas with a peak count of 79 at Glynn County. The Hooded Merganser had much the same distribution with a peak count of 188 on the Glynn County count. The only inland Red-breasted Mergansers were single birds at Columbus and the Okefenokee NWR to go along with the more expected 350 at Sapelo and 330 at Harris Neck. Ruddy Duck high counts were 97 at Glynn County and 87 at Macon.

Other than a few Ospreys seen along the coast, the only reports were a bird at Augusta and a somewhat surprising five at Bainbridge. A total of ten Bald Eagles were reported from six counts. There were eight adults and two immatures. This is the highest total we have had since we started this count summary and we hope this trend continues. Good counts of Northern Harriers were the 16 on the Glynn County count and 13 at Athens. Inland reports of Merlins were single birds at Callaway and at Blairsville. Along the coast, five was a very good total for Sapelo Island. The only Peregrine Falcon sighting was one at St. Catherine's Island.

The Wild Turkey was rather widespread with ten counts recording the species. We simply do not do well with rails. Only one King Rail was recorded (Sapelo), no Virginia Rails and only one Sora (Glynn County). Bainbridge is certainly the American Coot capitol of Georgia with a count of 5039. Along with the usual birds at the Okefenokee NWR, a few Sandhill Cranes were still moving through the area during the count period. One bird was seen at Dalton, 145 at Peachtree City and a very surprising 83 were counted at St. Catherine's Island.

The 450 Black-bellied Plovers at Glynn County was an excellent count as was the one Wilson's Plover on the same count. This latter species is regarded as accidental during the winter in Georgia. As mentioned earlier, St. Catherine's recorded a national high count of 506 Semipalmated Plovers.

The only Piping Plovers were 11 at St. Catherine's and single birds on the Glynn County and Sapelo Island counts. High counts of Killdeer were 309 at Glynn County and 259 at Athens.

The only American Avocets were four on the Glynn County count. Inland Greater Yellowlegs were found at Thomasville, Macon and Augusta. Augusta also recorded the only inland Lesser Yellowlegs. The only inland Spotted Sandpipers were two birds at Columbus. Marbled Godwits were better reported than usual with 11 at Sapelo Island, 10 at St. Catherine's Island and one at Glynn County. Glynn County had an excellent count of 2628 Western Sandpipers. The 105 Least Sandpipers at Macon plus the 12 at Augusta were more than were recorded on all the coastal counts. The 37 Long-billed Dowitchers on the St. Catherine's count was the only sighting of this poorly reported species.

The only jaeger report was a Parasitic on the Glynn County count. Laughing Gull numbers seemed to be depressed with only 99 at Glynn County, 77 at St. Catherine's and 9 at Sapelo. The 538 Bonaparte's Gulls on the Glynn County count was a very high count. When are we going to find our first Common Black-headed and Little Gulls in with these Bonaparte's Gulls? Inland gulls of interest were the four Ring-billed Gulls at Thomasville, the 47 Herring Gulls at Macon and another eight Herring Gulls at Athens. The five Forster's Terns on the Piedmont NWR count were of interest for an inland locality.

The 24 Rock Doves on the Sapelo Island count were somewhat surprising. The only Common Ground-Doves were 14 at Bainbridge, 13 at Albany and four at Thomasville. No birds were recorded on the coastal counts! Also, there were no reports of Common Barn-Owls! Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found on three counts with 10 birds on each of the Piedmont NWR and Thomasville counts plus an additional three birds on the Okefenokee NWR count. The only Horned Larks were 12 birds on the Athens count. The only Tree Swallows away from the coastal areas were six at Thomasville.

Eleven counts recorded Red-breasted Nuthatches but their numbers were fairly low. The high count was seven on the Sapelo Island count. Sixteen House Wrens on the Thomasville count and 15 on the Atlanta count were excellent numbers for what can be a rather elusive species in the winter. Peachtree City recorded a high count of 567 Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Macon and one at Callaway Gardens were unusual wintering birds. The 1,000,000 American Robins were an astounding number at Piedmont NWR. The only Gray Catbirds away from south Georgia and the coastal areas were single birds at Athens and Atlanta and three at Augusta.

A White-eyed Vireo was a rare wintering bird at Macon. Excellent counts of Solitary Vireos were the 27 at Glynn County and 19 at Thomasville. More Orange-crowned Warblers were recorded away from the coast than were recorded on the coastal counts. This is surprising as the species is generally not that uncommon along the coast during the winter. Inland birds included six at Thomasville and single birds at Atlanta, Augusta and Columbus. The 23 Yellow-throated Warblers on the Glynn County count were an exceptionally high tally. A Black-and-white Warbler at Macon was rather unusual for an inland location. Common Yellowthroats were in higher

numbers at inland locations than usual. There were five at Atlanta, four at Peachtree City, three at Piedmont NWR and Columbus and two at Macon. Two Wilson's Warblers were an excellent find at Augusta.

As mentioned before, the Dickcissel at Piedmont NWR was the first for our count list. A Bachman's Sparrow at Thomasville was not underlined as unusual but this species can be very difficult to find during the winter even where they can be expected. Athens had an excellent count of 441 Savannah Sparrows. Athens also had the only two Grasshopper Sparrows reported. Three Henslow's Sparrows on the St. Catherine's count was an excellent total of an elusive species. The only Lincoln's Sparrow was a bird at Peachtree City. White-crowned Sparrows were found on five counts with 35 at Thomasville, 14 at Athens, two at Atlanta and single birds at Peachtree City and the Chattahoochee National Forest. Good counts for the coastal areas were 94 Dark-eyed Juncos at Sapelo Island, 76 at Glynn County and 40 at St. Catherine's.

Brewer's Blackbirds were found on only three counts - all right along the fall line. Forty-five were seen at Columbus, 13 at Augusta and 10 at Macon. Thomasville recorded an excellent count of nine Northern Orioles and Augusta and Callaway Gardens each had single birds. House Finches continue to increase but have not appeared on any coastal counts as yet. Thomasville recorded 13 House Finches for the southernmost report. Four Red Crossbills on the Chattahoochee National Forest count were the only ones reported. Good numbers of Pine Siskins were found on the north Georgia counts and birds were recorded as far south as Thomasville (six birds) and Sapelo Island and Glynn County (single birds each). The only Evening Grosbeaks were four on the Chattahoochee National Forest count and single birds at Dalton and Blairsville. The report of a single House Sparrow on the Sapelo Island count seemed rather surprising for a barrier island count.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

In the past few summaries graphs have been used to try to show which species are increasing or decreasing in numbers during the count period. This year the raw data for 20 species are presented in Table 2. These numbers are not "normalized" by adjusting for the amount of effort (number of party hours) expended on any individual count. Therefore, the reader has to factor in the 25% increase in party hours from the 1982 to the 1989 count. These 20 species were selected on the basis of either being identified nationally as species to be concerned about or on a state basis because of data previously analyzed in these summaries.

It is very obvious that some species have definitely increased during the eight years we have been doing these summaries. From Table 2 they are Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Black Vulture, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Wild Turkey and House Finch. It is also quite obvious that several species have declined in numbers. Again from Table 2 they are White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Purple Finch and House Sparrow. More ambiguous would be the status of the Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, American Woodcock, Common Ground-Dove, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, and Rufous-sided

Table 2. Numbers of selected species found on Georgia Christmas Counts (1982-1989).

Species	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Brown Pelican	397	113	394	371	329	429	256	624
Double-cr. Cormorant	583	571	644	748	968	2909	1758	3698
Canada Goose	337	396	475	461	578	577	842	828
Black Vulture	143	238	269	382	429	677	845	694
Turkey Vulture	824	595	923	859	765	947	1384	1097
Bald Eagle	1	4	0	5	3	7	6	10
Northern Harrier	54	68	62	52	78	71	88	105
American Kestrel	192	177	157	184	208	197	221	217
Wild Turkey	9	29	55	21	57	83	28	124
Northern Bobwhite	254	502	210	193	281	219	245	231
American Woodcock	5	19	23	11	14	22	10	29
Common Ground-Dove	72	25	20	43	62	26	86	31
Eastern Bluebird	1345	1499	1501	1365	1777	1395	1870	1708
Loggerhead Shrike	139	120	149	109	170	184	238	165
Rufous-sided Towhee	1026	1090	1053	994	951	1229	1104	1063
White-throated Sparrow	4242	4217	3570	3296	2113	2502	3168	3479
Eastern Meadowlark	2395	2014	1221	1561	1174	1707	1044	1806
Purple Finch	775	515	58	736	217	344	144	362
House Finch	119	139	68	460	329	263	379	687
House Sparrow	1208	1346	1377	1086	1173	1486	1456	937

Towhee. More detailed studies will probably have to be made before we can be sure which way these species are headed.

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GENERAL NOTES

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS NESTING IN GEORGIA - For the first time, a pair of Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) was found nesting in Georgia on 27 May 1990. Haney, J.C. et al. (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) mentions the species as a nonbreeding summer resident along the coast and a rare summer visitor elsewhere.

In recent years, the species has been found in increasing numbers inland, especially in the Piedmont and along the fall line, mostly in the Macon and Augusta areas. A few birds are now staying during the summer.

In June and July 1989, up to three birds stayed at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, south of Atlanta. They were gone by 23 July due to the lowering of the water levels at the ponds. At that time that represented the first summering record for the Atlanta area.

In March 1990, a few individuals were spotted at Blalock Lake, a newly opened lake, just a few miles east of the facility. Part of the lake is in Clayton County with the other part in Henry County. The number of birds went from two on 17 March to a high of twenty-five on 12 May. During the same period, a dozen individuals were observed back at the facility itself.

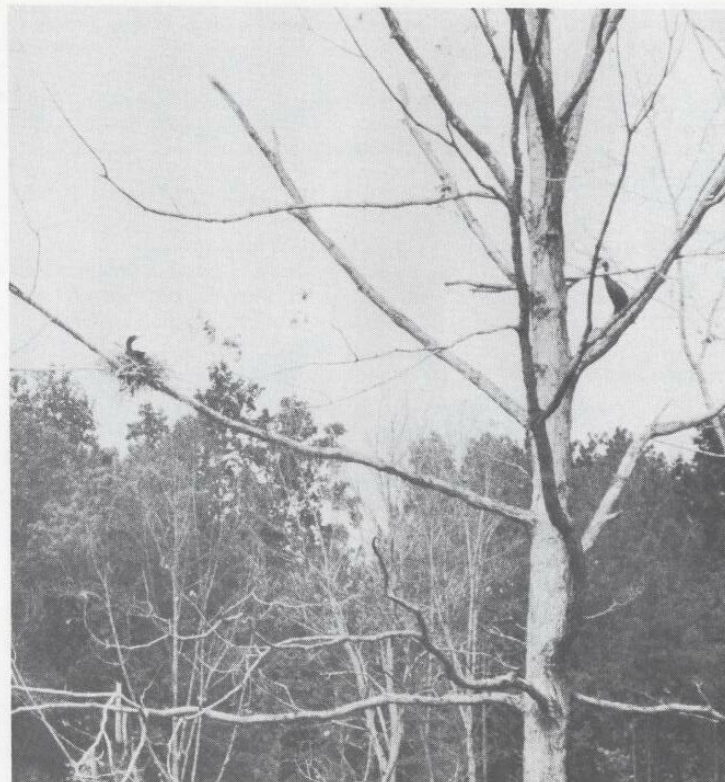
On 27 May 1990, Terry Miller and I were counting the cormorants at Blalock Lake when I noticed one bird sitting on a nest. The nest was in the middle of the lake (about 200 m from the shore). It was on a branch 7-8 m from the main trunk of the tree and about 10 m above water. Two other adult cormorants were noted standing on the same branch near the nest. I returned to the area weekly, except during mid-June when I missed two weekends.

There was no apparent activity in the nest until 23 June. At that time, I suspected young but was not able to see them. By then the number of cormorants at the lake had dropped to eleven individuals. On 30 June, I was able to observe one young and Terry Miller saw two the next day.

On 7 July, Price Webb came to photograph the nest and the young but to our disappointment the branch was broken and the nest was gone. Some violent storms had hit the area during the week. Price was able to locate what seemed to be a second nest under construction but that one was also gone a week later. However, during the month of June, one of the employees from the Clayton County Water Authority used a boat and was able to get some good photographs of the adult sitting on the nest (see accompanying photograph).

This represents the first documented record of the species' nesting in Georgia. In the last decade the species has increased dramatically along the North and South Carolina coasts and large numbers are being sighted inland in the Carolinas and Georgia. The first nesting record for South Carolina was documented on 25 July 1985; during that summer the species also nested inland in North Carolina at Lake Jordan (*Chat* 52:34-35). Even though cormorants have been nesting in coastal North Carolina since 1898, this record was the first instance of the species' nesting inland in North Carolina. Considering these records, it is not surprising to have finally found cormorants nesting inland in Georgia.

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



Double-crested Cormorants nesting at Blalock Lake of the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility. Photo by personnel of the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility.

GLOSSY IBISES AT THE E.L. HUIE LAND APPLICATION FACILITY - On 1 September 1990 at 0730, I was observing shorebirds at the southernmost treatment pond of the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, Georgia. This pond was completely dry with the exception of the southwest corner where rain water had collected during the previous week.

At 0825 I noticed two dark-colored ibises flying in from the west over highway 19/41. The two ibises landed in the grassy area in the middle of the dry pond and began feeding with twenty-seven Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*).

I observed the two ibises with a 20X telescope and both birds had long down-curved bills and were dark in color except for the neck and head where streaks of white were mixed in with the general brownish plumage. The accompanying photograph shows these birds to be Glossy Ibises (*Plegadis*



Glossy Ibises at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County. Photo by Russ Wigh.

falcinellus). I continued to observe the two Glossy Ibises until noon while they continued to feed in the same area.

I returned on 7 September 1990 and both Glossy Ibises were still present but had moved to the northeast treatment pond to feed there in the grass. The two birds were last reported on 15 September 1990 by Patrick Brisse.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) states that the Glossy Ibis is an uncommon and very local summer resident on the coast, nesting on islands in the Altamaha and Satilla Rivers; rare visitor to remainder of the state; extreme dates 20 Mar (1977) - 17 Nov. (1985). Brisse (*Oriole* 46:21-44) notes one previous record for the Atlanta area on 15-16 May 1965.

Bruce Dralle, 515 Hollyridge Drive, Lilburn, Georgia

SPRING WILLET SIGHTING AT COMMERCE LAKE - On 19 April 1990, Helen Ogren, Jep Murray and I were participating in a Birdathon sponsored by the Atlanta Audubon Society. Around 1500 we arrived at Commerce Lake (Jackson County) on an overcast day with temperatures in the high 50's. We saw a large flock of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) with four Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*). We also spotted Double-crested

Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) which have become regular visitors to the area.

Looking at the northwest corner of the lake we saw Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) but on a spit about 50 m closer we saw a largish shorebird and a smaller sandpiper. Using a Questar we were able to determine that we were watching a Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) and a Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*). We were able to watch the Willet run about and catch a fish and once it raised its wings so that we could see the bold underwing pattern.

Past records of interior Willets from *The Oriole* indicate that it was seen at Commerce Lake on 17 May 1982 (*Oriole* 48:15). A Willet was recorded at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County on 30 August 1985 (*Oriole* 50:65). Another Atlanta sighting was in April 1971 (*Oriole* 47:18). Haney, J.C. et al. (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) lists the species as a rare spring and fall transient inland.

Carolina H. Lane, 869 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30307

ARCTIC TERN AT JEKYLL ISLAND, GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA - On 5 May 1990 Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and I identified an adult Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) on the south beach of Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia. The bird was brought to our attention by Brisse who first noticed the bird and asked us our opinion as to what it might be.

The field marks we observed immediately were the size of the bird which placed it in the small *Sterna* tern complex, the very grayish breast and underparts, complete black cap, distinct white line between the black cap and the grayish cheek, and very short legs compared to nearby Forster's Terns (*S. forsteri*). The time was about 1830 but the light was fading as the sun was obscured by dark clouds approaching from the northwest. We alternated looks at the bird through a 40X telescope from about 100 m. We had somewhat differing opinions on the coloration of the bill and legs. I could only say both were very dark bordering on black since my vision in low light conditions is poor. Brisse said he could detect some reddish color in the legs but that the bill was all black. Garrett said the legs were black but that the bill, although blackish, had a reddish base. All of us agreed that at this time there was no problem in seeing the obvious two toned bill and reddish/orange legs of nearby Forster's Terns.

We decided to get closer to the bird and closed our distance to about 50 m. Even at this distance there was no change to our perceptions of the color of the bill and legs. We did make efforts to make sure the bird actually had short legs rather than just sitting in a depression on the beach. We could clearly see that the bird did have shorter legs than the nearby Forster's Terns, perhaps as much as a cm shorter. We did not at any time during the period of observation notice a great difference between the length of the tail and the length of the folded wings. We did however note that the bird appeared to have an all white tail.

We decided to approach even closer since the flock of gulls and terns it was with did not seem to be agitated. However, this tern was one of the first to flush as we came closer. We knew that the underwing pattern is one of the diagnostic features of an Arctic Tern and all of us were looking for the

sharply defined dark margins to the outer primaries. When the bird took off from the beach it was facing us and into the wind. As soon as it took off it wheeled to its left and headed directly away from us. What I saw was a poorly defined pattern on the right wing probably due to the flared primaries. The left wing however had very clearly dark margined outer primaries. Brisse also saw this same pattern but unfortunately Garrett did not. We all did agree that as the bird flew away that the tail was all white (the gray outer web of the outermost tail feathers can be difficult to see even in good light) and the mantle was an even gray color, no dark color on the primaries as a Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) would have or no light color to the base of the primaries as a Forster's Tern would have. When last seen the bird was flying along the beach headed east with strong but shallow wingbeats.

According to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) this is the sixth record for the Arctic Tern in Georgia but only the second onshore record. The species is undoubtedly a regular migrant far offshore, at least in the spring, but would rarely be expected to be found sitting on a Georgia beach.

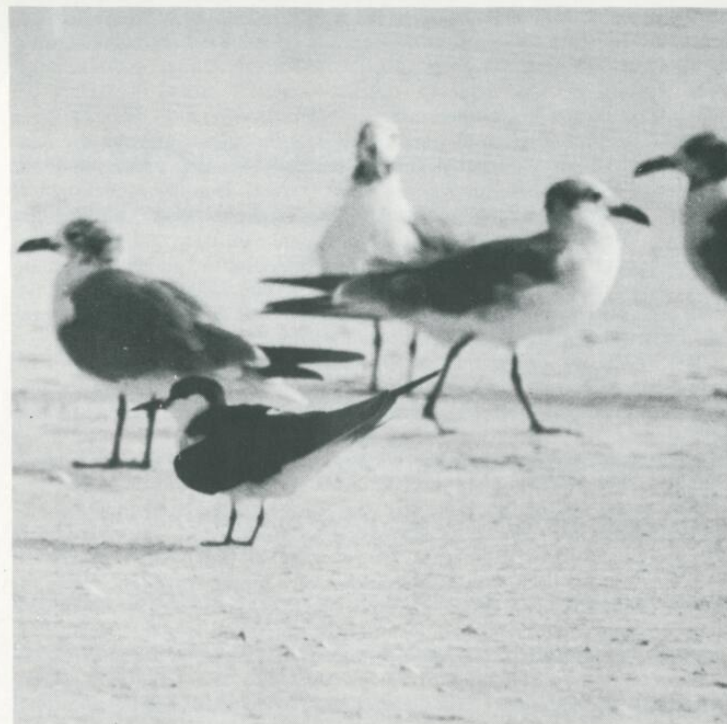
Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Ct., Roswell, GA 30075

SOOTY TERN SEEN AMONG BLACK SKIMMERS AT JEKYLL ISLAND'S SOUTH BEACH - On 2 September 1990, after a long summer in my study in Atlanta finishing a thesis with no birding at all, I was finally able to break away to Georgia's ornithological Mecca, Jekyll Island's South Beach in Glynn County. Initially bedazzled by the new palace going up where I usually park, I walked out onto the beach and met by accident Jeannie Wright and Christine Bird, who were also checking things out. The weather was sunny and warm, but our attempts to get close to the major flocks of seabirds resting on the beach at the time were repeatedly foiled by joggers or other tourists walking their dogs.

However, this very fact led to our discovery of a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*), for when a flock of Black Skimmers (*Rynchops niger*) was flushed by the joggers, my two observant companions spied an oddity among all those black and white shapes. They followed it assiduously as it swooped and swirled with the large flock of skimmers, only to return to the sand where it previously had been resting. When it landed, they pointed it out to me. We were able to look at it from a range of 10-20 m through a Celestron C-90 spotting scope as well as our individual binoculars for a period of about 10 minutes.

Close examination showed that the black on the crown of the head extended all the way down the nape of the neck onto the back, eliminating the possibility of its being a Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*). The dark mantle eliminated any of the white-mantled *Sterna* terns. The accompanying photo clearly shows the bird to be a Sooty Tern.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ., No. 10) lists the species as extremely rare along the coast and inland following storms 4 June (1970) - 19 September (1928). Prior to my trip to Jekyll, I had been watching the weather closely for several days, and forecasters had noted a high pressure system centered over the Great Smoky Mountains which meant that there were steady northeast winds blowing in



Sooty Tern at Jekyll Island's South Beach. Photo by Ellery McClintock.

from the ocean along the coast; but there had been nothing like Hurricane Hugo in the area to blow ashore normally pelagic birds. Be that as it may, South Beach had once again lived up to its formidable reputation.

Ellery McClintock, 4712 Pool Road, Winston, GA 31087.

SUMMER SIGHTING OF SELASPHORUS HUMMINGBIRD IN THE ATLANTA AREA - On 6 August 1990, as we prepared to go to work, Carol and I were keeping a close watch on our four hummingbird feeders and the red salvia plots in our back yard in Tucker, DeKalb County,

Georgia. Each feeder was dominated by one Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), three adult males and one, we believe, immature male. A number of "feederless" hummingbirds in the area fed in the salvia, which seemed to be open territory, and frequently made attempts to feed at the feeders before being driven off by the dominant bird.

I paused to carefully check with 7X35 binocular the male Ruby-throated dominating the feeder nearest the window, approximately 3 m away. At that moment, another hummingbird dashed in for the same feeder, passing in

front of the dominant male sitting on his regular azalea perch from which he surveyed his feeder as well as two others. The new bird fed for only moments before being attacked by the feeder master. A brief, furious "dog-fight" ensued and the newcomer departed. Having noted the extensive rufous areas on the new hummingbird, I called Carol to grab binocular and camera (70-210 mm lens). A few minutes later, the new bird returned, this time coming in low to avoid detection by the Ruby-throated, whose attention had shifted to other hummingbirds at other feeders. The new hummingbird fed for 2 or 3 minutes, enabling Carol to get several photographs through the window. The Ruby-throated eventually noticed the intruder, and after another vicious bit of aerial combat drove it to a pine limb 3.5 m above ground, where we were able to visually examine it for several minutes and take a few more photographs. After another attempt to feed and another round of combat, the new hummingbird left our field of vision.

We waited for approximately 30 minutes (0800-0830) for the bird to return, but as we were both late for work, we gave up. We did not see the bird that afternoon after we returned home. Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles came over the next morning, but the bird did not return. The photographs, although blurred by the window glass and slow film, were clear enough to show the distinct rufous coloration of the bird.

This bird was about the same size as a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but showed rufous (a bright brownish-red) on the lower chest, sides, undertail coverts, tail and edges of the back. However, not all of the back was rufous. Two areas on the back were either patches of a bright, iridescent green, or were flecked with green, depending on the angle of view. Both the upper and lower back showed this green color, with the middle back being rufous. The crown of the bird was green, with the green extending down the back of the head to the nape, narrowing down to its connection with the area of green flecking on the upper back. The head on either side of the green crown line was rufous. This coloration extended down into the throat-gorget area, which was almost solidly flecked rufous, but not a bright iridescent orange-red one would expect on an adult male. The upper breast was white, which extended up to the sides of the lower neck and connected to the narrow line of green at the center of the nape. A small white area behind the eye gave the bird a wide-eyed look.

After its first retreat, we pulled out all of our field guides to check for a positive identification. We immediately noted a close resemblance to the immature male Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) on page 261 of National Geographic Society (1987). Because of that resemblance and other information in Terres (1987) on the ranges of Rufous and Allen's (*S. sasin*) hummingbirds, we first concluded that we had seen an immature male Rufous Hummingbird. We then read in Kaufman (1990) that rufous on the back of a hummingbird, though usually indicative of a Rufous Hummingbird, does not rule out the immature male Allen's Hummingbird: "Some Rufous/Allen's seen out of range have been identified specifically as immature male Rufous because they have had rufous feathers on the back - an identification based on the belief that the back is always green on Allen's. Unfortunately, this does not hold true, and immature males of both species can have rufous on the back."

Although neither of us had ever seen a *Selasphorus* hummingbird before, we were alert to the possibility due to previous reports of Rufous or

Selasphorus (sp.) hummingbirds in Georgia in *Wingbars*, the newsletter of the Atlanta Audubon Society. The earliest of these reports in recent years was from the Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area, between 19 and 23 October 1988 (*Wingbars*, January 1989). The other reports were of wintering birds with the latest lingering bird remaining at a feeder in the Atlanta area through February 1989 (*Wingbars*, May 1989). Haney et al. (1986) notes two previous reports of Rufous Hummingbirds, the earliest being "early October 1984" in Duluth. As far as we know, this sighting represents the earliest occurrence of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Georgia.

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Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

WESTERN KINGBIRD ON THE JEKYLL ISLAND CAUSEWAY - On 8 September 1990, while birding along the Jekyll Island Causeway in Glynn County, Georgia, I noticed a robin-sized bird perched on the wires which run alongside the causeway. The time was 1410 and the bird was located on the south side of the causeway approximately a half mile east of the Jekyll Island Causeway entrance. I was able to approach the bird closely and observe it with 8X42 binoculars. The bird was obviously a kingbird and I noticed yellow on the belly and on the sides which identified the bird as a Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*). The bird was feeding from the wire and when it flew I could see the white outer tail feathers. I was soon joined by Bill Blakeslee and Gene Wenger at 1435. We continued to observe the Western Kingbird feeding until 1530 when Peggy and Terry Moore arrived. We all departed at 1545 and the bird was still feeding at the same location.

I returned at 1800 to bird the South Beach of Jekyll Island with Robert Manns, Anne Wyand, Bill Blakeslee and Gene Wenger and we found the Western Kingbird still feeding in the same location. It was now being harassed by a Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) however. We left at 1810 and the Western Kingbird was still feeding.

I returned the next day on 9 September 1990 at 1300 and searched the causeway but could not find the bird. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C. et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) states that Western Kingbirds are rare visitors throughout the state, more regular on the coast; extreme dates 13 September (1965) - 9 May (1947, 1967); accidental in summer in Washington County 28 June 1982. This sighting on 8 September 1990 would be the earliest fall arrival date for the state.

Bruce Dralle, 515 Hollyridge Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247.

WINTERING WILSON'S WARBLERS FOUND IN AUGUSTA - On 23 December 1989, while birding during the Augusta Christmas Bird Count, Christine Huzella and I observed a male and female Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) along Lover's Lane, a dirt road SE of Laney Walker Blvd. which parallels the Augusta levee. It was the coldest day of the year in Augusta and at 1100 the sky was overcast with small flecks of ice or snow beginning to fall. Temperature was between 15 and 18 degrees F. Christine and I had returned to the welcome warmth of her car and were updating our list when we spotted the male Wilson's Warbler approximately 4 m from us. He was foraging actively in an area of switch cane and privet, fluttering in mid-air and seeming to snatch small bits of food from the undersides of the cane leaves. Inspecting the underside of the leaves later, I found a multitude of minute gray insect eggs of some type. After about 5 minutes he was joined by a female who fed in similar fashion. After an additional 10 minutes they flew to the other side of the dirt road and disappeared into the dense stand of switch cane, privet, blackberry and honeysuckle.

A male Wilson's Warbler was seen by my husband, Vernon, and I at this same place two other times in 1989 on 14 March and 7 October. According to the Annotated checklist of Georgia birds (Haney, *et al.*, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) the Wilson's Warbler is an uncommon to rare spring and uncommon fall transient primarily north of the fall line but it is considered accidental in winter. It has been recorded four times in Georgia during the winter: at Athens 21-23 Jan. 1967; Dublin 22 Dec. 1979 - 26 Feb. 1980; Gainesville 17 Nov. - 4 Dec. 1984; and at Augusta 21 Dec. 1985. Evidently this 23 Dec. 1989 sighting is the fifth such wintering record for this species in Georgia.

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

DICKCISSEL PAIR IN GEORGIA SPRINGTIME - Anne Wyand and the author, on an entirely rained out morning of 5 May 1990 at 0830 stopped to bird at Mission Road and Highway 129/441 in Morgan County, Georgia. An uncultivated weed patch containing low brush grasses measuring approximately 50 by 80 m was bordered on two sides by both roads and the other two by planted barley fields heavily populated by Boblinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).

In a temporary lull in the rain, Ms. Wyand and I surveyed the side of the field fronting highway 129/441, walking the 50 m width. On hearing the "dick, dick, dick" part of the species' song, we found a male Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) atop a 2 m weed stalk. Momentarily, the author thought he saw a second bird of the species perched lower and to the side of the singing male, but the sighting went unconfirmed by both observers. Full observation of the facial pattern, white chin, red shoulder patch, black "bib", and yellow underparts was made through 8 and 10X binoculars and a 22X telescope.

A return to the site at about 1200 revealed the male, again, singing. The sighting was given to the Georgia Rare Bird Alert at about 1500 that afternoon. On the following day, the author took Adrienne Myles to see the bird, which was readily accomplished with the male singing from many perches as though establishing territory.

The sighting was announced at the Atlanta Audubon Society meeting on 10 May and already Bill Blakeslee and Paul Rainey had been to the site. Mr. Rainey confirmed the presence of a female. The following day, 11 May, Terry Moore, Southeastern Representative for Leica and Celestron, his wife Judy, and the author traveled to the site to procure photographs of the bird. Photos were taken, and both birds were viewed at 24X by both Judy and the author through a Takahasi 65 mm scope.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) describes *Spiza americana* as a "Rare summer resident and erratic, local breeder in Appalachian Valley, piedmont and upper coastal plain."

Robert Manns, 877 Glenbrook Drive, Atlanta, GA 30318.

PINE SISKINS REMAIN UNTIL JUNE IN FULTON COUNTY - During the past few years more and more Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) have visited our feeder at Roswell in north Fulton County during the late spring. Therefore it was not that surprising to find a few birds lingering into late May of 1990. It was however interesting that one bird remained at the feeder until 6 June 1990 at which time we left on vacation and the bird was not there when we returned on 20 June.

This appears to be the first June record for the species in Georgia. The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., *et al.*, 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) gives 23 May as the previous late date. This species is expanding its nesting range southward so any late lingering individuals should be watched carefully for any breeding behavior.

Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Court, Roswell, GA 30075.

BOOK REVIEW

Status and distribution of South Carolina birds. William Post and Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., drawings by John Henry Dick. 1989. Contributions from the Charleston Museum XVIII, Charleston, South Carolina. 83 pages. \$14.31 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

This monograph is the latest in a distinguished series of contributions to southeastern ornithology from the Charleston Museum. It is an annotated checklist which updates Sprunt and Chamberlin's *South Carolina Bird Life* published by the Charleston Museum in 1949, which was an update of A.T. Wayne's pioneering *Birds of South Carolina* also published by the Charleston Museum in 1910. Sprunt and Chamberlin was updated in 1969 by E. Milby Burton, so this checklist concentrates on changes in the documented status of South Carolina birds since 1969.

Much has happened in South Carolina since 1969, so this monograph is a very welcome summary of the changes that have taken place in our understanding of South Carolina birds in the last two decades. Anyone interested in the ornithology of Georgia will find it fascinating to compare the avifauna of our neighboring state with our own. The definitive South Carolina list contains 335 species while the Georgia list stands at 370, but many of these are mere stragglers of little biological significance. More interesting differences emerge when we look at the breeding birds. Our state has more and higher mountains, therefore the Georgia breeders include a number of species such as Tree Swallow, Winter Wren, Veery, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak which are not known to nest in South Carolina. Georgia also has (or had) breeding Limpkins and Sandhill Cranes which are lacking in our northern neighbor. On the other hand, South Carolina has a much longer list of breeding littoral birds including Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Caspian, Sandwich, Common, Forster's and Sooty Terns and Laughing Gull. One interesting thing I learned by reading this book is that South Carolina has two disjunct breeding populations of Black-throated Green Warblers, one of which nests in coastal cypress swamps. Georgia, of course, has only one population which nests in the mountains. I was surprised to find that there is a recent breeding record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for South Carolina, as well as an old record of the Bushtit! It seems that a small population of Bushtits was breeding near Cheraw in 1857. A male, female, nest and eggs were collected but the specimens were burned by Sherman in his march across the south. One more thing to damn the Yankees for!

Accurate and up-to-date information from authors with the reputation of Post and Gauthreaux is to be expected and the reader will not be disappointed. The work is systematic and thorough, carried out according to a logical plan. Each species account includes the documentation for the occurrence of the species in the state, breeding status, abundance and seasonality in six regions, maxima, extreme dates of occurrence, and egg dates. This information is supplemented with interesting annotations where appropriate.

Unlike the handy *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, this monograph is a large-format book (with illustrations) which will remain behind on your bookshelf when you go into the field. On the other hand, it is somewhat

more scholarly in that it includes a selected bibliography as well as more detailed annotations, including discussion of specimens and references to the literature. The volume is designed for permanence - beautifully bound with quality paper and fine hard covers, stamped with gold. This also means that it is unlikely to be reissued in an updated version quite as often as the Georgia Annotated Checklist.

The black-and-white illustrations are typical of John Henry Dick's rather loose "painterly" style, but wouldn't it have been just as easy to place the pictures near the species accounts? My only other criticism of the volume is the inclusion of the American Ornithologists' Union numbers with each species. Recent revisions of nomenclature render these numbers obsolete and meaningless in my opinion. I had to call the Charleston Museum twice to find out how to obtain the book, so it would also have been helpful to have included an advertisement telling interested persons how to order the book and the price. But these are minor criticisms. All in all, I found the book a worthy successor to its distinguished predecessors and an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of southeastern birds. - ROBERT W. LOFTIN, University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, South, Jacksonville, FL 32224-2645.

FROM THE FIELD

December 1989 - May 1990

As this was my first attempt at writing this portion of *The Oriole*, I have to admit that my hat is off to Patrick Brisse who did this column so many times. It is very difficult not only to assemble all the data but then to adequately summarize it takes an enormous amount of time. It is impossible to include all the observations that are mentioned in the various local newsletters so my apologies if anyone feels their significant observations were left out.

There were as usual a number of excellent observations especially in the waterbird categories. It seems that most of our interesting observations focus on that group instead of landbirds. Maybe we just spend more time hunting for them?

One thing I particularly noticed was a great lack of observations submitted from the coast and south Georgia areas. Almost all reports came from visitors to these areas. Anything you can do to help us get better reporting from these areas would be appreciated.

In the interest of space I have not included any of the Christmas Bird Count sightings as they are covered elsewhere in this issue of *The Oriole*.

Abbreviations include: AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society, CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CNF - Chattahoochee National Forest, CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in north Atlanta, ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, MP - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company ponds at Augusta, m.ob. - many observers, OAS - Ocmulgee Audubon Society, and SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON - This species certainly appears to be reported more frequently from inland areas than in previous years. Not only are they being noted in larger numbers during migration but they are also being found during the winter at rather unusual locations such as the bird that was found dead at Vogel State Park on 28 Dec. (Dot Freeman) and the one seen at Nottely Lake on 14 Jan. (Dot Freeman and Virginia Felker). The best inland count was 15+ at Lake Lanier on 17 March (Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore). The latest birds were singles at Lake Juliette on 14 May (Terry Johnson) and at Lake Spivey on 27 May (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

HORNED GREBE - Thirteen was an excellent count from Lake Lanier on 18 March by Paul Sykes. At Augusta's MP, where the species is rare, four were seen there on 23 Feb., nine on 31 March, one on 5 April and two were there on 11 April (Anne and Vernon Waters). At Lake Lanier John Paget recorded three breeding plumaged birds from 28 April through 29 May.

RED-NECKED GREBE - One bird was reported from St. Catherine's Island in early December by Royce Hayes (fide Anne Waters). It is very unfortunate there are no available details to substantiate this rare sighting for the state.

EARED GREBE - The only reports came from the vicinity of Plant Scherer near Forsyth. Terry Johnson, Tommy Patterson and Dan Forster saw two birds on 3 Dec. and Terry Johnson and Kathy Darley saw another bird on 26 Jan. This species now appears almost annually at this location.

BROWN PELICAN - Paul Sykes reported a good count of 235 at Tybee Island on 25 March. It would be interesting to have a complete census of the population of this species along the Georgia coast.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - This species is increasing exponentially in population, especially inland. At MP the high count was 142 on 26 March (Anne and Vernon Waters) while Lake Oconee had at least 210 on 28 April (Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey, Bryan Watts). Even in Gilmer County the species was found with 66 flying over on 29 April (Christopher Rustay). Near Atlanta, at the ELHLAF, a bird was observed sitting on a nest by Patrick Brisse on 27 May. This would constitute the first nesting of the species for Georgia and in a totally unexpected locality well away from the more expected southeastern Georgia swamps. See the General notes section of this issue for more details.

ANHINGA - A very strange report was of an immature soaring around Brasstown Bald on 30 May (Dot Freeman). The species has occasionally been seen into the Piedmont but never in the mountain region.

HERONS - The pre-breeding heron roost at Augusta began to form in late March. By 2 April there were 67 Cattle Egrets. On 13 April the roost contained the greatest number and variety of birds: 473 Cattle Egrets, 2 Snowy Egrets, 5 adult Little Blue Herons, 2 Tricolored Herons, 1 Great Egret and 2 Green-backed Herons. The roost declined rapidly after that. On 14 April there were only 284 Cattle Egrets and on 20 April only 84 Cattle Egrets and no other species. By 5 May only 30 Cattle Egrets remained and by mid-May they were gone also but on 27 May nine breeding plumaged Cattle Egrets used the roost but weren't seen again. The nesting location for these birds is unknown (Anne and Vernon Waters).

AMERICAN BITTERN - One bird was seen on the late date of 19 May near Dublin (Alan Rhodes et al.). The latest date in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No 10) is 20 May.

LEAST BITTERN - Anne and Vernon Waters recorded the species at MP on several dates in May indicating that nesting was probable. The status of this species as an inland breeder in Georgia is poorly understood and warrants further study.

GREAT BLUE HERON - Although this species is regarded as a permanent resident in the state, many of our wintering birds leave to nest further north but little is known of their migration pattern. Paul and Joan Sykes observed two small flocks of 20 and 9 respectively migrating north over Tybee Island on 25 March.

GREAT WHITE HERON - One of the stranger reports for the period was a Great White which was seen at the Conyers Monastery on 13-16 May, 20-23 May, and 27 May by Francis Michael and several other observers. A photo was taken and what was interesting to me was that the bird clearly showed a yellow bill and yellow legs of an adult bird. I have seen a number of this form in Georgia along the coast and twice inland but all birds have been immatures (grayish bill and legs).

GREAT EGRET - Early sightings were of two birds seen flying over the SCSP on 10 March (Paul Raney), five birds in Whitfield County on 7 April (Harriett DiGioia) and four at Lake Oconee on 28 April (Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey, Bryan Watts).

SNOWY EGRET - Away from their usual coastal haunts were single birds in Gwinnett County on 31 March (very early by Joel Hitt), at the Augusta Levee on 4 April and 1 May (Anne and Vernon Waters) and at Lake Oconee on 28 April (Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey, Bryan Watts).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Interesting sightings included a bird from the Augusta Levee on 31 March (Anne and Vernon Waters), an adult in NW Georgia at Armuchee on 6 May (Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles) and another adult in Lamar County on 14 May (Terry Johnson and Eddie and Nina Arnold).

CATTLE EGRET - Early sightings included single birds at Eastman on 17 Feb. (Donny Screws), at Cartersville on 5 and 7 April (John and Kate Swiderski), five birds in Pine Mountain Valley on 9 April (Luann Creighton fide Sam Pate) and eight at Lake Oconee on 28 April (Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey, Bryan Watts).

GREEN-BACKED HERON - A fairly early arrival was a bird seen in north Coweta County on 11 March by Dennie and Pam McClure.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Completely unexpected was an adult bird at the ELHLAF on 3 Jan. by Nancy Iha. This is the only winter record of the species for the Atlanta area.

WHITE IBIS - An immature was seen at Eufaula NWR on 31 Jan. by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh. This appears to be a rare inland winter record for the species.

- TUNDRA SWAN** - A flock of nine was seen by Paul Raney and Joel Hitt at the Griffin Reservoir in Spaulding County on 31 Dec. after a period of pretty rough weather. The flock consisted of four adults and five immatures. Unfortunately they were gone by the next morning when other observers checked the area. A recognizable photo was taken.
- MUTE SWAN** - Two young birds were discovered at 4 Mile Creek on Lake Lanier on 1/18 by John Paget and they remained there through the end of the period. Paul Raney reported two adults and one immature at Carrolton where the species has nested since 1968. Near Dalton Harriet DiGioia reported two at Lake Frances on 5 Feb. We seem to be getting more and more reports of this species so we probably need to keep track of its status in the state.
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** - Two birds were initially discovered with the resident flock of Canada Geese at the ELHLAF on 26 Dec. by Ellery McClintock. They were seen by a number of observers through 28 Dec. (Patrick Brisse, Francis Michael, Chris Geller and others). What were probably the same two birds were found on a small farm pond about 2-3 air miles away on 19 Jan. by Patrick Brisse. The birds remained around that farm pond until 18 Feb. when they were last reported by Patrick Brisse. At MP Anne and Vernon Waters found two birds on 26 Jan. for a rare Augusta sighting. At Eufaula NWR Robert Manns (et al.) observed a group of 20 on 28 Jan. for one of the largest flocks ever observed in Georgia.
- SNOW GOOSE** - Also exciting was a white phase adult found with the resident Canada Geese at the ELHLAF on 29 Dec. by Francis Michael and seen through 1 Jan. (Peggy and Terry Moore). One blue phase bird was found in Monroe County on 18 Feb. and remained through the end of the month (Eva and Robert Persons fide Terry Johnson). Another white phase adult was reported from Greenlawn Cemetery at Roswell by Mark Shirley. It was last seen on 14 April by Terry Moore. A last white phase bird was found at Lake Lanier on 5/25 and remained there through 29 May (John Paget).
- BRANT** - This species hasn't been recorded in the state since 1971 so a sighting of four from the Cumberland Island Ferry on 27 Jan. by Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse certainly constitutes a noteworthy record. I understand from Paul Sykes that the species may have been more "common" than usual along the North Carolina coast this winter. In addition, 107 were seen in Charleston, SC on the same date, 27 Jan. (*American Birds* 44:412). Might this be related to an eelgrass failure up north?
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** - One late bird was seen in the Macon area on 12 May (Ken and Arlene Clark).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - A female was seen on the very late date of 27 May at the ELHLAF by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller.
- NORTHERN SHOVELER** - Also late were a female at the ELHLAF on 20 May (Patrick Brisse) and a male there the next day (Christopher Rustay).
- AMERICAN WIGEON** - A late bird was at the MIA on or about 13 May (Ty Ivey).
- CANVASBACK** - This species is getting so rare that each sighting needs to be mentioned. Two were seen at the ELHLAF on 26 Dec. (Patrick Brisse) and a male was there on 1 Jan. (Peggy and Terry Moore). Three birds were seen on or about 17 Feb. at the MIA (OAS) and at Rum Creek WMA the species was recorded on 4 March by Terry Johnson.
- REDHEAD** - This species is likewise becoming rarer in the state. A female was seen at the ELHLAF on 1 Jan. (Peggy and Terry Moore) and later on 6 Jan. by Francis Michael. At Augusta one bird was seen on 6 Jan. (fide Lee Gibbs) and six on 16 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- RING-NECKED DUCK** - Two males were seen on the moderately late date of 28 April in Greene County (Paul Sykes, Bryan Watts, Peter Yaukey). Even later were a male and female at the ELHLAF through the end of May (m.ob.).
- GREATER SCAUP** - Owing to greater observer awareness of the species' occurrence, we are getting more reports every year. The first report was of one bird at Lake Juliette on 28 Dec. (fide Ken Clark). One bird was seen at the Conyers Monastery on 30 Dec. by Francis Michael. On 31 Dec. nine were seen in Greene County by Peter Yaukey. Two birds were at SCSP from 27 Jan. to 24 Feb. by Paul Raney. Two other birds were found at Lake Spivey (Clayton County) in the company of the Surf Scoter starting on 19 Jan. They were last reported on 3 March by Patrick Brisse. At the Rum Creek WMA an amazing 45 were seen on 26 Jan. by Terry Johnson and Kathy Darley. Finally, at Augusta's MP two males were seen on 31 March by Anne and Vernon Waters et al.

- LESSER SCAUP** - An impressive 20,000 were estimated by Paul and Joan Sykes at the mouth of the Savannah River between Georgia and South Carolina on 25 March.
- OLDSQUAW** - This species is rarely reported from Georgia so sightings of four on 29 Dec. and six on 31 Dec. from the Sapelo Island Ferry by Hunter Patterson and Anne Waters were quite interesting. One bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 1 Jan. by Patrick and Donna Brisse. Even more unusual was the report from the Sapelo Island area of a bird lingering until 4 May (Brad Bergstrom). This would be much later than the previous late date in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) of 11 April.
- SURF SCOTER** - An immature plumaged bird was found at the ELHLAF on 27 Dec. by Patrick Brisse. It remained there through 29 Dec. (Terry Miller, Francis Michael). Perhaps the same bird was found just a few miles away on Lake Spivey on 6 Jan. by Hugh Garrett and the bird was last reported on 4 March by Paul and Joan Sykes. Perhaps the same bird, but probably a different one, returned to the ELHLAF on 24 March (Francis Michael) and was last seen there on 15 April (Joe Greenberg et al.). At Tybee Island an impressive 34 were seen on 25 March by Paul Sykes.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - An immature plumaged bird was found at SCSP on 29 Dec. by Chris Geller and the bird remained there at least until 4 March when it was last reported by Paul and Joan Sykes. Two other birds were seen at Tybee Island on 25 March by Paul Sykes.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE** - Two birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 2 Dec. by Patrick Brisse, and a female plumaged bird was seen at MP on 6 Jan. by Calvin Zippler, George Reeves and Clarence Belger. Other single birds were seen at Lake Lanier on 28 Jan. by Peggy and Terry Moore, at the SCSP on 3 Feb. by Paul Raney, and a female plumaged bird was seen at Lake Lanier on 17 March by Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore.
- HOODED MERGANSER** - An excellent count of 145 was recorded at the ELHLAF on 3 Dec. by Patrick Brisse.
- COMMON MERGANSER** - One bird was seen at Lake Oconee on 3 March by Peter Yaukey. A flock of four was seen at the DeKalb County Regional Hospital on 17 March by Georgann Schamlz.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - A late bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 13 May during an AAS migration walk. Christopher Rustay saw an even later bird in Gilmer County as late as 18 May.
- RUDDY DUCK** - One bird in female plumage at Lake Acworth was noted by Paul Raney on the late date of 13 May.
- VULTURES** - Both species were noted migrating over Columbus on 13-14 March (Sam Pate). The migration of these species through Georgia is very poorly documented.
- BLACK VULTURE** - A very high count of 140 was recorded by Peter Yaukey in Greene County on 5 May.
- OSPREY** - Over 20 reports were received of Ospreys from inland locations. I assume most of these birds wintered along the Gulf Coast or even further south and were headed for perhaps the Great Lakes area to nest. It would be interesting to find out exactly where these birds spend their winter and summer months. Of the 20 reports the most interesting were single birds at MP on 13 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters), the MIA on 27 Jan. (Ty Ivey) and seven in Greene County on 7 April (Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** - This species was reported on two occasions in early May (dates not given) in the Macon area (fide Ken Clark). A first record for the Rum Creek WMA was a bird seen on 14 May by Eddie and Nina Arnold (fide Terry Johnson). Seven adults were seen on 18 May along Hwy 441 south of I-20 at Black Creek by Paul Raney.
- BALD EAGLE** - This species, joyfully, has returned as an often reported species. Reports were received from the following areas: Atlanta, Rum Creek WMA, Harris Neck NWR, Darien, Columbus, Carter's Lake, Lake Oconee, St. Catherine's Island, Macon, and Centerville. We want to keep reporting our sightings of the species as it attempts to recover from its DDT decimation. Nesting was confirmed only from the Rum Creek WMA.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** - An immature plumaged bird worked most of March and April building a nest in the yard of Anselm Atkins in Decatur but was apparently unsuccessful in raising any young.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - An early bird for the Atlanta area was one seen in Rockdale

County on 21 March by Paul Raney.

RED-TAILED HAWK - A bird answering the description of a Harlan's Hawk (dark form of the Red-tail) was seen near Athens on 3/4 by Chuck Hunter, Peg Gallagher, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. A bird answering the description of a Fuerte's Red-tailed Hawk was seen in the Blairsville area on 14 Jan. by Dot Freeman. The Red-tailed Hawk is so variable in plumage but most of these birds stay to the west of our area. My best current information regards the Harlan's Hawk as merely a dark phase of the Red-tail while the Fuerte's is regarded as an actual subspecies. This is, of course, subject to change at any minute.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Birds on the Lookout Plateau, where a number of the species have been hacked, were seen on 18 Feb. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and on 6 May (Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles). Elsewhere, single birds were seen in Morgan County on 29 Dec. by Scott Ranger and along the Appalachian Trail near Woody Gap on 29 May by Dot Freeman, Wayne Freeman and Steve Felker. In the future it would be good to get more details regarding the age of the birds seen.

MERLIN - Two inland reports were birds at Gordon on 1 Feb. (Carolyn Carroll) and in Greene County on 31 March (Peter Yaukey).

PEREGRINE FALCON - The only reports were from Fitzgerald on 16 Jan. by Bob Humphries, at Sapelo Island on 29 Dec. by Anne and Vernon Waters and at MP on 5 May by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore.

PLAIN CHACHALACA - Although it is a permanent resident on Sapelo Island, this species rarely receives a report. This time the OAS recorded the species during a trip to Sapelo on 21-23 April.

RUFFED GROUSE - Harriett DiGioia found a nest with 10 eggs in the CNF on 16 April. Finding a nest of this species is quite an accomplishment as it is one of the best hidden nests of the bird world.

BLACK RAIL - One bird was heard near Andrews Island on 5 May by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. This is in the same area where another bird was heard last year.

KING RAIL - The only reports were from the Atlanta area of a single bird heard calling during an exceptionally high water time along the Chattahoochee River on 1 Feb. by Peggy Moore and at Dublin on 19 May by Alan Rhodes et al.

SORA - Inland winter Sora records seem to be scarce so I thought I would mention birds at what should be an expected place - Eufaula NWR on 28 Jan. by Robert Manns et al. and on 31 Jan. by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh.

PURPLE GALLINULE - The first record for the Rum Creek WMA was seen by Terry Johnson and Eddie and Nina Arnold on 15 May.

COMMON MOORHEN - One adult at MP from 4 March through 30 May was quite interesting as the species has never nested in the area (Anne and Vernon Waters).

AMERICAN COOT - A pair at the ELHLAF on 14 April raised hopes that the species would nest again; however, only single birds were seen on 13, 20 and 27 May (m.ob.). Three birds at the Plant Scherer Ash Ponds on 19 May also raised the question as to their nesting status in the area (Terry Johnson).

SANDHILL CRANE - This species is quite an interesting one since its east coast migration funnels completely through Georgia and we have a rare opportunity to report on it. The southbound migration often continues into December with reports this year with 40+ over Roswell on 2 Dec. (Peggy Moore), 35 over Fitzgerald also on 2 Dec. (Bob Humphries), and 20 over the CNF on 6 Dec. (Harriett DiGioia). Northbound birds were first recorded when a flock of 42 was seen on the Lookout Plateau on 9-10 Feb. by Joe Greenberg. Bobby Jean Bradford had a flock of 120 near Alpharetta on 11 Feb. A pulse of birds appeared to move north during the period from 13-17 Feb. and then again on 26 Feb. before the major push between 1 and 5 March. The greater than normal numbers of birds moving north in February may have been due to the warmer than usual temperatures. The last report was 10 at the SCSP on 10 March (Paul Raney). The approximate number of northbound birds reported was 2100+.

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER - A flock of seven at Roger's Bridge near Duluth on 24 March by Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse was the only report for the period.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - A bird at the Rum Creek WMA on 17 March was quite early (OAS).

PIPING PLOVER - A bird seen at Tybee Island on 25 March by Paul and Joan Sykes had been color-banded in Massachusetts. Unfortunately some of the bands were missing so the exact date and location of banding could not be determined.

KILLDEER - A flock of 500 near Pendergrass on 4 March was John Paget's largest number ever.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Nine birds along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 13 Jan. by Paul Raney et al. was a decent count.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - There were a number of interesting inland winter reports this period. Along the Augusta Levee 20 were seen on 13 Jan. and eight on 22 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters). One was at Clark Hill on 16 Jan. and then back at Augusta's MP seven were seen on 2 Feb., two on 3 Feb. and 13 on 6 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters). In the Macon area Ty Ivey saw one at the MIA on 27 Jan. and another at the unlikely location of the Central City Park on 10 Feb.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - A late bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 2 Dec. by Patrick and Donna Brisse. This species was likewise noted during the winter with three along the Augusta Levee on 13 Jan. and 2 there on 22 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters). At the MIA the species was seen on 27 Jan. by Ty Ivey. An additional bird was seen at MP on 6 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - Rather early birds were noted on 18 March at Pendergrass (John Paget) and near Macon (Jerry and Marie Amerson). A good count of 22 was recorded at Augusta on 27 April by Anne and Vernon Waters.

WILLET - One bird was seen at Commerce Lake on 19 April by Helen Ogren, Jep Murray and Carolina H. Lane. See the General Notes section of this issue for details of this sighting.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - At Augusta, a late bird was seen on 26 May by Anne and Vernon Waters. This species probably nests in the state annually but there are very few nesting records for the entire state. Another good reason for doing a Breeding Bird Atlas some day.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Every observation of this declining species is of interest but the count of 17 at the Augusta Airport on 5 April by Anne and Vernon Waters was truly outstanding.

MARBLED GODWIT - Five birds were seen at Sapelo Island on 29 Dec. by Anne and Vernon Waters and two birds were seen at Jekyll Island on 7 Jan. by Robert Manns.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Fifteen birds seen at MP on 3 Feb. was evidently the fourth winter record for the species at Augusta (Anne and Vernon Waters et al.).

LEAST SANDPIPER - Two birds at the ELHLAF on 2 and 3 Dec. were evidently migrants as they were not seen on later dates (Patrick and Donna Brisse). The species was recorded at the MIA on 27 Jan. by Ty Ivey and an amazing 60 were seen at MP on 3 Feb. by Anne and Vernon Waters.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - One bird was in Forsyth County on 11 May by Joe Greenberg. It was seen again on 13 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos. John and Jack saw an additional bird at Pendergrass on 12 May. Another bird was at the ELHLAF on 27 May (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - A bird at Abbott's Bridge in Gwinnett County on 4 March by Hugh Garrett was relatively early. Anne and Vernon Waters remarked that the species appeared to be less common than normal.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Four birds were reported by the OAS from Tybee Island the weekend of 12-14 Jan.

DUNLIN - Very unusual for Atlanta was a bird at the ELHLAF on 2 Dec. by Patrick and Donna Brisse.

STILT SANDPIPER - Ten was an excellent count from the MIA on 14 April by Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Inland dowitchers are always worth mentioning so a bird at the ELHLAF on 13 May during an AAS migration walk was of interest.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Fifty were reported along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 14 Jan. by Paul Sykes. Identification was made based on their calls. This species is very poorly known in Georgia owing to its close similarity to the Short-billed Dowitcher. We need to do a lot of work to understand the status of this species in the state.

COMMON SNIFE - Thirteen was a rather high count for such a late date as 28 April in Greene County (Paul Sykes, Bryan Watts, Peter Yaukey).

- AMERICAN WOODCOCK - Although very few reports were received of this species during what should be its most active period, I still feel this species is doing fairly well and can be found if observers are out at an appropriate time. Comments and status reports would be welcomed.
- RED PHALAROPE - A bird briefly appeared at the CCWTP on 3/3. The bird was discovered by Chuck Hunter and Peg Gallagher in the morning and the bird was gone by mid-afternoon. This is the second record for the Atlanta area.
- LAUGHING GULL - Patrick Brisse saw three gulls over his house on 28 April, one of which could definitely be identified as a Laughing Gull. This species is quite rare coming through the Atlanta area and just happens to be the same day that Paul Sykes reported 17 at Lake Oconee. An additional bird was seen at the Lake Nottely Golf Course on 17 May by Joe Greenberg.
- BONAPARTE'S GULL - This species now appears to be more common than before on our larger lakes during the winter. Unusual sightings were 15 over a residential area in Roswell on 2 Dec. by Peggy and Terry Moore. Rarely is this species seen away from water. Lydia Thompson et al. found an immature bird at Andrews Island near Brunswick on the very late date of 19 May. Could this bird have been sick and unable to migrate?
- HERRING GULL - This species also appears to be on the increase inland. A high count of 16 immatures were at MP on 24 Dec. (Anne and Vernon Waters) and Paul Sykes, Bryan Watts and Peter Yaukey sighted 29 (4 adults and 25 immatures) at Lake Oconee on 28 April. This was the same day they had Laughing Gulls there and Patrick Brisse had more Laughing Gulls in Atlanta so there must have been a rather large movement of gulls through inland Georgia on that date. A late bird was an adult at the Plant Scherer settling pond on 19 May (Terry Johnson and Nina Arnold).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - An adult which remained at Tybee Island throughout the winter was last reported on 1 April (m.ob.).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - This species continues to increase along the coast and it is not that uncommon to find them late into the period. Maurice Crenshaw reported the species from Jekyll Island the first week of May.
- GULL-BILLED TERN - Andrews Island near Brunswick played host to the species with two there on 5 May (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore) and nine there on 19 May (Lydia Thompson et al.).
- CASPIAN TERN - Four birds at the MIA on 14 April by Ty Ivey and Ken and Arlene Clark were quite interesting as inland records of the species are quite uncommon.
- COMMON TERN - A bird on Lake Lanier on 13 May by John Paget was his earliest record ever for the lake.
- ARCTIC TERN - A bird was seen by Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore on Jekyll Island's South Beach on 5 May. Please see details published elsewhere in this issue. This appears to be the sixth record for Georgia but only the second onshore record.
- FORSTER'S TERN - A count of 316 at Tybee Island on 25 March by Paul and Joan Sykes was rather astounding. Two birds at Lake Oconee on 28 April by Paul Sykes, Bryan Watts and Peter Yaukey was further evidence of a strong movement of gulls and terns through inland Georgia that day.
- LEAST TERN - Lydia Thompson et al. reported about 500 from Andrews Island with many nesting pairs on 19 May. Unfortunately there are no further details on the nesting success of this large aggregation.
- BLACK TERN - An early bird was seen at Lake Lanier on 28 April by John Paget for his first April record. A count of 20-25 on the same lake on 21 May was a decent number (John Paget). Elsewhere, one was seen at MP on 26 May by Anne and Vernon Waters.
- BROWN NODDY - Evidently a specimen was found on Cumberland Island during the period and has been confirmed but no details have been submitted to *The Oriole* substantiating this record.
- BLACK SKIMMER - An excellent count of 1500 was recorded at Tybee Island on 25 March by Paul and Joan Sykes.
- MOURNING DOVE - A pair fledged young at the Conyers Monastery on a rather early date of 23 March (Francis Michael).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Rarely reported anymore, the species was seen at Harris Neck NWR along the coast on 22 April by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh. Another

- bird was seen in Dawson County on 13 May by John Paget.
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - A very early bird was reported from the Columbus area on 1 April by Florence Lynn (fide Sam Pate). Terry Johnson remarked that one bird at Rum Creek WMA on 16 May was his first of the year. Is this species declining or just scarce this year?
- COMMON BARN-OWL - Evidently the bird can still be found near Social Circle according to Bill Blakeslee who saw it there on 16 Jan. Is this a declining species or are we just lazy in getting out during the night to search for the species? Several secondhand reports indicate the species may still be doing well in rural Georgia. Documentation of this would be welcome in *The Oriole*.
- SHORT-EARED OWL - Birds found wintering in the Athens area were last reported on 14 March by Barny Dunning. The highest count there was five on 20 Feb. by Bill Pulliam.
- CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - At Darien, the earliest arrival date was 31 March (Don and Doris Cohrs). Joel Hitt had the earliest bird in the Atlanta area with one at Stone Mountain on 14 April.
- WHIP-POOR-WILL - Early birds were recorded from Harris County on 10 March by Tom Breazeale and at Roswell on 13 March by Terry Moore.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Rather early birds were seen at Elko in Houston County on 18 March by Dan and Pam Guynn and at Augusta on 22 March by Merle and Susan Temple (fide Lee Gibbs).
- RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - A immature male which wintered at Smarr was banded (Terry Johnson) as were two birds which wintered in the Atlanta and Social Circle areas (fide Terry Moore). An unidentified hummingbird lingered until 22 Dec. in the Augusta area (fide Lee Gibbs).
- RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER - Birds were reported from the Laura Walker State Park on 14 April by Don and Doris Cohrs and at the Piedmont NWR on 21 April during an AAS field trip.
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - One bird was seen in Gilmer County on 29 April by Christopher Rustay. Another bird was seen at the CRNRA on 5 May (Paul Raney). The last report was a late bird on the Georgia side of the Eufaula NWR on 26 May by Joe Greenberg et al.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - One bird had returned by 5 May to the Greene County location where several birds were noted last year (Peter Yaukey).
- GRAY KINGBIRD - Two birds on St. Simons Island were seen near the lighthouse on 19 May by Paul Raney. This is a somewhat new location for the species as I have never heard of its being reported from there.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - The bird which appeared at Cartersville for the previous three years unfortunately did not reappear this spring.
- HORNED LARK - In the Atlanta area the only place where this species can reliably be found is at the Etowah Indian Mounds near Cartersville where John and Kate Swiderski observed the species throughout the period. Elsewhere 25 were seen on the Lookout Plateau on 10 Dec. by Bruce Dralle and 50 were in Oconee County on 5 Jan. by Barny Dunning.
- PURPLE MARTIN - The earliest reports were a few at the Okefenokee NWR on 10 Feb. (Sheila Willis) and at Eastman on 12 Feb. (Donny Screws).
- BARN SWALLOW - A bird at the ELHLAF on 10 March by Hugh Garrett was early.
- FISH CROW - In just a few years this species has gone from accidental to uncommon summer resident in the northern Piedmont with some birds remaining through the winter. The first birds were seen in the Columbus area on 4 Feb. (Ron Rood fide Sam Pate) and 11 Feb. (75 birds) by Sam Pate and Mary Budnaitis. Other sightings were at the Hall County landfill on 3/5 (John Paget) and at Carrollton where Paul Raney saw four on 3/17 near some old or incomplete nests.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Sightings included one bird in Decatur on 13 Jan. (Anselm Atkins), one bird in NW GA the weekend of 9-10 Feb. (Joe Greenberg), two birds at Big Buck Mountain in Gilmer County on 20 April (Christopher Rustay) and one late bird in the Columbus area until 11 May (Florence Lynn fide Sam Pate).
- BEWICK'S WREN - This very rare species was recorded by Harriett DiGioia in NW GA on 5 March and by Don and Joyce Duncan near Kathleen on 7 April.
- SEDGE WREN - One was reported from the CRNRA on 14 April during an AAS migration walk for one of Atlanta's few recent records.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - One bird was seen at Augusta on 6 Jan. for a rather rare winter record for that area (fide Lee Gibbs).

HERMIT THRUSH - One bird was late in the Columbus area on 17 April (Florence Lynn fide Sam Pate).

AMERICAN ROBIN - A pair already had fledged young near Athens on 19 March (Barney Dunning).

GRAY CATBIRD - A bird near Athens on 13 Feb. was noteworthy as the species is rarely reported during the winter after the CBCs are over (Barney Dunning).

BROWN THRASHER - Two fledged young were already near Athens on 13 April (Paul and Joan Sykes). Most Brown Thrasher nests only have eggs by this time of the year.

WATER PIPIT - A bird was seen on the late date of 13 May in Forsyth County by John Paget and Jack Carusos for a late date.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - Evidently the species was in good numbers during the winter as Jerry and Marie Amerson counted 24 on a drive from Emmanuel County to Macon in late Dec. and Barney Dunning and Bryan Watts counted at least 50 in Oconee, Clark and Oglethorpe counties in December and January.

WHITE-EYED VIREO - A bird at Macon on 11 Feb. (Jerry and Marie Amerson) was probably an overwintering bird whereas a bird at the ELHLAF on 24 March was probably a relatively early migrant for the Atlanta area (Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - The earliest arrival date for the Darien area was 17 March (Don and Doris Cohrs).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Three birds were reported from the CRNRA on 21 April during an AAS migration walk.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - Two sightings of this rare hybrid were made in the Blairsville area the weekend of 9-10 May by Joe Greenberg et al. One bird sang the song of a Blue-winged and the other sang like a Golden-winged.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - One bird was seen in the Peachtree Hills area of Atlanta on 1 Jan. by Hunter Patterson and Patrick Brisse reported three near the ELHLAF on 14 April.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - The only report was from Forsyth County on 11 May by Joe Greenberg.

NORTHERN PARULA - The first report was from the Darien area on 5 March (Don and Doris Cohrs). Another early bird was seen in Harris County on 12 March by Bill Birkhead.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Two birds near Marietta on 23 March by Adrienne Myles were early for the Atlanta area.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - One bird at Augusta on 14 Jan. was a good find by Anne and Vernon Waters.

CERULEAN WARBLER - The only report for the period was a bird at Fernbank Forest on 14 April during an AAS migration walk.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Wintering birds were recorded at Augusta on 6 Jan. (fide Lee Gibbs) and at MP on 27 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters). What was most likely an early migrant was a bird in Harris County on 12 March (Bill Birkhead).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Single birds were seen near the ELHLAF on 14-15 April by Joe Greenberg and on 26 April in Walton County by Joel Hitt. The bird near the ELHLAF was again reported from there on 13 May (AAS migration walk). Another bird was reported from the Conyers Monastery on several dates during May by Francis Michael. At Augusta a pair was noted at the Levee on 26 May probably indicating nesting in that area (Anne and Vernon Waters).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - The first bird noted from the Atlanta area was one near the ELHLAF on 18 March by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - A bird was heard singing in the Dawson Forest on 13 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos. Always uncommon to rare in the Atlanta area, it appears to be rarer now than just a few years ago. Another bird was heard near the Conyer's Monastery on 12-13 May by Paul Raney.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - One bird in Whitfield County on 14 Jan. by Harriett DiGioia was a rare winter record for that area.

HOODED WARBLER - The first bird noted in the Darien area was on 26 March by Don and Doris Cohrs.

WILSON'S WARBLER - A male was seen by Christopher Rustay at the CRNRA on 11 May.

Another male was seen in Atlanta on 19 May by Hunter Patterson.

BLUE GROSBEAK - An early bird was found in Monroe County on 15 April by Harold and Kathy Darley.

INDIGO BUNTING - A female plumaged bird was seen at John Yarborough's feeder at Gainesville on 22 Feb. through at least 24 Feb. (John Paget). See the General Notes section of this issue for details of this sighting. Another bird was seen in Gordon County on 30 March by Carolyn Carroll (fide Ken Clark).

PAINTED BUNTING - In the Macon area this species was recorded from 12 May (Jerry Amerson) through mid-June (Ty Ivey and Paul Hoinowski).

DICKCISSEL - A bird was discovered at the Rum Creek WMA Visitor Center feeder on 13 Dec. (Kathy Darley) and was seen by a number of observers through the end of the month. Five were seen in the Subigna area in NW GA on 27 April by David Brown and Kris Poulsen. Robert Manns and Ann Wyand found a male and female about 50 miles or so east of Atlanta on 5 May and both birds were seen again the next day by Robert Manns and Adrienne Myles. At least the male was still there on 20 May (Brigitte Wofford). See the General Notes section of this issue for more details of this sighting. On 13 May Terry Johnson and Eddie and Nina Arnold found a singing male in Monroe County. On 14 May the same observers found one singing male in Monroe County and two in Lamar County. The same observers found four singing males in the same areas on 19 May.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - This species was encountered at the Rum Creek WMA and at Piedmont NWR on 21 April during an AAS field trip. At Callaway Gardens the species was detected on 4 May by Dorothy and Bob Potts. In Henry County, Dale Hardee reported at least two birds singing near his home on 22 May for a rare record for the Atlanta area.

VESPER SPARROW - A very late bird (14 days later than the previous state record) was seen at the Plant Scherer settling pond on 19 May by Terry Johnson and Nina Arnold.

SAVANNAH SPARROW - A high count of 501 was reported from the Arnoldsville area (Oglethorpe County) in Jan. by Bill Pulliam (fide Barney Dunning).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Seven was an excellent winter count near Arnoldsville on 8 Feb. (Barney Dunning). Joe Greenberg found one in the Fairplay area on 24 March and Terry Johnson reported a significant number in Monroe County in excellent habitat on 29 April.

LECONTE'S SPARROW - This rarely reported species was seen in Greene County on 3 and 17 March by Peter Yaukey.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - John Paget encountered a singing bird in Dawson County on 6 May. Another late bird was seen by Christopher Rustay on 12 May in Gilmer County.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - This species was reported by a number of observers around the state but generally in small numbers. Exceptions were the 25 in Madison County in Dec. (Bill Pulliam fide Barney Dunning) and the 25-30 in the Pendergrass area on 25 March (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Late reports were two adults at MP on 1 May (Anne and Vernon Waters) and a single bird still at Pendergrass on 12 May (Bruce Dralle).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - A "Pink-sided" Junco was reported from the Athens area on 11 Dec. and 20 Jan. by Peter Yaukey. An "Oregon" Junco was reported from Callaway Gardens on 26 Feb. by Lyle Bundt. Although these are now regarded merely as forms of the Dark-eyed Junco, it would still be worthwhile to document these sightings in *The Oriole*. A very late bird appeared at the Rum Creek WMA from 26 April through 3 May (Terry Johnson).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - Twenty+ was a good count of this species near Cartersville on 27 Jan. by Peggy and Terry Moore and John and Kate Swiderski. Thirty+ were seen at the Conyers Monastery on 22 Feb. by Francis Michael. It seems this species gets harder and harder to find with each passing year.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - One female was seen in Banks County on 4 March by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD - Paul Sykes expressed grave concern over the abundance of this species and the effect this is having on our nesting birds, especially the tropical migrants.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - An early bird was seen at Callaway Gardens on 12 April by Luann

Creighton.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - A wintering bird was seen at Milledgeville on 21 and 22 Feb. by Dwight Harley. By late April the species had returned to Macon's Central City Park where they have nested in the past (fide Ken Clark).

HOUSE FINCH - This species continues to expand its range with small flocks appearing as far south as Waycross on 7 Jan. (Sheila Willis). At Forsyth the species is expanding its presence into the late spring and summer (Terry Johnson). At Augusta it is already regarded as a nuisance (Anne and Vernon Waters).

RED CROSSBILL - John Paget observed a flock of about 13 near Commerce Lake on 20 Jan. This is the first report away from the Cohuttas in NW Georgia in a long time.

PINE SISKIN - Large numbers were reported by many observers throughout the northern half of the state with the 300+ in Union County between 15 and 22 May being the highest count (Dot Freeman et al.). Three birds remained at a Roswell feeder through the end of May (Peggy and Terry Moore). See the General Notes section of this issue for more details of this sighting.

COMMON REDPOLL - Two unsubstantiated reports were received. One from the Blairsville area (date unknown - fide Virginia Felker) and the other near Tifton the week of 21 Jan. (fide Ken Clark). These sightings would have to be well documented before they could be given serious consideration especially since it appears that this was not a redpoll invasion year.

EVENING GROSBEAK - Small numbers were noted in the northern half of Georgia mostly during Feb. and March. The last report came from Augusta on 12 April (Merle and Susan Temple).

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