

THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology; Official Organ of the
Georgia Ornithological Society



VOL. 57

MARCH - DECEMBER 1992

NOS. 1-4

THE ORIOLE

(ISSN 0030-553)

Editor - Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Court, Roswell, GA 30075
Assistant Editor - Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Dr., Marietta, GA 30068

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Regular.....\$16.00	Sustaining.....\$25.00	Patron.....\$50.00
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Publication Date - August 1994
GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Founded December 13, 1936

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THREE RARE DIURNAL RAPTOR SPECIES IN THE PIEDMONT OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA, WINTER 1991-1992

Paul W. Sykes, Jr. and Donald H. White

During the winter of 1991-1992, three species of diurnal raptors, Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), and Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), were observed in Madison County, Georgia, at the same locality. This site is 4 km north-northeast of Colbert at Lat 34°4'30" North, Long. 83° 12'00" West, and situated between the South Fork Broad River to the north and Brush Creek to the south. The typical landscape in this part of Georgia is gentle rolling hills with hardwood, pine, or mixed pine-hardwood forests, but extensive acreage has been cleared for agricultural and residential purposes. The area is transected north-south by paved roads, Colbert-Danielsville and Bullock Mill, and unpaved roads, Colbert Grove Church and McCarty-Dodd. The irregular-shaped area where the birds were seen was approximately 4 km sq with elevations ranging from 177 to 226 m. The habitat was primarily lightly grazed/mowed pasture with widely scattered large trees, mostly oaks (*Quercus* spp.), on a prominent hilltop with some peripheral fallow fields and several houses widely spaced within the area. Detailed accounts of the three raptors follow.

Rough-legged Hawk

On 25 November 1991, John Seginak observed a light phase Rough-legged Hawk perched on top of a round hay bale in a large pasture just south of Beaverdam Creek (on private property with no public access) in northern Oglethorpe County about 3.2 km southeast of Comer, Georgia. The bird then began hunting by coursing over the pasture, occasionally hovering in flight. The bird was observed at this locality only once, and could have been one of those seen regularly at the Madison County location, which is 6.4 km to the northwest. Numerous fields and pastures are between the two sites.

White found a light phase immature Rough-legged Hawk at the Madison County site on 2 December 1991. He studied it as it perched in a large oak tree on the east side of Bullock Mill Road. The bird then flew about the pasture, and later hovered in flight while course hunting. During that same week he saw a second Rough-legged Hawk in the area. On 9 December 1991, a light phase immature was seen by White, Sykes,

Bonnie Fancher, Cam Kepler, and Tony Leukering at the same locality. At this time, Leukering took photographs of the bird. Local residents claimed that one or more Rough-legged Hawks had been present since early November 1991. On 9 December this information was put on the Georgia Ornithological Society's Hotline (404/509-0204) and subsequently the birds were seen and photographed by many observers throughout the winter period. On 14 December 1991, Paul Raney saw two Rough-legged Hawks at the same time and so did Giff Beaton on 30 January 1992. White last saw the species in the area on 14 March 1992 at 1030.

The plumage of the two birds clearly indicated that they were light-phased immature Rough-legged Hawks. The head, neck, throat, and breast were light in color with buffy tones and some brownish streaking. The belly had a broad black band. The feathered part of the legs was buffy and unstreaked and feathering extended to the toes. The back was mottled brown and the tail was white with a broad black subterminal band that was obvious only in flight. The underwing was light or silvery with a dark area in the carpal region and black-tipped primaries and secondaries. In flight, the brown upperwing showed a white area at the base of the primaries. The wings appeared long and somewhat pointed for a *Buteo* and in flight were held in a shallow dihedral.

The Rough-legged Hawk breeds widely across the northern latitudes in Europe, Asia and North America. In the Western Hemisphere, it winters south to southern California, southern Arizona, southern New Mexico, southern Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia, and casually to Florida (AOU 1983). In Georgia, it is considered a rare and irregular winter visitor over most of the state with sightings ranging from 5 November to 30 April (Haney et al. 1986). All other records from Georgia were of single individuals, none of which was present continuously at the same locality for the length of time reported here.

Merlin

White saw a female-plumaged Merlin perched in a large dead tree in the pasture on the east side of McCarty-Dodd Road on 16 February 1992 at 1130. The bird was studied at an estimated distance of 23 m from inside a vehicle with 7X35 binoculars. It was not seen again in the area. The small falcon had uniform dark brown upperparts and whitish underparts with numerous brown streaks. There was no strong facial pattern, but indistinct fine brown streaking in the cheek region. The tail was banded; the dark bands were much wider than the light bands.

In Georgia, the Merlin is a rare to uncommon winter resident throughout the state, but is more common in the outer coastal plain (Haney et al. 1986). This species is extremely rare in winter in the northeast Georgia Piedmont.

Prairie Falcon

Sykes saw a Prairie Falcon at 1050 on 29 January 1992 as it perched near the top of a large dead oak tree on the east side of McCarty-Dodd Road. This is the same dead tree in which the Merlin was seen, and the Rough-legged Hawks often were seen perched here as well. The falcon was seen at an estimated distance of 60 m with 10X40 binoculars with sun to the back of the observer. The bird appeared very wary and flew shortly after the observer got out of the vehicle. Coincidentally, Sykes had just seen a Prairie Falcon on 25 January 1992 west of Marfa, Texas. The Texas bird was leisurely studied from 90 m while it was perched, and it was also observed in flight. White saw the Prairie Falcon again on 22 February at 0930 and on 29 February at 1030 at an estimated 75 m. These latter two sightings were just north of the South Fork Broad River.

Based on the coloring of its back, the bird was an adult. On adult Prairie Falcons, the back feathers are dark brown (at a distance may appear black) with a central light brown bar and edge, while immatures have dark brown feathers with light brown edgings only. The bird was a large slender Peregrine-sized falcon with overall pale gray-brown tone on the upperparts and whitish below with dark spotting. It had a distinct narrow dark mustache on a white cheek. The nape had alternating broad diffused light and gray-brown streaking giving a blotchy appearance. The tail was about the same general coloring as the back and appeared rounded at the tip. In flight, the black underwing coverts, in the shape of a dark wedge, extended from the body to the carpal region contrasting with the general light brownish underwing surface.

The Prairie Falcon breeds from southeastern British Columbia to northern North Dakota south to Baja California, southern Arizona and New Mexico, southern Coahuila, Mexico, and western and northern Texas. It winters from southwestern Canada south to the northern third of Mexico. The species occurs casually east to Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee (AOU 1983).

The Prairie Falcon has been recorded in Kentucky twice: one bird (photographed) in southern Ohio County that remained from 12 November 1988 until 27 March 1989 (Stamm 1989a, 1989b; Burt L. Monroe, Jr. pers. comm.); and one or possibly two birds at Munfordville, Hart County on 18 December 1989 (Kistler 1989). There are five Prairie Falcon records for Tennessee (1958 to 1987); all in the western part of the state, two in September and three in October (Robinson 1990). In Alabama there was a record at Guntersville Dam on 16 February 1985 (Muth 1985). This bird returned each winter for six consecutive years (through 1990), was absent during the warmer months, and was very shy. This record was accepted by the Alabama Bird Records Committee in 1988 (Greg Jackson pers. comm.). One was reported in North Carolina in

Carteret County on 23 May 1968 (Potter et al. 1980). Post and Gauthreaux (1989) listed two sightings for South Carolina; near Pendleton on 26 November 1977 and in the Clemson area on 17 March 1978. In Georgia there were three or four individuals reported through 1986; a bird or birds observed near Atlanta from early December 1975 to January 1976 and on 5 April 1976; one at Lookout Plateau on 5 February 1977; and one at Chattahoochee National Forest on 5 August 1977 (Haney et al. 1986). There are two reports for Florida. One was seen at Dry Tortugas on 7 May 1977 (Kale 1978) and another in eastern Sarasota County on 6 October 1986 (Layne 1987). Except for the two sightings in Kentucky, five in Tennessee, and one in Alabama, all records to date in the southeastern United States have been questioned as to the wild status of the individuals (LeGrand 1979, Potter et al. 1980, Muth 1985, Haney et al. 1986, Post and Gauthreaux 1989, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). We found no records of the Prairie Falcon in West Virginia (Hall 1983, George A. Hall pers. comm.) or Virginia (Kain 1987, Teta Kain pers. comm.).

Prairie Falcons are not commonly kept by falconers because, from the falconry standpoint, they have some undesirable traits such as unpredictability, manner of hunting, and training difficulty (William Hammonds pers. comm.). There are 81 licensed falconers in Georgia according to the Wildlife Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (William Fletcher pers. comm.) and perhaps 2500 nationwide. A check in Georgia revealed that no Prairie Falcons had been reported lost by falconers in the state during the preceding 12 months or so, but one had been lost at Charleston, South Carolina (Jerry Gafford and William Hammonds pers. comm.). The bird at Charleston was an immature female lost on 2 November 1991. It was very tame, was wearing jesses and bells, and had several broken tail feathers (Mark Sawyer pers. comm.). The bird observed at Madison County, Georgia, was an unmarked adult of undetermined sex and was quite wary.

The wild status of the individual seen in Madison County, Georgia, is not conclusive, because occasionally a captive bird escapes or is released. Escaped or released birds in the southeastern United States could have originated anywhere in the eastern half of North America. Also, wariness of an individual might not be an indication of its wild status. Some captive birds when freed remain tame, but others quickly become wary (Tom J. Cade pers. comm.). The state of wariness can also be related to age and time the bird was taken into captivity; if captured as a passage bird (migrant) it might tend to revert quickly to the wild, whereas a young bird taken from the nest would more likely remain tame (Tom J. Cade pers. comm.).

We believe that the Prairie Falcon at Madison County, Georgia, was a wild bird. The species is highly migratory; incidents of eastward vagrancy during the non-breeding seasons are numerous, and enough

records in the southeastern United States during the winter and spring and fall migrations indicate at least a few individuals are irregular visitors into the region. The eastern part of the country, which was originally fully forested, now has grasslands that afford suitable winter habitat for many open-country species, hawks and falcons in particular. We predict that, because of suitable winter habitat and increasing numbers of birders, sightings of Prairie Falcons will increase throughout the southeastern United States.

We thank David H. Ellis, Mark R. Fuller, and Chandler S. Robbins for suggestions for improvement of the manuscript.

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National Biological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Southeast Research Station, School of Forest Resources, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152.

GENERAL NOTES

GLAUCOUS GULL SIGHTING IN THE ATLANTA METRO AREA - On 20 January 1992 at 1330 I visited the Scott Candler Water Treatment Plant on Peeler Road, Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia. As I approached the two ponds from the west, I was pleased to see that the easternmost pond had been partially drained, creating an extensive mudflat. I parked at the gated drive off Peeler Road, already able to see several hundred gulls on the mudflat. I often see Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) here, but usually no more than 50 or so when the ponds are full. With my 7X35 binocular, I scanned the flock of Ring-billed Gulls hoping for a Bonaparte's (*L. philadelphia*) or Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*). I immediately stopped checking the Ring-billed Gulls when I came across a huge, massively built, all white gull, about 125 m away, which dwarfed the nearby Ring-bills. The bird appeared to be more than twice the size of the Ring-bills. It was standing near the waterline among the Ring-bills, all of whom were either standing, feeding, chasing each other, flying or sitting on the water nearby.

Upon close comparison of the size of the subject bird to that of the Ring-bills, I judged it to be considerably larger than a Herring Gull which are sometimes seen here (and indeed, the following day I did see two sub-adult Herring Gulls here), and about the size of a Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*). The bird, overall, was a chalky, off-white color with no discernible markings. It was not the pure white of the underparts of the nearby adult Ring-bills, but nearly so. The bird that came immediately to mind was the Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*) that my wife, Carol, and I saw in May, 1991 at South Beach, Jekyll Island, Georgia. The two birds were very similar, except I thought the DeKalb bird was a bit whiter than the Jekyll Island bird. On the other hand, this could have been due to the favorable lighting conditions on this bright, cool, clear day. This bird had flesh colored legs; the inner two-thirds of its huge bill was a pale, bone color; and the tip of the bill was all black, as was the eye.

I watched the bird for a few minutes and then it began stretching its wings and fanning its tail as gulls will do after being idle for a while so I was able to see its spread wings and tail. These were all the same offwhite color as the body, there were no black or brown markings of any kind, nor were there any missing feathers in the wings. It then lifted off with some nearby Ring-billed Gulls, circled around a few times gaining altitude and then flew off by itself in an easterly direction, perhaps to the B.J. Landfill on Buford Highway, which is in that general direction and not far away. Small groups of Ring-bills were also leaving the reservoir at the same time. In flight the bird showed no dark markings either on the upper or underside of the wings nor in the tail. I noted that it seemed to be heavy and cumbersome in flight, compared to the smaller, more acrobatic Ring-bills. I immediately made phone calls to local birders but despite

searches by myself and others later that day and subsequent days, the bird was not reported again.

Later at home I looked through my bird book library and found a very similar photograph to the bird I saw in Grant (1982). The "faded first-winter" bird on page 75 at the top of Farand (1983) is similar, but the subject bird's bill and legs appeared slightly less pink and more fleshy colored. I did not detect on the subject bird the dark shading around the eye of the bird in the photograph, nor the faded brown markings on the chest and wings, but the distance would account for this. As my experience with the Jekyll Island Glaucous Gull indicates, one must be close to a Glaucous Gull to detect the brown feather centers on a pale, faded first-winter bird. Also, I did not detect the pinkish shoulder and mantle seen on the Glaucous Gull on page 44 in Farrand (1988) but note that the text describes it as a "pale gray-buff color". Perhaps the photograph most closely resembling the DeKalb bird is the one in Farrand (1977) labeled as number 33. Finally, in National Geographic Society (1983) a first-winter Glaucous Gull is shown on page 153 (the whiter one on the right) that very closely resembles the bird I saw, particularly the bone-colored bill, as opposed to a pink, flesh-colored bill shown in some illustrations.

As for the age of the bird I saw, I shall take the advice in Grant (1982) which notes that first-winter birds can appear very whitish by January due to fading, and at long range can be difficult to separate from the normal pale, less barred and often whitish plumage of second-year birds, so that it is safest to leave the age of pale, buff or whitish individuals seen at a distance as indeterminate (i.e., first or second winter) and call my bird either a first or second-winter bird. The individuals in the drawings or photographs referred to in the previous paragraph are all described as immature, first-year or first-winter birds.

Reference to Haney et al. (1986) lists five sightings of the Glaucous Gull, all along the coast. To this can be added, I assume the bird previously mentioned on Jekyll Island which was seen by many observers in May, 1991 (Dralle 1991) and an additional bird at Sapelo Island (Parsons and Lang 1991). There have been a number of inland reports of Glaucous Gulls mentioned in the regional reports of *American Birds* during the 1980's and early 1990's from the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee. In Georgia, one bird was reported by Joe Greenberg from the Georgia side of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in November 1985 (pers. comm.).

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Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

OVER-WINTERING RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN GEORGIA - During the winter season of 1991-92 I located and observed six hummingbirds in the north metro Atlanta area. These birds were reported to me at the Bird Watcher Supply Company by customers whom I had asked to keep their feeders out all winter.

As each bird was reported, I verified the sighting, documented the bird with photographs, and notified Bob and Martha Sargent of Trussville, Alabama to come and band and positively identify each bird. Bob Sargent is one of the few people in the southeastern United States to be licensed to band hummingbirds. Two of the birds were Rufous Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus rufus*) and four were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*).

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) lists the early and late dates for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as 5 March 1945 and 25 November 1958. Other sightings outside this period are 8 January 1974 at Waycross, on 24 December 1983 at Gainesville and in the Atlanta area from late Nov. 1978 through 3 January 1979 and also 24 December 1983.

Of the four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds I studied this winter, two had a brief stay but the other two were still present when other Ruby-throated Hummingbirds normally return to Georgia in March and April. The following summarizes the information known about all four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

A hatch year male was reported from an Alpharetta, GA feeder on 28 October 1991, was banded on 10 November 1991 and was last seen on

22 November 1991. Bob Sargent (pers. comm.) indicated the bird was very young and could have possibly hatched as late as the latter part of September or early October.

A hatch year female remained at a Marietta, GA feeder from 3 November 1991 through 18 March 1992 and was banded on 10 November 1991. This bird was joined by a Rufous Hummingbird which left at about the same time.

An adult female appeared at a different Marietta feeder on 19 November 1991, was banded on 30 November 1991 and was last seen on 9 December 1991.

A hatch year male took up residence at a Kennesaw, GA feeder on 23 December 1991, was banded on 3 January 1992 and the bird remained at the feeder through at least December 1992.

Richard Cole, 2000 Branch View Drive, Marietta, GA 30062.

A WINTER RECORD FOR MAGNOLIA WARBLER AT CARTERS LAKE - On 5 December 1992 Paul Raney, Elizabeth Brown and I were birding in the area of the Carters Lake dam in Murray County. At about 1500, while Paul and Elizabeth were observing the waterfowl from the dam, I walked down the dam to the Songbird Management Area Trail. When I got down to the base of the dam I noticed a bird feeding in the lower branches of a nearby bush. The bird then flew across the trail and landed low in some bushes along the creek. Using my 8X42 binoculars I identified the bird as a female plumaged Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*).

The bird continued feeding vigorously in the bushes along the creek long enough for both Paul and Elizabeth to observe the bird and agree with the identification. We had the bird under observation from approximately 1520 until 1535. Field marks seen on the bird included a yellow breast with black streaks along the flanks, white undertail coverts, distinct white wingbars, greenish gray back and a white eye ring. The white tail spots were easily seen when the bird flew between bushes. No call notes were heard during the period of the observation.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10) lists the latest fall date as 9 November 1985 with accidental winter records at Glynn County on 3 January 1981 and at Augusta on 1 December 1984.

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

WINTER NORTHERN ORIOLE IN TUCKER, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA - On 15 January 1992 at about 1030 I saw a bird outside my kitchen window that immediately caught my attention as something different from our usual feeder birds. It was perched on the top branches of a large privet bush, and apparently was attracted to orange halves that my husband, Jeff, and I had hanging on the deck, or perhaps to the peanut butter feeder. A short glimpse was all I got as it flew almost immediately but I felt certain it was a female plumaged oriole.

The bird returned the next day at about the same time of day and fed for about 5 minutes on a hanging suet feeder in the back yard. This time I was able to study it with 7X35 binocular at a range of about 7 m. The bird appeared to be about the size of a Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), or perhaps just slightly smaller than an American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*). The mostly outstanding feature was a bright orange-yellow chest, fading to a paler yellow on the belly and throat. The undertail coverts were also a bright yellow-orange. The medium-length tail feathers were a dull, dark brownish color mixed with some yellow. I noticed two distinct wingbars, the lower white, the upper seeming to be a bit yellowish. The bird's back, nape and crown were brownish-green, with no noticeable black mottling on the head, but some dark flecking visible on the upper back. As the bird lacked any black mottling on the head, I judged it to be a female Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), probably a first-winter bird.

These two very cold (26° F and 17° F, respectively) clear days were followed by a warmer third day and snow on the fourth day. I did not see the bird again despite considerable effort, including putting out glazed doughnuts for it. This food item has been very popular with the 8-10 wintering Northern Orioles who visit the yard of a friend of ours in Thomasville, Georgia every year, where we have often seen them. I have also seen five or six Northern Orioles around Georgia during migration over the last four years, but this is the first I have seen in the Atlanta area during the winter.

Carol Lambert, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

FROM THE FIELD

August 1991 - July 1992

Summarizing an entire year of reports is certainly an interesting exercise! Many reports that would normally be included if our reporting period was a more normal one (2-4 months) had to be left out and even then this report is probably much too long. Please have patience with us while we try to do our best to catch up on the backlog of reports. Please note that in the interests of space, only the highlights of the Christmas Bird Counts were included. A more thorough analysis of the counts will have to wait for a later issue of *The Oriole*. Also, please note the period covered by this report. If the date mentioned for a sighting is August that will be August of 1991. If the date is in July, that will be July of 1992. This is admittedly confusing but it's the best we can do when covering a full year in one report.

The weather during the entire year was not that noteworthy. It wasn't too cold during the winter and the summer wasn't that hot. What this leads up to is that there weren't that many weather induced sightings of spectacular birds. In fact, considering everything, the entire year didn't yield that many exciting birds but, as always, there were enough good birds to keep most of the active birders out looking.

Abbreviations used include: AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society, CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area just north of Atlanta, ELHLAF - E.L.Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, m.ob. - many observers, MP - Merry Ponds at Augusta, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, OAS - Ocmulgee Audubon Society, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - The only inland report was a single bird at Buford Dam in Gwinnett County on 15 March by Paul Raney.

COMMON LOON - One bird was noted on Lake Lanier, Forsyth County on 1, 14 and 28 Aug. by John Paget. The highest count for the reporting period was 50 during a GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Tybee Island on 16 Nov. (Bruce Dralle et al.). A rather late bird was at Lake Wildwood in the Macon area during mid-May (Paul Johnson). In Greene County one bird was first noted around 21 June (fide Paul Sykes) and was still there on 4 July (Paul Sykes, Jeff Sewell, Bruce Dralle).

HORNED GREBE - One summering bird was seen on Lake Lanier, Forsyth County, on 6 Aug. by John Paget. An extremely high count of 130 was reported from Lake Hartwell (Hart County) on 11 Feb. by Paul Sykes.

EARED GREBE - Now an annual visitor to the state, this species was recorded at the ELHLAF from 27 Sept. through 1 Oct. The bird was discovered by Patrick Brisse, Joe Greenberg and Terry Miller and was evidently an adult moulting from alternate to basic plumage. This plumage change is not that well documented and the identification of this individual created a lot of discussion. A photograph of the bird is reproduced here so you



Eared Grebe at ELHLAF - 1 Oct. 1991. Photo by Giff Beaton.

can decide for yourself. Another bird, in more traditional basic plumage, was seen with a small flock of Horned Grebes on Lake Lanier, Forsyth County from 15 March (Paul Raney) through 21 March (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - Eight was a good count during the 16 Nov. GOS pelagic trip out from Tybee Island (Bruce Dralle et al.). Since we have so few pelagic trips off our coast, the status of this species this late in the season is poorly known.

NORTHERN GANNET - Good counts for this species were the 185 off St. Simons Island on 1 Nov. (Paul Sykes), the 648 recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters), and the 100+ off Tybee Island on 25-26 Jan. (Paul Raney). A late bird was reported off Sapelo Island the weekend of 8-10 May during an OAS field trip (fide Ken Clark).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Forty birds were found in the Darien area by Phyllis Bowen on 26 Jan. and were seen off and on by several observers during the next two weeks.

BROWN PELICAN - Paul Sykes had an excellent count of 435 at St. Simons Island on 1 Nov. This species has certainly had a nice recovery from its DDT induced low population counts of a few years ago.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - This species is obviously on the increase, especially at some inland locations. During the summer of 1991 there were three nests with six young that successfully fledged at the Blalock Lake portion of the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse). This area is still the only place in Georgia where the species is known to nest (see *Oriole* 55:42-43). In 1992, there were as many as two nests with three young apiece that successfully fledged by the end of July (Patrick Brisse). The highest inland count during the reporting period was the 300 seen at the MP area on 5 April (Robert Raffel and Giff Beaton).

ANHINGA - Observers in Augusta now regard this species as a fairly common winter visitor to the area (Anne Waters). This winter at MP six were seen on 7 Dec., ten on 18 Jan., and five on 15 Feb. (Anne Waters and Augusta Audubon Society).

AMERICAN BITTERN - This species rarely gets reported so five sightings were very unusual. Single birds were seen at Harris Neck and Viking Fish Camp near Midway on 11-13 Feb. (Bruce Dralle), at Darien on 23 Feb. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and in Greene County on 11 April (Giff Beaton and Robert Raffel). Three birds were certainly a high count at Darien on 21 March (Paul Raney et al.).

LEAST BITTERN - One interesting sighting was a bird flushed from vegetation covering the side of a house on Jekyll Island (at the beach's edge) on 20 March by Mary Ann Vernocy and Peggy and Terry Moore.

GREAT EGRET - Of interest were the rather large numbers noted at MP during the period. Anne and Vernon Waters reported 18 on 16 Nov., 22 on 28 Nov. and 31 on 16 Jan. At Atlanta, one bird was early at the ELHLAF on 29 March (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

SNOWY EGRET - Late inland sightings were in Douglas County on 21 Sept. (Dennie and Pam McClure) and at Augusta on 28 Sept. (Anne Waters).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - A late bird was seen at MP on 2 Nov. by Anne Waters. The highest inland count reported was 13 seen at the ELHLAF and Blalock Lake on 31 July by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller.

REDDISH EGRET - One bird was reported to the Rare Bird Alert from St. Simons Island's East Beach on 12-13 Oct. and what could have been the same bird was seen on Little St. Simons Island on 20 Oct. by Anne and Vernon Waters.

CATTLE EGRET - This species may nest somewhere in the vicinity of Harris County as evidenced by the following sightings: three on 25 April (Dennie and Pam McClure), 50 on 26 April (Joel Hitt) and 32 in five different locations in Harris, Troup and Meriwether counties on 31 July (Dennie and Pam McClure). One bird was a rare winter sighting on the Okefenokee NWR CBC on 2 Jan. (Sheila Willis).

GREEN HERON - There were several sightings on area CBCs with one on the Atlanta CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Terry Moore), one on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson), and two on the Callaway Gardens CBC on 28 Dec. (fide LuAnn Craighton). An additional bird was reported from the Columbus area on 1 Jan. by Sam Pate.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - From the MP area, Anne Waters reported three birds on 11 Nov. and six on 28 Nov. The species was seen in the Macon area in Nov. by Hamp Dowling and also on 9 March (three birds) by Ken and Arlene Clark.

- ROSEATE SPOONBILL** - Paul Sykes was the first observer to report the species along the Jekyll Island Causeway with one bird on 13 Aug. The species continued to be reported from that area through 2 Oct. when two birds were seen by Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle. What could have been an additional bird was seen at Little St. Simons Island on 20 Oct. by Anne and Vernon Waters. Six were seen during a trip to Cumberland Island on 17 July by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney and two were seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 25 July by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.
- WOOD STORK** - The biggest news was that the Midville colony contained 247 nests which produced 1.4 young per nest this season (fide Carol Jordan). Elsewhere, 13 were seen in the Augusta area on 28 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters), two in Early County on 7 June (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and one in Jefferson County on 15 June (Anne Wyand and Tess Cumbie).
- TUNDRA SWAN** - Three birds found in Morgan County on 22 Jan. remained there through 30 Jan. (Paul Sykes and Tony Leukering).
- SNOW GOOSE** - One blue form was seen at Darien on 15 Nov. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney. Six birds (three blue and three white) were seen in Laurens County from 6-21 Dec. (Tom Patterson). One white phase was seen in SW Clarke County on 11 Dec. by Paul Sykes, Tony Leukering and Bonnie Fancher. Two birds were seen on the Athens CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Branch Howe) but it was unclear whether these birds included the 11 Dec. bird. A single white phase was seen between Macon and Dublin on 26 Jan. (Paul Raney) and on 11 Feb. (Bruce Dralle). A last white phase bird was seen at Lake Lanier (Hall County) on 9 Feb. by Wally Dreyfoos.
- CANADA GOOSE** - Although this species is spreading like wildfire in the northern part of the state, a flock of 15 was still considered rather unusual at MP from 26 Oct. into Nov. (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- WOOD DUCK** - Impressive counts were the 300 in northern Greene County on 2 Nov. (Paul and Joan Sykes) and the "several hundred" reported during the period from the Rum Creek WMA near Juliette by Terry Johnson.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL** - A female plumaged bird was discovered at the ELHLAF on 13 June by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller. The bird remained at the same location through the end of July and was seen by many observers. This is the first summer record for the entire state.
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** - One bird was present at the ELHLAF on 18 and 28 Aug. (Patrick Brisse) and two were there on 15 Sept. (AAS). Good counts of this declining species were seen at Shamrock Lake near the ELHLAF when 11 were seen on 2 Jan. and 17 were seen on 18 Jan. (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - The ELHLAF continues to attract summering waterfowl for some reason. A female could be found there during the months of Aug. and Sept. (Patrick Brisse and AAS) and then in the spring, a male and female remained there through 14 June (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** - Three birds were quite rare on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson). A female plumaged bird seen at the ELHLAF on 19 July is apparently the earliest fall arrival date for the state (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

- NORTHERN SHOVELER** - Two birds made an early appearance at the ELHLAF on 2 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Jeff and Carol had another early bird in Laurens County on 7 Sept. Six birds at Lake Hartwell on 11 Feb. were rather unusual as they seldom winter that far north (Paul Sykes).
- GADWALL** - Paul Raney reported a high count of 23 from the Griffin Reservoir (Spaulding County) on 14 Nov.
- CANVASBACK** - This species continues to decrease throughout the state so almost any sighting is worth noting. Two very early birds were seen at the Rum Creek WMA on 26 Oct. (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Paul Raney found a flock of 10 at Lake Seminole on 4 Jan.
- REDHEAD** - This is another species which can be difficult to find anywhere in the state. In the Atlanta area, a total of 10 birds were seen at three different localities on 10 Nov. (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore). The only other reports were a single bird in Laurens County on 17 Nov. (Tom Patterson) and two birds at the ELHLAF on 7 Dec. (Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell).
- RING-NECKED DUCK** - A male was present at the ELHLAF during the months of Aug. and Sept. (m.ob.).
- GREATER SCAUP** - Very early reports were 50 at Jekyll Island on 18-19 Oct. (Paul Raney and Steve Holtzman) and a single female at Pendergrass on 3, 8 and 10 Nov. (John Paget and Jack Carusos). All these dates would break the previous early fall arrival date of 17 Nov. Back along the coast, Paul Raney reported 30 birds at Tybee Island on 25 Jan. and 50 at Jekyll Island on 26 Jan. Inland, Jeff Sewell found nine at the ELHLAF on 16 Feb. for a rare Atlanta record. Because of the difficulty in separating this species from the very common Lesser Scaup, observers are encouraged to provide details of any sighting of this species, especially if it involves an early or late date or unusual location.
- LESSER SCAUP** - One bird at the ELHLAF on 5 Oct. beat the previous fall arrival date for the Atlanta area by 14 days and tied the earliest arrival date for the state (Patrick Brisse).
- OLDSQUAW** - A moulting adult male was seen at the ELHLAF on 19-20 Oct. (Jerry Brunner, Patrick Brisse et al.). This is a month earlier than the earliest fall arrival date for the state. See *Oriole* 56:79 for details of the sighting. Another bird was seen at the Eufaula NWR on 4 March by Jim Shirah.
- BLACK SCOTER** - This species staged one of its infrequent near shore coastal invasions this fall. Numbers were reported along Jekyll Island with 500 on 18 Oct., 800 on 19 Oct. and 1000+ on 20 Oct. (Paul Raney and Steve Holtzman). Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney continued to report 200 at Jekyll Island on 15 Nov. and 2000 were seen on the GOS pelagic trip on 16 Nov. out from Tybee Island (Bruce Dralle et al.). Has anyone studied what causes large numbers of these ducks to desert their usual far offshore feeding grounds to come close to land?
- SURF SCOTER** - Along with the Black Scoters, one Surf Scoter was seen at Jekyll Island on 15 Nov. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Three birds were seen at Jekyll Island on 18 Oct. and five were seen there on 19 Oct. (Paul Raney and Steve Holtzman). These records are a few days earlier than the previous early fall arrival date for the state of 29 Oct. Three other birds were seen at Jekyll Island

- on 15 Nov. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney. Dennie and Pam McClure saw two birds at Jekyll Island on 3 Jan.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE** - The following reports were received: one at Buford Dam on 29 Nov. (Joel Hitt) and 1 Dec. (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert), three at Lake Juliette on 7 Dec. (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Dale Hardee), and three at Lake Spivey south of Atlanta on 28 March (Patrick Brisse).
- BUFFLEHEAD** - A female plumaged bird was rather late in the Norcross area on 11 May (Jim Feeley).
- HOODED MERGANSER** - The Peachtree City CBC had an excellent count of 123 on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht).
- COMMON MERGANSER** - This species was reported much more often than usual. Dwight Harley saw ten at Lake Juliette on 4 Dec. and Ken and Arlene Clark saw two in the Macon area on 6 Dec. At the CRNRA, one bird surprised an AAS migration walk when it flew past them upriver on 25 April (Paul Raney et al.).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - The highest inland count was the 27 at Lake Juliette on 7 Dec. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Bruce Dralle, Dale Hardee). The best coastal count was the 400 at Jekyll Island on 4 Jan. (Dennie and Pam McClure).
- RUDDY DUCK** - Two males were rather early migrants in Laurens County on 29 Sept. (Tom Patterson).
- BLACK VULTURE** - Interesting counts for this species were 100+ at Forsyth on 11 Nov. (Maurice Crenshaw) and the 132 seen on the Athens CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Branch Howe).
- TURKEY VULTURE** - We generally ignore the migration of this species in Georgia so the following two reports were of interest. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw 100+ over Tucker on 21 Oct. and Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore had 200+ going through the Atlanta area on 10 Nov. An extremely high count of 657 was made on the 14 Dec. Athens CBC (fide Branch Howe).
- OSPREY** - This species is definitely on the increase throughout the state. There were at least 18 separate sightings from the Atlanta area alone. At Lake Oconee there are at least four active nests according to Paul Sykes. The highest count was the 50+ seen at Jekyll Island on 6 Oct. (Paul Sykes, Bill Blakeslee, Doris Cohrs, Peggy and Terry Moore). Late fall and winter sightings included two birds at Columbus on 6 Nov. (Sam Pate), a bird at the MIA on 7 Dec. (Ty Ivey), one bird in Crisp County on 13 Dec. (Paul Sykes), six birds on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters), one bird on the Columbus CBC on 22 Dec. (fide Sam Pate), one bird at the MIA on 2 Feb. (Ty Ivey, Carl Perry, Ken and Arlene Clark), and one bird at MP on 29 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** - A record late bird was seen over Jekyll Island on 6 Oct. by Peggy and Terry Moore. The next spring, a record early bird was seen in the Okefenokee Swamp on 8 March by Liz and Hugh Garrett. One bird was seen over downtown Darien on 4 June by Don and Doris Cohrs. At the Altamaha Fish Camp in Glynn County, four birds were seen on 18 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney) and one on 26 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). In Stephens County, one was seen on 23 July by Davis Bulluck for an extremely

- rare record from northeastern Georgia.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** - Twelve birds at Milledgeville on 18 Aug. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney was a good count. At least three birds were seen at Hamburg State Park (Washington County) on 20 June by Nancy Iha. This appears to be near the northern limit of their range in the state. Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett saw 18 at several locations along the Georgia coast on 26 June. At Darien, Don and Doris Cohrs recorded the species on 9 and 25 July. At the Altamaha Fish Camp in Glynn County, seven birds were seen on 18 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney), four birds on 25 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and three birds on 26 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).
- BALD EAGLE** - Over 50 separate reports were received from all over the state during the period. It now appears that the species can at least occasionally be found on almost all medium to large size bodies of water. Most of the reports came from Darien, Sapelo Island, Cumberland Island, Augusta, Columbus, Rum Creek and Atlanta but other reports were scattered throughout the state. Perhaps the most unusual sighting was an immature seen on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Harriett DiGioia).
- NORTHERN HARRIER** - Paul Sykes and Tony Leukering had an excellent count of 14 in SE Clarke County on 24 Nov.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** - Single birds seen near the ELHLAF on 24 and 30 May could possibly indicate nearby nesting (AAS, Patrick Brisse). The nesting by this species in the state is rarely documented although some falconers indicate the species is not that uncommon in the northern part of the state.
- NORTHERN GOSHAWK** - There were two reports of this very rare raptor - one on the 15 Dec. Chattahoochee National Forest CBC (fide Harriett DiGioia) and another bird at Athens on 1 Feb. (Stuart Cowart). Unfortunately, at this point in time, documentation of these significant sightings has not been submitted to the Checklist Committee or to *The Oriole*.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - The migration of this species in the fall was poorly reported with a disappointing high count of only 20+ coming from Duluth on 21 Sept. (Joel Volpi).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** - One light phase bird was seen near Cobb, Sumter County, on 16 Nov. by Ellery McClintock. See *Oriole* 56:80 for details of this sighting. At least one and sometimes two birds frequented an area NE of Athens from late Nov. through 15 March. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this occurrence.
- GOLDEN EAGLE** - One subadult was seen in Laurens County on 10 Nov. by Tom Patterson for a rare mid-Georgia observation. Another bird was reported on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Harriett DiGioia). Sketchy information indicates that a pair of Golden Eagles attempted to nest in Georgia but this attempt was unsuccessful (fide Terry Johnson). Even though the location of this attempt should be kept secret to protect the pair, it would be good for as many details as possible to be documented of this nesting attempt.
- AMERICAN KESTREL** - The migration of this species along the coast in the fall doesn't draw as much attention as that of Peregrine Falcons but we should definitely keep track of their numbers as the species appears to

be declining in numbers. Paul Sykes had a rather early migrant along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 13 Aug. Peggy and Terry Moore saw eight passing by Jekyll Island on 6 Oct. Two birds seen in Clayton County on 11 July by Robert Raffel and Dana Buckelew were probably post-nesting wanderers.

MERLIN - The best count along the coast was nine at Jekyll Island on 6 Oct. (Peggy and Terry Moore, Bill Blakeslee, Paul Sykes and Doris Cohrs). Elsewhere, one bird was seen in Greene County on 28 Sept. (Paul Sykes), another was seen at Augusta the same day (Anne Waters et al.), one was seen in Forsyth County on 3 Oct. (Joe Greenberg), one bird was at MP on 16 Jan. (Anne Waters), and one was seen near Colbert (Madison County) on 16 Feb. (Donald White).

PEREGRINE FALCON - This species was more widely reported than usual with several sightings away from the immediate coast. The first sighting was from the Oak Woods WMA in southern Houston County on 8 Sept. by Dan and Pam Guynn. Two birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 21 Sept. by Patrick Brisse and Bruce Dralle and one bird was seen there the next day by Price Webb. At Jekyll Island, 6 Oct. was a good day to watch this species pass by as 15 were spotted (Peggy and Terry Moore, Paul Sykes, Bill Blakeslee and Doris Cohrs). Starting in October and continuing through much of the winter, one bird was seen on several dates in downtown Atlanta by Bill Groce. Another bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 30 Nov. by Paul Raney and Dick Williams. Single birds were seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters), at Sapelo Island on 27 Dec. (Anne Waters) and at Harris Neck NWR on 11-13 Feb. (Bruce Dralle). According to newspaper clippings, a Peregrine Falcon pair (banded female but unbanded male) attempted to nest on the 48th floor of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. Unfortunately for them, a third bird showed up on 23 April and on 27 April the nest was abandoned. This does however represent the first nesting attempt in Georgia since 1942. The final observation was an interesting one because of the date, 23 July, in Murray County by Harriett DiGioia.

PRAIRIE FALCON - A bird was discovered near Colbert on 29 Jan. by Paul Sykes and observed again on 22 and 29 Feb. by Donald White. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this observation. This is the fifth sighting of this western species in the state but its status is still hypothetical due to questions regarding the origins of these birds.

PLAIN CHACHALACA - This introduced species was recorded on Sapelo Island on 22 Sept. (two birds by Nancy Iha) and on 28 Dec. (three birds during the CBC - fide Anne Waters).

RUFFED GROUSE - A bird in Dawson Forest on 5 April by John Paget and Jack Carusos was probably at the southern limit of its normal range in Georgia. Harriett DiGioia commented that the species appears to be declining in northern Georgia with no young seen during the reporting period.

BLACK RAIL - This species was found in northern Greene County both in 1991 and in 1992 during the summer. Although breeding is definitely suspected, this species has so far eluded observers trying to find their nest (Paul Sykes et al.).

CLAPPER RAIL - Paul Sykes had some excellent counts along the Jekyll Island Causeway with 140 on 6 Oct. and 72 (in 1.5 hrs) on 23 Nov.

KING RAIL - One bird was found in northern Greene County on 2 Nov. (Paul and Joan Sykes). A single bird was in Dawson County on 21 Dec. (John Paget) and two were recorded on the Augusta CBC the same day (Anne and Vernon Waters). Four to five were heard in Dawson County on 14 March (Dick Williams and Jeannie Wright), one bird was in Greene County on 11 April (Giff Beaton and Robert Raffel) and another single bird was recorded in Banks County on 23 and 30 May (John Paget).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Six birds were in northern Greene County on 2 Nov. (Paul and Joan Sykes), one was at the MIA on 7 Dec. (Ty Ivey) and two birds were still in northern Greene County on 29 Feb. (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, Robert Raffel, Dick Williams and Jeannie Wright). In a small marsh near Woodstock, two birds were recorded on 12 March, the peak count was 4-5 on 10 April and at least two birds remained there until the end of May (Giff Beaton). Back in Greene County, five were reported on 21 March and nine on 11 April (Giff Beaton and Robert Raffel).

SORA - Unusual for the winter around Augusta, two birds were recorded on the 21 Dec. Augusta CBC and another bird was seen on 18 Jan. at MP (Anne and Vernon Waters). A single bird mistakenly landed in a Doraville parking lot on or about 22 Feb. and was shown to Dick Parks. One bird was at the Woodstock marsh on 4 April (Giff Beaton, Robert Raffel and Dana Buckelew).

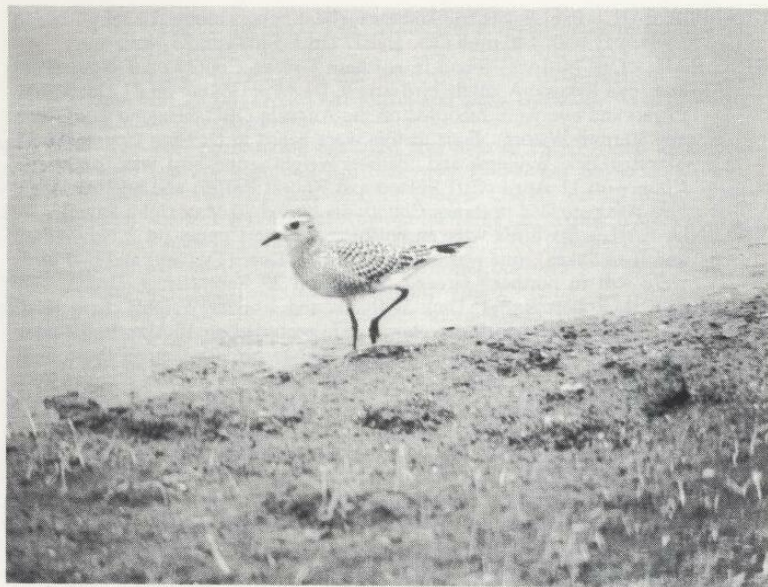
COMMON MOORHEN - Twenty-four was a good count on the Albany CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Alan Ashley).

AMERICAN COOT - Four birds were still at Darien on 24 May (Dennie and Pam McClure). Does the species nest there with any regularity?

SANDHILL CRANE - Except for an extremely early report of 10 birds over Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 21 Sept. (AAS), the southbound migration was pretty much on schedule with 32 birds over Roswell on 6 Nov. (Peggy Moore). After that the birds were seen on scattered dates but the last big push was on 15 Dec. when 205 were recorded on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC (fide Harriett DiGioia), 103 on the Atlanta CBC (fide Terry Moore) and on 16 Dec. when 220 were recorded on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC (fide Terry Johnson). Admittedly there could be some duplication in these numbers as these birds were rapidly moving toward the south. The northbound flight started with 90 at Macon on 11 Feb. (Rebecca Rogers) with apparently the peak being on 1 March when 2000+ birds were seen over the MIA by Ty Ivey et al. In the Atlanta area over 2000 were noted from 1-5 March (m.ob.). The latest sightings were 11 over downtown Atlanta on 29 March (Bruce Dralle) and a single bird near the ELHLAF on the extremely late date of 24 May (AAS).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - This species is quite uncommon in the interior so sightings in Laurens County on 7 Aug. (Tom Patterson) and at the Gainesville Airport on 26 Aug. (John Paget) were worth noting.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - As many as four birds spent the period from 14 to 23 Sept. at the ELHLAF (m.ob.). A single bird was seen in Laurens County on 14 Sept. (Tom Patterson). Back at the ELHLAF a single bird was found on 10 Nov. (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and



American Golden-Plover at ELHLAF - 19 Sept. 1991. Photo by Giff Beaton.

Terry Moore) and remained there through at least 17 Nov. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Two more birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 28 March (Patrick Brisse).

WILSON'S PLOVER - Very unusual were the five birds seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters). This species is regarded as accidental during the winter by the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Twelve was a good count for an inland location at the ELHLAF on 1 Sept. (AAS). A count of 17 at Jekyll Island on 26 June were probably non-breeding birds rather than early or late migrants (Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett).

PIPING PLOVER - Two birds were seen at Jekyll Island on 15 Nov. (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). A good count of five was recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters). One bird was still at St. Simons Island on 17 May (Patrick Brisse) and what was probably an early migrating bird was at Jekyll Island on 18 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - Paul Raney had an excellent count of 34 at Tybee Island on 25 Jan.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Evidently early for the state was a single bird at Jekyll Island on 19 March (Peggy and Terry Moore). Twenty-five was a good count at Darien and Jekyll Island on 9 May (Bruce Dralle et al.).

AMERICAN AVOCET - Small numbers were reported a number of times from several coastal areas with the high count of 17 at Jekyll Island on 16 March (Peggy and Terry Moore).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - This species is now being encountered in the Augusta area regularly during the winter as evidenced by a single bird at MP on 7 Dec., five on 21 Dec., and one on 4 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - Very rare during the winter inland were single birds on the Augusta CBC (fide Anne Waters) and Dublin CBC (fide Tom Patterson) on 21 Dec.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Generally this species isn't seen in any numbers but the 21 at the ELHLAF on 4 Aug. was certainly a good count (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Seven were seen at the Augusta Airport on 5 April by Giff Beaton and Robert Raffel.

WHIMBREL - The spring migration was highlighted by counts of 40 on 9 May (Bruce Dralle et al.) and 31 on 16 May (Patrick Brisse) in the Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island areas. The fall migration was already underway on 18 July as evidenced by the count of 15 in the same area (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

MARbled GODWIT - Good counts included nine at Little St. Simons Island on 20 Oct. (Anne and Vernon Waters), 23 on the 14 Dec. St. Catherines Island CBC (fide Anne Waters) and nine on the 28 Dec. Sapelo Island CBC (fide Anne Waters).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Always rare inland was a breeding plumaged bird on 19 Aug. in Laurens County (Giff Beaton and Tom Patterson).

RED KNOT - Four birds at Jekyll Island on 18 July were close to the earliest fall arrival date for the state (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

SANDERLING - This is a fairly rare migrant inland so a bird at the ELHLAF on 18 Sept. (Joe Harris) was noteworthy as were the four there from 21 to 22 Sept. (Patrick Brisse and Bruce Dralle).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - Two birds were late at the ELHLAF on 7 June (Patrick Brisse, Terry Moore and Robert Raffel).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Good inland counts were the 12 at the ELHLAF on 2 Sept. (Patrick Brisse and Bruce Dralle) and the 15 at MP on 5 April (Giff Beaton and Robert Raffel).

LEAST SANDPIPER - This species was recorded on three inland CBCs with one on the Atlanta CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Terry Moore), an exceptional 19 on the Dublin CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson) and a single bird on the Thomasville CBC on 29 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford). The peak inland count during the period was the 52 at the ELHLAF on 30 April (Patrick Brisse) and one bird was there as late as 14 June (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller, Robert Raffel). Its difficult to tell whether this last bird was still heading north, heading south or just a non-breeding wanderer.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - The only reports for the period came from the ELHLAF. Single birds were seen on 7 May (Patrick Brisse), on 24 May (AAS), and 30 May (Bruce Dralle, Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Three birds were there on 1 June (Bruce Dralle), six on 2 June (Bruce Dralle) and 6 June (Paul Raney), and four on 7 June (Patrick Brisse, Terry Moore and Robert Raffel).

- BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** - The only report came from the Gainesville Airport with one bird on 2 Sept. (John Paget).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** - Three birds were late at the ELHLAF on 17 Nov. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) but certainly not as late as the bird that remained in the Dublin area until the CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson). Twenty-one were already at MP on the fairly early date of 29 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters). One bird was already moving south in Houston County on 4 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER** - At Tybee Island, four birds were seen on 22 Feb. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and one bird on 21 March (Paul Raney et al.).
- DUNLIN** - An unusually early bird was seen in Forsyth County on 17 Aug. by John Paget and Jack Carusos. At the Gainesville Airport, John Paget had a good inland count of 21 on 1 Nov. For the second year in a row, the species was found during the winter in Laurens County for a rare winter record (Tom Patterson).
- STILT SANDPIPER** - In Laurens County, Tom Patterson found two on 5 Sept., one on 19 Sept., seven on 18 Oct. and two on 24 Oct. At the ELHLAF, one bird was seen on 8 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and two on 15 Sept. (AAS) and 21 Sept. (Bruce Dralle). Along the coast, a late bird was seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 15 Nov. by Paul Raney and Bruce Dralle.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** - The only reports came from the ELHLAF with a single bird there on 8 Sept. (Chuck Hunter and Bruce Dralle) and as many as three during the period from 14 through 19 Sept. (m.ob.). The last report was a single bird on 29 Sept. (AAS).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** - A female plumaged bird was found at the ELHLAF on 30 May by Patrick Brisse and the bird remained there through 1 June (Bruce Dralle).
- RED PHALAROPE** - One bird, first thought to be a Red-necked Phalarope, was later definitely identified as a Red Phalarope at the ELHLAF from 19 Sept. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett and Joe Harris) through 22 Sept. (Patrick Brisse and Bruce Dralle). Elsewhere, 17 were seen on the GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Tybee Island on 16 Nov. (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- PARASITIC JAEGER** - Two birds were seen during the GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Tybee Island on 16 Nov. (Bruce Dralle et al.). One adult was seen at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov. (Paul Sykes) and Terry Moore saw a jaeger (sp.) at a great distance from Jekyll Island on 15 March.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - This species continues to frequent our coastal areas in the fall with most records coming from Jekyll Island's South Beach. Four birds were seen there on 29 Sept. by Bruce Hallett and Bill Blakeslee and at least one bird could generally be found there at least through 15 Nov. (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). An adult was found at Tybee Island on 16 Nov. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney and was probably the bird that remained there for the entire winter (m.ob.).
- GLAUCOUS GULL** - One bird at the DeKalb County Reservoir on 20 Jan. (Jeff Sewell) was truly an outstanding record. Please see elsewhere in this issue for details of this first Atlanta sighting.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** - It wasn't that long ago that this species was difficult to find even during the winter; now it can be found every



Buff-breasted Sandpiper at ELHLAF - 19 Sept. 1991. Photo by Giff Beaton.



Red Phalarope at ELHLAF - 21 Sept. 1991. Photo by Paul Raney.

month of the year. During this period two were seen at St. Simons Island on 17 Aug. and two were at Tybee Island on 18 Aug. (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). Good counts on the CBCs were 11 on 14 Dec. at St. Catherines Island and nine at Sapelo Island on 28 Dec. (fide Anne Waters). Two adults and three immatures were seen at Cumberland Island on 17 July by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney.

GULL-BILLED TERN - A single bird was seen at St. Simons Island on 18 Aug. (Giff Beaton) and three were seen at Jekyll Island on 23 Aug. (Patrick Brisse). One bird was very late at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov. (Paul Sykes). At Cumberland Island two were seen on 17 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). At Jekyll Island eight were seen on 18 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney) and one on 26 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

CASPIAN TERN - Five birds in the Columbus area on 12 April was a very good sighting for an inland area (Sam Pate).

SANDWICH TERN - One bird was late at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov. (Paul Sykes) but not as late as the single birds seen on the 14 Dec. St. Catherines Island CBC and at Sapelo Island on 27 Dec. and the next day on the Sapelo Island CBC (fide Anne Waters).

COMMON TERN - The passage of this species along our coastal areas is poorly understood. We can often visit the coast without seeing the bird and then, at rather unexpected times, they are there in numbers. Patrick Brisse reported 50+ at Jekyll Island on 23 Aug. and the GOS sponsored 16 Nov. pelagic trip out from Tybee Island recorded 10 (Bruce Dralle et al.). Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney reported 10 at St. Simons Island on 18 July and Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert found "many" at Jekyll Island on 26 July.

FORSTER'S TERN - Late inland sightings included a bird at Commerce Lake on 3 Nov. (John Paget and Jack Carusos), six birds at Clark Hill WMA on 29 Nov. (Anne and Vernon Waters) and a single bird on the Macon CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Marie Amerson).

LEAST TERN - Counts of 150 were received from both Tybee Island on 18 Aug. (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney) and from the Jekyll Island area on 18 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney). One bird at the ELHLAF on 25 July (Robert Raffel) was the second Atlanta area record.

BRIDLED TERN - Two birds were seen during the 16 Nov. GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Tybee Island (Bruce Dralle et al.).

BLACK TERN - The highest counts for this species were the 25 at the ELHLAF on 18 Aug. (Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett) and six in Laurens County on 19 Aug. (Tom Patterson).

MOURNING DOVE - Young had already hatched near Columbus on 19 March (Mary Budnaitis fide Sam Pate).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - Very rare for the Atlanta area was a single bird seen in the vicinity of the ELHLAF on 10 Aug. (Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett) and what was probably the same bird on 14 Sept. at the pond area of the ELHLAF (Giff Beaton). Five was a good count on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - One bird was reported calling near the ELHLAF on 25 Aug. (AAS), another bird was seen on the Augusta Levee on 28 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters et al.) and a last bird was seen at the CRNRA on 25 April (Dennis and Jet Lacoss) for the only reports.

COMMON BARN-OWL - This species which has been on the decline was reported much more frequently than usual. Owing to its status, all reports will be listed. A pair had young in Hall County on 3 and 10 Nov. (John Paget). Two birds were found in Laurens County on the Dublin CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson). Robert Raffel and Giff Beaton reported four from the Social Circle area on 5 April. Jim and Joyce Harrison had an adult and three young in Johnson County on 11 May and Paul Johnson reported the species from the Wesleyan College campus in Macon. Elsewhere, the species was reported from Emanuel County by Jerry and Marie Amerson, from the Byron Agricultural Center by Rose Payne and nesting in the Dalton area by Harriett DiGioia. Barny Dunning also reported that the species had reoccupied a number of former nesting sites in the Athens area. Maybe this is one of the few species that seems to be recovering in numbers.

SHORT-EARED OWL - An excellent count of 12 was reported from Crisp County on 29 Dec. by Ty Ivey, Jerry and Marie Amerson et al. This species was reported from the Brunswick area on 3 Jan. by Dennie and Pam McClure. At least two birds were found in the Athens area from mid-Jan. through Feb. by Paul Sykes et al. One bird was seen on the rather late date of 22 March at Darien by Paul Raney et al.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - No impressive numbers were reported during the fall migration period. Late sightings were one by John Rofrano on 22 Oct. and four on 24 Oct. (John Rofrano and Patrick Brisse). Both these observations were at Fulton County Stadium during the World Series.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - In the fall this species can be very difficult to find so reports from Lawrenceville on 28 Sept. (Joel Hitt) and Darien on 20 Sept. (Don and Doris Cohrs) are certainly worth noting. During December this species was heard in the Darien area by Don and Doris Cohrs for a relatively rare winter report. One bird was fairly early in Harris County on 17 March (Tom Breazeale III). One bird that was heard during a Breeding Bird Survey near Juliette on 7 June was south of the species' expected range (Helen Ogren and Mary Ann Vernocy).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - The first spring migrants were noted at Ocmulgee National Monument near Macon on 22 March by Barbara Edwards.

HUMMINGBIRDS - Thanks to the efforts of Richard Cole, Terry Johnson and Bob Sargent, we are starting to get a better handle on what is actually happening with wintering hummingbirds in the southeast. Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded by Bob Sargent in the Atlanta area on 10 Nov. and these birds remained at their feeders for some time afterward. One female Black-chinned Hummingbird was banded at Georgetown on 9 Nov. for the second state record (Bob Sargent) and at least seven Rufous Hummingbirds were banded in the state during the reporting period (Bob Sargent). Let's hope that all this valuable information gets documented in *The Oriole*.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER - An adult was seen feeding young on the very late date of 21 Sept. at the Yuchi WMA (Burke County) by Anne and Vernon Waters.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER - On the negative side, this species was not seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. for one of the few times it has been missed since the species was introduced onto the island.

- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - This is a very local breeding species in Georgia and every summer occurrence needs to be reported. One bird was still calling in northern Greene County on 17 Aug. (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey). Other single birds were seen at the DeKalb County Honor Farm on 20 June (Georgann Schmalz) and back in northern Greene County on 4 July (Paul Sykes, Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - Fall reports of this species are always problematical but the following reports were received. Two were reported from northern Greene County on 17 Aug. (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey), two other birds were reported from Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 24 Aug. (Georgann Schmalz) and single birds were reported from the CRNRA on 14 Sept. (Joe Harris), from the Ocmulgee National Monument on 14 Sept. (OAS) and in Forsyth County on 3 Oct. (Joe Greenberg). One bird was reported during spring migration at Gainesville on 8 May (John Paget).
- EASTERN PHOEBE - A pair in Harris County already had five eggs on 17 March (Tom Breazeale III).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD - One bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 14 and 17 Oct. by Don and Doris Cohrs.
- EASTERN KINGBIRD - A high count of 50+ was made by Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett near the ELHLAF on 18 Aug. One bird was seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. for an extremely rare winter report (fide Anne Waters).
- GRAY KINGBIRD - Generally single birds or small family groups are reported from Sea Island, St. Simons Island or Jekyll Island during the summer. However, the count of 12 at Sea Island on 17 Aug. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney may be the highest one day count for Georgia.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - This rare species was seen in northeastern Laurens County from 8-10 Nov. by Tom Patterson.
- HORNED LARK - Two birds were found in the Columbus area on 22 Dec. (fide Sam Pate), Robin Carter reported 1-2 birds in the Fort Valley area on 22 June, and three birds were seen in Houston County on 4 July by Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell.
- PURPLE MARTIN - The earliest spring migrants were reported from the Columbus area on 12 Feb. (Sam Pate).
- TREE SWALLOW - For so late in the season, 150 was a good count at Blalock Lake near the ELHLAF on 3 Nov. (Patrick Brisse). On 14 June an adult was observed feeding three young at Blalock Lake (Henry County) by Robert Raffel, Terry Miller and Patrick Brisse for a very rare nesting record for the state.
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - An amazing 155 birds were seen in northern Greene County on 28 Sept. by Paul Sykes, Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller and Mike Bowman. Another even later bird was seen at the CRNRA on 5 Oct. (AAS). Record early for the state was a bird seen in Greene County on 29 Feb. by Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, Robert Raffel, Dick Williams and Jeannie Wright).
- BANK SWALLOW - Two birds seen 10-12 miles apart on 4 July were very early for the state (Paul Sykes).
- CLIFF SWALLOW - A new nesting location was found in Troup County on 13 May by Ethel Chastain and Lynn Emory. This is possibly the farthest south the species has nested in Georgia. A total of 18 birds were seen at

- two different locations at Lake Oconee on 28 June (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). One bird was seen on the unusual date of 12 July at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse).
- BARN SWALLOW - An estimated 5800 were seen passing through Jekyll Island on 13 Aug. by Paul Sykes. Two record early birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 7 March by Patrick Brisse.
- COMMON RAVEN - This species was reported from Brasstown Bald several days during May by Dot Freeman.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - The only report for the entire period was the three birds found on the Atlanta CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Terry Moore).
- BEWICK'S WREN - One bird was seen on the Dalton CBC on 14 Dec. for a now very rare sighting (fide Harriett DiGioia).
- WINTER WREN - A very early bird was at Gainesville on 18 Sept. (John Paget).
- SEDGE WREN - Either this species is more common inland than we suspected or we are venturing into the marshes more than we used to do. Single birds were seen at the CRNRA on 21 Sept. (AAS), in northern Greene County on 2 Nov. (Paul Sykes), at the MIA on 7 Dec. (Ty Ivey), on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson), in Dawson County on 21 Dec. (John Paget), at MP on 21 Dec. (Clarence Belger), and at the MIA on 2 Feb. (Ty Ivey, Carl Perry and Ken and Arlene Clark). However, an amazing 15+ found in Dawson County on 18 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert may change our conception of the species' occurrence in inland Georgia.
- MARSH WREN - Inland occurrences of this species are hard to come across so a single bird at the CRNRA on 21 Sept. (AAS) and two birds at the Rum Creek WMA on 26 Oct. (Bruce Dralle and Brock Hutchins) are noteworthy.
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Interesting winter sightings included a bird on the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht) and four birds on the Augusta CBC the same day (fide Anne Waters).
- THRUSHES - This group of species was very poorly reported during the period which is consistent with other observers' reports up and down the East Coast. We need to report our sightings of this group since their numbers appear to be dropping sharply.
- VEERY - The only decent number reported was the 12 seen at Kennesaw Mt. (Cobb County) on 3 May by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Only the following reports were received - a single bird at the CRNRA on 21 Sept. (AAS), a bird at Kennesaw Mt. on 21 Sept. (Bruce Dralle), three birds in Greene County on 28 Sept. (Patrick Brisse et al.) and a single bird in Forsyth County on 3 Oct. (Joe Greenberg).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH - About 15 were found at Kennesaw Mt. on 3 May by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.
- HERMIT THRUSH - Fifteen was a very high count in north Atlanta on 29 Nov. (Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell).
- WOOD THRUSH - Late sightings included single birds in the Columbus area on 27 Oct. (Dorothy and Bob Potts) and 29 Oct. (Florence Lynn) and five birds at the CRNRA on 30 Oct. by Giff Beaton.
- GRAY CATBIRD - This species generally winters in the Piedmont in low numbers so five on the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. was quite a high

count for that area (fide Chris Lambrecht).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - Single birds were recorded on the 14 Dec. Athens CBC (fide Branch Howe), on the 21 Dec. Augusta CBC (fide Anne Waters) and on 1 March at the Oaky Woods WMA (Pam and Dan Gynn).

BELL'S VIREO - This species was reported from Sea Island on 13 Aug. by Paul Sykes. This species so far remains on the hypothetical list of Georgia species owing to the extreme difficulty of separating this species from the variable plumages of White-eyed Vireos. We will wait on the decision of the Checklist Committee as to whether the species can be accepted on the provisional state list.

SOLITARY VIREO - Birds at the southern limit of their nesting range were seen at Piedmont NWR on 7 June (Jerry and Marie Amerson), and in two different locations in Gwinnett County on 7 and 26 June (Joel Hitt).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Six reports were received from the Atlanta area from 7 Sept. through 5 Oct. with the peak from 23-28 Sept. (fide Terry Moore). Two birds were seen in northern Greene County on 28 Sept. by Paul Sykes, Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller and Mike Bowman. A very rare sighting for the coast was a bird at Jekyll Island on 9 May by Bruce Dralle et al.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - This species was noted fairly frequently in low numbers both in the spring and the fall in the Atlanta area but its numbers far surpassed those of the Golden-winged Warbler.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Two birds in northern Greene County on 17 Aug. were somewhat early migrants (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey).

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - Two birds were reported from Fernbank Forest on 14 Sept. during an AAS migration walk but owing to new information regarding the variability of Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warblers available now, we should now insist on detailed field notes on each observation before assigning Brewster's/Lawrence's status to a particular sighting.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - The best count was 35 at the CRNRA on 28 Sept. (AAS).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - This species is definitely on the increase in the inland areas during the winter. Whereas it used to be almost accidental, it is now almost expected as evidenced by the four recorded on the Atlanta CBC on 15 Dec. (fide Terry Moore) and the three recorded on the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht). Many additional reports of this species were received during the spring and fall migration periods.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - Single birds were seen at Tucker on 13 Oct. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert and on 20 Oct. near the ELHLAF by Giff Beaton.

NORTHERN PARULA - Very rare for Georgia was a bird seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. (fide Anne Waters).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - A very late bird was seen in Forsyth County on 31 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - An extremely early bird was seen in Roswell on 21 March by Bill Groce.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - One bird at Tom Patterson's feeder near Dublin from 9 to 25 Jan. was a rare winter record for the upper coastal

plain.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - Ten birds were already passing through Jekyll Island on 13 Aug. (Paul Sykes). Single birds were seen on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson) and in Pierce County on 22 and 27 Jan. (Wesley Cureton).

PALM WARBLER - Nineteen was a very high count for the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - One bird was early near Stone Mountain on 28 Aug. (Patrick Brisse).

CERULEAN WARBLER - Five reports were received from the Atlanta area between 1 Aug. and 1 Sept. (fide Terry Moore). At Macon, one was seen on 25 Aug. by Barbara Edwards. Only one bird was reported in the spring - at Kennesaw Mt. on 25 April by Bruce Dralle et al.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Two birds were found on the Augusta CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Anne Waters) and one on the Callaway Gardens CBC on 28 Dec. (fide LuAnn Craighton). A bird found at Piedmont NWR on 7 June by Jerry and Marie Amerson could indicate a rare nesting occurrence for that area.

AMERICAN REDSTART - Good numbers were found in the Atlanta area during the fall with counts of 20 at Fernbank Forest on 21 Sept. (AAS), 20 at the CRNRA on 28 Sept. (AAS) and 30 at the CRNRA on 5 Oct. (AAS). One bird was fairly late at the Okefenokee NWR on 26 May (Dennie and Pam McClure). One bird in Marietta on 20 July was probably an early migrant (Giff Beaton).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Four birds were found in northern Greene County on 17 Aug. (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey). In the Atlanta area there were a total of 11 reports during the fall between 18 Aug. and 16 Oct. (fide Terry Moore). Single birds were found near the ELHLAF on 19 and near Stone Mountain on 29 July (Patrick Brisse).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - One bird was seen near Stone Mountain on 27 Aug. (Patrick Brisse). Another fall migrant was a bird at Oaky Woods WMA in Houston County on 2 Sept. (Dan Gynn, Ty Ivey, Ken and Arlene Clark). The species was found near the ELHLAF on several dates from 21 April (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) through 1 June (Bruce Dralle). Other birds were seen near Stone Mountain on 26 April (Patrick Brisse), two birds at the Conyers Monastery on 2 May (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert), at Bond Swamp near Macon on 30 May (Paul Johnson), at Darien on 6 June (Don and Doris Cohrs), and at Athens during the summer (Barney Dunning).

OVENBIRD - One bird was seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 14 Dec. for a very rare winter record (fide Anne Waters). A bird noted at the Piedmont NWR on 7 June could be a non-breeding wanderer or a very local nester (Jerry and Marie Amerson). Followup visits to the area are certainly warranted.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - The first fall migrants were noted on 13 Aug. with one bird near Stone Mountain (Patrick Brisse) and five birds on Jekyll and St. Simons Islands (Paul Sykes).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - Extremely late, since this species generally leaves Georgia in August, was a bird seen at the CRNRA on 25 and 27 Oct. (Joe Harris). See elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting.

- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - One bird was seen at the Yuchi WMA in Burke County on 21 Sept. (Vernon Waters). Single birds were banded at Jekyll Island on 4 and 17 Oct. (Don and Doris Cohrs). One bird was seen in the Macon area on 17 May during an OAS field trip (fide Ken Clark).
- COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - For a piedmont location, twelve was quite a good count on the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht).
- WILSON'S WARBLER - During the fall, single birds were seen near Stone Mountain on 30 Aug. (Patrick and Donna Brisse), at the CRNRA on 14 Sept. (AAS), along the coast on 12 Oct. (Joe Greenberg), on the Augusta Levee on 12 Oct. (Anne and Vernon Waters) and at the CRNRA on 19 Oct. (Giff Beaton). Winter records included a bird on the Thomasville CBC on 29 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford) and at Augusta from 25 Jan. through 22 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters et al.).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - This species was reported a surprising number of times from the Atlanta area during the winter and early spring. One bird was seen near Fayetteville on 1 Dec. by Hugh Garrett. Another was seen near Peachtree City on 3 Jan. by Patrick Brisse. A third bird visited the feeder of Diana Borasch at Alpharetta from 31 Jan. through 14 Feb. A bird seen at the CRNRA on 21 March was more likely an overwintering bird than an early migrant (AAS).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - Forty was an excellent count at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 28 Sept. (Georgann Schmalz, AAS).
- BLUE GROSBEAK - A fairly early bird was seen near Stone Mountain on 12 April (Patrick Brisse).
- INDIGO BUNTING - Late birds were seen at the CRNRA on 30 Oct. (Giff Beaton) and on 2 Nov. (AAS).
- DICKCISSEL - This erratic species was noted several times during the period. Single birds were seen in Banks County on 25 Aug. (John Paget and Jack Caruso) and near Duluth on 12 Oct. (Joel Volpi). A male and female were seen at the ELHLAF on 3 May (AAS) and three birds were found in Jefferson County on 15 June (Anne Wyand and Tess Cumbie).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert found 10 birds at Piedmont NWR on 19 April for a good count there. One was found in Harris County on 24 April (Joel Hitt). Most surprising was a bird found in Union County on 4 May by Dot Freeman. On 20 June Nancy Iha found one in Glascock County.
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Single birds were banded at Jekyll Island on 22 Sept., 24 Sept. and 16 Oct. (Don and Doris Cohrs).
- VESPER SPARROW - A bird reported by Paul Sykes from Greene County on 28 Sept. was two days earlier than the previous fall arrival record for the state.
- LARK SPARROW - Single birds were seen at Jekyll Island on 10 Aug. by Richard Ellenberg and Virginia Ingram and at the MIA on 31 Aug. (Ty Ivey, Carl Perry and Ken and Arlene Clark). Another bird was found near Athens on 13 March and remained there through 21 March (m.ob. fide Paul Sykes). The last sighting was a bird in Peach County on 14 May (Paul Johnson).

- SAVANNAH SPARROW - A bird at the ELHLAF on 14 Sept. was rather early for the Atlanta area (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - A single bird seen near Dublin on 12 Nov. was a good find for that time of year (Giff and Becky Beaton, Bruce Hallett and Bill Blakeslee). Another bird was seen on the Peachtree City CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW - The only report was a bird seen on the Sapelo Island CBC on 28 Dec. (fide Anne Waters).
- LECONTE'S SPARROW - One bird was seen in Greene County on 16 Feb. by Robert Raffel near where another bird was seen last winter and early spring.
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One bird was banded at Jekyll Island on 16 Oct. for a rare coastal record (Don and Doris Cohrs). Another was seen at Youman's Pond near Midway on 13 Feb. by Bruce Dralle and the last sighting was a bird at Blalock Lake on 30 April (Patrick Brisse).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - This rather locally distributed species was reported more frequently than usual. Four birds remained in the Watkinsville area from early Oct. through early March (Billy Dunbar fide Paul Sykes). Single birds were banded at Jekyll Island on 5 and 19 Oct. (Don and Doris Cohrs). Additional sightings included three birds in Greene County on 2 Nov. (Paul Sykes), one at MP on 16 Nov. (Anne and Vernon Waters), two near Lake Lanier in Hall County on 17 Nov. (Jeannie Wright), during the last week of Nov. near Macon (Lisa Mobley), two at Pendergrass on 12 Jan. (Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles), at the MIA on 2 Feb. (Ty Ivey, Carl Perry and Ken and Arlene Clark), three at MP on 10 Feb. (Clarence Belger), one at the MIA on 1 March (Ty Ivey) and one at Martinez on 7 April (Janice Nelson).
- BOBOLINK - High counts for the species were the 1000+ at Darien on 9 May (Jeff Sewell) and the 100+ at Harris Neck on 12 May (Anselm Atkins).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD - A good count of 271 was made on the 21 Dec. Augusta CBC (fide Anne Waters).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Tom Patterson reported that the species started arriving in the Dublin area on 12 Nov. and built up in numbers to its normal wintering population of approximately 300. Other sightings included two birds near Elon on 15 Dec. (Harriett DiGioia), one bird on the Piedmont-Rum Creek CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson), and at Augusta, 84 on 21 Dec., one on 18 Jan. and one on 25 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- NORTHERN ORIOLE - At MP, one bird was seen on 11 Nov., three on 23 Nov. and one on 25 Jan. (Anne and Vernon Waters et al.). One bird of the Bullock's type was identified on the Thomasville CBC on 29 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford). One bird frequented the feeder of Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell in Tucker on 15-16 Jan. (please see elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting). A female plumaged bird was seen at a north Atlanta feeder from 14 through 23 March by Dennis and Jet Lacoss. Two males were seen at the DeKalb County Honor Farm on 1 June by Georgann Schmalz. The birds were not seen on any later dates so apparently moved on.
- PURPLE FINCH - As has been the case in the past few years, this species was present in smaller than normal numbers.

RED CROSSBILL - The species was reported from the Columbus area on 24 Feb. by Danny Hisaw (fide Sam Pate). Other reports came from Putnam County with a single female or immature male on 5 June (Paul Sykes) and three birds at Conyers on 12 June (Paul Raney).

PINE SISKIN - Although this species was not reported that frequently during the period, there were a few very unusual summer reports. Dot Freeman mentioned the species during the summer without specifying any dates and Frank McCamey had one bird at Dawsonville on 21 and 23 June.

EVENING GROSBEAK - As far as is known, there were no reports at all during the entire period.

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

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