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

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FIRST GEORGIA RECORD OF A TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

Lydia C. Thompson

On 30 September 1993 a male Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*) was banded on the southwest end of Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia. Although this species has shown a definite pattern of vagrancy along the East Coast with records from Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island, this is the first record of the species in Georgia (White 1990).

The area where the bird was captured and banded has been used as a banding station (Jekyll Island Banding Station) for the past 16 years under the direction of Don and Doris Cohrs. The area is located just inland from what is known as Jekyll Island's South Beach. Mist nets are used to capture the birds mostly in the wax-myrtle thickets in the upper dune area behind the beach.

On days immediately following a cold front, there are often huge fallouts of passerines, mostly Palm Warblers (*D. palmarum*) but generally a good assortment of other species are also caught. The day the Townsend's Warbler was caught was just such a day since a cold front had moved through on 28 September.

After a bird is captured, it is placed for temporary safekeeping in a soft, well ventilated cloth bag until it is ready for banding. When I took this particular bird out of its bag, my first impression was that the bird was different from the species we normally band. The dark auricular patch was surrounded by yellow - yellow eyebrow, yellow collar and yellow throat. It also had two prominent wingbars. Someone suggested that the bird might be a Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*). When I looked at my field guide (National Geographic Society 1987) my eye immediately went to the Townsend's Warbler. I was familiar with the species having seen numbers of them in California in 1983 and 1985.

An attempt was made to use the keys in Roberts (1955) to determine the species but this failed since the Townsend's Warbler was not included in this volume.

We next consulted Pyle et al. (1987). Using this book we successfully keyed the bird out to be a Townsend's Warbler and based on the pattern of its fourth rectrix, it was found to be either a hatch year (hatched in 1993) or second year (hatched in 1992) male. Other books checked for identification of this bird were by Robbins et al. (1966) and Farrand (1983).



Townsend's Warbler banded at Jekyll Island, Georgia on 30 September 1993. Photo by Joan Hesterberg.

The following field marks were noted as I held the bird in my hand and dictated to Doris Cohrs. A dark auricular patch was well defined by a yellow supercilium and yellow collar. The throat was clear bright yellow, the breast was yellow and it had a clear white belly and undertail coverts. The flanks were white to pale yellow streaked with indistinct black. These black streaks smudged at the base of the throat. The tail spots were white. The crown was olive-green with black streaks. The back was olive with black shaft streaks. There were two distinct white wingbars. The legs were black, feet yellow and the bill appeared short and thick. The eyering was yellow, actually it was half an eyering under the eye. The upper tail coverts were the same color as the back. The photograph reproduced with this article clearly shows the distinctive face pattern of this bird.

The bird was banded, photographed and released. It flew to a nearby myrtle bush, shook itself and fed on a few berries. For a while it fed on the outer wax myrtles before moving into the thicker wax myrtles and disappearing. During this time the bird was seen by Anne Wyand, Joan Hesterberg, Elaine Levine, Betty Jo Strickland, Jean and Barney Maltby, Kim Coffey and Helen Ogren.

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1912 First Avenue, St. Simons Island, GA 31522.

BREEDING RECORDS OF WORM-EATING WARBLER AND SCARLET TANAGER FROM PIEDMONT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Nancy M. Gobris and Wang Yong

In June and July 1993, during routine mist-netting for a Wood Thrush project at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR), we discovered two passerine species - Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthos vermivorus*) and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) - breeding south of their normal ranges. PNWR is located in the lower Piedmont Physiographic Province of Georgia, in Jones and Jasper counties.

Worm-eating Warbler

On 25 June 1993 we captured a Worm-eating Warbler identified as an adult female by a well developed brood patch. On 26 June, near the mist net where the female was captured, we observed two singing male Worm-eating Warblers which we attracted with a song playback. A foraging Worm-eating Warbler was observed on 7 July in another area of the refuge. On 10 July in a third area of the refuge, we captured and photographed another Worm-eating Warbler identified as an adult male by a prominent cloacal protuberance. All captures and observations were made in Jones County.

The Worm-eating Warbler is considered an uncommon spring and fall transient on the refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1985). Haney et al. (1986) list the Worm-eating Warbler as a summer resident breeding commonly in the mountains and uncommonly in the upper Piedmont, with an extralimital nesting record from Harris County. It is considered an uncommon transient over the rest of the state. A breeding population may occur at Oak Woods Wildlife Management Area in Houston County in the Coastal Plain. Late spring and summer sightings have been recorded there for the past three years (D. Guynn, pers. comm.), but nesting has not been confirmed. Other summer sightings south of the breeding range have been recorded at Columbus (LeGrand 1976), Stewart County (Crawford 1977) and Greene County (LeGrand 1991).

Scarlet Tanager

A male Scarlet Tanager in breeding plumage was observed on the refuge (Jones County) on 8 July 1993 (N. Gobris, D. White, J. Seginak). On 13 July we captured a Scarlet Tanager in a mist net about 300 m from where the male was sighted. The captured bird was identified as an adult female by a brood patch. Body plumage was greenish and yellow with dark, dusky wings and tail.



Worm-eating Warbler banded at Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge on 10 July 1993. Photo by Wang Yong.

The Scarlet Tanager is considered an occasional spring and fall transient on the refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1985). There are recent summer records of the Scarlet Tanager on the refuge, however, including a bird reported on 2 June 1988 (Brisse 1988) and one counted during a Breeding Bird Survey on 9 June 1991 (J. Amerson, pers. comm.). Additionally, on 11 June 1993 an adult male Scarlet Tanager was recorded on a survey in the Oconee National Forest in Jasper County, just north of PNWR (T. Leukering, pers. comm.).

Haney et al. (1986) describe the Scarlet Tanager as a common breeding summer resident in the mountains and upper Piedmont and a common spring and fall transient in the remainder of the state. Range extensions have been indicated by summer occurrences in Madison, Clarke and Greene counties (LeGrand 1991) and a nesting pair in Ben Hill County in the south central part of the state (Teulings 1972).

These are the first documented breeding records of these two species at PNWR (R. Shell, pers. comm.). Range extensions into the Coastal Plain of Georgia may be anticipated as both the Worm-eating Warbler and Scarlet Tanager have expanded their breeding ranges into the Coastal Plain of North and South Carolina and apparently are more widespread there than formerly believed (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1970, Potter et al.

1980, LeGrand 1989, 1991, 1992a). They have been found breeding over much of the Coastal Plain of the Carolinas (LeGrand 1976, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1992b).

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500 River North Blvd., Macon, GA 31211 and USDA Forest Service, 2205 Columbia, SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

INDISCRIMINATE EGG LAYING BY BROWN PELICANS

Carol Ruckdeschel and C. Robert Shoop

The absence of documented Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) nesting in Georgia until 1988 (Ruckdeschel et al. 1990) has been a continual enigma to ornithologists since apparently suitable nesting habitat has been available (Burleigh 1958). T.D. Perry collected two Brown Pelican eggs "on beach" in Chatham County, Georgia on 16 June 1898 (Anderson and Hickey 1970) which might suggest a Georgia or nearby South Carolina breeding colony had been overlooked. Evidence from the ocean beaches of Cumberland and Little Cumberland islands substantiates infrequent, indiscriminate egg laying within 35 km of a colonial nesting site.

Seven Brown Pelican eggs have been recorded from the beaches of Cumberland (4) and Little Cumberland (3) islands, Camden County, Georgia, over the ten year period, 1983 to 1993. The egg found in 1983 was well before Brown Pelican nesting had been verified in Georgia; however, an adult Brown Pelican with a broken wing was present in the vicinity of the egg. In 1983, the nearest known Brown Pelican nesting sites were Daytona Beach, Florida (171 km south) and Deveaux Bank, South Carolina (220 km north). The remaining 6 eggs were found subsequent to verified nesting in Georgia and within 35 km of a nesting site on the Satilla River.

Possible explanations for pelican eggs on the ocean beach include: (1) a gravid bird wounded or unable to fly, (2) eggs washed out from a nesting site by storm or high tides, or (3) indiscriminate egg laying, perhaps by inexperienced birds. Eggs washed out from a nesting site might be expected to be rotten by the time they floated ashore. Five of the eggs we documented were fresh. Two were found on the same day (10 May 1992) about 45 m apart and 35 m below the high tide line, were blood-stained, and one had clear pelican footprints associated with it (S. Wesloh, pers. comm.), leaving little doubt they were laid on the beach. There were no wounded or sick pelicans in the vicinity at the time. Another egg found on Little Cumberland Island (July 1990) was also below the high tide line and fresh (L. Goddard, pers. comm.). The remaining two eggs were broken when found at the wrack line.

The small number of eggs documented from the low beach suggests that indiscriminate egg laying may be an infrequent, although not rare, practice among Brown Pelicans. Authors have avoided speculation on the eggs T.D. Perry found in 1898, but a logical assumption might be that a Brown Pelican breeding colony in Georgia or nearby South Carolina had been overlooked. Clapp et al. (1982), citing a 1979 manuscript by Kale, reported breeding Brown Pelicans feeding about 72 km from the nesting area. While nesting in Georgia was not verified until 1988, the

thoroughness and regularity of earlier coastal surveys is not well documented.

Shoop (pers. obs.) observed indiscriminate egg laying in Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) in Illinois. Such egg laying was assumed to have resulted when a female was unable to get to her nest. Regardless of the reason, the behavior is energetically and evolutionarily costly and will undoubtedly remain uncommon.

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Cumberland Island Museum, P.O. Box 796, St. Marys, GA 31558 and Dept. of Zoology, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881.

THE VALDOSTA BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Barbara K. Passmore

On 5 October 1992 Lee Bennett of Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia, first noticed a female plumaged hummingbird feeding in her yard on the small, dark red flowers of a plant whose name was unknown to Lee. Thinking the bird was a late departing Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Lee noted the event in her journal and later supplied three hummingbird feeders as insurance the bird would have food.

During a 6 December 1992 meeting of the local nature group, the Withlacoochee Watchers, Lee was encouraged by Virginia Culpepper to contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to alert them to the bird's presence. Lee wrote the DNR and received a call from Terry Johnson of the DNR for additional information.

On 27 December 1992, at the request of the DNR, Bob and Martha Sargent, well known hummingbird authorities and bird banders from Trussville, AL, arrived at the Bennett yard and caught, identified, banded and photographed the bird. The bird turned out to be a subadult female Black-chinned Hummingbird (*A. alexandri*) in heavy molt. Identification of the bird as a Black-chinned Hummingbird rather than a Ruby-throated Hummingbird was based on the rounded rather than pointed wingtip and a wide inner web on the tenth primary. The bird was seen by many visitors to the Bennett yard from then through 28 January 1993 when it was last seen.

This is the third record for this western species in Georgia. Previous records include single birds at Roswell from 24 December 1990 through 11 January 1991 (banded 4 January 1991) and at Georgetown (banded on 9 November 1991). A fourth record for Georgia was a bird at Fitzgerald from early November through most of the winter (banded on 26 December 1992). Normally, this bird is found as a nesting species in western North America from southern British Columbia south to California, Arizona, New Mexico, western and central Texas and northern Mexico (National Geographic Society 1987). The same reference indicates that the species winters in the southeast in very small numbers but as more sophisticated identification techniques are developed, the species will probably prove to be a regular but rare winter visitor to the area.

Identification of the plant on which the Black-chinned Hummingbird fed much of the time proved to be a rather difficult process. It wasn't until Richard Carter, Associate Professor of Biology and Curator of the Herbarium at Valdosta State College, examined the plant that it was identified as Firespike (*Odontonema strictum*). This plant is native to the forests of Central America (Bailey 1949) and is widely cultivated

throughout Florida for its red, late season flowers, which attract hummingbirds and butterflies (Watkins and Sheehan 1975). The location of this tropical plant in the Valdosta area likely puts it at or near the extreme northern limit of its range in the southeastern United States.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Lee and Harold Bennett for providing a winter home for the Black-chinned Hummingbird and keeping a journal from the early days of October until the bird's departure in January. Bob and Martha Sargent were very kind to come to identify and photograph the bird and Richard Carter deserves our gratitude for spending the time to research and identify the plant which was important to the hummingbird's survival.

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900 Pineridge Drive, Valdosta GA 31602.

GENERAL NOTES

GREATER SHEARWATER SEEN FROM ST. SIMONS ISLAND - On 1 May 1993 while I was scanning seaward from the Gould's Inlet area between St. Simons and Sea Islands, Glynn County, Georgia, I noticed a medium-sized seabird moving from my right to left at a distance of about 300-400 m. With the help of a 33X Celestron C-90 telescope I was able to have clear dorsal and ventral views of the bird about six times before it went beyond viewing range. The weather was clear with strong east/southeast winds and a rolling sea with moderate swells. The time was about 1300 and it was near high tide.

When the dorsal surface was in view, the back and wings appeared entirely brownish with a narrow but prominent curved white rump band. The tail was short, rounded and blacker than the back. The wings were long and held straight and the dark bill blended with the dark forehead. The white on the throat reached behind the cheek area to nearly connect on the nape, giving a dark-capped appearance.

When the ventral surface was in view the very white underwings could be seen to be narrowly edged in black both on the leading and trailing edges of the wings. The belly appeared to be entirely whitish.

All the above field marks led me to believe the bird to be a Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). My only previous experience with a Greater Shearwater was on 28 July 1991 when one was seen within sight of land during a pelagic trip out of Savannah. According to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986), this is the earliest arrival date for the state by almost 4 weeks. However, the species has occurred year round in Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden, *Florida Bird Species - An Annotated List*, Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication No. 6, 1992) and there are at least a few April records for the Carolinas (Lee, D.S., Seasonal distribution of marine birds in North Carolina Waters, *American Birds* 40:409-412).

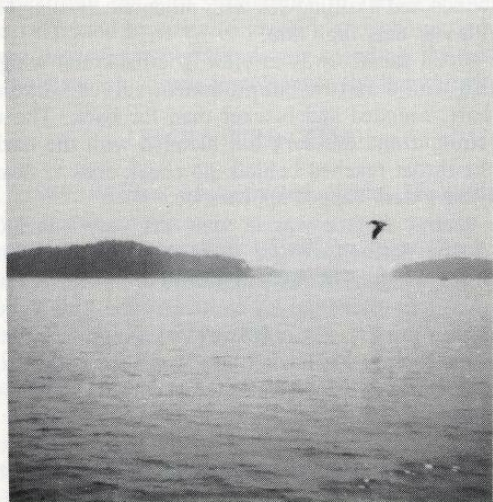
Paul Raney, Jr., 950 Briar Creek Court, Conyers, GA 30207.

A BROWN PELICAN IN NORTH GEORGIA - On 11 September 1990, I received a postcard from Terry Johnson of the Department of Natural Resources at Forsyth, GA indicating a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) had been found on Lake Lanier by an employee of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. After several phone calls I was able to locate the person who reported the bird, Brad Fogle, who is assigned to the Lake Sidney Lanier Resource Managers Office in Buford, GA. He stated the bird was found in the vicinity of channel marker 11 (located off Shady Grove Park between Young Deer Creek and Six Mile Creek in Forsyth

County) on 4-6 September 1990 and that he had photographed the bird on 5 September. Although the image of the bird in the photograph is small, it is still quite recognizable.

This would appear to be the sixth inland record for the Brown Pelican in Georgia based on the five previous inland records mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine Street, NE, Gainesville, GA 30501.



Brown Pelican at Lake Lanier, Forsyth County, 4-6 September 1993.
Photo by Brad Fogle.

TWO WINTER RECORDS OF ANHINGAS IN NORTH GEORGIA -

On 12 December 1993 Jack Carusos and I observed an Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) circling a pond in northern Forsyth County. The bird never did land while we were there and was still circling the area about 50-150 ft in the air when we left.

An interesting aspect of this sighting apart from the opportunity to see an Anhinga in north Georgia was that almost nine years ago to the day, on 2 December 1984, I observed an Anhinga at this exact spot. The 1984 bird was observed swimming with only its head and a very small portion of its neck out of the water. Approximately 20 minutes later it was observed drying its wings in typical Anhinga fashion as it perched on the trunk of a fallen pine tree.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the species as accidental north of the fall line with three records including the 1984 sighting mentioned above.

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine Street, NE, Gainesville, GA 30501.

WHITE MORPH REDDISH EGRET AT GOULD'S INLET - On 9 May 1993 the narrow beaches along Gould's Inlet between St. Simons and Sea Islands, Glynn County, Georgia had numerous resting gulls, terns and shorebirds. While looking at these birds with a 33X telescope, I noticed a white wading bird which flew through my view. I quickly noticed the bird's all gray legs and feet with no black or yellow coloration. After the bird landed I noted the all white plumage, stout black bill, and dark gray lores. A few ragged plumes were visible along its lower neck and back.

The bird stood with its neck fully extended and angled to its right with its head turned sideways peering down. Three times it ran short distances while maintaining the awkward neck angle, appearing "drunken". The bird then flew off to the left again displaying entirely gray legs and feet.

On the basis of the observed field marks, behavior and size noticeably larger than a nearby Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), I identified the bird as a white morph Reddish Egret (*E. rufescens*). Although this species has proven to be a rare annual summer visitor to the Georgia coast in recent years, this appears to be the first sighting of a white morph in Georgia.

Paul Raney, Jr., 950 Briar Creek Court, Conyers, GA 30207.

EARLY WHITE IBIS RECORDS FOR DEKALB AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES - On 25 June 1993 at 1920 I was standing in the pool at Twin Lakes Community Club on Briarlake Road, DeKalb County, Georgia. A flock of about 20 immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) flew overhead at treetop level on an ESE heading, coming roughly from the direction of the swamp just south of nearby Echo Lake. When the flock was overhead I could clearly see, without binoculars, birds with a mostly white underwing framed with brown, a white belly, a red, decurved bill and red facial skin. The flock veered southeast and flew out of view still at treetop level. Several swimmers remarked at the "strange" birds. I checked with several residents near Echo Lake but none had seen the birds earlier or later that weekend.

On the afternoon of 20 June 1993 Jim Buckley of Fernbank Science Center in Decatur, Georgia, was bicycling near Douglasville, Douglas County and saw five adult White Ibis flying overhead.

These appear to be the earliest summer records of White Ibis in the Atlanta area. The birds may have been searching for feeding grounds earlier than usual in 1993 because southern Georgia was hit by drought after several relatively wet years, while northern Georgia had frequent scattered thunderstorms and near-average rainfall levels. This is in contrast to the drought years of the 1980s when the entire state had severe drought conditions.

Mark W. Oberle, 2690 Briarlake Woods Way, Atlanta, GA 30345-3906.

THIRD DOCUMENTED RECORD OF SOUTH POLAR SKUA IN GEORGIA - On 9 July 1993 I observed and videotaped a light-morph South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) 90 miles east of Savannah, Georgia. This location was in the Gulf Stream, near the western edge, at 31° 55' N and 79° 12' W. The sea surface temperature was 29° C and the water depth was 200 m. I observed the skua for 11 minutes from the upper deck of the R/V *Cape Hatteras*. Shortly after I identified the bird in flight, it landed 50 m (one ship-length) from the vessel and slowly drifted as close as 30 m. The bird was partially back-lit in the afternoon sun but at its closest approach the skua's blond head and neck contrasted sharply with its dark brown upperparts. I videotaped the bird as it sat on the water for several minutes and then realized that it was starting to drift farther away. At that time I began to wave my arms up and down slowly and this action appeared to induce the bird to flush. This technique was originally described by Tucker (1985) for flushing gulls and apparently works for flushing skuas as well. As the skua flew west I obtained good images of its flight profile on videotape, recording the bold white upperwing and underwing flashes at the bases of the primaries (North Carolina State Museum photo collection #413). Eighty minutes later I sighted a skua in approximately the same location while it sat on the water 250 m away.

This is the third documented record of South Polar Skua for Georgia. The other two records are of birds photographed by J.C. Haney, 145 km east of St. Catherine's Island on 18 June 1983 and 9 November 1984 (Haney et al. 1986). The species is considered accidental in Georgia but in North Carolina it has proven to be uncommon in migration and regular although rare in summer (D.S. Lee *in prep*; T. Hass unpubl. data). If observer effort in Gulf Stream waters off Georgia increases in the future, I believe the species will prove to be regular albeit rare, from late spring through fall.

I wish to thank Bill Blakeslee and Giff Beaton for providing information on previous Georgia records.

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Todd Hass, Department of Biology, CB 3280, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3280.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT TYBEE BEACH - Betty Stewart and I observed a single Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) on 17 December 1992 on the beach at the north end of Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia shortly after a nor'easter had passed through the area. The bird was in adult plumage, having the black tips of the primaries cut straight across and was close enough on several occasions for us to note the small, pale yellow bill and black legs.

The Kittiwake was among several hundred birds including Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), Laughing Gulls (*L. atricilla*), Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*), Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*) and Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*).

On at least three occasions we flushed the entire flock from the beach and the Kittiwake remained, allowing us to approach within 25 to 30 m.

The bird sat on the sand as if it were floating on water and had its tail protruding upwards at a sharp angle. It stood and showed its black legs just before taking flight as one of us moved closer to it while the other kept the bird in the spotting scope.

In Haney et al. (1986) the Kittiwake's status is reported as "rare to uncommon visitor, primarily from middle shelf seaward, 8 Nov. (1984) - 6 April (1937). The latter record was one reported from the dredge boat "Clinton" in the mouth of the Savannah River by Ivan Tomkins. He says that "the usual four species of gulls were present at the time" (Tomkins 1958). The location of that record and our Tybee Island record are within one km of each other.

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Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Rt. 5, Osierfield, Fitzgerald, GA 31750 and Betty G. Stewart, 42 Copperhead Cove, Fairview, NC 28730.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE OBSERVED IN GLYNN COUNTY - On 13 April 1993 I found a Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) at Hampton Point, St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia. I heard the dove before seeing it as the call was familiar to me from trips to south Florida and Europe. The bird repeated a three note series, "coo-COOO-coo", with the middle note louder, higher pitched and slightly longer than the other two. None of the notes were rolled as in the call of the Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*). The calls were given about every three seconds as the bird perched in a live oak.

While I was trying to locate the dove, it flushed and flew to another oak about 15 m away where three co-workers and I were able to get good looks at it through 7X42 binoculars. It seemed chunkier and larger than a Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) and was obviously paler than that species (although darker than a Ringed Turtle-Dove). The pale tan plumage contrasted with the darker remiges and dark band on the rectrices (spread when landing). I did not see the underside of the tail at rest. The dark collar on the neck was prominent but did not seem obviously ringed with white as is sometimes the case for this species. The bird did not call at this location but eventually flew off to the south. I heard the bird calling again from the general location of the first observation as our boat was departing the Hampton Point Marina.

No effort was made to relocate the bird until 17 April 1993 when Don and Doris Cohrs and I visited Hampton Point. We only briefly glimpsed a dove in flight which was probably a Eurasian Collared-Dove. A return visit on 24 April by the same three observers did not result in any observation of the species.

Bill Croft, a casual birder who lives north of Brunswick on marshes facing the islands, indicated to me on 11 May 1993 that he saw two "turtle-doves" in his yard that morning, eating seed below his bird feeder. The birds flew in from across the marshes and returned in the direction of St. Simons Island. After questioning him on the appearance of the birds, it seems likely that he observed Eurasian Collared-Doves rather than Ringed Turtle-Doves, although the certainty of this record is in question due to the observer's lack of experience.

Bill Blakeslee, while visiting the coast on 21-24 May 1993, apparently observed more than one Eurasian Collared-Dove in Brunswick (fide Jeff Sewell).

The Eurasian Collared-Dove invasion of North America has so far followed a northwestward track, as is characteristic of the species' expansion through Europe. The species has been known from the Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida Gulf coasts for years now (pers. obs., Judith Troups pers. comm., and *American Birds* respectively). The first record for Georgia was apparently a bird shot near Whigham, Grady County, on 9 January 1988 (fide Paul W. Sykes, *American Birds* 42:250). This specimen was reported to have been deposited at the Tall Timbers Research Station but no details of this record have yet been published.

Malcolm Hodges, P.O. Box 2219, Darien, GA 31305-2219.

INTREPID SCREECH-OWL SUSTAINS FALL BUT REMAINS IN NEST BOX - What insults might an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) endure? On 19 March 1993, at 1615, in a suburban woodland in Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia I noticed that all appeared well with a red phase screech-owl which had been roosting there for the past month. At 1645 the box was noticed lying on the straw covered ground where it had fallen fully 5 m and now lay with its hole to one side. I called Kavanaugh to the box. Curious as to whether eggs might be present, I inserted my hand but a flutter of wings revealed that the owl had remained inside!

We closed the hole with a rag, made necessary repairs, and replaced the box on its tree. Five minutes later the owl was seen occupying its hole as if nothing had happened. Though not seen the following day, the owl was observed in its box hole the day after that and since then.

Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh, 2525 McKinnon Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

A RECENT OBSERVED DIFFERENCE IN NUMBERS OF CALLING CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOWS IN COASTAL GEORGIA - Since 1973 at Little Cumberland Island (Camden County, Georgia) and since 1979 at a site along U.S. Highway 17 three miles north of the city limits of Brunswick (Glynn County, Georgia), Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) calls have been heard yearly beginning in March and April. Until 1992, they were heard nightly through the early summer months, with birds calling both nearby and in the distance, often many at a time. The intensity and frequency of the calling were greatest at or near dusk and dawn but birds were heard calling throughout the night in late March, in April and in May, especially on moonlit nights.

Until 1991 the year's first calls were heard without exception in March at Little Cumberland Island. About two to three weeks later, initial

calls were heard at the mainland site mentioned above. In 1991, first calls at Little Cumberland and on the mainland were heard within a day or so of each other in early April. In 1992 far fewer calls were heard at both listening sites. There was a striking and unmistakable decrease.

Through 26 April 1993 the decrease in numbers of calling birds was even greater than in 1992. At Little Cumberland early in the season, only a single bird was heard calling. There was never a reply. On another occasion a bird called just after dusk. Within a moment or two another bird called. The two birds called back and forth a few times and then fell silent. On 17 April, again at Little Cumberland Island and again not long after dusk, a nearby bird began to call. This time an apparent reply was heard and then a third bird replied from farther away. No other calling birds were heard in 1993 at Little Cumberland Island.

In 1993, a single Chuck-will's-widow was heard on two nights at the mainland site. No reply was detected despite great care taken to listen for one. No other calling birds were heard at this mainland location.

The 1992 and 1993 observations are in such a marked contrast to the numbers of calling Chuck-will's-widows heard during previous years that one has to wonder what is happening. The author invites other observers to comment on their recent experience with the Chuck-will's-widow.

George W. Sciple, 2601 Parkwood Drive, Suite One, Brunswick, GA 31520.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD AT WINDER, GEORGIA - On 14 October 1993 John Dalton of Winder, Barrow County, Georgia noticed a hummingbird which he could not identify coming to his hummingbird feeders. His description of the bird could possibly fit several species of hummingbirds but did appear to indicate the bird was an immature male. I suggested to John that he try to get some reflection from the gorget area to help with the identification.

On 16 October 1993 Billy Dunbar from Watkinsville, Georgia was able to visit the Dalton's feeder and view the bird. He did not observe any color in the gorget area although John Dalton felt he had seen some purple color there earlier in the day.

On 17 October 1993, Billy and Brenda Dunbar, my wife, Nancy, and I visited the site and obtained photographs which clearly show a purple flash of color from the lower gorget area. In addition, Billy Dunbar was able to take close up video tape of the bird.

The bird resembled a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) in size and color. It had a noticeable white collar, gray breast area and exhibited the heavy tail pumping often associated with Black-chinned Hummingbirds (*A. alexandri*). No vocalizations were heard. The

color on the gorget was consistent with the normal color for a male Black-chinned Hummingbird and the amount of gorget color indicated the bird was probably hatched during the summer of 1993.

From known measurements of other objects in the photographs, I was able to extrapolate an estimated exposed culmen measurement of 18.5 mm. This is within the 18.0 mm to 20.5 mm range for a male Black-chinned Hummingbird. The exposed culmen range for a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird is 15-17 mm (Johnsgard, P.A., *Hummingbirds of North America*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 1983). The bird was observed several times on 17 October and again on 18 October when it was last seen early in the morning.

If this sighting is accepted by the GOS Checklist Committee, it will be the fifth record for this western hummingbird for Georgia

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

POSSIBLE BREEDING WINTER WREN BELOW RABUN BALD -

On 18 June 1993 Joel Volpi heard and saw a persistently singing Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) between 3650-3850 feet along the old firetower access road on the north side of Rabun Bald, Rabun County, Georgia (83° 18'W; 34° 58' N). On 3 July 1993 Joel and I returned to the area: a wide cove with extensive moist shrubby understory (*Angelica* sp.) and large uprooted trees. At 0830 as we ascended the mountain, we did not hear the wren, but as we returned at noon, the bird was singing persistently. We taped the songs. Each song ranged from 3-7 seconds (median 5 seconds) in length, with intervals of 3-12 seconds (median 7 seconds) between songs. Joel felt that the bird may have averaged longer songs on 18 June. The bird responded to tape playback by circling us and singing but we did not see the bird. We did not look for a nest and had no evidence of a mate.

In the Blue Ridge Mountains the Winter Wren is reported to breed at altitudes above 4000 feet (Alsop 1991) and rarely down to 3000 feet (Simpson 1992) in shrub layers, heath balds and successional communities of the southern Appalachians. In the Great Smoky Mountains the males sing persistently from late April until mid-July, after which singing is less frequent (Stupka 1963). On its breeding grounds, singing persists throughout the day and occasionally into the evening (Bent 1948).

In Georgia the species is known to breed only at Brasstown Bald, Towns County (Haney, et al. 1986). Burleigh reported singing males and nests above 4000 feet on Brasstown Bald, but speculated that the species may also breed on other high ridges in northeast Georgia (Burleigh 1958). The singing Winter Wren that Joel Volpi discovered may well have nested at this relatively low altitude with extensive ideal habitat.

Because this species breeds in such low numbers and at high altitudes in Georgia, it may well be vulnerable to any long-term, climatic drying trend associated with the greenhouse effect (Oberle 1987). As Georgia ornithologists begin a statewide Breeding Bird Atlas project, this species and other high altitude species deserve special attention.

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Mark W. Oberle, 2690 Briarlake Woods Way, Atlanta, GA 30345-3906
and Joel Volpi, 2680 Sandstone Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30245.

UNUSUAL SUMMER SIGHTING OF A VEERY IN FERNBANK FOREST - Since 1978 I have conducted a breeding bird survey during the month of June in Fernbank Forest, DeKalb County, Georgia. The paved trail system that spreads through the forest makes it possible to easily observe all the birds within this mature 65 acre woodland without counting individuals more than once. The survey route is divided into 20 stops at 100 m apart. Each survey takes approximately one and a half hours to complete and I try to conduct at least two surveys each June.

On 18 June 1993, at 0700, I was approaching the forest pond along the main trail when I heard a Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) singing. I listened to the continuous song while I finished four survey stops and then took a detour to the middle trail to try to locate the bird. I found it sitting on a red oak limb about 3 m off the ground, singing its descending rolling series of "veer" notes. At that exact moment, a Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) flew up and landed beside the Veery. The Veery immediately

stopped singing and began aggressively chasing the Wood Thrush back and forth for about three minutes. Finally, the Veery stopped and landed on a branch. The Wood Thrush landed on the trail where another Wood Thrush joined it. Both began walking away from the Veery. The second Wood Thrush appeared to be a young bird.

Interestingly, another Veery was heard singing 0.5 miles away along a wooded section of Ponce de Leon Avenue a few days before the one I observed in Fernbank Forest. Although this wooded section is contiguous with Fernbank Forest, such an area would appear to be an extremely large territory for one Veery to defend, even if it were an extremely aggressive individual.

What would influence one Veery, and possibly two, to remain in a deciduous forest, even though it is a very mature woodland, in Atlanta in June? If this observation is not just a fluke and the bird's southeastern range is expanding, will it find the urban 65 acres of Fernbank Forest suitable? Only a few neotropical migrants nest in this small relict forest, most continuing on to larger tracts of hardwood forests to the north. Observations and records of birds in small tracts of land may be useful in determining the minimum requirements for many species.

Georgann Schmalz, Fernbank Science Center, 156 Heaton Park Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307.

EARLY CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER IN GWINNETT COUNTY -

While birding near McGinnis Ferry Road in Gwinnett County on 22 July 1989, Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and I saw an adult male Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) in some small willows at the edge of a beaver swamp. The bird was quite distinctive with chestnut sides, yellow crown and clean white underparts.

The significance of the record is that it is the earliest fall record for the state outside its breeding range in north Georgia. The previous early fall date was 28 July 1957 (Haney, J.C., et al., *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occas. Publ., No. 10, 1986).

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

A LATE NOVEMBER RECORD FOR A CAPE MAY WARBLER AT

TOCCOA - On 26 November 1993 at about 1100 I found a male Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) in Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia. The bird was first seen foraging and then perching quietly in a pine tree near the campus of Toccoa Falls College. The weather was very cold with a slight drizzle.

During the period of observation I was able to see that the underside of the bird was a rich bright yellow from the chin to the belly. There were thin, sharply defined streaks extending all the way across the breast. A bright yellow supercilium (behind the eye, at least) and side of neck set off a small, indistinctly colored face patch. The crown was dark, contrasting sharply with the yellow on the face, and the back was olive, streaked with black. There was white on the wing, but it was indistinct; there was no white patch *per se*. The undertail coverts were white, and the outer tail feathers, as seen from below, appeared to be almost entirely white, with black tips.

The Pine Warbler (*D. pinus*) was ruled out by the richer tone of the yellow, the extensive yellow on the face, the fineness and sharp distinctness of the breast streaks, and the presence of streaking across the center of the breast. Pine Warblers, including a beautiful male, were available for nearby comparison.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) gives the latest date for the state as 14 November 1954 although there is a winter record from the Athens area in February 1985.

Rex Rowan, 2041 NE 15th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32609.

EFFECTS OF UNUSUALLY HIGH TIDES ON SOME COASTAL SPECIES OR DOES ANYONE HAVE AN ARK? - The morning of 7 February 1993 did not look like a good time to be trying to observe birds along the Georgia coast. A steady 15 mph wind out of the east combined with almost 24 hours of hard rain (which was continuing) made me seriously consider not even venturing out. However, those two factors combined with an unusually high tide (8.4 ft) created a rare opportunity to see marsh species normally too secretive to view well or in any numbers.

I had no inkling of this as I ventured forth that morning and exited I-95 onto U.S. Highway 17/82 to come up to the Jekyll Island Causeway (Glynn County) from the south. I normally chose this route because of all the marshland along the road but on this day there was literally almost no marsh - it looked like a big bay! All the rain had added to the already higher than usual high tide and the east wind was keeping it all from ebbing. I had heard of such high tides forcing marsh birds into accessible locations and so started looking more carefully. It was quite dark for 0900 due to the low, swollen clouds and the driven rain made visibility poor but I soon found my first bonanza.

In one area, virtually the only exposed vegetation was a 8 m long, 1 m wide patch of grass. This small patch was seething with birds with more flying in constantly. At one point I counted the following: 228

Seaside Sparrows (*Ammodramus maritimus*), 8 Sharp-tailed Sparrows (*A. caudacutus*) and 6 Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*). The birds were practically climbing on each others' shoulders in an attempt to find a perch. I found several of these areas although this was the most densely crowded. In all I saw almost 1000 of these *Ammodramus* sparrows with the ratio about 15 Seaside Sparrows for every Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Other birds were having their own problems. I saw 32 Clapper Rails (*Rallus longirostris*) either standing in the grass at the water's edge or huddling on floating vegetation, often 3-4 birds at a time. This didn't always work out for them as I saw an opportunistic female Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) literally pluck a Clapper Rail off one of these mats of vegetation only to be forced down itself by the wind and rain.

Other predators were coping as well as they could. I watched one mink swimming from spot to spot, ignoring all the seemingly easy prey in an attempt to find some high ground.

The long-legged waders were mostly clustered in groups of 10-15 mixed species flocks huddling against the weather. One Roseate Spoonbill (*Ajaia ajaja*), very unusual for February, was seen perched by itself in a small tree.

Counts of some other species along the causeway were: 172 Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*), 11 Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), 21 Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*) and 14 Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*).

The mud flat area behind the Water Park/Ski Rixen area on Jekyll Island was also submerged and yielded a flock of 39 American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) on the only exposed ground. South Beach of Jekyll Island was much less exposed than usual but what beach there was had huddled birds covering it. Gulls, terns, shorebirds and pelicans stood shoulder to shoulder. Although the only unusual find there was four Wilson's Plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*), the sheer number of birds was staggering. Scanning the Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) forced out of the dune area also yielded one "Ipswich" Sparrow (*P.s. princeps*).

Overall, even though weather conditions were poor at best, the birding was very rewarding. With a current tide table and an eye on the weather maps, these conditions could probably be predicted for those wishing to see this activity for themselves.

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

FROM THE FIELD

August 1992 - July 1993

The highlight of this period was definitely the number of hummingbird species which appeared at Georgia feeders during the winter. No fewer than six species were documented thanks to Bob and Martha Sargent of Trussville, AL. Their tireless efforts in tracking down and banding wintering hummingbirds are giving us a much better understanding of the status of which hummingbirds can actually be found in the southeast during the winter. And would you believe the six wintering species did not include a single Ruby-throated Hummingbird?

But hummingbirds were not the entire story. Georgia had its first report of a Snowy Plover, a sighting of a Say's Phoebe along the coast, more observations documenting the spread of the Eurasian Collared-Dove into Georgia and the first indication that the Mottled Duck population from South Carolina is moving into Georgia. On the negative side, this was not much of a Red-breasted Nuthatch or a winter finch year.

Although the snowstorm of 13 March seemed to be a very large weather event, there were very few comments by observers on its effects on birdlife. The only observations centered around the increase of Fox Sparrows coming to Atlanta area feeders during that timeframe.

Even though this period covers an entire year, some readers may question the length of this particular From the Field column. The reason for including so much detail is that this is the only forum that is likely to be available in years to come for people to read and understand what bird populations were like at this point in time. Whereas *American Birds* has been able to devote at least some space to significant Georgia sightings, they are now downsizing the scope of their magazine and for much of the current period (August 1992 through February 1993), much of the state didn't even have a report. Newsletters are fine to publish bird notes in but libraries and researchers generally don't have access to these. Therefore, it is imperative for Georgia observers to share their sightings with others through *The Oriole* so that a permanent record can be made of Georgia birdlife trends.

Readers are reminded that this period covers the period from August 1992 through July 1993. Therefore, if you see a date of August it is in 1992 and a date in July is 1993. This is confusing but this will be the last time we have to do a year at a time.

Also, only the highlights of the Christmas Birds Counts are included here. A more detailed analysis will have to wait for a later issue of *The Oriole*.

Abbreviations used include: AASMW - Atlanta Audubon Society Migration Walk, CBC - Christmas Bird Count, CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application

Facility in Clayton County, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, m.ob. - many observers, MP - Merry Brothers Brick and Tile Company pond area at Augusta, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County and WMA - Wildlife Management Area. A reference to the *Annotated Checklist* refers to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* by Haney et al., GOS Occasional Publication No. 10, 1986.

I want to acknowledge the help provided by Giff Beaton and Patrick Brisse in checking this report for errors and inconsistencies. Without their careful checking, a number of inaccuracies might have been included. I am, however, solely responsible for the final content and would appreciate any corrections that readers may want to offer.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - This species is rarely encountered on inland lakes so a bird at SCSP on 6 Dec. by Paul Raney was quite a good sighting. Along the coast, 15 was a good count at Tybee Island on 20 Feb. by Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle.

COMMON LOON - Rare for the summer was a bird at Lake Lanier on 13 Aug. by John Paget. The latest spring reports came from Greene County on 10 April (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey) and Augusta on 21 April (Anne Waters).

HORNED GREBE - One bird was seen at SCSP on 25 Oct. by Jeff Sewell and Chuck Hunter. Any sighting of this species before 1 Nov. is worth noting. The peak count was 40 at Lake Lanier on 21 Nov. (Bruce Dralle et al.). However, smaller numbers were reported from many areas around the state. A late sighting was a bird at Lake Lanier in Forsyth County on 23 May (John Paget and Jack Carusos).

EARED GREBE - The status of this species in Georgia has changed dramatically in the past few years. Whereas the *Annotated Checklist* lists this species as accidental in the state, during this period there were no fewer than five sightings. One bird appeared at the ELHLAF on 17 Oct. (Patrick Brisse) and was last seen on 8 Nov. (Robert Raffel, Bruce Dralle et al.). Three more were found at the Buford Dam, Gwinnett County, on 31 Oct. by Paul Raney and two remained there as late as 15 Nov. (Bruce Dralle). The last fall sighting was three birds which were found at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 15 Nov. by Don and Doris Cohrs and Lydia Thompson. These birds were seen again on 20 Nov. by Don and Doris Cohrs. One bird was an extremely rare find on the Glynn County CBC on 2 Jan. (fide Elaine Young). In the spring, single birds were seen at the Buford Dam on 7 March by Jeannie Wright and at Lake Spivey, Clayton/Henry counties, on 27 March (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Bruce Dralle).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - A very impressive count of 112 was reported by Todd Hass off the coast of Georgia on 10 July. This is perhaps a record count of this species in Georgia waters.

- CORY'S SHEARWATER - Three were seen on the 23 May GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bill Blakeslee et al.). The previous early date mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist* is 6 June.
- GREATER SHEARWATER - Paul Raney reported this species from St. Simons Island's East Beach on 1 May. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this early sighting.
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - Four birds were seen on the GOS sponsored pelagic trip out from Savannah on 30 Aug. (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Twenty-two birds were recorded on the 23 May pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bill Blakeslee et al.).
- LEACH'S STORM-PETREL - The 23 May pelagic trip out from Savannah saw five of this rarely seen species (Bill Blakeslee et al.). Although the species almost undoubtedly occurs in Georgia waters every spring, there are very few records of its actually being seen in Georgia.
- NORTHERN GANNET - A second year bird was seen on the 23 May pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bill Blakeslee et al.). This ties the latest date mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist*.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - One bird was reported from the Eufaula NWR on 2 Nov. but it was unclear whether the bird was in Georgia or Alabama (Sam Pate). On Georgia CBCs, the species was reported during the count week of 2 Jan. from Cumberland Island (fide Sheila Willis) and eight were seen on the Glynn County count also on 2 Jan. (fide Elaine Young).
- BROWN PELICAN - The Glynn County CBC on 2 Jan. had an excellent count of 930 (fide Elaine Young).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Patrick Brisse had a good inland count of 129 at Blalock Lake (part of the ELHLAF) on 9 April. Also at Blalock Lake, one nest was found on 22 May by Patrick Brisse but the adults soon deserted the nest. This inland lake remains the only location in Georgia where cormorant nesting has been reported.
- ANHINGA - Clarence Belger reported that there were as many as eight at MP during August and Anne and Vernon Waters saw six there on 7 Sept. One bird at Dublin on 2 Jan. by Bruce Dralle was an interesting winter record for an inland location. Another wintering bird was seen at the Eufaula NWR on 27 Feb. by Bruce Dralle and Robert Raffel.
- AMERICAN BITTERN - Georgia observers must be getting out into the marshes a lot more now as evidenced by the number of American Bittern reports. The first report was a bird at Darien on 6 Nov. (Giff Beaton and Bill Blakeslee). Single birds were seen near Commerce Lake, Jackson County, on 14 Feb. (John Paget), at the Okefenokee Swamp on 20 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters) and in Greene County from 6 March through at least 30 March (Paul Sykes, Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell). One bird was found at a small marsh near Woodstock on 3 April by Giff Beaton and evidently the same bird remained there until 6 May (Giff Beaton, Terry Moore, et al.). Back at Darien, one bird was seen on 3 April by Don and Doris Cohrs.
- LEAST BITTERN - One bird was seen at MP on 30 April and three on 1 May by Anne Waters. Another bird was seen at the MIA on 8 May by Paul Johnson. This species is very local away from the coast so each inland observation is noteworthy. Seven were counted in the Darien area on 22 May by Bruce Dralle et al.

- GREAT BLUE HERON - Two nests were found in Madison County on 11 April by Paul Sykes. The nesting of this species away from some coastal heronries is not that well documented in Georgia. Unusually high numbers were found in the Atlanta area during July with peak counts of 22 at the Griffin Reservoir, Spaulding County, on 18 July (Jeff Sewell and Paul Raney) and 21 there on 25 July (Jeff Sewell). In Henry County, 25 were seen on 31 July by Patrick Brisse.
- GREAT EGRET - Very impressive numbers were seen during the early winter at both Macon and Augusta. The count of 79 at MP on 27 Nov. was an excellent count for that late date (Anne and Vernon Waters). Quite unusual was a bird near Gainesville from 1-4 Feb. (fide John Paget). An early bird for the Atlanta area was one flying over Tucker on 1 April (Jeff Sewell). Finally, the Griffin Reservoir hosted 31 birds on 18 July (Jeff Sewell and Paul Raney) and 29 on 25 July (Jeff Sewell).
- SNOWY EGRET - A high inland count of seven was recorded by Patrick Brisse at the ELHLAF on 19 Sept. One bird remained there at least until 4 Oct. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - The best inland reports came from the MP area with 84 (including two adults) on 7 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters), at Griffin Reservoir with 30 on 18 July (Jeff Sewell and Paul Raney), 36 on 25 July (Jeff Sewell), and in Henry County 10 (including two adults) on 31 July (Patrick Brisse).
- REDDISH EGRET - An immature was found at Gould's Inlet between Sea Island and St. Simons Island on 7 Oct. by Peggy and Terry Moore. Either this same bird or other immatures were reported from the same area on 17 Oct. by Paul Sykes, on 24 Oct. by Bruce Hallett, on 26 Nov. by Robert and Didi Manns, and 29 Dec. by Dennie and Pam McClure. Another bird was seen at St. Catherine's Island on 7 Nov. by Hunter Patterson. Even more unusual was a white morph seen by Paul Raney on 9 May at Gould's Inlet. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this last sighting.
- CATTLE EGRET - There were a number of reports of this species up into the piedmont with quite a few noted both in the fall and spring especially in Harris County (Dennie and Pam McClure). Three birds were rather late in Telfair County on 24 Dec. (Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle).
- GREEN HERON - Inland CBC reports came from Athens on 19 Dec. (fide Branch Howe) and from Columbus on 26 Dec. (fide Sam Pate).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - A very unusual sighting for the time of year was an immature bird seen in south Fulton County on 22 Dec. by Dennie and Pam McClure. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert reported two nests in northeast Atlanta, each with two young, on 6 June. This species is quite rare and local this far into the piedmont.
- WHITE IBIS - An impressive total of 950 birds was reported from the Darien area on 27 March by Paul Raney. A count of 42 on the 19 Dec. Albany CBC was an unusual report for the winter from that area (fide Alan Ashley). In the Atlanta area, Mark Oberle saw an early flock of 20 immature birds in northeast Atlanta on 25 June (see elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting) and Jeff Sewell counted 29 at the Griffin Reservoir on 25 July.
- GLOSSY IBIS - The *Annotated Checklist* does not mention any winter records of this species for Georgia (latest date 17 Nov.) so records from Darien on

27 Nov. (three birds) by Bruce Dralle et al., one bird there on 26 Dec. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and a report from the same area during January (Don and Doris Cohrs) were quite interesting. At a more expected time were the 80 seen in the Darien area during the month of June by Malcolm Hodges.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Always a good find for Georgia, one bird was at Andrews Island on 26 Sept. (Bruce Dralle) and two birds were seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 27 Sept. (Paul Sykes). Perhaps one of the same birds was seen in the Jekyll Island area the first couple weeks of Oct. (Joe Greenberg et al.) with the latest report on 17 Oct. by Lydia Thompson. Much rarer was a sighting from the Augusta area on 24 Oct. by Anne Waters and Clarence Belger. Very unusual for Georgia was a sighting along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 7 Feb. (Giff Beaton). The best count was nine along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 24-25 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

WOOD STORK - There were a number of inland sightings of this species which fairly regularly disperses into the upper coastal plain during the late summer. Don Duncan reported three from Hawkinsville on 8 Aug. and Donny Screws found six near Rhine on 12 Aug. Donny Screws, Allen Rhodes and Tom Patterson counted 16 in the Dublin area on 29 and 30 Aug. Tom Patterson and Bill Blakeslee found four still there on 2 Sept. and Tom had two on 5 Sept. In early Sept. Ty Ivey reported the species from the MIA. At the Blackwater colony near Valdosta, an encouraging total of 511 nests was counted during May (fide Barbara Passmore).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - One of the rarest sightings for the entire period was the flock of 45 seen flying north over the ocean past Gould's Inlet on 12 Oct. by Paul and Joan Sykes. This species is a rare visitor to the abandoned rice fields along the Georgia coast and is generally seen in much smaller groups. It has been assumed that the occasional birds that are seen along the Georgia coast move south from South Carolina however this observation makes that assumption questionable.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Quite rare for the coastal area were two birds seen and photographed at Darien on 7 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Raney). An excellent count of nine was made at the Eufaula NWR on 19 Dec. (fide Sam Pate) and again on 16 Jan. (Bruce Dralle).

SNOW GOOSE - Five birds (one white and four blue) were found at the Eufaula NWR on 2 Nov. (Sam Pate) but it was unclear whether the birds were seen in Georgia or Alabama. Two birds (one white and one blue) were found at the Buford Dam on 15 Nov. by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney. A single bird was seen at Lake Oconee on 18 Nov. by Paul Raney. A white phase bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 12 Dec. (Bruce Dralle et al.) and on 20 Dec. (Jeff Sewell). One bird was seen on the Peachtree City CBC on 20 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht). Eight were seen at Eufaula NWR on 19 Dec. (fide Sam Pate). Three birds (one white and two blue) were seen in northern Greene County on 9 Jan. (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey). Back at the Eufaula NWR, three birds (one white and two blue) were seen on 16 Jan. by Bruce Dralle. Paul Sykes found three birds (all blue) in Elbert County on 20 Feb. and an additional blue phase in Madison County on 22 Feb. One bird which appeared to have characteristics of both blue and white phases was found at the ELHLAF

on 3 April (Patrick Brisse) and remained there at least through 17 April (m.ob.). A final sighting was a white phase bird seen at the DeKalb Reservoir on 14 April by Jeff Sewell.

CANADA GOOSE - Although this species continues to increase around the entire state, a count of 197 on the Blairsville CBC on 2 Jan. was impressive for the mountains (Dot Freeman).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - A female plumaged bird was seen on the very early dates of 8 Aug. (Patrick Brisse) and 15 Aug. (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller) at the ELHLAF.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - One bird recorded at the ELHLAF on 30 Aug. was early for the Atlanta area (AASMW).

MOTTLED DUCK - The report of five on the Harris Neck CBC on 28 Dec. was almost certainly a result of the introduced population in South Carolina spreading into Georgia (fide Patricia Metz).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Four late birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 22 Nov. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. A male seen at the Conyers Monastery on 17 June by Patrick and Donna Brisse was very unusual for that time of year.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - One bird was early at MP on 12 Sept. (Clarence Belger) and five were there on 20 Sept. (Clarence Belger, George Reeves and Calvin Zippler). A good count of 16 was made at the ELHLAF on 11 April by Jeff Sewell.

AMERICAN WIGEON - A male apparently spent the summer of 1992 at Peachtree City Lake, Fayette County, for a very rare summer record for the state (Chris Lambrecht). The Augusta CBC had a high count of 729 on 26 Dec. (fide Anne Waters). When are we going to find a Eurasian Wigeon with these American Wigeon in Georgia? The highest spring count reported was 18 at Lake Spivey, Clayton County, on 27 March (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

CANVASBACK - This species was widely reported throughout the state. An impressive count of 55 was made at Andrews Island on 15 Nov. by Lydia Thompson. One bird was seen at the Griffin Reservoir on 22 Nov. by Bruce Dralle, Robert Raffel and Paul Raney. A male was at MP on 27 Nov. (Anne and Vernon Waters). One bird was at Cedartown on 13 Dec. (Lanny Henson, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). One bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 20 Dec. (Jeff Sewell) and six were seen on the Augusta CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Anne Waters). An excellent count of 30 was recorded on the Piedmont NWR CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson). A female was seen in the Lawrenceville area on 16 Jan. by Joel Hitt and another single bird was seen at SCSP on 25 March by Chris Geller and Ken and Diana Paradise.

REDHEAD - In contrast to the Canvasback, this species was not that widely reported. One was seen at the ELHLAF on the early date of 25 Oct. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. Nine were seen at the Griffin Reservoir and three at the ELHLAF both on 22 Nov. (Bruce Dralle, Robert Raffel and Paul Raney) and an additional bird was seen at Covington on 23 Nov. (Paul Raney). One bird was still at the ELHLAF on 20 Dec. and 24 Jan. (Jeff Sewell). The highest count was definitely the 25 in the Rome area on 16 Feb. by Lanny Henson. A final sighting was a single bird at Blalock Lake on 27 March by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller.

- RING-NECKED DUCK - A male which spent the late spring and early summer at the ELHLAF was last seen on 12 June by Jeff Sewell.
- GREATER SCAUP - One bird reported on the Amicalola Falls CBC on 19 Dec. was quite a rare find for that area (fide Michael Kirton).
- LESSER SCAUP - Fairly early was a bird at Augusta on 11 Oct. (fide Carol Jordan). A rather late female was last reported at the ELHLAF on 22 May by Patrick Brisse.
- OLDSQUAW - Rare, and very early, were single birds both seen on 15 Nov. at Lake Oconee by Jeff Sewell, Hunter Patterson and Robert Raffel and at Commerce Lake by John Paget.
- BLACK SCOTER - Good numbers were reported along the coast with the best count of 500 on 8 Nov. at Jekyll Island by Paul Sykes and Jeff Sewell.
- SURF SCOTER - Two immatures were seen at St. Simons Island on 30 Oct. by Lydia Thompson. Inland, one bird was found at Lake Lanier on 14 Nov. by John Paget et al. and another bird was found in the Newnan area on 25 Dec. and it remained there until 2 Jan. (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - The only report was a single bird seen at Jekyll Island on 14 Nov. by Lydia Thompson.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE - There were a number of reports during the winter period. Two birds were seen at the MIA on 5 Dec. by Ty Ivey, Paul Johnson and Ken and Arlene Clark. In the Cedartown area, as many as eight were counted on 27 Dec. by Paul Raney. A fairly late bird was seen in Greene County on 6 March by Paul Sykes.
- HOODED MERGANSER - An excellent count of 172 was made by Giff Beaton on 7 Feb. along the Jekyll Island Causeway during an unusually high tide. A female plumaged bird seen at the ELHLAF on 27 June was an unusual summer record for the Atlanta area (Patrick Brisse and Terry Moore).
- COMMON MERGANSER - This rare species was found on the Piedmont NWR CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Good counts from Lake Lanier were 35 on 21 Nov. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Bruce Dralle) and 37 on 6 March (Jeff Sewell).
- RUDDY DUCK - One bird was rather early at the ELHLAF on 17 Oct. (Patrick Brisse).
- OSPREY - A fairly late bird for an inland location was one at Commerce Lake on 21 Nov. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). Inland CBC reports came from Columbus on 26 Dec. (fide Sam Pate), Dublin during the count week of 27 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson) and Thomasville on 27 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford). Six was an excellent count in Greene County on 10 April (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey). Very surprising was a pair of Ospreys building a nest during July at Blalock Lake (part of the ELHLAF). This is quite late for nest construction so it could be these are young birds getting ready for the following year (Patrick Brisse).
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Donny Screws had a very good count of four at Eastman on 7 Aug. Single birds were seen in Camden County on 27 March and in McIntosh County on 28 March by Don and Doris Cohrs. Other birds were seen at Everett on 20 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert and at Burton's Ferry below Augusta on 28 April (fide Anne Waters). Several sightings were made along the Altamaha River drainage during May by a number of observers

- (Malcolm Hodges et al.). Single birds were seen at Darien on 4 June (Don and Doris Cohrs) and at Gardi along Route 341 near Jesup on 5 July (Terry Moore). A belated but significant report was of a bird over downtown Warner Robins on 25 July 1992 (Don Duncan).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - Early birds were seen along the Augusta levee on 17 April (Anne Waters) and at Everett on 20 April (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). The earliest date mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist* is 23 April.
- BALD EAGLE - There can be no doubt that this species is recovering nicely. There were so many reports that space does not permit listing all of them. Reports came from Andrews Island, Atlanta, Augusta, Banks County, Callaway Gardens, Chattahoochee National Forest, Clark Hill Reservoir, Columbus, Commerce Lake, Darien, Dublin, Ft. Stewart, Jekyll Island, Lake Oconee, Lake Tobesofkee, Macon, Merry Ponds, Midway, Rum Creek WMA, St. Catherines Island and Tybee Island. Many of these sightings included multiple birds on multiple dates. Two birds at Ft. Stewart were observed at their nest with one young on 28 April (Bob Humphries). I would encourage anyone who is familiar with the current nesting locations of Bald Eagles in Georgia to document this in *The Oriole* so that the current status could become part of the public record.
- NORTHERN HARRIER - A very early bird was seen at the Gainesville Airport on 7 Aug. by John Paget.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Nancy Gobris reported a nest which fledged three young at the Piedmont NWR during July for a very rare nesting record from that part of the state.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - For some reason the reports of large numbers of this hawk moving through Georgia in the spring and fall have dwindled to almost nothing. Although late birds were seen at Fernbank Forest on 3 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz et al.) and at Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County, on 9 Oct. (Giff Beaton), the highest count was 20 birds seen near Stone Mountain on 9 April by Patrick Brisse.
- GOLDEN EAGLE - One bird (age not specified) was seen at Carter's Lake, Murray/Gilmer counties, on 5 Dec. by Paul Raney, Bruce Dralle and Elizabeth Brown. Another bird, a sub-adult, was seen at the Lookout Plateau on 13 Dec. by Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Lanny Henson. Again at the Lookout Plateau, two birds were seen on 24 Jan. by Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles.
- AMERICAN KESTREL - Two interesting summer sightings came from the Fulton County Stadium on 4 Aug. (Donny Screws) and from Emanuel County on 16 Aug. (Jerry and Marie Amerson).
- MERLIN - There were a good number of reports of this species from both inland and coastal locations. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a nice count of five at Jekyll Island on 25 Sept. Jeff had a single bird in the Tucker area on 28 Sept. One bird was seen at Cumberland Island the weekend of 9-11 Oct. by Barbara Edwards and another bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 11 Oct. (AASMW). Tom Patterson had a bird in Laurens County from 24 Oct. through 1 Nov. Arlene Clark found one at Lake Tobesofkee on 21 Nov. Single birds were seen on the Macon (fide Marie Amerson) and Athens (fide Branch Howe) CBCs on 19 Dec. and Don and Doris Cohrs had one in McIntosh County on 28 March. The

last sightings came from Greene County on 10 April (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey) and Jekyll Island on 22 May (Bruce Dralle et al.).

PEREGRINE FALCON - As with the Merlin, there were a good number of inland and coastal reports. In Sept. there were a number of reports during the period from the 24th through the 26th. Single birds were seen on 24 Sept. at Jekyll Island (Jeff Sewell) and at Macon (Bruce Dralle). On 25 Sept. three were seen at Jekyll Island by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. On 26 Sept. two were at Jekyll Island (Bruce Dralle), four at St. Catherines Island (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Hunter Patterson), one at Augusta (Clarence Belger) and one near Stone Mountain (Patrick Brisse). The best count of the fall was the 21 seen by Peggy and Terry Moore at Jekyll Island on 4 Oct. A single bird was seen around downtown Atlanta on 12 and 30 Oct. by Bill Groce. The reports thinned out after that with single birds being seen on the Athens CBC on 19 Dec. (fide Branch Howe), on the 19 Dec. St. Catherines Island CBC (fide Emil Urban), on the Cumberland Island CBC on 2 Jan. (fide Sheila Willis), at Andrews Island on 24 Jan. (Terry Moore et al.), at Atlanta on 30 March (Giff Beaton) and in Greene County on 10 April (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey).

PLAIN CHACHALACA - The only reports were that the species was found the weekend of 26-28 Sept. at Sapelo Island by members of the Ocmulgee Audubon Society (fide Ken Clark) and nine birds were found there on 17 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert et al.

RUFFED GROUSE - One bird was found in the Dawson Forest on 28 Nov. by John Paget and Jack Carusos. Another bird was heard drumming almost daily in the McCaysville (Fannin County) area from 14 March into the month of Aug. (Don Warren).

BLACK RAIL - Starting in mid-April and continuing at least into May, this species was reported from a marsh in northern Greene County (Paul Sykes).

KING RAIL - Single birds were found at MP on 12 Sept. (Clarence Belger) and 20 Sept. (Clarence Belger, Calvin Zippler and George Reeves). In Greene County three were found on 29 Nov. and five on 5 Dec. (Paul Sykes) with smaller numbers continuing through the winter into April and May (Paul Sykes). In Dawson County, one bird was recorded on 10, 17 and 24 Jan. by John Paget. Back at Augusta, two were found at Merry Ponds on 24 April (Anne Waters).

VIRGINIA RAIL - At a small marsh near Woodstock, three birds were found by Giff Beaton starting on 13 Oct. and the species continued in small numbers through the winter and then the numbers picked up again in the spring with the peak count of five on 2 May (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). In Greene County, Paul Sykes had an excellent count of 24 on 7 Nov., 14 on 29 Nov. and 5 Dec., 19 on 12 Dec., 21 on 30 Jan. and 19 on 6 Mar. with smaller numbers continuing through the month of May (Paul Sykes et al.). On 12 June another bird was found at Eagle's Landing, south of Atlanta, by Jeff Sewell.

SORA - Small numbers of this species were reported throughout the winter from the small marsh in northern Greene County (Paul Sykes et al.). The best count was 20+ at Darien on 27 March (Paul Raney). Two were heard at the Woodstock marsh on 2 May (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and

one was observed along a Buckhead street in north Atlanta, dodging cars, on the night of 19 May (Mike Jones).

COMMON MOORHEN - This species appears to be rather uncommon away from the coast and southern Georgia, so a bird at MP on 12 Sept. was interesting (George Reeves).

SANDHILL CRANE - Other than a sighting from the Rome area on 8 Sept. (Harriett DiGioia) the earliest fall migrants were a flock of six at the Conyers Monastery on 22 Oct. (Giff Beaton et al.). After that the next birds didn't appear until 16 Nov. when Ken and Arlene Clark had three flocks totaling 250 birds at Lake Tobesofkee, Bibb County. Only three other flocks were reported during Nov., all from the Atlanta area, between 17 and 25 Nov. totaling 130 birds (m.ob.). The peak of the movement appeared to be 7 Dec. when approximately 1200 were seen over Atlanta (m.ob.) and 450 flew over Lake Tobesofkee (Ken and Arlene Clark). At Columbus 400+ birds were reported by Luther Roberts on 8 Dec. The last flock reported was of 37 birds seen on the Atlanta CBC on 19 Dec. (fide Terry Moore). One bird in Whitfield County on 27 Jan. may have wintered there (Vernon Gordon). Seven birds apparently wintered at Eufaula NWR as evidenced by the sighting on 16 Jan. by Bruce Dralle. The northbound flight started about 20 Feb. with the peak (at least over Atlanta), of approximately 1400+ birds on 6-7 March (m.ob.). The last reports were a single bird at Blalock Lake, Henry County, on 3 April (Patrick Brisse) and a flock of 24 at Allatoona Dam, Bartow County, on 24 April (John and Kate Swiderski).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - A bird at Merry Ponds on 8 Aug. was quite early for an inland location (Clarence Belger). At Jekyll Island, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had an interesting count of 55 birds on 20 June. Whether these birds were non-breeders or very early migrants is unknown. More study is needed to understand the population dynamics of shorebirds along our coastal areas during the summer.

SNOWY PLOVER - A bird was seen and photographed at Cabretta Beach on Sapelo Island on 17 April (Richard Ellenberg, Jeff Sewell and Bill Blakeslee). This is the first record for Georgia and details of the sighting will be published in a later *Oriole*.

WILSON'S PLOVER - This species is listed as accidental during the winter by the *Annotated Checklist* so the sightings of four on the 2 Jan. Cumberland Island CBC (fide Sheila Willis) and four at Jekyll Island on 7 Feb. (Giff Beaton) are certainly noteworthy.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Nine birds at the ELHLAF on 22 May was a good inland count (Patrick Brisse et al.). Along the coast at Jekyll Island, 60-70 were seen on the unusual date of 20 June by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Reports of this species included seven at Andrews Island on 29 Aug. (Bruce Dralle), 19 at Darien on 19 April (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert), four at Darien by Paul Raney on 1 May, and an amazing 250 pairs nesting in a remote part of the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area at Darien (Malcolm Hodges fide Jeff Sewell). This nesting would definitely warrant a writeup in *The Oriole*.

AMERICAN AVOCET - A very rare inland occurrence was the sighting of three adults and one immature in Laurens County on 6 and 7 Sept.

(Tom Patterson). The immature remained there through 20 Sept. A number of observers reported the species from the Brunswick/Jekyll Island/St. Simons Island area during the winter and spring months but the best counts were 40 at Andrews Island on 15 Nov. (Lydia Thompson), 45 at the same place on 24 Jan. (Terry Moore et al.) and 39 at Jekyll Island on 7 Feb. (Giff Beaton).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - Shorebirds can show up at unexpected places as evidenced by the bird heard at Kennesaw Mt. on 29 Sept. (Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett). Three birds at MP on 7 Nov. were late for that area (Anne and Vernon Waters).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - A rather late bird was seen in Forsyth County on 30 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - One bird was seen in Laurens County on 25 Aug. (Tom Patterson). One bird was seen in Bibb County on 13 April by Jerry and Marie Amerson and six were seen in Laurens County on 20 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

WHIMBREL - A lot of observers reported moderate numbers of this species along the coast but nothing could compare to the 800 reported by Paul Sykes et al. along the coast on 30 April. The other large count was 150 at Sapelo Island on 17 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. Jeff and Carol also had 26 birds at Jekyll Island on 20 June.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Hunter Patterson saw one bird at St. Catherines Island on 7 Nov. and two there on 8 Nov. One bird was found there on the 19 Dec. CBC (fide Emil Urban) and three were seen on the 30 Dec. Sapelo Island CBC (fide William Dopson).

MARbled GODWIT - Several observers reported this species in small numbers along the coast starting in late August but the only interesting count was the 36 seen at Sapelo Island on 19 April (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - This species is always rare inland so a bird in Laurens County from 8-14 Aug. (Tom Patterson) and a bird in Forsyth County on 3 and 4 Oct. by John Paget and Jack Carusos are certainly worth noting. At Tybee Island, Jeff Sewell, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Sykes recorded a high count of 220 on 8 Nov. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert reported 10 from Jekyll Island on 20 June.

SANDERLING - The only inland sighting of this species came from Forsyth County on 27 Sept. (John Paget and Jack Carusos).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - The only noteworthy count was the 200+ seen by Patrick Brisse at the ELHLAF on 22 May.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - An extremely high inland count of 50 was made at the ELHLAF on 21 May by Bruce Dralle.

LEAST SANDPIPER - The best inland count was the 60 seen at MP on 20 Sept. by Clarence Belger, Calvin Zippler and George Reeves.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Two birds at the ELHLAF on 22 Sept. were quite rare for the Atlanta area in the fall (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). In the spring, the first bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 18 April (Joe Greenberg, AASMW) and again on 25 April (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller, AASMW). The numbers of this species really went through the roof at the ELHLAF with three on 16 May (Patrick Brisse, AASMW), 15 on 21 May (Bruce Dralle) and 29 on 22 May (Patrick

Brisse and Jeff Sewell). The last sighting from the ELHLAF came with two birds on 5 June (Patrick Brisse).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Surprisingly, the only reports came from coastal areas. One bird was found by Paul Sykes on 17 Oct. at Jekyll Island but even more exciting were spring records of a single bird at Sapelo Island on 17 April and two on 18 April (Jeff Sewell, Bill Blakeslee and Richard Ellenberg) and two other birds at Jekyll Island on 22 May (Bruce Dralle et al.). Because of the rarity of spring records anywhere in the east, any spring record for this species in the state needs to be thoroughly documented.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - As usual, the only reports came from Tybee Island where a single bird was seen on 26 Nov. (Anselm Atkins) and 25 Jan. (Terry Moore et al.).

STILT SANDPIPER - A single bird was found in Laurens County on 13 Aug. and three were seen at the same place on 14 Aug. (Tom Patterson). A single bird was observed at MP on 18 Aug. and 12 Sept. (Clarence Belger and George Reeves) and one bird was found in Bibb County on 5 Sept. by Jerry and Marie Amerson. At the ELHLAF three birds were seen on 19 Sept. by Patrick Brisse, Bruce Dralle, Bill Blakeslee and Gene Wenger, one on 24 Sept. by Patrick Brisse, Bruce Dralle and Bill Blakeslee, four on 17 Oct. (Patrick Brisse and Jeff Sewell) and one on 18 Oct. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). At Jekyll Island Paul Sykes saw one on 17 Oct. and a late bird was seen on 8 Nov. by Jeff Sewell et al. Three birds were seen back at the ELHLAF on 21 May by Bruce Dralle.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - Four birds were seen in the Macon area on 24 Sept. (Bruce Dralle) and again the next day by Ty Ivey, Lil James and Paul Johnson. A single bird was seen at Cumberland Island on 24-27 Sept. by Richard Ellenberg.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - A count of 45 birds at Jekyll Island on 20 June was interesting because of the date (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - This species often goes unreported so the following sightings are worth mentioning. One bird was very early in Forsyth County on 9 Aug. (John Paget and Jack Carusos). In the Dublin area two birds were seen from 14 Aug. through 30 Aug. with a peak count of four on 27 Aug. (Tom Patterson). In addition, one bird was seen on 15 Oct. and two on 1 Nov. again in the Dublin area (Tom Patterson et al.).

COMMON SNIPES - Paul Raney saw a reasonably early bird near Darien on 29 Aug. The high count was 53 in northern Greene County on 20 March (Paul Sykes).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - One bird was seen in the Dublin area from 29 Aug. through 7 Sept. with two birds present on 3 Sept. (Tom Patterson et al.). Another bird was seen on 29 Aug. near Darien by Paul Raney.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - The only reports were single birds at Jekyll Island on 11 Oct. by Peggy and Terry Moore and during the 23 May pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

RED PHALAROPE - The 30 Aug. pelagic trip out from Savannah yielded eight birds (Bruce Dralle et al.) and the 23 May trip out from Savannah recorded four (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER - If we disregard the 300 birds reported on the Sapelo Island CBC, the only jaeger reports were a single Parasitic seen on the Glynn County CBC on 2 Jan. (fide Elaine Young) and a jaeger (sp. - probably Parasitic) from Jekyll Island on 23 Jan. (Terry Moore et al.).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA - One bird was seen by Todd Hass 90 miles east of Savannah on 9 July. For details of this sighting please look elsewhere in this issue.

LAUGHING GULL - One bird at Peachtree City Lake on 3 Oct. was rare for that far inland (Chris Lambrecht).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - An adult bird was a very rare visitor to Sapelo Island on 21 May (Alvaro Jaramillo).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Although not record early for the state, nine birds at Jekyll Island on 24 Sept. was a surprising observation since the species usually isn't seen until late Oct. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). A good inland count of 200 was reported from Lake Lanier on 19 Dec. by the same observers.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Whereas in previous years, we only expected sightings of this species during the fall months, we now receive reports from early fall into spring. Bruce Dralle saw two birds at Jekyll Island on 26 Sept. followed by reports by several observers that the species could easily be found at Jekyll's South Beach into the winter months. At least one adult bird and sometimes two could be found during the winter and at least until 28 March at Tybee Island (m.ob.). One bird was recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 19 Dec. for what would appear to be the first Georgia CBC record (fide Emil Urban). When will Georgia get its first summer record of the species?

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - An immature bird was reported from the Cooper Creek Park area near Columbus on 5 and 6 May by James Miller and Mike Fuller. Documentation of this sighting in *The Oriole* would be welcome as this is the first inland sighting of this species which is rather rare even in offshore waters.

GULL-BILLED TERN - The numbers of this species appear to wax and wane for no discernible reason. Their numbers now appear to be waxing. At Jekyll Island, six were seen on 28 Aug. (Paul Raney) and 20 on 29 Aug. (Bruce Dralle). Two birds were fairly late at Jekyll Island on 4 Oct. (Terry Moore). Perhaps the same two birds wintered as two were seen on the Glynn County CBC on 2 Jan. (Paul Sykes and Tony Leukering) and again on 6 Feb. (Jeff Sewell, Paul Sykes et al.). Two birds at Darien on 27 March by Paul Raney broke the previous early arrival date for the state by one day. Malcolm Hodges reported that 20 pairs were nesting in a remote part of the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien during June.

CASPIAN TERN - There were more inland reports than usual for this species. Two birds were seen at Lake Spivey on 5 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle) and three birds the same day at Peachtree City Lake (Chris Lambrecht). Since these two locations are about 15 miles apart, these sightings may be of the same group of birds. On the very same day four were seen in Laurens County by Tom Patterson, Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle. In the spring one was seen at Lake Lanier in Forsyth County on

1 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos and four birds were seen at MP on 8 May by Clarence Belger.

COMMON TERN - A good count of 52 was recorded on the 30 Aug. pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bruce Dralle et al.).

LEAST TERN - Very late were six birds at Jekyll Island on 24 Sept. by Jeff Sewell. Generally this species leaves the coastal areas by late August. A count of 230 at Jekyll and St. Simons Islands on 24-25 July was certainly an excellent count (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

BRIDLED TERN - On the 30 Aug. pelagic trip out from Savannah, 28 birds were counted (Bruce Dralle et al.).

BLACK TERN - The best counts came from Lake Lanier on 11 Aug. with 30 birds (John Paget), 74 on the 30 Aug. pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bruce Dralle et al.), and 33 birds at St. Simons Island on 24-25 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

BROWN NODDY - This very rare visitor to Georgia waters was seen on the 30 Aug. pelagic trip out from Savannah (Bruce Dralle et al.). This would appear to be the fifth record of the species for Georgia.

ROCK DOVE - Paul Sykes reported his surprise at seeing a flock of 40 flying (migrating?) past the south end of Jekyll Island on 18 Oct. This type of behavior has been seen a number of times during the 17 years of operation of the Jekyll Island Banding Station (Terry Moore, pers. observation).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - As this species spreads into Georgia we need to document this event as well as possible. One bird was seen in the St. Simons Island area on 13 April by Malcolm Hodges. See elsewhere in this issue details of this and a few later sightings. Two birds were seen in the Brunswick area on 24 May by Bill Blakeslee. One bird was seen at Sapelo Island on 25 May by Alvaro Jaramillo (et al.). Single birds were seen at Warner Robins on 3 June (Ren Gobris) and 9 July (Nancy Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson). One bird was seen in Glynn County on 12 June by Nancy Gobris and two near Cuthbert on an unspecified date by Paul Johnson.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - This species most certainly is declining along the coastal areas. Almost all reports of any numbers came from inland locations. Six were seen at the Eufaula NWR on 16 Jan. by Bruce Dralle and six more were seen in the Tifton area on 6 March by Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney.

SHORT-EARED OWL - The only report for the entire period was a bird seen on the Piedmont NWR CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Single birds were reported from Kennesaw Mt. on 24 April by Bill Blakeslee and Richard Ellenberg, from northern Gwinnett County on 23 May by Joel Hitt and in Dawson County on 6 June by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

COMMON BARN-OWL - The only report was of four birds seen at their nest tree in Darien on 10 June by Don and Doris Cohrs.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - Sam and Nan Pate reported 150+ in the Columbus area on 5 Sept. In the Atlanta area the peak movement during the fall appeared to be on 6 Sept. with 1000+ birds seen along GA 400 north of the city by Peggy Moore and 1000+ seen in Norcross the same night by Hugh Garrett. A count of 85 over Tucker on 20 Sept. was rather late for this high a count (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). There were a

number of late reports with the last ones being one in north Atlanta on 29 Oct. (Liz Horsey), three at Cartersville on 30 Oct. (John Swiderski) and nine in NE Atlanta on 31 Oct. (Paul Raney).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - Three birds reported from Jekyll Island on 25 Sept. were extremely late for the state (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Somewhat late birds were found in Lawrenceville on 13 Sept. by Joel Hitt and at Tucker on 29 Sept. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. An extremely late report was of one in the McDonough area on 6 and 8 Dec. by Lester Burroughs.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - Large numbers were reported from the Atlanta area during Sept. with 500 at Kennesaw Mt. on 13 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert), 1000 at the CRNRA on 26 Sept. (AASMW), 500 back at Kennesaw Mt. on 29 Sept. (Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett) and 2000 at Athens on 10 Oct. (Paul Sykes). Very intriguing was the report of two small swifts on the Harris Neck CBC on 28 Dec. (fide Patricia Metz). This report is so late, the possibility of the birds being Vaux's Swifts has to be considered.

MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD - Absolutely unbelievable was an adult female found at St. Catherines Island on 14 Sept. and luckily banded by Bob Sargent on 15 Sept. This appears to be the first record of the species east of the Mississippi. But lightning struck twice as a different female appeared at a feeder at Winder around 15 Oct. and was banded by Bob Sargent on 15 Dec. Fortunately the bird stayed for much of the winter and was enjoyed by numerous observers. The last report of the bird was on 7 March (fide Bruce Dralle).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Georgia's third record was a hatch year female which appeared at a Valdosta feeder on 5 Oct. and remained there until 28 Jan. It was banded by Bob Sargent on 27 Dec. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting. The fourth record was a hatch year male at Fitzgerald from early Nov. until at least 3 March (fide Bruce Dralle). It was banded by Bob Sargent on 26 Dec.

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - Another first record for Georgia was an adult female banded at a feeder near Walnut Grove on 11 Feb. by Bob Sargent. It first appeared at that feeder on 5 Jan. Unfortunately an over zealous observer caused the people who were feeding the bird to declare their property off limits to any further observation of the bird. It was last reported on 6 March (fide Bruce Dralle). We all must remember to always be extremely considerate of property owner's rights or we will all be excluded from enjoying these rare wintering birds.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - Another first for Georgia was a young male at a Tifton feeder banded on 11 Feb. by Bob Sargent. It evidently appeared at that feeder in Oct. 1992. This bird was last seen on 8 April (fide Bruce Dralle).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Compared to the other species, the presence of as many as four birds around the state drew little attention as they are now a regular winter occurrence.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - A final hummingbird first for Georgia was a hatch year male which appeared at a Sandy Springs feeder around 12 Dec. It was banded on 26 Dec. by Bob Sargent and was thereafter enjoyed by many observers from around the state. It was last reported on 6 March (fide Bruce Dralle).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - Six was a good count from Kennesaw Mt. on the fairly early date of 9 Oct. (Giff Beaton).

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER - The Thomasville CBC on 27 Dec. recorded an excellent count of 18 (fide Robert Crawford).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - This rare migrant was seen in Banks County on 14 Aug. by Mary Ellen and Bob Myers.

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE - A late bird was seen at the north end of Jekyll Island on 7 Nov. by Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Raney.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - One bird was seen at the Ocmulgee National Monument on 13 Sept. by Jerry and Marie Amerson. A bird described as a probable Yellow-bellied was seen at the Conyers Monastery on 10 Oct. by Jeff Sewell et al.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - One bird was still near its usual site in the Dillard area on the late date of 20 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). This local species was seen in Greene County on 23 May by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. This is perhaps the southernmost location for this species in the southeast.

EMPIDONAX (sp.) - Winter records of this group of flycatchers are rare almost anywhere in the US so a bird on the Athens CBC on 19 Dec. was especially unusual (fide Branch Howe).

EASTERN PHOEBE - The 75 recorded on the Atlanta CBC on 19 Dec. was an impressive total (fide Terry Moore). A nest in the Augusta area on 8 May was considered unusual (Anne Waters).

SAY'S PHOEBE - One bird was reported from Sapelo Island the weekend of 26-28 Sept. during an Ocmulgee Audubon Society field trip. This species is so rare in Georgia that this observation should definitely be documented in *The Oriole*. Anyone who saw this bird is encouraged to report the details of the observation for *The Oriole*.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - The only reports were of single birds at the Conyers Monastery from 17 Oct. (Jerry Brunner) through 20 Oct. (m.ob.) and at St. Catherines Island on 8 Nov. by Hunter Patterson.

GRAY KINGBIRD - This species was seen on a number of occasions on Jekyll Island, primarily around the Convention Center (m.ob.). The latest fall report was a bird at Jekyll Island on 12 Oct. (Paul and Joan Sykes). Paul Raney saw three birds on 9 May at St. Simons Island with one bird near East Beach and two near downtown. Doris Cohrs and Malcolm Hodges spotted one bird at the Glynn County Library on 30 June and Doris indicates that a pair nested in the Lanier Plaza parking lot along US 17 in Brunswick.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - A report of this extremely rare visitor to the state was made by Joel Hayes on 17 June in Whitfield County (fide Harriett DiGioia). This species has nested in Georgia so any summer report needs to be followed up very closely.

HORNED LARK - Several areas prove to be reliable places to find this species. On various dates during the period it was reported from the Etowah Indian Mounds area near Cartersville, near Macon, on the Lookout Plateau and from Greene County.

PURPLE MARTIN - A fairly late bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 8 Oct. by Peggy and Terry Moore. The first spring migrants were noted in the Darien area on 7 Feb. by Giff Beaton and in the Columbus area on 16 Feb. (fide Sam Pate).

TREE SWALLOW - Paul Sykes estimated around 22,000 at Jekyll Island on 8 Nov. We always see large flocks there in the fall but rarely do we try to estimate their numbers. One bird was seen entering a potential nest hole near the ELHLAF on 22 May (Patrick Brisse) and on 5 June Patrick saw an adult feeding what appeared to be another adult in the same area. Two birds at the ELHLAF on 10 July could have been from that possible nesting (Patrick Brisse).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - The first migrants were noted in northern Greene County on 6 March (Paul Sykes), at the Buford Dam on 7 March (Jeannie Wright) and at Woodstock on 8 March (Giff Beaton). How these birds fared during the snowstorm is a good question. A very good count of 100 was made at the CRNRA on 10 April (Ken Blackshaw, AASMW).

BANK SWALLOW - Reports of this species were noticeably lacking. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw two at the ELHLAF on 2 Aug. and several observers noted small numbers at the same location during May with the peak count of 20 on 22 May (Jeff Sewell).

CLIFF SWALLOW - An early bird was seen at Tybee Island on 28 March by Bruce Dralle. On 28 April Anne Waters observed 2-3 nests under the HWY 378 bridge over the Savannah River near Augusta for a new nesting location for the species in the state. Jerry and Marie Amerson and Nancy Gobris reported the species from the Juliette Bridge across the Ocmulgee River, Monroe/Jones counties, on 9 May. About 20 birds were seen at the colony at Lake Oconee on 23 May (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

BARN SWALLOW - Rather late birds were four at Darien on 7 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Raney) and a single bird at Jekyll Island on 14 Nov. (Lydia Thompson). The Dublin CBC on 27 Dec. recorded an extremely late bird (fide Tom Patterson).

COMMON RAVEN - Paul Sykes and Tony Leukering found two birds at Brasstown Bald on 24 April and two others about 8 miles north of Helen the same day.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - This was not a good winter for this species in Georgia. On Georgia CBCs, three birds were seen on the Atlanta count on 19 Dec. (fide Terry Moore), a bird during the count week of 20 Dec. in the Chattahoochee National Forest (fide Harriett DiGioia), four birds on the 26 Dec. Augusta count (fide Anne Waters) and two on the Dublin count on 27 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson). One of the Dublin birds frequented the feeder of Tom Patterson from 25 Nov. through at least 2 Jan. (Bruce Dralle).

BROWN CREEPER - Surprising for such a late date were the seven birds seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 14 April (Giff Beaton).

WINTER WREN - One bird was found at Rabun Bald on 13 June by Jeff Sewell and Bill Blakeslee. See elsewhere in this issue for other sightings from Rabun Bald.

SEDGE WREN - Good numbers of this species were seen in the fall at Curtis Brothers marsh in Greene County with the peak of 15 on 7 Nov. and smaller numbers through the remainder of the winter (Paul Sykes). The species was found on the Macon CBC (fide Marie Amerson) and the Athens CBC (fide Branch Howe) both on 19 Dec.

MARSH WREN - Rare for the Atlanta area was a bird at the CRNRA on 3 Oct. by Jerry Brunner.

VEERY - The peak count during the fall migration period at Kennesaw Mt. was three on 13 Sept. (fide Bruce Dralle). The last report came from Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 17 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW). The species went virtually unreported during the spring but one very unusual singing bird was found in Fernbank Forest on the surprising date of 18 June (Georgann Schmalz). See elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - There were no less than 14 reports of this species from the Atlanta area alone starting on 21 Sept. and continuing through 17 Oct. The peak count was four at Kennesaw Mt. on 3 Oct. (Bill Blakeslee, Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle). The only spring reports were a single bird at Fernbank Forest on 24 April (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW), two birds at Kennesaw Mt. on 7 May (Bruce Dralle) and one bird back at Fernbank Forest on 8 May (Georgann Schmalz).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - This species was also well reported from the Atlanta area. Some of the counts were 21 at Fernbank Forest on 19 Sept. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW), 23 at Kennesaw Mt. on 25 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.), 20 at the CRNRA on 26 Sept. (Joe Greenberg, AASMW), at Kennesaw Mt. 25 on 27 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.), 30 on 29 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.), and 28 on 3 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Bill Blakeslee and Bruce Dralle). The last report was from Tucker on 28 Oct. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. In the spring, peak counts were five at Fernbank Forest on 1 May (Georgann Schmalz) and six at Kennesaw Mt. on 7 May (Bruce Dralle).

HERMIT THRUSH - An early bird was seen in the Gainesville area on 7 Oct. by John Paget.

AMERICAN ROBIN - Don and Doris Cohrs reported a bird in Glynn County on 30 June for a very unusual report since this species generally leaves that area during the summer.

WATER PIPIT - Rather late birds were a flock near Augusta on 1 May (Emil Urban), one in south Augusta on 8 May (Carol Eldridge fide Anne Waters) and three in Greene County on 8 May (Tony Leukering).

CEDAR WAXWING - This species appears to be expanding its summer range more into the southeast. We need to keep an eye out for its occurrence and document summer sightings in *The Oriole*. Two very early birds were seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 27 Aug. by Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett. One bird was definitely out of range at Sandersville on 5 June (Paul Johnson and Barbara Edwards). One bird was seen in Dawson County on 26 June by John Paget and Jack Carusos. Four birds were seen around Blalock Lake on the very unusual date of 10 July (Patrick Brisse).

WHITE-EYED VIREO - One bird on the Athens CBC on 19 Dec. (fide Branch Howe) and another bird on the Peachtree City CBC on 20 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht) were good finds.

SOLITARY VIREO - Two birds were already at Kennesaw Mt. on 27 Sept. (Bruce Dralle). From the same area nine was a good count on 13 Oct. and ten was an even better count on 18 April (Giff Beaton). In late May Anne Waters found a nesting pair in the Parksville area. An adult and

- juvenile bird were seen in north Gwinnett County on 13 June and another bird was seen in the Lawrenceville area on 31 July (Joel Hitt).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** - The earliest reports were on 28 March from both Camden and McIntosh counties (Don and Doris Cohrs).
- WARBLING VIREO** - This rare Georgia migrant was reported from the Eastman area on the very early date of 22 Aug. by Donny Screws, near Stone Mountain on 26 and 27 Sept. by Patrick Brisse, from Sapelo Island the weekend of 7-9 May (Ocmulgee Audubon Society), at the CRNRA on 8 May (AASMW) and finally at Kennesaw Mt. on 15 May (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO** - One bird was seen in north Roswell on 13 Sept. (Terry Moore), an amazing 10 were seen on 26 Sept. at the CRNRA (Ken Blackshaw, AASMW), one was seen at the Ocmulgee National Monument on 4 Oct. (Barbara Edwards) and one was seen in the Tucker area on 30 Sept. (Jeff Sewell).
- RED-EYED VIREO** - High counts from Kennesaw Mt. included 40 on 16 Aug., 45 on 6 Sept., 35 on 7 Sept., 20 on 19 Sept., 25 on 21 Sept., 30 on 22 Sept. and 50 on 5 May (Bruce Dralle et al.). A rather early bird was seen at the CRNRA on 3 April (Helen Ogren, AASMW) and a good count of 23 was reported from Fernbank Forest on 24 April (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW).
- WARBLERS** - It is becoming more and more obvious that a large number of warbler species start migrating through Georgia during the July and August timeframes, especially in north Georgia. Since a number of Georgia observers may not be familiar with this event, more emphasis is being placed on these early fall migrants so that we might draw attention to better documenting this movement throughout Georgia.
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** - Single birds were seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 9 Aug. (Giff Beaton), at Roswell on 23 Aug. (Terry Moore) and at the Atlanta Historical Society near Buckhead in north Atlanta on 29 Aug. (Georgann Schmalz). Still in the Atlanta area, there were 16 separate reports during Sept. with the peak count of six at the CRNRA on 19 Sept. (Hugh Garrett, AASMW). In the Dawson Forest, two birds were found by Jeff Sewell on 5 June. A rather early migrant was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 31 July by Bruce Dralle.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** - One bird was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 27 Aug. (Giff Beaton). During Sept. in the Atlanta area, 18 reports were received with peak counts of four at Kennesaw Mt. on 19 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.) and at the CRNRA on 19 Sept. (Hugh Garrett, AASMW). Two males were seen on the Augusta Levee on 19 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters). The last report was a single bird at the CRNRA on 17 Oct. (Paul Raney and AASMW).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER** - This is one of the most common warblers during fall migration but this year the numbers, especially from Kennesaw Mt. were particularly high. The best counts from there were 65 on 21 Sept. and 50 on 25 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). In the spring, the best count was 10 at Fernbank Forest on 8 May (Georgann Schmalz).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** - Very early migrants were reported from Kennesaw Mt. on 27 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.) and 29 Sept. (Bruce Dralle, Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett). Both of these dates are earlier than the previous early fall arrival date of 8 Oct. in the *Annotated*

- Checklist.* This species continues its increase as a wintering bird in the piedmont as evidenced by the total of five seen on the Atlanta and Peachtree City CBCs. A good count of six was made at Eufaula NWR on 16 Jan. by Bruce Dralle.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** - This fairly rare migrant was reported a number of times during the period. Single birds were banded at Jekyll Island on 24 Sept. and 6 Oct. (Don and Doris Cohrs). Other single birds were seen at Lawrenceville on 18 Sept. by Joel Hitt, at Kennesaw Mt. on 20 Sept. and 29 Sept. by Bruce Dralle et al., and at the CRNRA on 17 Oct. by Paul Raney (AASMW). In the spring, the only reports came from Kennesaw Mt. on 18 April (Giff Beaton) and 24 April (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- NORTHERN PARULA** - One bird was an extremely rare find on the 26 Dec. Augusta CBC (fide Anne Waters).
- YELLOW WARBLER** - This species is one of our earlier migrants as evidenced by the reports from Jekyll Island of three birds the weekend of 24-25 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney), a single bird in McIntosh County on 25 July (Don and Doris Cohrs) and another single bird at Powder Springs on 25 July by Chris Geller.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** - One bird was fairly late at the CRNRA on 1 Nov. (Peggy and Terry Moore) but the bird seen at Carter's Lake on 5 Dec. was exceptionally late (Bruce Dralle, Paul Raney and Elizabeth Brown). See *Oriole* 57:9 for details of this sighting.
- CAPE MAY WARBLER** - This species is certainly getting harder and harder to find. Although it can generally be found with ease during the spring, its numbers in the fall have greatly diminished. It used to be one of the more common warblers banded in the fall at Jekyll Island but not anymore. This fall the peak count from Kennesaw Mt. was three on 27 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). A fairly early bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 6 April by Peggy and Terry Moore. In the spring the best count was 30 at Fernbank Forest on 1 May (Georgann Schmalz).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** - The best count was the 15 birds recorded at Fernbank Forest on 1 May by Georgann Schmalz et al.
- YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER** - Very early for the state was a bird seen at Cumberland Island the weekend of 24-27 Sept. by Richard Ellenberg. The exceedingly rare subspecies of the Yellow-rump, formerly known as the Audubon's Warbler, was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 25 April by Jeff Sewell. Unfortunately the bird was soon lost in the myriad "Myrtle" Warblers and could not be relocated.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** - The best counts during the fall migration came from Kennesaw Mt. with 15 on 19 Sept., 18 on 23 Sept. and 12 on 25 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). A fairly early migrant was at the CRNRA on 30 March (Giff Beaton). The best counts during the spring again came from Kennesaw Mt. with 18 on 18 April (Giff Beaton) and 14 on 24 April (Bruce Dralle et al.). The first of the fall migrants for 1993 appeared at Kennesaw Mt. on 31 July (Bruce Dralle).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** - Kennesaw Mt. was the prime focal point for this species also. Best fall counts were 20 on 7 Sept., 15 on 13 Sept., 18 on 19 Sept., 17 on 21 Sept. and 10 on 23, 25 and 27 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). In the spring the best count was eight at Kennesaw Mt. on 24

- April (Bruce Dralle et al.). The first migrant of the fall in 1993 was at Kennesaw Mt. on 31 July (Bruce Dralle).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - Rare for the upper coastal plain was a bird seen at Dublin on 12 Dec. by Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, et al. Evidently the bird stayed around and was recorded on the 27 Dec. Dublin CBC (fide Tom Patterson).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** - One bird was a good find on the Glynn County CBC on 2 Jan. (fide Elaine Young). Even more unexpected was a bird at Augusta on 30 Jan. (Anne Waters and Jeff Sewell). Evidently the same bird was seen there again on 4 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters). A good count for the spring was 13 at the CRNRA on 17 April (Jack Carusos, AASMW).
- BAY-BREASTED WARBLER** - The highest count reported was 15 at Kennesaw Mt. on 23 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). The best count for the spring was the 12 at Kennesaw Mt. on 6 May (Giff Beaton).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER** - The best counts came from Kennesaw Mt. with 32 on 25 April and 21 on 5 May (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** - During the fall of 1992 the peak count of 14 came from Kennesaw Mt. on 16 Aug. (Bruce Dralle). The last report was of a bird there on 20 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). In the spring the highest counts came again from Kennesaw Mt. with 18 on 24 April and 15 on 25 April (Bruce Dralle et al.). The fall 1993 migration started off with a total of 14 at Kennesaw Mt. on 31 July (Bruce Dralle).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - Kennesaw Mt. also had the high counts for this species with 15 on 16 Aug. and 20 on 6 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). One bird at Augusta on 27 Feb. was an interesting winter record from that area of the state (Anne and Vernon Waters).
- AMERICAN REDSTART** - Highest counts of this species were the 30 at Kennesaw Mt. on 21 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.), the 61 at Jekyll Island on 25 Sept. (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and the 30 at the CRNRA on 26 Sept. (Ken Blackshaw, AASMW). Three birds were already along the coast at Jekyll Island on the weekend of 24-25 July (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** - A very late bird was seen in Forsyth County on 3 Oct. by John Paget.
- WORM-EATING WARBLER** - This species was widely reported but the highest counts were five at Kennesaw Mt. on 6 Sept., seven on 21 April and eight on 24 April (Bruce Dralle et al.). Fernbank Forest had six on 1 May and five on 8 May (Georgann Schmalz). The species was found at Oaky Woods, Houston County, during June and July for the third year in a row by Dan and Pam Guynn. The species was also found by Nancy Gobris at Piedmont NWR during June and July. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** - One bird was found near the ELHLAF on 25 April (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller and Paul Raney) and two were there on 27 April (Jeff Sewell). Paul Sykes and Cam Kepler reported a male on territory in Greene County during the month of May. Don and Doris Cohrs had one in McIntosh County on 5 and 9 May and again on 11 and 23 June. One bird was reported from MP on 8 May (Clarence Belger) and five were found in Tattnall County on 12 May (Malcolm Hodges).

- OVENBIRD** - A very rare winter report was a bird on the Piedmont NWR CBC on 21 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson). Single birds at Roswell on 1 June (Terry Moore) and in north Gwinnett County on 20 June (Joel Hitt) were at the southern edge of the species's breeding range in Georgia.
- NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a good count of 15 at Jekyll Island on 25 Sept. A Waterthrush (presumably a Northern) was heard at Paulk's Pasture Wildlife Management Area between Jesup and Brunswick on 24 Jan. (Terry Moore et al.).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** - A very late bird was seen near Stone Mountain on 20 Sept. by Patrick Brisse. One bird reported on the Peachtree City CBC on 20 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht) has never been documented in *The Oriole*. There is only one other winter report for the entire state. This species is not generally found along the coast during the nesting season so a bird in Wayne County all May was interesting (Malcolm Hodges).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER** - This species is much like the Louisiana Waterthrush in that it is rarely found near the Georgia coast. One bird was found near Ludowici in late May (Malcolm Hodges) and Don and Doris Cohrs found one near Darien on 28 May.
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER** - This rare migrant was reported from the Augusta Levee on 12 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters), near the ELHLAF on 20 Sept. (AASMW) and near Dawsonville on 12 Oct. (Frank McCamey).
- HOODED WARBLER** - The highest count of 11 came from Kennesaw Mt. on 9 Oct. by Giff Beaton. A late bird was found at the CRNRA on 1 Nov. by Peggy and Terry Moore.
- WILSON'S WARBLER** - Single birds were reported from near Stone Mountain on 25 Sept. (Patrick Brisse), from the CRNRA on 26 Sept. (Ken Blackshaw, AASMW), from Sapelo Island the weekend of 26-28 Sept. (fide Ken Clark), near Cumming on 2 Oct. (Joe Greenberg et al.), again at the CRNRA on 3 Oct. (Paul Raney, AASMW) and 31 Oct. (Ken Blackshaw, AASMW) and in Dawson County on 16 May (John Paget and Jack Carusos).
- CANADA WARBLERS** - This species was reported in very small numbers with the peak count of five coming from Kennesaw Mt. on 6 Sept. (Bruce Dralle et al.). Some observers commented that the species is increasingly difficult to find in its summer haunts at Brasstown Bald (fide Terry Moore). However, Dot Freeman reported the species during the June/July timeframe from a new location on Slaughter Mt. at about 4100'. An early migrant was at Kennesaw Mt. on 31 July (Bruce Dralle).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** - One bird was banded near Darien on 28 Feb. by Don and Doris Cohrs. This species, although undoubtedly regular but rare in the winter, is very difficult to find since they don't call and always skulk about in dense thickets.
- SCARLET TANAGER** - An adult female was seen feeding a fledgling at Roswell on 6 Aug. by Terry Moore. This is close to the southern fringe of their nesting range in Georgia. Excellent counts came from Kennesaw Mt. with 50 on 29 Sept. (Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett), 25 on 24 April (Bruce Dralle et al.) and 50+ on 28 April (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller). One bird near the ELHLAF on 5 June by Patrick

Brise was somewhat south of their usual range in the Atlanta area. Even more out of range were the birds found by Nancy Gobris at Piedmont NWR during July. See elsewhere in this issue for details of this sighting.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - An excellent count of 40 came from Kennesaw Mt. on 29 Sept. (Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett). Harriett DiGioia reported at least 18 (mostly males) coming to a Dalton feeder on 8 May. That must have been quite a sight! A fairly late bird was seen in Dawson County on 23 May by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

BLUE GROSBEAK - One bird at MP on 10 April was fairly early (Augusta Audubon Society) as was another bird the same day in northern Greene County (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey).

INDIGO BUNTING - A late bird was seen in the Darien area on 6 Nov. by Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Raney.

PAINTED BUNTING - A male at Augusta on 19-21 Jan. was a very unusual sighting for that area (Anne and Vernon Waters). Also at Augusta, a good count of 12 was made on 8 May by Anne Waters. The species was also found along the Altamaha River drainage during May as far north as Jeff Davis County near where the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers form the Altamaha (Malcolm Hodges).

DICKCISSEL - During an AASMW at the ELHLAF two were seen on 20 Sept.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - This species can be extremely difficult to find during the winter so three on the Thomasville CBC on 27 Dec. were probably the result of a lot of hard work (fide Robert Crawford). Six was a good count from the Piedmont NWR on 21 April (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Single birds were banded at Jekyll Island on 10 and 14 Oct. (Don and Doris Cohrs).

VESPER SPARROW - This species was widely reported but the best counts were 76 on the Peachtree City CBC on 20 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht) and 30 near Tifton on 6 March (Bruce Dralle and Paul Raney).

LARK SPARROW - This rare migrant was seen in Forsyth County on 16 Aug. by John Paget and Jack Carusos.

SAVANNAH "IPSWICH" SPARROW - One bird of this subspecies was seen by Giff Beaton at Jekyll Island on 7 Feb.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - The only winter reports were of single birds on the 19 Dec. Athens CBC (fide Branch Howe) and the 27 Dec. Dublin CBC (fide Tom Patterson). For the first time in five years, this species was found at the Augusta Airport with a single bird on 1 May (Anne Waters) and four there on 8 May (Carol Eldridge).

HENSLow'S SPARROW - Birders trying to find LeConte's Sparrows at Paulk's Pasture in Glynn County were rewarded not only with LeConte's but also three Henslow's Sparrows on 31 Jan. (Mike Chapman, Don and Doris Cohrs et al.). A group visiting the same area on 6 Feb. reported between 6-8 Henslow's (Jeff Sewell, Paul Sykes et al.). This is an amazing concentration of a species which is always difficult to locate.

LECONTE'S SPARROW - This elusive species was found at Paulk's Pasture on 24 Jan. by Anselm Atkins, Patrick Brisse, Mike Chapman, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore. Another group led by Mike Chapman and

Don and Doris Cohrs visited the area on 31 Jan. and found two birds there and Giff Beaton had one bird there on 7 Feb.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - Giff Beaton had a very large count of 254 along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 7 Feb.

SEASIDE SPARROW - In addition to the above Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Giff also had seven Seaside Sparrows along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 7 Feb. Please see elsewhere in this issue for details of the sighting of this large number of saltmarsh sparrows.

FOX SPARROW - The snowstorm of 13 March forced this species into feeding stations, at least in the Atlanta area. Small numbers were reported by at least 10 different reporters during this period when so much snow was on the ground.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - This difficult to find species was seen at Conyers on 20 Oct. (Paul Sykes), in northern Greene County on 24 Oct. (Paul Sykes), at Darien on 6 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee and Paul Raney), at the CRNRA on 7 April (Bruce Dralle and David Godfrey), at Macon on 1 May (Paul Johnson) and at Pendergrass on 8 May (John Paget).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - A very early bird was in Clarence Belger's backyard on 8 Sept.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - This species was widely reported but in small numbers (m.ob.). A bird banded at Jekyll Island on 11 Oct. tied the earliest date mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist* (Don and Doris Cohrs). A rather late bird was seen at MP on 2 May by Anne Waters.

DARK-EYED JUNCO - Five birds seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 13 Oct. were early for the Atlanta area (Giff Beaton).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - An adult male of this very rare species in Georgia was found at Tybee Island on 24 March by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - The Albany CBC had an excellent count of 912 on their 19 Dec. CBC (fide Alan Ashley).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - The earliest report was of five at the Augusta Levee on 26 Sept. by Clarence Belger. Fifty birds was a good count from Greene County on 29 Dec. by Paul Raney but even better was the count of 250 on the Dublin CBC on 27 Dec. (fide Tom Patterson).

NORTHERN ORIOLE - Best counts of this species were the seven at the CRNRA on 29 Aug. (Dennis Lacoss, AASMW) and six in north Atlanta on 7 Sept. (Jack Carusos). Winter reports came from Lithonia with a bird there from 15 Dec. through 3 Jan. (Rich Gullett), four on the Thomasville CBC on 27 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford) and from Augusta with a last report on 27 Feb. (Anne and Vernon Waters).

PURPLE FINCH - An early bird appeared at Tom Patterson's feeder in Laurens County on 4 Oct. and remained there through 11 Oct. A late bird was seen at the Augusta Canal on 8 May by George Reeves (fide Anne Waters).

PINE SISKIN - There were very few reports of this species during the winter and even those were of very small numbers (fide Terry Moore). On the CBCs 15 were reported at Thomasville on 27 Dec. (fide Robert Crawford), one at Glynn County on 2 Jan. (fide Elaine Young) and 12 on the Blairsville count also on 2 Jan. (fide Dot Freeman).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - A bird in the Darien area on 21-22 June was quite unusual for the coastal area (Don and Doris Cohrs).

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

CORRECTION

Phillips B. Street has brought to our attention that while he is credited with being a co-observer of a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the Okefenokee Swamp on 30 November 1948 along with F.V. Hebard, he did not actually see the birds well enough to identify them with any certainty and the observation should be Hebard's alone. This observation was reported in *Georgia Birds* (Burleigh, T.D., University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 1958) and again recently in an article by the late R.W. Loftin (Ivory-billed Woodpeckers Reported in Okefenokee Swamp in 1941-42, *Oriole* 56:74-76). Mr. Street also points out that the two birds reported by Hebard were seen approximately an hour apart so there is a question as to whether they actually constituted a pair.

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