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LEACH'S STORM-PETREL AND RARE GULLS AT SAPELO ISLAND

Thomas S. Parsons and Anthony L. Lang

From 15 May to 1 June 1991, we were at the University of Georgia's Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, with D.W. Dunham and N. Van Wynsberghe, giving a University of Toronto course in Field Ornithology. We spent considerable time on the beaches there and during that time we found several species worth reporting. All the photographs in this article were taken by A.L.L. using a Pentax MX with a 300 mm Tamron telephoto lens.

Leach's Storm-Petrel

At approximately 0800 on 25 May, one of us (T.S.P.) noted two storm-petrels on Nannygoat Beach, a short way south of the end of Beach Road. One was badly battered and barely alive, and the other was flying weakly over the surf only a few meters from shore. The first clearly had short legs with no yellow in the webbing, but the tail was too damaged to tell its shape. From 1315 to 1430 both of us were in the same area and saw up to four live storm-petrels at once, plus one dead one on the beach. We watched and photographed two of the four for some time, and then found, watched, and photographed two more which could have been the other two of the original four or different birds. We were able to get within two meters of them as they flut-tered over the surf or sat on the water.

All the birds appeared to be the same size and were generally a very dark sooty brown rather than black. The upper tail coverts were entirely white, except that on most of them a dusky stripe along the midline could be seen crossing the white patch (Fig. 1). On none of them did the feet ever project behind the tail, and we could see no yellow on any of them, though we did not always see the feet clearly. The pale band on the greater wing coverts was always obvious, contrasting strongly with the generally dark body. The white rump patch did not extend onto the side of the body or to the ventral surface.

When the birds were on the water, the tail was closed and its shape could not be seen. When they were landing, the tail was usually spread so widely that it appeared square. However, as they started to fold it, the tail was clearly forked. When they were flying, they sometimes pattered their feet on the surface with their wings outstretched and raised in the onshore breeze. They occasionally dipped their bills in the water, apparently feeding.

The dead bird (Fig. 2) had short legs, dark webbing on the feet, the white on the upper tail coverts restricted to the dorsal surface, and with a darker median stripe across it. Since its head was missing, it was not possible to

measure its length, but the bird must have been at least 20 cm long. The forked tail was evident.



Figure 1. Leach's Storm-Petrel flying over surf at Nannygoat Beach, Sapelo Island. Note the large pale band on the greater wing coverts, the restriction of the white rump patch to the dorsal surface, the size of the patch, and the dark band along its midline.

The forked tail, size, dark streak across the white rump, absence of white on the side of the rump, and short legs with dark feet all appeared to eliminate Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) as a possibility (Peterson 1980; Scott, 1987). The degree of forking of the tail, pale band on the greater wing coverts, and the size of and dark streak on the white rump appeared to eliminate the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) (Scott, 1987). All of the characters, however, were consistent with those of Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) (Harrison, 1983; Tuck and Heinzel, 1978). Although we could not see the forked tail or the darker median streak on the rump in all the birds, the size and very marked pale streak on the greater wing coverts would appear to preclude more than one species being present. The dark median rump streak was evident in all of the photographed birds.

Later in the afternoon of 25 May, Dunham and Van Wynsberghe also saw Leach's Storm-Petrels at Nannygoat Beach. The following morning T.S.P. saw three live ones over the surf at Cabretta Beach and two dead ones on the beach, again all apparently Leach's Storm-Petrel.

The weather both 24 and 25 May was mainly clear and very warm with light winds. There had been rain 23 May, but we know of no special condi-

tions that would have driven the storm-petrels in to the shore. We noted no other pelagic birds from the shore those days, even though we were looking for them.

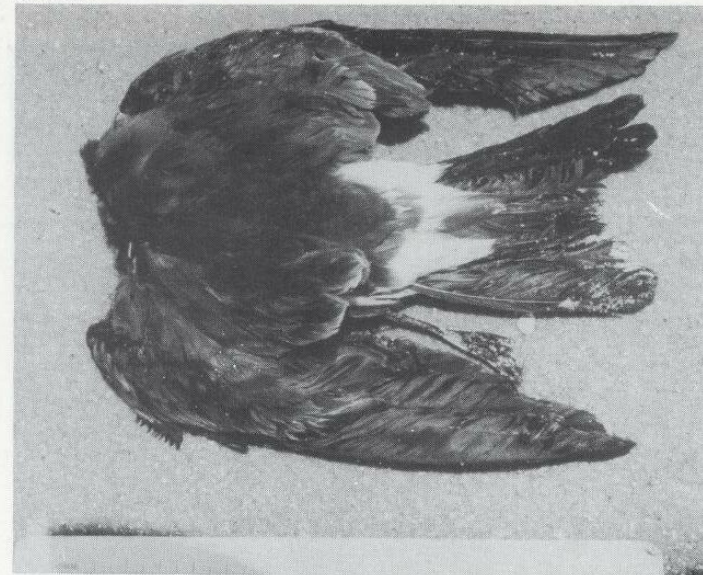


Figure 2. Dead Leach's Storm-Petrel on Nannygoat Beach, Sapelo Island. Note the forked tail, short leg, dark foot, and the white upper tail coverts with the dark median stripe.

Haney et al. (1986) include Wilson's and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels on the "Regular species list" of Georgia birds, but place Leach's Storm-Petrel on the "provisional" list, noting only three sight records, all offshore, and no specimens or photographs. Although this species is regular though rare off the North Carolina coast (e.g., LeGrand, 1990 a and b), the seasonal reports in *American Birds* for the years since the compilation of Haney et al. (1986) do not mention any Leach's Storm-Petrels from Georgia. Thus the photographs included here (Figs. 1 and 2) would appear to be the first documentation of the species for Georgia.

Rare Gulls

On the afternoon of 17 May, we, and Dunham and Van Wynsberghe all saw a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) near the north end of Nannygoat Beach. It was with and clearly considerably larger than Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) (Fig. 3). It was very pale, almost white, with some very pale buffy brown. Although we did not note any gray on the mantle, the pattern would suggest a second summer rather than a first summer bird (Grant, 1986). Haney et al. (1986) consider this species "accidental" and note only

five records. Although LeGrand (1991) considers this species to be regular on the coast of North Carolina in winter and reports one lingering into June, the seasonal reports in *American Birds* do not mention any from Georgia in the years following the compilation of Haney et al. (1986).



Figure 3. Glaucous and Herring Gulls on Nannygoat Beach, Sapelo Island. Note the large size and completely pale aspect of the former.

On 28 May T.S.P. saw another white-winged gull. As he was alone and had no camera capable of photographing it, there is no documentary evidence. The gull was basically white with a very small amount of pale buffy brown. It was very near Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*), and appeared almost one and a half times as long. This would appear to rule out a Glaucous Gull which should be closer to twice as long. Also the head appeared rounded, not flat, and the wing tips extended well beyond the end of the tail when the bird was standing on the beach. Thus the bird may have been an Iceland Gull (*L. glaucooides*), a species that T.S.P. knows reasonably well from Ontario (and elsewhere) in the winter. However, a recent report of an Iceland Gull in Florida which later was thought to be either a leucistic Herring Gull or a hybrid points out the difficulty of identifying this species (Langridge 1990).

The bird was seen at close range, approximately 20 m, and the primaries and tail feathers could be seen to be extremely worn, with their outer parts little more than bare quills. Since only the distal part of the bill was dark, it was presumably a second summer bird (Grant, 1986). Haney et al. (1986) consider Iceland Gull "accidental" in Georgia and give only five records, and we could find no subsequent reports of it from the state in *American Birds*.

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UNPRECEDENTED WATERBIRDS AT LAKE NOTTELY

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Historically, the Georgia mountain region was probably devoid of most waterbirds simply because of a lack of suitable habitat. Large rivers were few, and the streams were shallow, swift, and rocky. Marshes were scarce and small, while mudflats were almost nonexistent.

In the 1940's, the Tennessee Valley Authority constructed three large reservoirs in the area: Lakes Chatuge, Blue Ridge and Nottely. These lakes provided large areas of open water suitable for migrating loons, grebes, gulls, terns, ducks, and other waterbirds which probably began to appear in the mountain region as these lakes were filled. Before that, the waterbirds of the region were probably limited to the ubiquitous Killdeer, the Belted Kingfisher, and (perhaps) the Green-backed Heron. Among the sandpipers, probably only the Spotted and the Solitary Sandpiper could be found with any regularity.

The large reservoirs undoubtedly changed the avifauna of the region by providing some areas of habitat for herons and shorebirds if the water level was favorable. In some years, sandbars and mudflats become available as the water recedes to its annual low point, usually reached in early winter. Flood control is one major purpose of these lakes, so TVA policy is to draw the lakes down in winter to receive spring rains. Water levels are usually high during spring migration, so shorebird habitat is limited, but in the fall some areas of good habitat are exposed in some years. Exactly where this habitat is located varies from year to year, depending on the water level. An area that attracts birds one year may be flooded or overgrown the next.

On 31 July 1990, while searching for waterbirds in the vicinity of Lake Nottely, Union County, Georgia, the authors located an extensive area (c. 10 acres) of mudflats on the east side of the lake where highway 129 crosses Ivy Log Creek. On this day, the water level was about 1772 feet above sea level. The maximum (summer) level for Lake Nottely is 1779 ft. and the minimum (winter) level is 1735 ft. This area provides perhaps the largest area of prime shorebird habitat in the Georgia mountains if the water level is right. The area was checked daily from 31 July through 10 August 1990 and a number of interesting species were recorded. The area was visited again by Loftin in late July and early August 1991. All the following observations refer to Ivy Log Creek unless otherwise noted.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) - One seen on 1 August 1990 was still present on 2 August 1990, but not thereafter. This individual was moulting into adult plumage, giving the neck and upper breast a mottled appearance, but the lower belly was dark, ruling out the possibility of a Great Cormorant (*P. carbo*). This species is rare in the mountain region.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - One or two seen every day. A maximum of 4 was recorded on 13 August 1991.

* Deceased 13 August 1993.

Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) - In 1990, a lone individual first seen 31 July was still present on 10 August. A few reach the Georgia mountains in post-breeding dispersal in most years, but on 13 and 15 August 1991 seven were at Ivy Log Creek. This is a very large concentration for the mountain region. The species is usually less common than the Little Blue Heron.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - A maximum of 12 seen on 31 July 1990 were all immatures in white plumage. Young herons of this species reach the Georgia mountains annually in post-breeding dispersal from southern or coastal colonies. It usually outnumbers the Great Egret, but in 1991 the ratio was reversed at Ivy Log Creek. While up to 7 Great Egrets were present, no more than 5 Little Blue Herons were seen at any one time.

Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) - One or two seen daily with a maximum of 4 on 13 August 1991. The species does nest at a few favored sites in the mountain region (Loftin and Green 1985) so it may nest in the vicinity.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) - This species has been introduced into the area by the Georgia Game and Fish Commission. In 1990, a maximum of 140 individuals, many marked with neck rings, was recorded on 3 August 1990. The species vacated the area as the water level receded. An even larger number of 261 was counted late in the day on 7 August 1991 when flocks converged on the area from surrounding pastures.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) - A few seen daily with a maximum of 18 on 7 August 1991. As many as 25, many of which were young of the year, were located at several points around the lake and at the sewage treatment plant in Blairsville on 31 July 1990. This duck is apparently a recent invader of the mountain region as a breeding species (Loftin and Green 1985). A female with 5 well-grown young was at Ivy Log Creek on 8 August 1991.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) - One in female plumage seen on 7 and 8 August 1991. The bird was flushed so that the wing-pattern could be seen. This appears to be a new early record for Georgia (Haney et al. 1986).

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) - A female with 3 well-grown young was present on 7 August 1991. With this species the question of domesticity is always present, but this group fled the sight of a human. Feral Mallards are now common on Lake Chatuge in Towns county, but few have been seen on Lake Nottely, although some were released by property owners on the Nottely River above the lake (Dot Freeman, pers. comm.). A flock of 9 noted at Ivy Log Creek on 15 August 1991 were probably wild migrants.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) - Five seen on 2 August 1990 may be a new early record for the state (Haney et al. 1986). The flock was gone the next day.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) - One or two Bald Eagles were seen at Ivy Log Creek in April, May, and June of 1991 by Dot Freeman and others (pers. comm.). An adult (white head and tail) flew over the area on 7 August 1991.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) - This species is a rare transient in the mountain region, but single birds were seen on 1 and 3 August 1990. This probably represents two different individuals, since none were present in the area on 2 August. A maximum of two was seen on 8 August 1990. None were seen in 1991.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) - This species is accidental in the interior of the state (Haney et al. 1986), but one was seen on 2 and 3 August 1990. In 1991 two were seen on 9 and 15 August. These were not the same two individuals since one of the two seen on 15 August was missing the toes on the right foot, hence at least three individuals were involved. The birds were flushed so that the light rump and tail pattern were clearly seen.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) - A few seen every day with a maximum of 20 on 13 August 1991.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) - A maximum of 2 seen on 1 and 2 August 1990. One was noted on 7 August 1991.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) - In 1990, only one seen and not until 10 August when the water level had receded and few other water birds were seen in the area. Four were present on 13 August 1991.

Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*) - This rare transient was recorded only once, a single bird seen 2 August 1990 but not thereafter.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularis*) - Uncommon but seen almost daily in small numbers.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) - Small "peeps" which could not be identified with confidence were present on several occasions. One studied at close range in good light for a prolonged period and compared with Least and Pectoral Sandpipers on 2 August 1990 could definitely be assigned to this species. Another was recorded on 15 August 1991. Loftin was able to get close enough to this individual to see the webbing between the front toes which is characteristic of this species.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*) - Four seen on 2 August 1990 were still in good alternate plumage. A maximum of 23 was counted on 15 August 1991.

Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) - In 1990, this was the most common shorebird in the area. It was seen daily with a maximum of 27 on 1 August 1990. In 1991, the maximum seen was 11 on 13 August, hence the Least Sandpiper was more common.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) - One was seen in alternate plumage on 1 August 1990. The bird was not present the following day. Loftin, who has extensive experience with the species on the breeding grounds in Alaska (as well as 30 years of experience with both Long and Short-billed Dowitchers in Florida), was able to get close enough to identify the bird by the call note. This appears to be a new species for the Georgia mountains (Burleigh 1958; Haney et al. 1986).

In 1990, as the water level receded to a low of 1769 feet on 10 August, the number and variety of waterbirds on the Ivy Log Creek mudflats steadily diminished. At the end of the study period, what had been a "migrant trap"

had become merely a dry sandy area with a few Killdeer and herons. In 1991, the water level was a few inches higher, but the area again had a high concentration of unusual water birds between 28 July and 15 August. Unfortunately, the senior author had to leave the area while the Ivy Log migrant trap was still providing excellent habitat. It seems clear that a variety of waterbirds pass through the mountain region annually, but seldom stop because desirable habitat is ephemeral or lacking.

Acknowledgments - The authors are indebted to Dot Freeman for communicating several helpful records.

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SELASPHORUS HUMMINGBIRDS IN THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA

W. Leon Neel, Julia G. Neel and Robert L. Crawford

At 1825 on 22 September 1990, Julia Neel saw a distinctly brownish hummingbird competing with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) for feeding space at her feeding station in southern Thomas County, Georgia. The bird appeared to be a female Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), and was quite successful in feeding.

This bird was seen throughout 23 September at the feeders and hawking for insects from the topmost exposed branch of an ornamental maple adjacent to a flower plot for butterflies. The striking bird apparently became site-specific to the maple tree perch, using it frequently the next day after appearing at 0730, when it was seen by Crawford, Charles and Julie Watt, and W. Wilson Baker. The rufous aspect of the bird was obvious at 20 m to the naked eye, and closer, through 20X optics, we could see that the rufous was most noticeable on the flanks, the lower back, the sides of the tail at the base of the rectrices, and on top of the head. The upper back and the central rectrices appeared green. The throat was neither streaked nor heavily blotched, but was clear except for two tiny distinct spots. The bird was present through the morning of the 26th, for the most part occupying the maple perch and hawking for insects, or making short forays into the butterfly garden to feed from the *Salvia coccinea*, *S. rutilans*, and other plants.

The bird was not seen for about 36 hours until 1800 of 27 September when it appeared on the maple perch. It fed in the area for about 30 minutes, left, and we did not see it again.

Although we had many excellent, highly magnified views of this bird perched and in flight, and believe it was probably an immature female Rufous Hummingbird, all the standard field guides we consulted indicated we could not rule out the possibility of an Allen's Hummingbird (*S. sasin*). "Female and immature Allen's are, in fact, indistinguishable from female and immature Rufous Hummingbirds under field conditions." (Kaufman 1990, p. 170). Even though the overwhelming evidence is for the Rufous Hummingbird as the most likely of the two species to occur in the eastern United States (Conway and Drennan 1979), specimens of Allen's Hummingbird have been taken in Louisiana and Massachusetts (Andrews and Baltosser 1989), so there are no safe assumptions as to identification.

In March of 1991, James NeSmith reported to Julia Neel that he had seen a hummingbird around his house and greenhouse in central Thomas County for several days near Christmas, 1990; this or another similar bird had been at his brother's greenhouse about a quarter-mile away at about the same time. As any winter record of a hummingbird is of considerable interest, the Neel's encouraged NeSmith to notify them of any similar occurrences.

On 3 April 1991 NeSmith found a dead, completely desiccated hummingbird in his brother's greenhouse, hanging from a small wire by its feet. The specimen was donated to Tall Timbers Research Station (catalog number 3934), where it was examined by R. Todd Engstrom and Henry M. Stevenson. They determined the bird to be an immature female Rufous

Hummingbird, based on Stiles' (1972) criteria, particularly the width of the outer rectrix (4.14 mm).

We have heard from time-to-time of other winter hummingbird sightings in Thomas County, but only two are sufficiently documented to warrant comment; both occurred in the winter of 1984-1985. First, D. Jack Dozier saw a hummingbird on 23 December 1984 while part of the Thomasville, Georgia Christmas Bird Count (Crawford 1985), but his glimpse was so fleeting he could not confidently assign the bird to genus. Second, J.F. Norris told Crawford that a "Rufous" hummingbird had been present at his Thomasville feeding station throughout the winter of 1984-1985, including the bitter hard freeze of 20-21 January, when Crawford's Thomas County thermometer registered -2 F! Norris said he and his wife had to bring the feeder into the house periodically that day to keep it thawed. Unfortunately, no extreme dates for this bird were kept nor were photographs taken, but from Norris' description, it was almost certainly a Rufous/Allen's type *Selasphorus*.

The first Georgia record for the Rufous Hummingbird did not occur until 6 November 1978 (Howe 1979). Since then, more than a dozen sightings of Rufous-type hummingbirds have been reported and the species has apparently been confirmed in some cases by photographs and measured captives (Manns 1985, Parrish 1986, Brisse 1988b, 1989). The unusual frequency of sightings has been reported in the popular press (Foster 1990). The evidence still supports the Rufous Hummingbird as the most likely to occur here, but until field identification techniques are further developed, extreme caution in sight records for *Selasphorus* must be the rule (Kaufman 1990, Brisse 1987, 1988a).

We are grateful to Stevenson and Engstrom for their time and effort towards identifying the specimen; W.H. Baltosser consulted with them by telephone on the matter and we are grateful to him as well.

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GENERAL NOTES

HORNED GREBES SUMMERING AT LAKE LANIER - The Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) is a fairly common winter visitor at Lake Lanier and could even be considered to be abundant some winters (I saw over 200 there on 23 January 1972).

From 1967, when I first started watching birds, through 1979, I never saw any Horned Grebes at Lake Lanier during the summer but in 1980 I observed a breeding plumaged bird on 19 June and later on 2 and 14 July. I did not observe summer occurrences again until 1990. That summer two birds were observed many times from the same vantage point (Van Tavern Park in Forsyth County). The birds were seen on many dates between 1 June and 17 August.

On 17 May 1991 I saw two breeding plumaged Horned Grebes diving fairly close to shore at the same place. One of the birds noticed me and swam about 100 m farther out and began to call to its companion. The second bird did not seem to notice me and continued to feed for another twenty minutes or so. It finally appeared to notice the seemingly frantic calls of its companion and swam out to join it.

On 23 May 1991 I observed what were apparently the same two birds being disturbed by a third Horned Grebe again at the same place. Two of the birds may have been a mated pair as there was much chasing and other violent interaction before one bird left the vicinity. Two birds were subsequently observed from the same vantage point from 3 June until 6 August 1991. No apparently suitable nesting habitat could be observed anywhere close to where the birds were. It is unknown whether these birds had been injured as they were never observed to take flight.

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VIRGINIA RAILS SUMMER IN CHEROKEE COUNTY - After finding several Soras (*Porzana carolina*) in a small marsh near Woodstock, Cherokee County, during early April 1991, I decided it was a good idea to check for some of the other rails in the same area. I tried taped calls of all the freshwater rails several times during April and was rewarded with a very aggressive response from one or more Virginia Rails (*Rallus limicola*) on 13 and 16 April.

According to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) the Virginia Rail is a locally common transient and winter resident in the coastal plain and on the coast and an uncommon transient elsewhere. The species is documented as nesting at Atlanta in 1970 and 1971 and possibly in Chatham County in 1981.

I was at this marsh again on 6 June and as dusk approached I tried the tape again. To my surprise I got two simultaneous responses from opposite sides. One of the birds, presumably the male, came aggressively to my location through a combination of two short flights and walking or running. He walked around me several times, in plain view, calling loudly the whole time. During this time, the other bird only occasionally called but did not seem to come any closer. Again, toward the end of June and mid-July one

bird aggressively responded to the tape but no other birds called on these trips.

My last trip to the marsh was on 20 August when I got no response at all. I never did observe a nest or young and never heard the Virginia Rails after mid-July, so the question of whether the birds actually nested there or merely stayed the summer remains unanswered. Better observer coverage of piedmont wetlands would undoubtedly shed more light on the actual breeding status of this species in the state.

Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta, GA 30068.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE FOUND IN CLAYTON COUNTY - On 26 May 1991, several other birders and I were at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, Georgia participating in one of the Atlanta Audubon Society sponsored spring migration walks. At approximately 0847 I spotted a small shorebird in the center of the northeastern pond and alerted fellow birders to help me identify it. The small bird was very active, moving in a circular motion, apparently busily feeding. Dale Hardee said it appeared to be a phalarope based on this behavior. Jeff Sewell quickly got his scope on the bird and it was identified as a breeding plumaged male Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Other people seeing the bird at this time, in addition to Dale Hardee and Jeff Sewell, were Brock Hutchins, Paul Raney, Bruce Dralle and Carol Lambert. The bird was apparently last seen the next day at about 1000.

Haney et al. (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as a rare inland transient with the latest spring departure date of 27 May (1972). This is the second record for the Atlanta area with the first sighting from 5-10 September 1988 also at the E. L. Huie Land Application Facility.

Mary A. Hardee, 446 Stone Road, McDonough, Georgia 30253.

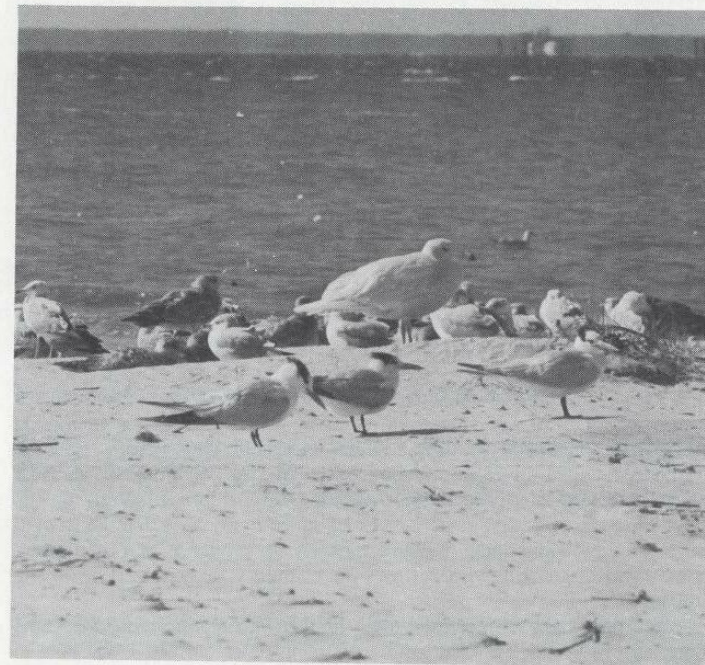
FIRST YEAR GLAUCOUS GULL ON THE SOUTH BEACH OF JEKYLL ISLAND - On 22 January 1991 at 1035 I was birding the South Beach of Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia when I noticed a large white gull resting with Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*) near the green channel marker at the extreme southwestern end of the beach. The white plumage plus the noticeable size difference between this bird and the nearby Ring-billed and Herring gulls plus the bicolor bill (dark at the tip of both mandibles and otherwise pink) identified the bird as a first winter Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*). The accompanying photograph clearly shows the size difference plus the all white plumage and the bicolored bill.

I continued to observe the Glaucous Gull until 1145 when it took flight over the sound heading towards Cumberland Island. Luckily the bird was found at the same South Beach location by many observers through the middle of February. There were no reports from then until another, or the same, first winter Glaucous Gull was seen at the same place on 4 May 1991 by Anselm Atkins, Bill Blakeslee, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. This bird was

last reported by Giff Beaton on 15 May.

The *Georgia Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as accidental in the Tybee Island area only with five records between 11 January and 30 May.

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



First winter Glaucous Gull at Jekyll Island on 22 January 1991. Photo by Bruce Dralle.

PROBABLE BREEDING OF THE HORNED LARK AT DUBLIN - The Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) according to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) is a "rare summer resident nesting locally south to Augusta and Warner Robins." Recent observations at the Dublin Airport suggest that breeding has occurred in Laurens County which is in the Upper Coastal Plain of central Georgia.

The species was first noted at the airport on 27 December 1990. That, and subsequent observations through 16 March 1991, revealed that 12-15 individual birds were in the area. No further investigation was made until 1 June 1991. In the late morning, Hunter Patterson and I noted a single bird singing high directly overhead. The ground below, having been harrowed for cultiva-

tion, was bare except for clods of dirt and tufts of grass scattered throughout. A single female was then seen walking in the area within 30-40 m of us. Our brief search for a nest was unsuccessful. The male subsequently landed nearby and the two birds continued to walk in the area near us until we departed after about 30 minutes. This behavior was similar to the distress behavior of a nesting female when disturbed as described in *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and Their Allies* (Bent, A.C., Dover Publications, 1963, pp. 348-350).

On 2 June 1991, Allen Rhodes and I visited the suspected nesting area and again observed the female making herself "inconspicuously obvious" as she flew and walked around us. On 4 June the male was again observed flying and singing over the area. On the next visit to the area on 27 June, several of the species, many appearing to be juveniles, were seen walking on the airport grounds and runways, and flying about giving their twittering calls.

Thomas K. Patterson, 1409 Edgewood Drive, Dublin, GA 31021.

UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR IN NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS

- On 17 April 1990 I began to notice two Northern Rough-winged Swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) flying repeatedly over a small section of my backyard where I had placed four bird feeders. I also ground feed extensively in this same area. Judging that the birds were probably after flying insects, I aimed our telescope and binoculars toward the swallows and indeed did see swarms of small insects. The swallows continued to visit each day, entering our feeding area about two or three times each hour. On 19 April I saw the swallows land in our ground-feeding area. We did not think this unusual since I had long observed Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) landing on the ground to pick up nesting materials. I mentioned to my wife that the Rough-wings were probably doing the same thing. Also, Erlich et al. (1988) mentions that Rough-winged Swallows occasionally take insects from the ground.

When the swallows increased their number of visits per hour I became more curious and determined to observe them more closely. I was able to observe that the swallows were picking up pieces of cracked corn and flying away. On some occasions the swallows were seen to actually swallow the corn. Erlich et al. (1988) states that the Rough-wing's diet consists entirely of insects but that the species will use almost anything to build their nest. Bent (1963) states that Rough-winged Swallows have been known to utilize beans in lining their nest.

I continued to observe this behavior through 28 May 1990 when the swallows' visits became less frequent. However, in April and May of 1991 I observed the same behavior and was able to obtain videotape of five Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the ground eating cracked corn.

One possibility for this behavior might be that the swallows are mistaking the cracked corn for bits of calcium. If anyone has any ideas regarding the reason for this behavior, I would welcome the information.

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Donald G. Screws, Jr., Rt. 5, Box 142, Eastman, GA 31023.

POSSIBLE CLIFF SWALLOW NESTING SITE NEAR JULIETTE - On the way home from Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge on 16 June 1991, Becky Brogan and I stopped at the Juliette Road bridge over the Ocmulgee River between Monroe and Jones counties. While watching a Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) zip past, I noticed a different swallow farther off. I was able to identify this swallow as a Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) and observe at least a couple other individuals of this species. Since they were observed flying under the bridge but not immediately out the other side, nesting activity may have been underway. Although the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists several areas where the species is known to nest in the state, this would be the farthest south if nesting is proven.

Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta, GA 30068.

RECENT SUMMER RECORDS FROM THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA -

The following three observations represent significant changes or additions to those sightings found in Crawford and Dozier (1973).

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnethlypis swainsonii*).

On 16 and 17 June 1990 I heard one of this species singing in Ward's Creek Swamp in SE Thomas County. Although it sang repeatedly both days, I never could see it. On 19 June, I was able to penetrate the light-gap tangle along the road and get into the more open areas under the swamp's canopy. There, the bird responded to "pishing" and imitated Screech-Owl calls and approached me, landing on a bare limb about 10 m away and about 2 m off the ground; I had clear, unobstructed views of the bird through 8X binoculars while it perched and sang. I heard it sing there again on 24 June, but never saw or heard more than one bird, or saw any other sign of breeding activity.

I listened there again each weekend in 1991 from late March through June. I heard it once, on 5 May. 1990 was a dry year in Thomas County compared with 1991: rainfall from January through June was 53.24 cm in 1990 and 126.75 cm for that period in 1991. Much of the floor of the swamp forest was moist but free from standing water in 1990, but was frequently flooded in 1991. The habitat in 1990 was almost exactly as described by Norris and Hopkins (1947) for a Tift County breeding site for Swainson's Warbler. Perhaps the high water in 1991 rendered Ward's Creek Swamp unsuitable for this ground-foraging species that year (Meanley 1971, p. 25). The rarity of Swainson's Warbler in SW Georgia may well result from exacting habitat

requirements that are seldom met.

These are the first records of any sort for this species in Thomas County.

Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*).

Prior to 1991, there had been 5 records for this species in Thomas County, all of single birds, and all but one in the winter months between 14 December (1964) and 28 March (1984). The latter was a collected specimen, an adult third year (TY) male taken by Leon Neel (Tall Timbers Research Station No. 3747).

On 16 June 1991, I saw 3 Boat-tailed Grackles, a female and two males, foraging along the muddy edge of a receding pond in Thomas County. There were several Common Grackles (*Q. quiscula*) there as well. One male Boat-tail was in glossy TY plumage, but the other was a duller second-year (SY) bird. Several times the SY male approached the TY male and the older bird gave a characteristic display, with the neck arched back and the bill pointing up. The older bird was quite vocal, frequently giving typical calls and bill-rattlings. I saw both males, but not the female, at the same site on 19 June and only the TY male there on 23 June. Jane R. Parker and I heard calls and bill-rattlings there on 7 July, but did not see the birds; I did not record the species there again.

The eyes of all three birds were *dark*, contrasting with the light eyes of the nearby Common Grackles. The birds were almost certainly of the Florida peninsula and NE Gulf Coast population, *Q.m. westoni*, instead of the *Q.m. torreyi* population found on the Georgia coast as the latter birds have light eyes (Stevenson 1978). Stevenson (pers. comm.) examined Neel's Thomas County specimen and referred it to *westoni*.

Menk (1981) documented an increase in numbers and frequency of occurrence of Boat-tailed Grackles in adjacent Leon County, Florida since about 1972; it is now considered a regular (but rare) summer resident which occurs irregularly in other months. I saw no evidence of local breeding (e.g. juvenal plumage, begging) by the three birds in Thomas County. Stevenson (1978) stated that "beyond doubt ... populations of Boat-tailed Grackles along the Gulf Coast disperse after the breeding season" which probably accounts for the presence of the 3 grackles in Thomas County in 1991, and possibly for the single bird recorded on 15 August 1959 (Crawford and Dozier 1973).

I saw a dark-eyed Boat-tailed Grackle at the same pond on 22 December 1990. With the nearby increase in frequency of occurrence documented by Menk (1981), the species may well become a regular but rare visitant throughout the year in Thomas County.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

Crawford (1988) documented the first Thomas County records for this species, occurring in the winter of 1987-1988 at three different feeding stations. Not one was reported the following winter (1988-1989), but the species was frequently seen at feeders in Thomasville during the winter of 1989-90.

House Finches were reported at three sites in Thomasville, each a mile from the other, during the summer of 1990. There was no definite evidence of breeding, but one observer, Mrs. Charlotte Kanning, saw a female-plumaged bird begging and being fed seed by a male on 18 June 1990. The species was again commonly reported during the winter of 1990-1991.

On 10 May 1991 Mrs. Kanning told me the finches had been building a nest in her neighbor's front porch. The next day, 11 May, I went there and found the nest, built on a small platform just under the porch ceiling. While getting into position to photograph the nest, I flushed a female House Finch from it. I heard no sound from the nest, so I suspect she was incubating.

The rapid spread of this species as a winter and breeding species in the eastern United States is well documented; even so, the change in status in Thomas County from unknown to uncommon breeding resident species in three and a half years is remarkable.

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

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER Banded ON JEKYLL ISLAND - During our autumn migration banding of passerines at the Jekyll Island Banding Station located on the SW end of Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia, we mist netted and banded a MacGillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei*) of unknown sex and unknown age on the afternoon of 2 October 1987.

As the nets were being cleared of birds and closed at 1445, Anne Wyand took a bird from a net and brought it to be banded along with several other birds. When she was taking it from the net she knew it was an *Oporornis* warbler and especially called this to our attention because this group of warblers is rarely captured at our station (three Connecticut Warblers (*O. agilis*) have been banded since 1978). Anne and Doris were the only persons at the station at that time.

Using a key provided in *A Bird bander's guide to determination of age and sex of selected species* (Merrill Wood and Don Beimbom, Afton Press, Afton, MN, 1981) we determined that the bird was a MacGillivray's, not a

Mourning Warbler (*O. philadelphia*). The key indicates there is a distinction among the *Oporornis* warblers when the bird is in hand. That distinction uses the length of the flattened wing minus the length of the tail and for the bird in question that yielded a difference of 7 mm (flattened wing = 57 mm; tail = 50 mm). The key indicates that in the Connecticut Warbler the difference would be 19-24 mm, in the Mourning Warbler 10-18 mm and in the MacGillivray's Warbler 2-10 mm. Therefore we believed the bird to be a MacGillivray's.

Realizing we had come upon a probable first state record for Georgia, we placed the unbanded bird in a holding bag to await the return of a third bander, Don Cohrs. Anne and Doris asked him to identify an *Oporornis* warbler without telling him our conclusion. He too keyed it out as a MacGillivray's.

The bird was then banded with USFW band #1790-39305, photographed from numerous angles (see accompanying photos), and then released at 1700 into Myrica bushes in the interdune area at the south end of Jekyll Island, some 150 m from where it had been netted about 2.5 hours previously. To our knowledge it was not seen again.

Doris and Don Cohrs, P.O. Box 1908, Darien, GA 31305 and Anne Wyand, 1741 Tolleson Court, Dunwoody, GA 30338.



MacGillivray's Warbler at Jekyll Island on 2 Oct. 1987. Photo by Don Cohrs.



MacGillivray's Warbler at Jekyll Island on 2 Oct. 1987. Photo by Don Cohrs.

A SUMMER RECORD OF DARK-EYED JUNCOS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY - The Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) nests commonly in north Georgia but only at an elevation of 1000 m or more (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, J.C. Haney et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986). I was therefore quite surprised to hear a Dark-eyed Junco singing on 27 June 1991 near Woodstock, Cherokee County at the Eagle Watch Golf Course.

As I was playing the seventh hole at Eagle Watch I heard and then saw a Dark-eyed Junco giving its "trill" song from a pine tree. At my approach another junco flew off showing the obvious white outer tail feathers of the species. Unfortunately I could not stay there and look for a possible nest or come back later to search for the birds.

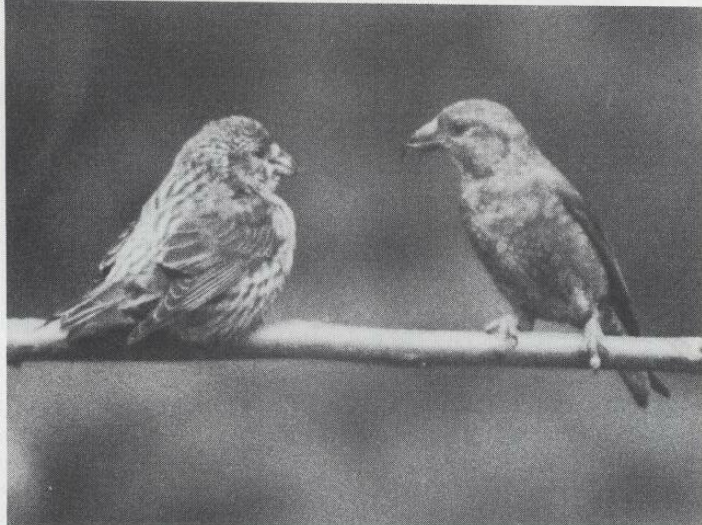
Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta, GA 30068.

RED CROSSBILLS RECORDED IN JUNE IN FLOYD COUNTY, GEORGIA - Beginning 11 May 1991, a number of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostris*) visited my feeder located about ten miles south of Rome, Georgia in Floyd County. On the first day only a single male and female were present eating sunflower seeds. They continued to visit irregularly every few days at different times of day. On 19 May I saw the first juvenile plumaged bird with an adult male. Later the same day, Bruce Dralle, Adrienne Myles, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and I saw an adult male and female and two juvenile plumaged birds. The accompanying photograph taken on 11 June shows an

adult male with one of the juvenile plumaged birds. I last saw the species on 13 June.

Although the presence of juvenile plumaged birds certainly leads one to believe the species probably nested locally, it is not conclusive proof as the species wanders widely and the juvenile plumaged birds may have been several weeks old when they visited my feeder. Currently, the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the breeding status of the species as unknown in the state.

Lanny Henson, 460 Doyle Road, S.E., Cedartown, GA 30125.



Red Crossbills in Floyd County. Photo by Lanny Henson.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH AND HOUSE FINCH NESTING IN BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA - The American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) is a common winter resident throughout much of Georgia, with its breeding activities generally restricted to the northern and western parts of the state (Burleigh 1958). Occasional nestings have been reported in the southwestern counties of Lowndes, Macon, and Calhoun (Haney et al. 1986). In contrast, the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) has only lately become an uncommon permanent resident of northern Georgia, with nests south to the cities of Macon and Columbus (Haney et al. 1986). Brown (1988), recently reported nesting House Finches in Ben Hill County, as well.

American Goldfinches were abundant in Bulloch County during the winter and spring of 1991. The fully molted goldfinches departed this area between the end of April and the first week of May. On 15 May 1991, I observed an adult male and female goldfinch at my feeder, which I recorded

because I knew it was a new record for a late sighting of wintering goldfinches, since Haney et al. (1986) had reported the previous late date as 14 May 1894. I was excited with these data, but was astonished on 18 May, to see an adult male goldfinch along with a juvenile bird feeding on sunflower chips at my feeder. Two days later I observed two juvenile birds at my feeder. The last sighting was 21 May when the two juveniles were seen feeding along with the adult female, while the male sang in a nearby pine tree. Back calculations of known incubation (12-14 days) and nestling (10-17 days) stages (Ehrlich et al. 1988) would indicate the birds would have begun nesting by the end of April, at the latest. This is when goldfinches are known to nest in southwestern United States (Harrison 1978). These data represent the first time American Goldfinches have been observed to breed in southeast Georgia, to the best of my knowledge. Whether the continuous supply of sunflower chips was a factor that contributed to this unusual breeding incident is not known. This is a distinct possibility since Johnsgard (1979) suggests that goldfinch nesting is delayed in the Great Plains until an abundant supply of composites is available as regurgitated feed for the young. The present observations suggest that any time goldfinches are present during mid to late-May, observers should look carefully for the easily recognized juvenile birds.

Adult male House Finches were observed singing in May and early June 1991 on several occasions on the Georgia Southern University campus in Statesboro. Adult females were observed during that period as well. A suspected breeding pair of House Finches frequented my feeders subsequent to mid-June. On 16 July the male and female were accompanied to the feeder by a juvenile House Finch with poorly developed feathers. The next day the male finch was seen feeding the juvenile bird a few feet from the feeder where the female fed. All three birds were seen each day until 21 July. Only the juvenile bird was sighted the subsequent two days. House Finches were observed to reproduce in Statesboro, Bulloch County, during the summer of 1990, by Dr. Bill Lovejoy (pers. comm.). These data represent the first known records of breeding House Finches in Bulloch County, Georgia. Most likely, established breeding populations will develop in this area, as the House Finch has expanded its range since its release on Long Island, in 1940 (Peterson 1980).

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John W. Parrish, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8042.

FROM THE FIELD

December 1990 - May 1991

Even though the winter season was rather lackluster with few winter finches and the spring migration was certainly not great, there were, as always, a number of excellent reports. Among these were the Leach's Storm-Petrels off Sapelo Island in May providing us with the first photographic evidence for the species in Georgia. Topping even that was the state's first Black-chinned Hummingbird at a store in Roswell specializing in, you guessed it, birdwatching supplies. Can hummingbirds read?

In the interests of space, no Christmas Bird Count records are included in this section. For a complete recounting of those sightings the reader is encouraged to read the account by the same author (*Oriole* 56:1-13).

Abbreviations used: ACOGAB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society (generally refers to one of the society's sponsored migration walks); CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area just north of Atlanta; ELH-LAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility south of Atlanta in Clayton County; MIA - Macon Industrial Area, m.ob. - many observers, MP - Merry Ponds at Augusta, PCL - Peachtree City Lake south of Atlanta, SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park west of Atlanta in Douglas County and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - Extremely rare for the Atlanta area was a single bird seen at Lake Spivey in Clayton County on 13 April by Patrick Brisse. This appears to be the fifth record for the area and coincided with the huge movement of Common Loons mentioned below. Interestingly enough, the four previous records of the species in the area were all during the month of Nov. More expected were the six birds seen by Paul Sykes and Carl Perry at Tybee Island on 10 March.

COMMON LOON - A few birds were seen during the winter at Lake Lanier (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Jeannie Wright) but the big news were the huge numbers reported during the spring migration. The period from 13-14 April was particularly good in the Atlanta area with 205 at SCSP on 13 April by Paul Raney, 100+ at Lake Lanier on 14 April by Peggy and Terry Moore, 57 were seen at Lake Spivey on 13 April by Patrick Brisse and 20 were seen at the DeKalb Reservoir on 14 April by Bruce Dralle, Adrienne Myles, Eleanor Lehner, Jeff and Carol Sewell. Elsewhere, Sam Pate reported 100+ during the migration period from the Columbus area. Late birds were seen at Dublin from 11 to 19 May (Tom Patterson) and at the DeKalb Reservoir at least until 31 May (Jeff and Carol Sewell).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Tom Patterson found an astounding seven nests with 53 eggs in NE Laurens County on 20 April.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - One bird was seen on the record early date of 21 April during an GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Savannah.

Unfortunately the boat couldn't get very far out due to heavy seas but this bird was seen at about 8 miles which is very close for Georgia waters.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL - Several birds were seen from Sapelo Island by Thomas Parsons and Anthony Lang during the period of 25-26 May. For further details of this sighting, please see the article by Parsons and Lang elsewhere in this issue.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - One bird was seen at Cumberland Island on 24 Feb. by Marianna Wilson and three birds were seen at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 27 April by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Large numbers of this species frequented the MP area at Augusta with 63 on 5 Jan. and over 150 on 13 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters). Near Atlanta, the ELHLAF and the nearby Blalock Lake areas continued to host large numbers with 156 on 13 April (Patrick Brisse). By the end of the period there appeared to be one abandoned and one (maybe two) active nests at Blalock Lake (Patrick Brisse) which is the same place where Georgia's first nesting occurred last summer.

ANHINGA - A rather bizarre record was a female plumaged bird at Blalock Lake near the ELHLAF on 13 Jan. by Patrick Brisse and Peggy and Terry Moore. This was the fourth record for the Atlanta area but the first for the winter months. One bird at Dublin on 16 March was more expected although probably a little early (Giff Beaton).

AMERICAN BITTERN - Its always a pleasure to report this species. John Paget saw one in Dawson County on 31 March, two were seen at Dublin on 11 April (Tom Patterson, Bruce Dralle, Giff Beaton and Bill Blakeslee), one bird was seen at Macon on 15 April by Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson and Carl Perry and an additional bird was seen on 4 May during the Amicalola Falls GOS meeting. Exact location of this last sighting was not given.

LEAST BITTERN - A nest with five eggs was certainly a good find at Macon on 5 May by Ty Ivey and Carl Perry.

GREAT BLUE HERON (White Phase) - A bird that spent most of its time at the South Carolina spoil area north of Savannah, was seen in Georgia on 2 Dec. by Robin Carter, Kevin Calhoon, and Caroline Eastman.

GREAT EGRET - In the Atlanta area, early birds were the three seen at the ELHLAF on 14 April and six seen at the CRNRA on 27 April (AAS).

TRICOLORED HERON - Rare for the Atlanta area, especially this early in the year, was an individual at the ELHLAF on 5 May (AAS, Terry Miller et al.).

CATTLE EGRET - Rather uncommon for the Atlanta area were single birds seen in the vicinity of the ELHLAF on 13 April (Joe Greenberg), 5 May (AAS, Terry Miller et al.), and 26 May (AAS).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - An adult roosting in Paul Sykes's yard in Watkinsville on 15 March was quite a surprise.

WHITE IBIS - Bruce Dralle, Paul Raney and Gail Russell had a good count of 300 birds at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien on 9 March.

GLOSSY IBIS - One bird was seen at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area on 30 Dec. by Tom Patterson. The ACOGAB does not mention any winter records for the species so any winter sighting is certainly worth reporting. More expected were the 54 seen at the same place by Bruce Dralle, Paul Raney and Gail Russell on 9 March.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - An early bird was seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 20-21 April by Bill Blakeslee. Generally this species shows up later in the summer.

WOOD STORK - One bird was seen at Magnolia Springs State Park near the Millen colony on the early date of 3 Feb. by Mitzi and David Young. Along the Jekyll Island Causeway a count of 23 was made on 17 Feb. by Anne and Vernon Waters. Back at the Millen colony, numbers rapidly ramped up during March and April with 270 on 9 April (Dan Connelly). During May, Arthur Crowe and John Manning reported that the colony had about 500 nests with most nests having two young getting ready to fledge. This would be a very successful nesting season if this holds up.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - Three birds (at least one banded) were sighted at Lake Sinclair on 11 April by Terry Johnson, Rose Payne and Arlene Clark. The banded bird was traced back to a breeder in south Georgia who has indicated he has been releasing them for a number of years to get them established in Georgia. This, of course, puts in question any sighting of this species in the southeast for the past 10 years.

TUNDRA SWAN - One bird was found at Jekyll Island on 10 March by Jerry Amerson, Ty Ivey, Carl Perry and Paul Sykes and seen the next day by Don Cohrs.

SNOW GOOSE - A blue phase bird was seen in Hall County on 13 Jan. by Jeannie Wright. Other birds were reported from Commerce Lake (two birds on 9 Dec.) by John Paget, northern Greene County from 9-16 March (Paul Sykes et al.) and from Lake Lanier (Hall County) on 24 March and 7 April (Jeannie Wright).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - A male and a female remained at the ELHLAF during the entire period (m.ob.).

CANVASBACK - The only report of this increasingly rare species was a single bird at PCL on 27 Dec. by Oscar Kiplinger.

REDHEAD - This species is also getting harder to find in the state so a total of 23 seen at Blalock Lake on 23 Feb. by Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse was quite an excellent count.

RING-NECKED DUCK - A large number frequented the ELHLAF with the best count being 677 on 25 Dec. by Jeff and Carol Sewell. A single male remained there through the end of the period (Paul Raney, Patrick Brisse, et al.).

GREATER SCAUP - In the Atlanta area this species is now almost regular in very small numbers whereas ten years ago the species was not even on the Atlanta list. Patrick Brisse and Peggy and Terry Moore recorded two males at the ELHLAF on 13 Jan.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - For some reason the species was more common than usual in the Atlanta area. After one adult male was seen at SCSP on 1 Jan. by Peggy and Terry Moore and Dennie and Pam McClure, three adult males were seen there on 19 Jan. by Giff Beaton. On 27 Jan. 2 males and a female were seen at the same place by Dennie and Pam McClure. At the ELHLAF three males were seen on 9 Jan. by Joseph Meyer. Two other males were seen at the Arrowhead Fish Hatchery in Floyd County on 26 Jan. by Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee et al.

HOODED MERGANSER - One bird was rather late at Jekyll Island on 15 May (Giff Beaton).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - This species was widely reported from a number of inland localities during the winter and especially during the

migration season. In the Atlanta area an adult male was seen at Lake Acworth on 26 Dec. (Peggy and Terry Moore), two birds at Lake Spivey on 5 Jan. (Terry Miller), another bird at SCSP on 6 Jan. by Dennie and Pam McClure and 7 (6 males and a female) at SCSP on 24 Feb. (Paul Raney). One bird was seen at MP on 2 March (Augusta Audubon) but large numbers occurred in the Atlanta area on 13 April with 41 at SCSP (Paul Raney) and 31 at Lake Spivey (Patrick Brisse). Fourteen were seen at the MIA on 7 April (Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson and Ken and Arlene Clark) and late birds included two in Laurens County from 7-11 May (Tom Patterson), three at the ELHLAF on 19 May (Patrick Brisse) and three at the DeKalb Reservoir from 13-21 May (Jeff and Carol Sewell).

OSPREY - At Augusta this species was recorded on four separate occasions at MP between 27 Dec. and 2 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters). This species also appears to be increasing as an inland migrant. There were no fewer than 16 reports in the Atlanta area between 7 March and the end of the period. Best counts were four birds at SCSP on 13 April (Paul Raney) and four birds near Stone Mountain also on 13 April (Patrick Brisse). A nest was found in the Lake Oconee area on 21 March by Bill Blakeslee and Gene Wenger for a very rare inland record and continued sightings around the ELHLAF near Atlanta caused some speculation that the species might consider nesting in that area.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - One bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 21 April by Bill Blakeslee et al. and another single bird was seen near Egypt on 4 May by Anselm Atkins, Bill Blakeslee, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. Helen Ogren saw two pairs during a boat trip along the Altamaha River near Darien on 2 May.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - The first ones for the year were reported on 20 April at Dublin (Tom Patterson) and on 27 April at Augusta (Anne and Vernon Waters). A nest was discovered along the Augusta levee on 4 May by Anselm Atkins, Bill Blakeslee, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. The nest was assumed to have eggs as a bird was seen to fly in and then sit on the nest for a period of time.

BALD EAGLE - There were 18 separate reports of this species from the following localities: Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Augusta, Griffin Reservoir, Harris County, Macon, Robins Air Force Base, Rum Creek, Covington, Sapelo Island, Lake Oconee, Meridian, Tybee Island, and the ELHLAF. This species is definitely on the increase.

NORTHERN HARRIER - Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee had a good count of 10 at a roost in SE Clarke County on 27 Jan.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Three immatures were seen at Pigeon Mountain on 26 Jan. by Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee et al. Undoubtedly this represents some of the birds involved in the hacking program. It will be interesting if any of these birds remain in Georgia after the hacking program is over.

MERLIN - Inland reports were a bird at MP on 27 Dec. (Anne and Vernon Waters), one bird at Gainesville on 11 April (Greg Valpey) and two birds near Conyers on 27 April (Paul Raney). More expected along the coast, but still a good number, were the four seen by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney the weekend of 20-21 April.

PEREGRINE FALCON - Jerry and Marie Amerson reported one from Clarke County on 1 Dec. for a rare record. One bird frequented the downtown area of Atlanta during the period and was seen by a number of observers

between 23 Dec. and 28 Feb. (Bill Groce, Jack Carusos, David Hibbert, and Glenn Parson). Outside Atlanta, Bob Humphries saw a bird on 7 Feb. about 11 miles south of Hawkinsville.

PLAIN CHACHALACA - Although this species is a permanent resident on Sapelo Island, it is rarely reported. This spring Thomas Parsons and Anthony Lang saw five males and two females there on 28 May.

RUFFED GROUSE - A bird heard in the Dawson Forest on 21 April by John Paget and Jack Carusos would appear to be at the southern limit of the species' range in Georgia.

WILD TURKEY - Good counts were recorded in Greene County with 35 on 2 Feb. by Paul Sykes, 33 on 15 March by Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle and 35 on 16 March by Paul Sykes.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT - Who knows where the female came from which appeared in south Fulton County on 25 March (Dennie and Pam McClure)?

BLACK RAIL - A single bird was seen briefly but well by Paul Raney at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien on 17 Dec. A small number (1-2) of this species was discovered in a small marsh in Greene County on 27 April by Barny Dunning, Carl Perry, Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey. After that a number of observers either heard or saw the birds through 23 May when Giff Beaton was the last one to report them. There is still an outside chance the species might nest there.

KING RAIL - At the same Greene County marsh, this species was encountered a number of times during April by several observers. Additional sightings were recorded at MP on 25 Jan. and 7 and 22 March (Anne and Vernon Waters), in Dawson County on 31 March by John Paget and in NE Laurens County on 11 April (Tom Patterson et al.).

VIRGINIA RAIL - This species was also recorded at the Greene County marsh during the spring by a number of observers. The highest count reported was eight birds on 27 April by Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey et al. Additional birds were located in Dawson County on 20 and 22 April by John Paget, at least one bird during the period from 23 Dec. through 7 April and a peak count of five at the MIA on 7 April by Ty Ivey et al., and another bird remaining in the Woodstock area from 13 April until late in the period (Giff Beaton). For details of this last report please see the note by Beaton elsewhere in this issue.

SORA - Also in the Woodstock area were Soras on 1 April and 6 April (2) by Giff Beaton. At the MIA, Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson and Ken and Arlene Clark found nine on 7 April and on 11 April Tom Patterson found a single bird in NE Laurens County.

COMMON MOORHEN - Three birds were seen at MP on 20 April where they nested for the first time last year (Anne and Vernon Waters). One bird in the Norcross area on 24 May by Jim Feeley was a rare sighting for Atlanta.

SANDHILL CRANE - Two flocks totaling 33 birds were seen at the Eufaula NWR on 2 Dec. (Sam Pate et al.). Two hundred birds were recorded in Whitfield County on 16 Dec. by Clyde Blum and Katherine Sapp. Later southbound flocks included 25 over Roswell on 26 Dec. by Peggy and Terry Moore and 47 over Atlanta on 31 Dec. by Christopher Rustay. One flock of 50-60 in the Macon area on 14 Jan. could have been either southbound or northbound (Ray Mangham). Northbound birds seemed to start a little early with the first flocks noted from around Macon on 5 Feb.

(Pledger and Emily Parker) and in Gwinnett County on 14 Feb. by Carolina Lane. Another flock (unspecified number) was seen over Griffin on 18 Feb. but several flocks (totalling over 450) were seen over Macon and Atlanta by several observers on 19 Feb. The remainder of February saw just a few flocks, mostly in the Macon and Atlanta areas but the big push was, as usual, in early March. Harriett DiGioia reported 1348 during early March in NW Georgia with a peak of 305 by Mike Davis on 10 March in Murray County. Atlanta's biggest day was 2 March with over 1000 birds reported in eight separate sightings.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - A good count of 300 was reported from Jekyll Island on 9 Feb. by Paul Sykes.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - An astounding 50 were seen at the DeKalb Reservoir on 21 May by Jeff and Carol Sewell. Generally this species is only seen in the Atlanta area in very small numbers. Near Dublin Tom Patterson saw one on 14 April, one on 7 May and four on 21 May at Jackson's Pasture.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Paul Sykes reported 9+ nests at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 29 May.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - Interesting inland reports were of nine birds at MP on 13 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters), eight during Feb. at the MIA (Ty Ivey), and then large numbers (53 on 22 March and 35 on 1 April) at MP (Anne and Vernon Waters). This species was also recorded from the Dublin area during the period from December through February (Tom Patterson).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - This species was not noted as commonly as the Greater but inland winter records were of one bird during Feb. at the MIA (Ty Ivey) and also at Dublin from December through February (Tom Patterson). Migrants at MP totaled 61 on 22 March and 62 on 1 April (Anne and Vernon Waters).

WILLET - Paul and Joan Sykes had an excellent count of 325 at Jekyll Island on 24 March.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - The Dublin area seemed to be the place to find this species. The species was seen there during the period from 6-25 April with a high count of 15 (Tom Patterson et al.). Elsewhere five were seen at The MIA on 7 April by Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson, Ken and Arlene Clark and two were seen in the Duluth area on 13 April by Peggy and Terry Moore.

WHIMBREL - This species was commonly recorded along the coast with 26 reported on 20 April by Bruce Dralle from the Jekyll, St. Simons's area and 30-40 from the Jekyll Island area on 15 May (Giff Beaton).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Five was a good count at the DeKalb Reservoir in Atlanta on 21 May by Jeff and Carol Sewell.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Good winter counts were the 35 at MP on 13 Jan. and the same number at the Millen Fish Hatchery on 15 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters). The species was also recorded at the ELHLAF on 1 Dec. (three birds by Patrick Brisse), again at the ELHLAF on 1 Jan. (two birds by Peggy and Terry Moore), eight birds at the MIA in February (Ty Ivey) and in the Dublin area from December through February (Tom Patterson).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - The only report was a single bird at the ELHLAF on 25 May by Patrick Brisse.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - One bird was found at the ELHLAF on 14 April by Giff Beaton and Paul Raney and remained there through the next day (Jeff and Carol Sewell).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Three birds were seen along the jetties at Tybee Island on 17 Dec. and 3 Feb. by Paul Raney. One bird was seen at the same spot on 27 Jan. by a number of Atlanta and Augusta birders. This spot remains the only place to view the species reliably.

DUNLIN - Inland reports from Dublin included four birds in Laurens County through 26 Jan. and then three birds on 12 and 16 March, two on 6 April and two on 21 May (Tom Patterson).

STILT SANDPIPER - Tom Patterson had a good count of seven at Jackson's Pasture in Laurens County on 6 April. One bird remained there through 14 April.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - One bird was seen in Laurens County from 31 Dec. through 5 Jan. for a rare winter record (Tom Patterson). Tom had another bird (dowitcher sp.) there on 23 March and Anne and Vernon Waters saw two at MP on 1 April.

COMMON SNIFE - One hundred and forty was an excellent count from northern Greene County on 9 March (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey).

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - A single bird remained at the ELHLAF from 26-27 May and was seen by a number of observers. For details of the observation please see the note by M. Hardee elsewhere in this issue.

PARASITIC JAEGER - The area around Jekyll Island's South Beach would appear to be the best spot in the state to see this species based on the following observations. One bird was seen there on 2 Feb. by Paul Raney and Bruce Hallett. Another jaeger, thought to be this species, was seen in the same area on 26 Jan. by Anselm Atkins, Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. Additional sightings were an adult at the same place on 9 Feb. by Paul Sykes (plus an additional jaeger (sp.) the same day, one on the abortive 21 April pelagic trip out from Savannah (GOS), a sick bird back at South Beach on 27 April (Barney Dunning, Carl Perry, Paul Sykes, Peter Yaukey) and the last on 4 May again at Jekyll's South Beach by Anselm Atkins, Bill Blakeslee, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore.

LAUGHING GULL - Inland reports included one bird at MP on 27 April (Anne and Vernon Waters), three birds seen at the ELHLAF on 25 May by Patrick Brisse (two were still there the next day by Paul Raney) and two in NE Laurens County on 26 May (Tom Patterson).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Good local counts included 15 in Whitfield County on 20 Jan. by Harriett DiGioia and 150 at Clark Hill Reservoir on 10 Feb. by Anne and Vernon Waters. Two late sightings were two birds at the DeKalb Reservoir on 14 April (Bruce Dralle, Adrienne Myles, Jeff and Carol Sewell) and a single bird at Jekyll Island on 27 April by Barney Dunning, Carl Perry, Paul Sykes, and Peter Yaukey.

ICELAND GULL - A first winter bird was reported from Jekyll Island on 10 March by Paul Sykes, Jerry Amerson, Ty Ivey, and Carl Perry. It was seen again the next day by Don Cohrs but couldn't be found on 12 March. As evidenced by recent records from Florida, gulls of this type can be very tricky to identify so details of this observation need to be submitted to the Checklist Committee. Another "white-winged" gull which could have been this species was seen at Sapelo Island on 28 May by Thomas Parsons. Please see the article by T. P. Parsons and A. Lang in this issue for further details.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - This species was recorded from Sapelo Island the weekend of 9-10 March by Bruce Dralle, Paul Raney and Gail

Russell and at Jekyll Island on 27 April by Barny Dunning, Carl Perry, Paul Sykes, and Peter Yaukey.

GLAUCOUS GULL - A first winter bird was found on 22 Jan. by Bruce Dralle on Jekyll Island's South Beach and luckily the bird remained there for a considerable number of birders to see it. The last date for this particular bird was 17 Feb. This species is very rare in Georgia and this appears to be the first bird which remained in any area long enough for a number of birders to see it. For details of the observation please see the note by B. Dralle elsewhere in this issue. A very bedraggled bird (possibly the same one as above) was on Jekyll's South Beach as late as 4 May (Anselm Atkins, Bill Blakeslee, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore) and 5 May (Jeff and Carol Sewell). The bird allowed very close approach and could be compared to nearby Herring Gulls for size comparison. On 11-12 May Ty Ivey photographed what was almost undoubtedly the same bird at the same spot. A week later, Maurice Crenshaw found the bird dead and being eaten by a vulture. Another bird was seen by Tom Parsons et al. at Sapelo Island on 17 May. Please see the article by T. Parsons in this issue for further details. Another "white-winged" gull was seen flying over I-95 near Midway on 9 Feb. by Paul Sykes.

GULL-BILLED TERN - Three birds were seen at Sapelo Island's Cabretta Beach on 26 May by Thomas Parsons and Anthony Lang and two nests were found at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 29 May by Paul Sykes.

CASPIAN TERN - Inland records were four birds at the MIA on 7 April (Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson, Ken and Arlene Clark) and six over a Columbus baseball field on 12 April (Sam Pate and Bruce Jones).

ROYAL TERN - Paul Sykes had an excellent count of 665 at Gould's Inlet between St. Simons and Sea Islands on 29 May.

SANDWICH TERN - A single bird was seen on Cumberland Island on 20 March by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh. The earliest date in the ACO-GAB is 25 March.

COMMON TERN - Rare inland was a single bird at Little Ocmulgee State Park near McRae on 3 April (Donny Screws).

FORSTER'S TERN - One bird in Laurens County on 21 Dec. was quite a rare winter record (Tom Patterson). Paul Sykes had an excellent count of 1200 at Jekyll Island on 9 Feb. The only Atlanta tern report for the spring was of one bird at the ELHLAF on 4 May by Patrick Brisse.

LEAST TERN - Paul Sykes estimated 100+ nests at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 29 May for a good count of this decreasing species.

RINGED TURTLE DOVE - An individual showed up at the feeder of Bill Blakeslee in Atlanta on 30 April and remained there through the end of the period. According to Bill, who is familiar with both the Ringed Turtle Dove and Collared Doves, it was definitely not a Collared.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - Twelve was a good count from the MIA on 16 March (fide Ken Clark).

COMMON BARN-OWL - Two birds were found apparently nesting in the Dublin area during the winter period by Tom Patterson.

SHORT-EARED OWL - One bird was seen in Laurens County through 13 Jan. by Tom Patterson. Seven were seen in the area west of Cordele on 25 Jan. (Anselm Atkins, Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore). In SE Clarke County, two were seen on 27 Jan. (Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee), one on 10 Feb. (Bruce Dralle, Giff Beaton, Jeff and Carol Sewell) and two

on 1 Feb. (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). This is the same location where the species wintered in 1989-1990. One bird was seen in the Dublin vicinity by Giff Beaton and Tom Patterson on 16 March.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - A single bird was seen over Decatur on 10 Dec. by Mark Oberle. Please see the note by Oberle (*Oriole* 55:71-72) for more details of the observation.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - Early records included a bird at Darien on 26 March by Don and Doris Cohrs and in Gwinnett County on 7 April by Joel Hitt.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - This species, although probably a regular winter visitor along the coast, is rarely reported so one seen at Darien on 28 Dec. is certainly noteworthy (Doris Cohrs). On 31 May, Tom Patterson heard one at the Beaverdam WMA in Laurens County which is about 30 miles south of the Fall Line.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - The first swift reports were from Cumberland Island on 20 March (Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh), at Cadwell on 21 March (Susan Richmond), at Gainesville on 25 March (Greg Valpey), at Union City south of Atlanta on 29 March (Dennie and Pam McClure) and in Lawrenceville north of Atlanta on 31 March (Joel Hitt).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - First reports were from west Bibb County on 19 March (Rose Payne), Columbus on 22 March (Bob and Joy Terhune fide Sam Pate), Darien on 21 March (Doris Cohrs) and at Marietta on 28 March by Jesse Wall.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Georgia's first record was a bird which appeared, appropriately enough, at a feeder at the Birdwatcher's Supply Company in Roswell on 24 Dec. (Richard Cole). The bird was an immature male and remained at the feeder until 11 Jan. and was seen by at least 100 birders. Photos were taken (Richard Cole) and the bird was captured and banded on 4 Jan. by Bob Sargent of Birmingham. During the time the bird was at the feeder the gorget appeared to be molting in.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - At least five and maybe as many as eight were seen at Atlanta area feeders during the period. Newspaper coverage of the Black-chinned Hummingbird led to many of the other birds to be reported to Richard Cole of the Birdwatcher's Supply Co.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Rare for the Atlanta area was a calling bird at the CRNRA on 4 May (AAS).

EASTERN KINGBIRD - One bird was somewhat early near the ELHLAF on 30 March by Bruce Dralle and Giff Beaton.

GRAY KINGBIRD - Even though the authorities managed to eliminate most of the trees around the Jekyll Island Convention Center, a pair of kingbirds were frequenting the last few remaining trees and hopefully will nest (m.ob.).

HORNED LARK - One bird was found near Cordele on 2 Dec. by Ellery McClintock. This is fairly far south for this species in Georgia. More usual were the birds at Mountain Cove Farm on the Lookout Plateau on 27 Dec. (David Chaffin and John Henderson). Tom Patterson recorded the species in Laurens County for much of the period (see Tom's note elsewhere in this issue for details of this observation). Four birds were seen in Greene County on 3 March by Chuck Hunter, Jeff and Carol Sewell and Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee et al. reported a few from the same area on 16 March. Elsewhere, the species continues to be seen in the Cartersville area and undoubtedly nests in the large floodplain fields near the Etowah River.

- PURPLE MARTIN - The earliest birds were seen at Fort Valley on 9 Feb. by Ty Ivey and Carl Perry and at Lake Tobesofkee on 25 Feb. (Pat and Mike Sewell).
- ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Two birds at SCSP on 1 March established a record early arrival date (Dennie and Pam McClure).
- BARN SWALLOW - Very early reports included a bird at Commerce Lake on 9 March by John Paget (an early arrival date for the state) and two birds at the ELHLAF on 11 March by Giff Beaton (early arrival date for Atlanta).
- FISH CROW - Two birds heard and seen at the Atlanta Zoo on 3 Feb. were either early migrants or wintering birds (Peggy and Terry Moore, Mary Ann Vernocy).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - The only reports were of a single bird in Clarke County on 1 Dec. by Jerry and Marie Amerson, two birds at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 30 March by Georgann Schmalz, one bird at Clark Hill WMA also on 30 March by Anne and Vernon Waters and at the feeder of Adrienne Myles in Marietta at least through 31 March.
- BEWICK'S WREN - Very rare was the bird in Whitfield County on 17 Dec. by Mourin Poole. This species has almost completely disappeared from the state.
- SEDGE WREN - One bird was found on the Macon CBC and remained at the MIA at least until 23 Dec. (Ty Ivey and Jerry and Marie Amerson). John Paget saw another bird in Dawson County on 23 and 31 March and Tom Patterson observed one in NE Laurens County on 11 April.
- MARSH WREN - Inland birds were seen in NE Laurens County on 11 April (Tom Patterson), at the MIA on 20 April (Ty Ivey), in northern Greene County on 11 May (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey) and Ty Ivey found a bird building what was probably a dummy nest at the MIA on 19 May.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - An early bird was in south Fulton County on 24 March (Dennie and Pam McClure). An amazing 45 were reported from the CRNRA on 30 March during an AAS migration walk.
- THRUSHES - The only place that reports decent numbers of thrushes anymore is Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County as shown by the eight VEERIES, six SWAINSON'S and six WOOD THRUSHES reported on the 27 April AAS sponsored migration walk.
- GRAY CATBIRD - The only sighting reported outside of the CBCs in the Piedmont was one in Greene County on 2 Feb. (Paul Sykes).
- CEDAR WAXWING - Late reports included birds at the CRNRA on 18 May (AAS) and in Gwinnett County on 19 May (Joel Hitt).
- WHITE-EYED VIREO - A very early bird was at Commerce Lake on 9 March (John Paget). This was so early it could have been a wintering bird.
- SOLITARY VIREO - Gwinnett County must be on the southern edge of this species' breeding range as evidenced by two separate areas where they appeared to be nesting (Joel Volpi, Joel Hitt).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - A very early bird was in the Columbus area on 7 March by Florence Lynn (fide Sam Pate). The earliest arrival date mentioned in the ACOGAB is 15 March.
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Three reports were received: on 20 April at the CRNRA, 4 May at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County, and 5 May near the ELHLAF (all by AAS).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - Wintering birds were seen on 2 Dec. near Stone Mountain by Patrick Brisse, on 1 Jan. near Cliftondale in south

Fulton County by Dennie and Pam McClure, most of January until 8 Feb. in the Gainesville area (John Paget) and at Pendergrass on 24 Feb. (John Paget). This species also seems to be on the increase during migration as most observers reported the species in above average numbers. Generally if an observer sees one or two during the migration, that would be considered normal. This year the 13 April AAS migration walk along the CRNRA reported 20, the 20 April walk reported 5 and the 27 April walk reported 6. There were many other reports but these were the highest counts.

- CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - An early bird was seen near Stone Mountain on 13 April by Patrick Brisse.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - A very late bird was near the ELHLAF on 27 May by Patrick Brisse, Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles.
- CERULEAN WARBLER - Four reports were received from the Atlanta area which was better than last year when no spring reports were received. The four reports spanned the period from 13 April to 22 April which appears to indicate a rather narrow migration window. A bird at Augusta on 27 April by Anne and Vernon Waters was very unusual for that area.
- AMERICAN REDSTART - Rather late sightings included single birds at Augusta (Augusta Audubon fide Carol Jordan) and at Sapelo Island by Thomas Parsons and Anthony Lang (both reports on 25 May).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER - A count of five at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 13 April during an AAS migration walk certainly has to be considered a good count.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Anne and Vernon Waters found single birds at MP on 20 April and along the Augusta Levee on 27 April. These birds remained there through the end of the period and were probably nesting.
- OVENBIRD - This species is probably regular along the coast in winter but it is rarely reported. Don and Doris Cohrs reported one from the Darien area on 7 Jan. A very early bird was in north Atlanta on 31 March by Jack Carusos.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - This species was heard by several but seen by only a few members of the AAS migration walk on 11 May along the CRNRA.
- WILSON'S WARBLER - John Paget had a couple birds (a male and female) under observation at Gainesville for most of the period up to 8 Feb. when he left for a Costa Rica birding trip. The last sighting from that area was of one bird on 27 March. For more details on this observation please see Paget's note (*Oriole* 56:16-17).
- WESTERN TANAGER - A male visited a Dublin feeder irregularly between 24 Jan. and 25 Feb. (Tom Patterson). Please see the note by Patterson (*Oriole* 56:17) for more details of this observation.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW - About 6-8 birds had returned by the end of May to the Henry County area where they were found last year (Mary and Dale Hardee, Jeff and Carol Sewell).
- LARK SPARROW - An adult male was well described from near Cornelia in NE Georgia on 19 Dec. by Paige Harvey. As is usual, the bird did not stay around to be seen by other birders.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - A single bird was seen near Blalock Lake on 2 Dec. by Jeff and Carol Sewell, Chuck Hunter and Peg Gallagher. One bird was seen several times in Greene County during the first couple weeks of March (Giff Beaton, Jeff and Carol Sewell and Chuck Hunter).

- LECONTE'S SPARROW - At the same small marsh in Greene County at least one bird was seen from 9-30 March (Paul Sykes et al.).
- FOX SPARROW - Ten was a good count at Pendergrass on 16 Dec. by Jeff and Carol Sewell.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - People must be searching for this elusive species harder than they used to as evidenced by the following sightings. Two birds were seen at Pendergrass on 9 and 16 Dec. by Jeff and Carol Sewell. The same observers saw a single bird there on 27 Jan.. Another bird was seen in south Fulton County on 27 Jan. by Dennie and Pam McClure, one was seen again at Pendergrass on 12 April by Bruce Dralle., Bruce saw another near Duluth on 17 April and Joel Hitt saw one in Gwinnett County on 27 April.
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Pendergrass was host to this species with as many as 12 seen on 16 Dec. by Jeff and Carol Sewell. Three birds were still there on 12 April (Bruce Dralle). Elsewhere, two birds were seen in Laurens County between 17 Dec. and 13 Jan. by Tom Patterson and Paul Sykes found five in the Lake Oconee area on 2 Feb.
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - The only reports were 300 in Laurens County in Dec. and Jan. (Tom Patterson), two birds seen in Decatur County on 26 Jan. by Paul Raney, 50+ seen at the Augusta Airport on 23 Feb. by Anne and Vernon Waters and 30 birds seen at MP on 7 March by Anne and Vernon Waters.
- NORTHERN ORIOLE - One bird was reported from the Warner Robins area on 2 March by Pat and Paul Bennett and on 3 March by Betty Perry.
- RED CROSSBILL - Harriett DiGioia observed birds in the Chattahoochee National Forest on 16 and 26 Dec. A record from much farther south was a bird in western Bibb County on 27 Jan. by Jerry and Rose Payne. But most surprising of all were a male and female that brought two young birds to the feeder of Lanny and Annette Henson of Cedartown during the period from 10 May until at least 31 May. Please see the note by Henson elsewhere in this issue for details of this record.
- PINE SISKIN - A few birds were sparingly reported around the northern half of the state but there were no great numbers anywhere. The last report was a bird at Roswell on 25 April (Peggy Moore).
- EVENING GROSBEAK - There were very few reports for this period. About twenty were seen near Cartersville on 12 Jan. by John and Kate Swiderski and a few (up to 5) were seen in late January, early February and as late as 2 March at Crabapple in north Fulton County by Helen Ogren.

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