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RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN GEORGIA

Emil K. Urban

The Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) was first recorded in Georgia in 1978 by Howe (1979) who found a dead female on the University of Georgia campus in Athens, Clarke County on 6 November 1978. Haney et al. (1986) list it as accidental in the state with two records, the above mentioned bird from Athens and another from Duluth during the winter of 1984-85 (Manns 1985). Since then and through October 1994, there have been 39 additional records of Rufous Hummingbirds and 13 sightings identified to genus but not species (Table 1).

Of the 41 records of the Rufous, 27 are banded birds, two are dead birds, one is a captured individual, four are photographs, and seven are observations.

The earliest fall observation of a definite Rufous Hummingbird is the bird seen in Dalton on 27 August 1987 (Brisse 1988a). An individual, photographed but identified only to genus on 6 August 1990 in Tucker (Sewell and Lambert 1990), represents the earliest fall record for the genus in Georgia. The latest spring record is the dead specimen found in central Thomas County on 3 April 1991 (Neel et al. 1991).

Most records are from the north and central areas of western Georgia, especially the metropolitan area around Atlanta. The most northern record is that of Dalton (Brisse 1988a & b); eastern, that of Augusta (Urban and Urban 1994); and southern, that of Valdosta (R. Sargent, pers. comm.). These records, however, probably reflect the location of feeders and observers in Georgia rather than the true distribution of the Rufous Hummingbird in Georgia.

The 14 records of *Selasphorus* identified only to genus point out the difficulty of distinguishing Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) from Rufous Hummingbird, especially females and immatures. Two records of the Allen's Hummingbird already exist for Georgia. One bird was present at a Sandy Springs feeder from 12 December 1992 through 6 March 1993 and another bird frequented a Cartersville feeder from 7 through 15 January 1994 (T. Moore, pers. comm.). 1994. Use of key papers such as Stiles (1972) and Calder (1993) are essential when identifying these hummingbirds and many, if not most of these birds, can be identified according to species only in the hand.

Table 1. Rufous Hummingbird or *Selasphorus* sp. records in Georgia through October 1994. Localities are listed approximately north to south, west to east.

Locality	Date	Sex/Age	Record	Source
<i>Rufous Hummingbird (Selasphorus rufus)</i>				
Dalton	27 Aug-late Sept 1987	?	photo	Brisse 1988 a&b
Chatsworth	27 Dec 1993	male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Ellijay	3 Dec 1992	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Dawsonville	28 Dec 1993	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Cartersville	29 Jan 1991	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Acworth	16 Jan 1994	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Woodstock	29 Jan 1991	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Alpharetta	winter 1990-91	im. male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Alpharetta	19 Dec 1991	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Alpharetta	3 Dec 1992	male	banded	Manns 1985
Duluth	c 20 Oct 1984-11 Jan 1985	im. male	photo	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Duluth	21 Jan 1994	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Marietta	3 Jan 1992	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Marietta	24 Oct 1992	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Marietta	27 Mar 1993	male	banded	Brisse 1988 a&b
Atlanta	20 Nov 1987-29 Jan 1988	female	captured	R. Sargent pers. comm.; Johnson 1990
Atlanta	20 Nov 1989-2 Dec 1989	female	banded	Brisse 1989a&b; P. Brisse, pers. comm.
Decatur	Oct 1988-29 Mar 1989	male	photo	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Oxford	4 Jan 1991	female	banded	Moore 1990; R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Social Circle	winter 1989-90	im. male	banded	P. Brisse, pers. comm.
Snellville	27-28 Sept 1990	im. female	seen	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Clarksville	30 Nov 1991	male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Commerce	30 Nov 1991	female	banded	Hove 1979
Athens	6 Nov 1978	female	found dead	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Elberton	20 Jan 1994	female	banded	Urban and Urban 1994
Hampton	3 Jan-6 Feb 1994	female	seen	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Fayetteville*	mid winter 1990	male	seen	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Forsyth	29 Jan 1991	male	banded	Brisse 1989a
Forsyth	19-24 Oct 1988	im. male	seen	

Table 1. Continued.

Locality	Date	Sex/Age	Record	Source
Forsyth	c 20 Oct-4 Nov 1990	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Senioa	29 Jan 1992	female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Senioa*	14 Oct 1992	male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Smarr	4 Nov-2 Dec 1989	im. male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.; Johnson 1990
Macon	1 Sept 1987	?	photo	Brisse 1988a
Fitzgerald	18-19 Sept 1986	male	seen	Parrish 1986
Albany area	15 Dec 1987-Feb 1988	?	seen	Brisse 1988b
Albany area	mid Dec 1987-mid Jan 1988	?	seen	Brisse 1988b
Thomasville	22-23, 26-27 Sept 1990	probably im. female	seen	Neel et al. 1991
Thomas Co.	25 Dec 1990-3 Apr 1991	im. female	found dead	Neel et al. 1991
Nashville	29 Jan 1992	im. female	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Valdosta	28 Jan 1994	male	banded	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
<i>Selasphorus</i> sp.				
Alpharetta	14 Jan 1994	?	seen	R. Cole, pers. comm.
Marietta	1 Jan 1994	female	photo	R. Cole, pers. comm.
Marietta	(stayed several weeks) 16 Jan 1994	female	photo	R. Cole, pers. comm.
Suwanee	(stayed several days) Jan-Mar 1994	male	photo	R. Cole, pers. comm.
Sandy Springs	Aug 1993	?	seen	Atlanta Journal-Constitution Unknown date, 1994
Tucker	6 Aug 1990	im. female	photo	Sewell and Lambert 1990
Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area	19-23 Oct 1988	im. female	seen	
Stone Mountain	Jan 1991	male	seen	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Atlanta	22 Nov 1988-6 Mar 1989	im. female	photo	Sewell and Lambert 1990
Decatur	few days early Sept 1990	im. female	seen	Moore 1991
Social Circle	3 Jan 1991	male	seen	R. Sargent, pers. comm.
Griffin	Aug 1993	?	seen	Atlanta Journal-Constitution Unknown date, 1994
Norcross	24 Nov 1988	im. female	seen	R. Hanna, pers. comm.
Augusta	21-22 Oct 1994	female	seen	E.K. & L.I. Urban, pers. obs.

* First captured Fayetteville, 29 Jan 1991; recaptured Senioa 14 Oct 1992

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REFUTATION OF PURPORTED HISTORICAL BREEDING RECORDS OF THE BANK SWALLOW ON THE GEORGIA COAST

Douglas B. McNair and Will Post

Johnston (1989) stated J.E. Gould collected an egg set of the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) at Sea Island, Georgia, on 7 May 1897. We can only measure two of the five white long-oval, slightly glossy eggs, because the others are broken. These two eggs measure 20 x 13.2 mm and 19.7 x 13.4 mm (Charleston Museum 1991.13.009), and their size, shape, and texture indicate they are the eggs of the Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*).

Johnston (1989) also suggested that Bank Swallows had nested at two other coastal sites in Georgia. We agree with the earlier refutations of Wayne (1908, 1910) and Erichsen (1918) that these other purported nest records of the Bank Swallow in Georgia are also not valid. S.W. Wilson (see Bailey 1883) stated he collected an egg set of the Bank Swallow at St. Simons Island. Ridgway (1910) purportedly confirmed the identification of this egg set, though he gave no basis for his identification. The completed date of egg-laying by 20 April is also seemingly much too early since the Bank Swallow typically does not arrive in coastal Georgia until the third week of April, at which time the Northern Rough-winged Swallow has usually commenced egg-laying.

W.J. Hoxie's purported breeding record of the Bank Swallow at Free Island, Chatham County, occurred in 1918, but he also provided no documentation and only mentioned his report in a newspaper, the *Savannah Morning News* (see Erichsen 1918). Hoxie knew breeding Northern Rough-winged Swallows well, considering his experience on the nearby Sea Islands of South Carolina (see Hoxie 1885, 1888a,b, 1901a). However, he did not know the Bank Swallow occurred on the Georgia or South Carolina coast until autumn migration of 1910, in Georgia (Hoxie 1910), when a friend brought a bird to him which he examined in the hand. Two other captured Bank Swallows from the Georgia coast were also recorded shortly thereafter, on 1 September 1911 (Rossignol 1911). We have no evidence that Hoxie ever observed a free-flying Bank Swallow in the field. His eyesight may possibly have been suspect in 1918. Later, Hoxie had an operation for cataracts in 1931, when his sight was restored; he was described previously as almost blind (Fargo 1934). Much earlier, in a report on another purported observation of a very rare species, Hoxie (1901b) stated "I thought I saw the cat once since then and when I hove the brick a small goat got up and looked at me leisurely. How old and blind I am getting, I could not tell a goat from a cat and then could not hit it." While this statement could be ascribed to Hoxie's typical

use of colorful language, his most productive days as a field ornithologist were over, even in 1901 (see Fargo 1934).

The major source of confusion for the perception of the historical breeding status of the Bank Swallow in Georgia was probably Nuttall's (1832) manual, the first field guide in North America which was widely available. He stated the Bank Swallow was known to breed from "Georgia to Maine". Consequently, though the type specimen of the Northern Rough-winged Swallow was described soon after the publication of Nuttall's (1832) manual, and breeding was confirmed in the Southeast (see below), later observers in the 19th century could be misled to believe that the Bank Swallow nested as far south as Georgia. Even Baird et al. (1874:354) stated the Bank Swallow "is equally common throughout North America in the summer." S.W. Wilson (Bailey 1883), who was most active in 1858-1859, stated that both species nested on St. Simons Island, Georgia. He was probably influenced by Nuttall's (1832) manual to expect Bank Swallows to breed in Georgia. Curiously, J.E. Gould stated that only Bank Swallow nested here, though he collected his egg set in 1897 when he should have been well aware that Northern Rough-winged Swallows nested in this region (see below). By the time W.J. Hoxie stated he found breeding Bank Swallows in coastal Georgia in 1918, the latest A.O.U. checklist had dispensed with the notion that Bank Swallows nested anywhere near the Georgia coast (see Erichsen 1918). Consequently, Hoxie had no excuse for his careless error.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were also frequently misidentified as Bank Swallows by other, even more experienced individuals than Wilson, Gould, and Hoxie in the Southeast during this period (McNair and Post, in prep.). In addition, Northern Rough-winged Swallows were also then mistaken for immature Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*). Even especially astute observers such as A.T. Wayne very early in his career (notebooks, Charleston Museum; Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949), and Murphey (1937) made this mistake.

Breeding of the Northern Rough-winged Swallow was first confirmed on the South Atlantic coast at Charleston, SC in 1836 (see Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949), where the type specimen was also collected (Audubon 1838). Burleigh (1958) did not accept Wilson's (Bailey 1883) records of breeding rough-winged swallows at St. Simons Island, Georgia, though Burleigh was surely mistaken. Wayne (1908) stated he discovered this species breeding here, which has now been verified by Gould's reidentified egg set. Additional supporting data indicates that rough-winged swallows were otherwise known to be locally uncommon breeders in coastal Georgia during this period (7 historical egg sets from Camden and Chatham counties; see McNair 1986; also see Burleigh 1958 for additional coastal breeding data). Greene et al. (1945) and Burleigh (1958), unlike Denton et al. (1977) and Haney et al. (1986),

do state the general breeding status of the Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the Georgia coast correctly.

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SOME EXTRAORDINARY BIRD RECORDS FROM STEGALL'S POND, THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA: FALL AND EARLY WINTER 1994

Robert L. Crawford

On 16 August 1994, Tropical Storm Beryl went ashore near Panama City, Florida and brought gusty winds and bands of heavy rains to Southwest Georgia, including Thomas County. That morning, I went to Stegall's Pond (in SE Thomas County, 0.5 km E of US 19 on the Lower Boston Road) which has been productive in the past for water birds after storms or rainy nights. That and subsequent days produced first, second, and third county records for seven species of birds.

On the morning of 16 August there were 6 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) at the pond; I saw two more that morning elsewhere in Thomas County for a total of 8; these constituted the second county occurrence for the species. I also saw at Stegall's Pond a Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*), two Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*, 1st record), and a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*, 1st record). All the terns were flying about the pond and occasionally alighting on some fence posts or swooping down to touch the water's surface. The Black Terns were in a variety of plumages, with one in seemingly immaculate alternate and others in degrees of change to complete basic. The Laughing Gull was an adult beginning to lose its hood; its relatively large bill was evident. The Least Terns were noticeably smaller than the adjacent Black Terns, and had yellow bills. The Black-necked Stilt was a stunning adult male. I saw all of these birds with 8X binoculars and a 25X telescope at ranges of 40-60 m. The only adverse conditions were the periodic bands of rain.

During one of these rain bands, a large bird flew low (20 m) over the pond heading NW to SE. Through binoculars I could see its dark brown body, relatively short, crooked wings with pale primary patches, gull-like bill, rounded tail, and its methodical, falcon-like flight. The bird quickly flew out of sight and I did not see it again. I am certain it was a first-year jaeger (*Stercorarius* sp., 1st record). It was not a gull; its wings were too short and crooked, and the flight was not gull-like. It was not a hawk; its bill was not at all like a raptor's. The oblique look I had at the tail did not reveal any protrusions at all, but I believe it was not a Long-tailed Jaeger (*S. longicaudus*), based on the size and body shape (rather bulky) of the bird. I could not, however, make a judgement whether the bird was a Parasitic (*S. parasiticus*) or Pomarine (*S. pomarinus*) jaeger; in juvenile plumage they are difficult to distinguish under the best of conditions, and my view was brief and through rain. Juveniles of both species have been collected in United States waters on fall dates prior to 16 August, so neither species can be eliminated by its nesting biology.

Paul Massey and I saw the Black Terns and the stilt the next day, 17 August, but not thereafter.

At this same pond on 24 September 1994, I saw an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*, 1st record). This sighting was not connected with any storm or unusual weather. The bird was in winter plumage (gray head and neck) and through the telescope, showed the moderately recurved bill of a male. It foraged in virtually a 20 m circle area for the length of its stay. I saw it again on the 25th, and Leon Neel saw it the 24th, 25th, and 26th. Neither of us saw it after that.

When I went back to the pond on the afternoon of 24 September to see if the avocet was still there, I saw a Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*, 3rd record) foraging just 3 m from my truck in a roadside ditch. Its iridescent chestnut plumage was clearly evident and I did not notice any ruby aspect to the eyes. When it flew I had excellent views of its dark glossy rump and belly. There is no question it was this species. Neither I nor anyone else saw it there again.

Two more Laughing Gulls were at this pond on 3 October 1994, after the landfall of Tropical Depression Number 10 again brought high winds and heavy rains to Thomas County.

Meanwhile, Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), previously reported from Stegall's Pond (Crawford 1991, *Oriole* 56:45-46) began an unprecedented buildup in numbers there. Prior to 1991, this was an accidental species in the county, with five records of individuals. Beginning on 16 June 1991, the species changed status and was seen in pairs or groups of 3-4 sporadically at Stegall's Pond through 18 September 1993. After a thirteen-month absence, on 12 October 1994, one was seen. Then, the phenomenal increase began: on 15 October, four (4) were seen; 23 Oct (5); 29 Oct (8); 12 Nov (12); 26 Nov (8); 27 Nov (100+, with a 3:2 male:female ratio; previously, males were 90%); 3 Dec (300+); 18 Dec (100+); and on the day of the Thomasville Christmas Bird Count, 30 December 1994, when seen by Robert and Beth Crawford, Leon Neel, Paul Massey, Jim Cox, Katy NeSmith, and Randy Kautz, a careful and conservative count of 275 was made. In all cases, the birds have had dark eyes, thus of the race *Q. m. westoni*.

Finally, on 30 December while the grackle flock was being counted and studied at Stegall's Pond, a winter-plumaged Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) appeared and flew about the pond for 5-10 minutes while it was observed by 6 people at distances of only 30-80 m. The blackish bill, black eye-ear patch, and white flashes in the wings easily identified this bird, which was the first count record and the second for the county.

I am grateful to Roger B. Clapp, David Lee, and Manny Levine for information on jaeger specimens in the National Museum of Natural History, the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, and the American Museum of Natural History, respectively.

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GENERAL NOTES

FIRST GEORGIA RECORD OF THE HARLEQUIN DUCK - The first documented record for the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) in Georgia occurred on 18 February 1984 when David K. Rogers of Savannah sighted a male off the north end of Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia. Jonas Jordan photographed the bird and this photograph was published in *The Georgia Gazette* of Chatham County in the 1-7 March 1984 issue (see accompanying photograph).

Between that time and 10 March 1984 when it was last reported by Patrick Brisse, Bill Pulliam and Mark Oberle, many observers were able to locate the bird among the rather large numbers of Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) which frequent the north end of Tybee Island. I was able to observe the bird on 9 March 1984 as it accompanied a flock of Bufflehead. It was a very active adult male which did a lot of preening and even chased several female Bufflehead while I was able to observe it. All field marks of an adult male Harlequin Duck were observed.



Harlequin Duck at Tybee Island, 18 February - 10 March 1994. Photo by Jonas Jordan.

During the winter the Harlequin Duck feeds mainly on molluscs and crustaceans found in 3-4 m of water during 15-25 second dives (Gooders and Boyer 1986). Two distinct populations exist: Pacific and Atlantic. Although the Atlantic population breeds over eastern Canada, southern Greenland and Iceland, it winters along the Canadian coasts south to New York (Long Island) and casually south as far as Florida (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). The Atlantic population is less prone to vagrancy than the Pacific population (Madge and Burn 1988).

Although this is the first record for Georgia, there are a number of records for the southeast numbering at least 20 in the past 10 years or so as far south as southern Florida. Therefore, this record for Georgia was probably overdue and the species should be looked for along the Georgia coast as it may be more frequent than most observers realize.

A second record for Georgia was established when a male, possibly the same one as in 1984, was seen by James Clark on 10 March 1985 in this same location (LeGrand 1985).

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AN UNLIKELY MIGRANT AT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN - On 5 April 1994, Kevin Danchisen and I began what we thought would be just another early migration count at Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield National Park in Cobb County, Georgia. While starting up the mountain road and passing through an area where there are normally few migrants, Kevin suddenly noticed an odd migrant indeed: an American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Very much out of habitat, this particularly forlorn-looking bird was huddled at the base of an overturned tree. Perched on the forest litter and nowhere near any water at all, this was a "first" for Kennesaw Mountain. Much to our amazement, we found another bird near the top of the mountain in an even stranger place, approximately 15 m above ground in a Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). Both birds remained in their respective spots throughout the morning but were gone by the following morning.

Coots are fairly long-distance migrants in North America, breeding as far north as Maine in the east and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and even into the Yukon Territories in the west. A common winter resident in the interior of Georgia, except in the mountains and piedmont, and abundant in winter on the coast (Haney et al., *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986), these birds were probably migrants since they were found so far from suitable habitat, i.e. water. A.C. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*, Dover Publications, New York, NY, 1926) in his classic series noted that the coot "seldom makes long high flights except when migrating" and that its flight then is "strong and direct". This would easily account for the presence of the second bird at Kennesaw Mountain's altitude, but I would have loved to witness the landing! Bent further states that coots are early migrants in spring and often migrate at night. Possibly these birds ran out of darkness while migrating and just landed wherever they happened to be, in this case Kennesaw Mountain.

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

SIGHTING OF A LIMP KIN IN MONROE COUNTY - At approximately 0730 on 5 September 1994, my wife, Anne, and I were sitting on the back porch of our home in southwestern Monroe County, 18 km southwest of Forsyth, Georgia on the southern edge of the Fall Line. Our back porch overlooks a twelve acre pond which has an edge of wax myrtles, willows and other vegetation. From our porch we have seen various species of herons and egrets over the years, so we always keep a sharp watch for activity around the pond.

On this particular day we noticed a medium sized wading bird in shallow water at the edge of the pond. The bird was, overall, a dark, mottled brown color and had a long, slightly down-curved bill on a relatively small head. The head and neck were a lighter shade of brown with streaks of white. We both immediately recognized the bird as a Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) as we had seen a Limpkin the previous January in Florida.

We first viewed the bird from a distance of about 50 m with our 7X25 binocular, then my wife urged me to get our camera for pictures. I took a number of pictures with a 35mm RICOH camera with Kodak 400 film and a 300 mm lens at a distance of about 25 m. Please see accompanying photograph. Afterwards, we watched as the bird made its way along the shoreline, occasionally probing the soft mud, but apparently not finding much to eat as we never saw it actually catch anything or eat. It continued down the shoreline, then retreated to the point where I first saw it. It then walked across the lawn, walked out to the end of our dock with a distinctive jerky gait, hesitated for a moment,



Limpkin in Monroe County, 5 September 1994. Photo by Dan Adrien.

then flew across to the other side of the pond and resumed wading down the far shoreline. After watching it for about 30 minutes, we eventually lost sight of it in the vegetation on the opposite end of the pond. Although we were certain of our identification, we reviewed our references including National Geographic Society (1983), Terres (1987) and Audubon Society (1988).

To the best of my knowledge this is the first documented Limpkin sighting in Georgia since the early 1960's (Hopkins 1963) and the first sighting in the piedmont to be documented with a photograph.

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Dan Adrien, Rt. 4, Box 240, Forsyth, GA 31029.

GLAUCOUS GULL AT SAPELO ISLAND, GEORGIA - On 31 December 1994 the writers discovered a Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) on the south end of Nanny Goat Beach, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, GA. It was in the midst of a large flock including Ring-billed (*L. delawarensis*), Laughing (*L. atricilla*), Herring (*L. argentatus*), and four Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) Gulls. It stood out prominently because of its large size, approximately that of the Great Black-backed, and almost pure white plumage. We gradually approached the gull and were able to watch it sitting, standing, and flying for about half an hour, after which it flew north along the beach. Its legs were essentially the same gray-pink color as those of nearby Herring Gulls. Its bill was dark-tipped with the remainder about the same color as the legs, but slightly paler. Careful comparisons of this bird in the field with the descriptions and illustrations in the guides by Peterson (1980) and Robbins et al. (1983), and in the office with those by Farrand (1983, 1988) and the National Geographic Society (1983) indicate that this was a second year bird. Later in the morning we also saw a Glaucous Gull at Cabretta Inlet, about 2.5 miles north of the first location, but concluded that it was probably the same bird.

Up to 1958 when Burleigh published *Georgia Birds* there were only four records of the Glaucous Gull in Georgia. All of these birds were collected and preserved by Ivan Tompkins (1958) of Savannah. Subsequently there have been several additional sight records. Haney et al. (1986) call the species accidental in the Savannah-Tybee Island region, noting one additional record on 11 January 1962 and another offshore on 18 February 1983. Dralle (1991) reported a first year bird at Jekyll Island in January and February, 1991, and another, which he thought to be possibly the same bird, in the same location during the first two weeks of May in that year. Sewell (1992) recorded a first year bird at the water treatment plant in Dunwoody, DeKalb County, in January, 1992.

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- L.B. Davenport, Jr., 726 Windsor Road, Savannah, GA 31419 and Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Rt. 5, Osierfield, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

NOTES ON THE EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE IN GEORGIA - Carol Hopkins Weeks and I first heard and saw two Eurasian Collared-Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*) at her homeplace approximately 5.2 km ENE of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, Georgia, in the fall of 1993. The two birds were in a stand of mixed pines, Slash (*Pinus elliotti*) and Long-leaf (*P. palustris*).

In March of 1994, Paul Dunn, who lives approximately 2 km NE of the above location, saw two birds flying with sticks in their mandibles. Carol Weeks and I observed two doves at Massee Lane Gardens in Macon County near Marshallville on 6 April 1994. One of the birds was calling. On 16 April 1994 Leon and Julie Neel, Frankie Snow, Betty Jinright and I saw four doves on a roadside near Faceville, Decatur County. Two of these birds were calling.

Betty Stewart and I became familiar with the species at Cedar Key, Florida in March 1994 and subsequently observed over forty of the birds in and around Cedar Key, sometimes having five or six sitting on power lines at one time. On 18 May 1994 I found two doves in downtown Fitzgerald with one of the two calling. Carol Weeks called on 20 May 1994 and reported two doves in her yard. Frankie Snow found the species in downtown Douglas, Coffee County, on 26 June 1994 when he observed a single bird near a park.

Leon Neel, of Thomasville, states that several have been shot on Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) hunts in his area. This escapee has apparently established itself successfully in several widely separate areas and is expected to greatly enlarge its range in the near future.

Milton Hopkins, Jr., Rt. 5, Osierfield, Fitzgerald, GA 31750.

AN ADDITIONAL RECORD OF LEUCISM IN THE CAROLINA WREN - Leucism is a relatively common condition in birds (Gross 1965), with the most cases being reported in the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). However, the phenomenon apparently is rare in the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). Only 6 individuals (representing 3 species) of the 1847 known records of partial or complete albinism in North American birds reviewed by Gross (1965) were from the family Troglodytidae. Gross does not specify whether Carolina Wren was represented. Reports by Ross (1963) of a Carolina Wren with traces of white on the wings and neck and by Terres (1980) of a partial albino Carolina Wren banded in 1959 may be 2 of those reviewed by Gross (1965). Seneca (1985) reports a case of extreme leucism in a Carolina Wren observed in Massachusetts.

On 17 December 1994, in Clarke County, Georgia we observed a leucistic Carolina Wren. The bird was part of a mixed flock including Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), and other species foraging in brush adjacent to a railroad right-of-way. We observed the bird for approximately 5 minutes through 8X binoculars at a distance of 10 m. It was completely white except for an extremely faint gray-brown eye stripe and fainter still (barely noticeable) barring on the primaries and rectrices. The eyes were typically dark brown. To our knowledge, this represents only the fourth record of leucism in the Carolina Wren.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank B.R. Chapman for reviewing this paper.

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John C. Kilgo and Kendall W. Cochran, Daniel B. Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

POSSIBLE "WESTERN" VEERY AT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN - During an overall very good late fall day for migrants, my parents (Giff and Connie Beaton) and I achieved not only a thrush "sweep" (saw all the regularly occurring thrush species) but were treated to a very rare Georgia sighting as well, the western form of the Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*). This subspecies, *C.f. salicicola*, has been reported before in Georgia (Burleigh 1958) but rarely and not recently. On 17 October 1994 we were birding a section of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb County, GA. This particular section of mostly deciduous woods has always been good for thrushes, especially in the fall when the many Dogwood trees and their berries attract these hungry migrants. We spotted a bird standing on a low stump, and at first glance it appeared to be a Gray-cheeked Thrush (*C. minimus*). The bird was just quietly standing there, allowing us to note its brown back, lack of an obvious eye-ring and grayish cheek.

Unlike a Gray-cheeked Thrush, however, this bird had very little spotting on the breast, and what spots it did have were fairly small and indistinct. We very carefully studied this cooperative bird and felt that it was a little more spotted than our typical Veery but still significantly less so than the Gray-cheek. The background color of the breast was a dirty off-white, not as warm as an eastern Veery. Also unlike an eastern Veery was the dark, olive-brown back. We eliminated all forms of Swainson's Thrush (*C. ustulatus*) by the absence of an eye-ring or buffy lores. We finally concluded that this was a western, or "Willow" Veery.

The Fifth Edition of the A.O.U. Checklist (1957), which was the last edition to list subspecies, states that this subspecies breeds east as far as northwestern Ohio. A.C. Bent (1949), in his classic series on the life histories of North American birds, states that this subspecies migrates mainly west of the Mississippi Valley but straggles farther eastward. Since all Veeries winter in the area from Central America to northern South America, it would take only a very slight drift east of a direct path toward the wintering range to bring this bird to Georgia. Burleigh (1958) mentions four occurrences, all in September, from as far east as Tybee Island and assigns casual status as a fall transient. This record ties the latest date for Veery given in Haney et al. (1986) for the entire state.

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

EARLY FALL WARBLING VIREO IN COBB COUNTY - Fall migration birding at Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield National Park in Cobb County, Georgia, can get pretty exciting between the sometimes overwhelming large feeding flocks and occasional rarities that show up. Kevin Danchisen and I were trying to identify as many individuals as possible during one such flock on 17 August 1994 when I noticed a vireo which stood out among the numerous Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*) and various warblers. Calling Kevin's attention to the bird, I called out all the field marks I could see while he was finding it. Slightly smaller than the Red-eyed Vireos, this bird had a shorter bill that was thicker than a warbler's bill. Also, short-tailed, this bird had the compact look of the Philadelphia Vireo-complex birds, i.e. Philadelphia (*V. philadelphicus*) and Warbling (*V. gilvus*) vireos. The back was gray with a hint of green, no wingbars, and generally pale underparts. A faint area of lemon-yellow wash was present but limited to the bird's flanks. The throat and belly were a slightly off white color. Additionally, the intraocular line appeared to end at the eye, leaving the lores a fairly clean gray color like the cheek area. All of these characteristics are consistent with Warbling Vireo and rule out Philadelphia Vireo.

The Warbling Vireo is a rare spring and fall migrant in Georgia according to Haney et al. (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) with fall sightings ranging from 12 Sept. to 15 Oct. However, while this is a record early sighting, many birders do not really begin looking for fall migrants until Sept., so the previous date of 12 Sept. may indicate an observer scarcity rather than a species' scarcity.

Kennesaw Mountain had fall migrants as early as 9 July in 1994 and produced four species of vireos and seventeen species of warblers by the

end of Aug. Clearly migration starts earlier than many observers expect and as more and more observers are in the field, I feel many other early fall migration records will be broken.

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

TROPICAL PARULA SEEN IN AUGUSTA - On 27 April 1994 at approximately 1130 while birding on the Augusta levee using a Screech-Owl tape, I spotted a small warbler the size of a Northern Parula (*Parula americana*). It was quite agitated by the tape, coming as close as 4 m in deciduous trees then flying across the levee, diving at the owl tape on the way, then perching in trees on the other side of the levee. I called my husband's attention to the bird and we observed it for approximately 5 minutes as it crossed the levee 3-4 times and perched on both sides.

It resembled a Northern Parula but was significantly different. The bird had a blue-gray head with black mask that extended behind the eye. There was no white around the eye, just a solid black eye in a solid black mask. The yellow throat and breast were very bright yellow and the yellow was more golden colored on the upper breast than on the lower. The yellow extended to mid-belly, almost to the legs and below that was white. On the sides of the belly were two black smudge marks with a hint of thin smudge between them. The wings were blue-gray with two white wingbars which were possibly smaller than the ones found on the Northern Parula but not by much. The back was blue-gray with a yellow smudge between the shoulders as seen in the Northern Parula. It looked like the Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*) with the exception of the black smudge marks which were on both sides of the belly. These were the same on both sides which seems to indicate they were a marking rather than a stain. The bird was not in association with any other birds at the time and the only vocalization was a chip uttered when it flew across the levee. We were experiencing SW winds the day of the sighting which would have been favorable for this Mexican bird to stray this far.

The *Field Guide to Mexican Birds* (Peterson, R.T. and E.L. Chalif, 1973, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston) indicates that the bird is found on the Gulf slope of Mexico and the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society, 1983, Washington, D.C.) states that it is "resident but rare in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas". There is a pattern of vagrancy onto the Upper Texas Coast and Louisiana but these vagrants have occurred during the fall and winter periods (Jon Dunn, pers. comm.).

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

SECOND JUNE SIGHTING OF CERULEAN WARBLER IN THE ATLANTA AREA - On the morning of 28 June 1994 at 1115, at my home in Tucker, DeKalb County, Georgia, I heard a rapid, buzzy song of a warbler coming from a stand of Tulip-poplars (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*). I immediately thought of Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) and Black-throated Blue Warbler (*D. caerulescens*), then thought of the date, 28 June, which would be a very early migration date for either species. I listened to the song several more times and decided it was, in fact, the song of a Cerulean Warbler. It was not until I heard two Cerulean Warbler chip notes coming from two different trees that I left to get my 8X42 binocular.

By the time I returned, the songs and chip notes were coming from the Tulip-poplars in my frontyard as the bird or birds were working their way up the creek beside my house. They appeared to be foraging in the dense foliage of the middle to upper level of the trees but up to this point they had eluded my sight.

Finally, I saw a small bird fly from the dense foliage of the Tulip-poplar trees across an open space into the lower limb of a mature American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Upon focusing my binocular, I saw a small warbler with dingy white underparts with a black, streaky breast band and medium blue above with two white wingbars. The head was dark with a white collar extending from the throat to about one-half the way around the side of the neck. The bird was somewhat less crisply plumaged than the spring males I saw two months previously. As the bird worked its way out to the tip of the limb, I saw it sing several times and give the distinct Cerulean Warbler call note which reminds me a bit of one of the call notes of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). At this point I had no doubt that the bird was a Cerulean Warbler. It and at least one other bird that I never saw but could hear, continued working their way up the creek exiting my backyard and moving out of sight.

Cerulean Warblers are known to be early migrants and I often see them at Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park in Cobb County in late July with my earliest record being on 23 July. Other observers have seen them there as early as 9 July 1994 when six were seen (Bruce Dralle pers. comm.). Cerulean Warblers have been reported to nest in the Cohutta Mountains in Murray County some 120 km by air northwest of Tucker (Harriett DiGioia pers. comm.). Unfortunately details of this nesting population have never been published and therefore remain hypothetical. Recently, Patrick Brisse observed a male at Woody Gap on Georgia Highway 60 in Lumpkin County on 14 and 15 June 1994 and a male and female at the same location on 17 June 1994 (pers. comm.).

Brisse (*Oriole* 46:21-44) gives the earliest fall arrival date for the Atlanta area as 18 July and notes that the species may have once bred in the Atlanta area as there is one June record from 17 June through 1 July 1961. Haney et al. (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occ.

Publ. No. 10, 1986) describe the Cerulean Warbler as an uncommon fall transient north of the fall line with 18 July as the early fall arrival date and calls the species "rare during the summer in piedmont."

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

PARTIALLY ALBINISTIC COMMON YELLOWTHROAT BANDED IN MCINTOSH COUNTY, GEORGIA - On 10 September 1994, we captured a partially albinistic Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) at Butler Island, McIntosh County, Georgia. The bird was mist-netted and banded at around 1100 with aluminum band number 1920-51060. The male-plumaged yellowthroat's skull was incompletely ossified, indicating a hatch-year bird, its wing chord was 58 mm and it had no noticeable fat stored in its breast.

The bird's facial mask was almost completely white where it would normally be black and gray (see accompanying photograph). This area was flecked with black beneath the eyes and in the malar region. The white extended slightly farther onto the crown and supercilium than might be expected in a normal male Common Yellowthroat's mask and the upper edge of the white area was uneven. The remainder of the bird's plumage was normally pigmented for a male yellowthroat, with the exception of a yellow feather in the alula of each wing, contrasting with the olive-brown upper-wing coverts.



Partially albinistic Common Yellowthroat, McIntosh County, Georgia, 10 September 1995. Photo by Malcolm Hodges, Jr.

The bisymmetrical nature of this abnormality probably indicates albinism rather than being caused by injury. A.O. Gross reported albinism in 31 individuals of 11 species of New World warblers, although he did not indicate which species (1965. The incidence of albinism in North American birds. *Bird-Banding* 36:67-71.). A.C. Bent (*Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*, Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum Bulletin 203, 1953) indicates that albinism in Common Yellowthroats had been reported.

Butler Island is located in the tidal estuary of the Altamaha River and is part of the Altamaha State Wildlife Management Area. Habitats in the vicinity of the banding station are fallow rice impoundments of freshwater marsh, interspersed with dikes along which grow various shrubs. The 1994 banding at this location is a subsidiary effort of the Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS). The Cohrs are licensed as banders with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their efforts are funded by JIBS members, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Program, the Georgia Ornithological Society, and the Price-Campbell Foundation of Valdosta.

Doris Cohrs and Don Cohrs, P.O. Box 1908, Darien, GA 31305; Malcolm F. Hodges, Jr., P.O. Box 674751, Marietta, GA 30067.

PAINTED BUNTING SEEN IN THE WESTERN PIEDMONT - On 1 May 1994 while birding south of LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia at the HWY 219 bridge over Long Cane Creek, I spotted a female Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). She was foraging in a loose pile of dead limbs and then perched up on top of them. She was bright yellow-green on the head, back and wings. Her breast was a paler yellow-green. She became quite agitated by the "pishing" my husband and I were using to draw her into the open and began to chip excitedly.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) states that the Painted Bunting is a "common summer resident on and near the coast and up the Savannah River Valley to Augusta..." It has nested in a few locations in the upper coastal plain. Since LaGrange is located in the piedmont, and in the extreme western part of the state, it is unusual that this female was seen there. Since we were only there for two days, it is not known if this female nested nearby or was merely passing through.

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

CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS VISIT ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA - Gould's Inlet at St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia is noted for its abundance of seabirds. On 24 Sept. 1994 at about 1630 while birding in that area I noticed several sparrows fly past me and land on a lawn about 15 m away. On investigation I found several House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) feeding with two other sparrows.

From less than 6 m I studied the sparrows for several minutes, taking careful notes of the field marks. The gray collar was very prominent. I noted the light brown back with black streaks, black wings with rufous primary edgings, buffy wingbars, and pink bill. The head had a dark brown crown with white median stripe, buffy face with white eyebrow, dark line behind the eye, and a dark line dropping down from the eye. A white throat with dark moustache marks contrasted with a pale buffy wash across the breast. The pale lores and brown rump were also noted. These sparrows were identified as adult Clay-colored Sparrows (*Spizella pallida*).

Local birders and the GOS Hotline were called and the next day Malcolm Hodges and I found the sparrows at the same location at about 1700. A third sparrow seen there with the same field marks but much browner in overall tone was identified as an immature Clay-colored Sparrow. One or more Clay-colored Sparrows continued to be seen at this location through at least 8 Oct. 1994.

Paul Raney, Jr., 1103 Iris Glen Road, Conyers, GA 30208.

FROM THE FIELD

June - July 1994

Though usually considered the slowest months of the year, this period will be remembered by most of us for two extraordinary events: Hurricane Alberto, which in July brought the worst flooding in history to a large part of southern and central Georgia and a Greater Shearwater that fell out of the sky into a backyard on Lake Lanier, Hall County, an event which may have been related to the hurricane. The floods led to several comments about the inability of a number of species to nest because of the high water levels on many rivers. Nevertheless, many birders around the state were not put off as indicated by the variety and quality of the sightings. To illustrate, in July, 125 species were reported to *Wingbars* (newsletter of the Atlanta Audubon Society) from the Atlanta area breaking the previous high count of 116 for the month. Late spring and early fall migrants added most of the species to the period, but post-breeding wandering Reddish Egrets were also noteworthy. All in all, two very good months.

Abbreviations used include: *Annotated Checklist - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* by Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Publ. No. 10, 1986; AMS - Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Henry County; ASWMA - Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area; CRNRA - Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, Cobb and Gwinnett counties; DNR - Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton County; Kennesaw Mountain - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County; m.ob. - many observers; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; and SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Very unusual for the Atlanta area was a bird seen on the pond at the Emory University President's Estate on 10 July by Jerry Brunner.

GREATER SHEARWATER - In what was perhaps the bird event of the year so far, a Greater Shearwater "fell out of the sky" into the backyard of a resident on Lake Lanier, Hall County, on 28 July. GOS member Bill Fletcher, a DNR employee, had the bird transported to a bird rehabilitation center on the coast where the bird lived for about two weeks before expiring of unknown causes. According to the *Annotated Checklist*, this is the second inland record with the first being in 1974 in Baldwin County.

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD - Until details are received on the sighting of two birds seen from shore at Tybee Island by Michigan resident, Mike Sefton, on 2 June, the sighting of this rare pelagic species will have to be regarded as hypothetical.

- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Patrick Brisse counted 17 at Blalock Lake (ELHLAF) on 26 June and reported that the one nest built this year was felled by Hurricane Alberto in July. This is still the only documented nesting site of this species in Georgia.
- LEAST BITTERN - A good count of 25 was tallied by Malcolm Hodges at the Altamaha SWMA on 4 June.
- GREAT EGRET - The most northern reports were of single birds, one north of Blairsville and one near Clermont in White County on 6 July (Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard). Good inland counts came from the ELHLAF with eight on 30 July (Paul Raney) and from Greene County where Paul Sykes saw 20 on 23 July.
- SNOWY EGRET - One seen on 2 June at the ELHLAF by Jeff Sewell was only the second spring record for the Atlanta area.
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - Fifteen seen by Paul Sykes on 23 July in Greene County was the most he has yet seen in that area.
- REDDISH EGRET - This rare post-breeding wanderer from Florida was seen on 31 July at one of its favorite Georgia haunts, Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, where Malcolm Hodges saw two. The nearest known breeding colony is at Merritt Island on Florida's east coast.
- GREEN HERON - The high count from an inland location was 20 at the ELHLAF on 30 July (Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - An intown Atlanta neighborhood for the seventh year in a row hosted two adults which fledged three young (Jeff Sewell). Gordon Hight saw an adult at the DNR's Arrowhead Fishing Area in Floyd County from 13 June through 26 June for the most northerly sighting and Patrick Brisse had one near Stone Mountain on 23 July.
- WHITE IBIS - Unusual inland were four seen at a Greene County marsh on 23 July by Paul Sykes. At Harris Neck NWR on 30 July, Malcolm Hodges counted 250 birds and about 50 nests, each containing 3-4 young.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The usual one or two were seen during the period along the Jekyll Island causeway: on 18 June Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle saw one; on 4 July one was seen by Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson.
- WOOD STORK - Malcolm Hodges' surveys along the coast show that this species did well this breeding period. Dan and Pam Guynn reported two in residence at a location south of Unadilla on 26 June. In Laurens County, Tom Patterson saw an early wanderer on 23 July.
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Rare during the summer, one was seen at the ELHLAF on 12 June (Patrick Brisse and Jean Martin) and again on 21 July (Jeff Sewell).
- OSPREY - Unfortunately, Hurricane Alberto's winds and rain were too much for the Osprey's nest at Blalock Lake, ELHLAF, and it gave way in mid-July (Patrick Brisse). The two chicks could not be found. Unusual for time and location was one seen by Jeff Petit at Carter's Lake, Gilmer County, on 24 July.
- AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - From the Altamaha Fish Camp near Everett, Glynn County, Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson reported two on 4 July. The most unusual report was of two birds first seen in mid-July by Harvey Hearn on his farm near Palmetto in south Fulton County. The two birds lingered through the period

- feeding on the grasshoppers in the field and were enjoyed by many observers.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - The Altamaha Fish Camp near Everett produced two on 18 June for Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson. Nancy Gobris later saw one near her home in Jones County on the Ocmulgee River on 13 July. Continuing an Atlanta area trend, one was seen in southeastern Henry County on 16 July by Patrick Brisse and Jeff Sewell.
- BALD EAGLE - Following the national trend, this species continues to be seen with greater frequency in Georgia. Don and Doris Cohrs saw an immature in McIntosh County on 30 June, another sub-adult was seen near Lake Nottely, Union County, on 6 July by Pierre Howard and Jeff Sewell, and two adults and one immature were seen on several occasions at the ELHLAF by many observers during the period, raising the possibility of a future Atlanta nesting. A survey by the Department of Natural Resources found 21 active nests fledging 30 young, an active, growing population (Brad Winn).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - On 4 June, one adult was seen at the Piedmont NWR, near where a fledgling was mistnetted last July, this from a species with very few confirmed nestings in Georgia (Nancy Gobris). On 23 July, Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell and Mark Davis saw one bird at Kennesaw Mountain; perhaps an early migrant or maybe one of the very uncommon birds spending its summer in the piedmont.
- COOPER'S HAWK - Also rare in the summer, this species was seen by Malcolm Hodges three times in McIntosh County: one each on 18, 29 and 30 July.
- GOLDEN EAGLE - David Brown reported sightings during June between Menlo and Little River Canyon in Chattooga County, away from the hack site on Pigeon Mountain.
- AMERICAN KESTREL - In yet another rare summer sighting, Patrick Brisse saw one near the Georgia State University MARTA Station in downtown Atlanta on 26 July.
- RUFFED GROUSE - Though naturally elusive, this species would be seen more often if observers spent more time in the mountains in the summer. For our only report, Giff and Becky Beaton saw four at Rabun Bald on 22 June.
- BLACK RAIL - Once again, this even more elusive species proved reliable at a marsh in Greene County where one was found on 2 July (Jeff Sewell) and two on 23 July (Paul Sykes).
- AMERICAN COOT - Nearly every year, one or two of this species can be found in the Atlanta area and 1994 proved to be no exception. On 25 June, Paul Raney spied one at SCSP for a good summer record.
- SANDHILL CRANE - A candidate for the bird oddity of the period was one Sandhill Crane found in their subdivision in Jones County near Macon on 30 June by Nancy Gobris and Marie Amerson. The bird did not appear to be injured as it walked into the nearby woods and disappeared.
- WILSON'S PLOVER - Though listed as common in the *Annotated Checklist*, only two reports were received. On 4 July, Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson saw two at Jekyll Island. Malcolm Hodges

- counted six for the month of July during his surveys in coastal Glynn and McIntosh counties.
- SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Seven rather late birds were seen on 2 June at the ELHLAF by Jeff Sewell and Brock Hutchins.
- AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - Malcolm Hodges reported that the species nested at Egg Island bar in the mouth of the Altamaha River. He found six adult birds there during the month of July.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT - On 18 June, Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle looked over a dry spoil area at Andrews Island near Brunswick and found 12 Black-necked Stilts divided off into pair territories. However, Malcolm Hodges reported that on 30 July, he found only one pair with two young there. Unfortunately, the colony at Rhetts Island in the Altamaha River failed completely due to high water levels from Alberto's deluge earlier in July (Malcolm Hodges).
- GREATER YELLOWLEGS - An early fall migrant was spotted at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, on 18 July by Malcolm Hodges.
- LESSER YELLOWLEGS - Furnishing only the second Atlanta area June record, one bird was spotted at the ELHLAF on 12 June by Patrick Brisse and Jeff Sewell. Early fall migrants were seen on 8 July at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell) and at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, on 18 July (Malcolm Hodges).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER - The most notable record was a very early bird seen inland in Greene County on 2 July by Paul Sykes, Jeff Sewell, Pierre Howard and Bill Blakeslee.
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Though listed as rare on the coast in summer by the *Annotated Checklist*, three were seen in July by Malcolm Hodges during his coastal surveys in McIntosh and Glynn counties.
- WHIMBREL - A small number of this species apparently summered on the coast. On 18 June, 18 were seen at the old marina on Jekyll Island (Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell) and on 4 July, Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson saw 12, also at Jekyll Island. Malcolm Hodges had 23 for the month of July in McIntosh and Glynn counties.
- SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - Breaking the early arrival date for the Atlanta area (1 Aug.) and equalling the early record for the coast were these reports: three on 21 July at the ELHLAF (peaking at 10 on 24 July - both reports by Jeff Sewell) and two on 17 July at the old marina on Jekyll Island (Malcolm Hodges). From the 17th through the end of July, Malcolm Hodges reported 72 in McIntosh and Glynn counties.
- WESTERN SANDPIPER - At the old marina on Jekyll Island, Malcolm Hodges saw 100+ early migrants on 17 July. This species can usually be found during the summer along the coast but in much smaller numbers than this. The only inland report during the period was one seen by Paul Raney, Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell on 24 July at the ELHLAF.
- LEAST SANDPIPER - A good inland count of 23 was made on 28 July at the ELHLAF by Jeff Sewell.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER - The first arrival for the Atlanta area was one seen on 17 July at the ELHLAF by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. Peak counts there were 13 on 25 and 28 July (Jeff Sewell).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - As usual, late migrants were recorded at the ELHLAF with two seen on 5 June by Bruce Dralle, but early were "several" at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island on 25 July (Bill Blakeslee).

- STILT SANDPIPER - Also unusual was one seen on the very early date of 16 July at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse) and, on the coast, Malcolm Hodges saw three at Andrews Island, near Brunswick, on 30 July.
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - The only report for the period was the two birds seen by Paul Johnson on 30 July at a sod farm in Peach County, a rather new, but great location for this species. This date is five days before the previous fall interior early date (5 August in the *Annotated Checklist*) for the only report during the period.
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Early arrivals during the period were seen on the coast at the old marina on Jekyll Island where Malcolm Hodges saw 40 on 17 July, and inland on 23 July at the ELHLAF where Jeff Sewell and Paul Raney saw two.
- RING-BILLED GULL - Most unusual for a species that is not a local breeder, but is known as a long distance wanderer, an immature was seen at the DeKalb Reservoir by Bruce Dralle on 30 July.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - This northern gull has for some time been extending its range southward along the Atlantic Coast, but, in Georgia, has mostly been seen from late fall to mid-spring. As it is a voracious predator on smaller coastal nesting birds, especially terns, it is not especially good news to find young Great Black-backed Gulls on our coast during the summer, possibly indicating breeding nearby. On 31 July Malcolm Hodges saw a juvenile and a third summer bird at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island.
- GULL-BILLED TERN - The best count was about 50 nesting pairs on a small unnamed island at the mouth of the Altamaha River, seen from a boat by Pierre Howard and Terry Johnson on 17 June.
- CASPIAN TERN - No reports from the interior were received during the period. One was seen at Lake Pomona, Liberty County, on 17 June by Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell. Malcolm Hodges reported a juvenal plumaged bird on 31 July at St. Simons Island. This species is unknown as a breeder in Georgia but does nest in small numbers along the North Carolina coast.
- ROYAL TERN - Malcolm Hodges reported "several thousand" nesting pairs on an island in the mouth of the Altamaha River during June.
- SANDWICH TERN - On 17 June, Pierre Howard and Terry Johnson reported a pair nesting on an island near the mouth of the Altamaha River. Malcolm Hodges also reported a nesting on Egg Island bar, mouth of the Altamaha River, but it is not known if the two are the same. Nancy and Ren Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson saw three at Jekyll Island on 4 July.
- COMMON TERN - For a very unusual report for a supposed non-breeder, Malcolm Hodges saw an immature bird at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, on 18 July.
- FORSTER'S TERN - Patrick Brisse saw two early fall migrants at the ELHLAF on 23 July.
- LEAST TERN - A dry Andrews Island hosted 40 birds in various stages of nesting on 18 June (Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle). A survey by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists found "hundreds" of pairs nesting nearby on a new dredge site recently added to Andrews Island near Brunswick (Robin Goodloe fide Jeff Sewell).

BLACK TERN - More reports than usual were received with nine on 18 July at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island (Malcolm Hodges), and on a day that shows what a widespread interior migrant this species is, we have these reports all on 23 July: four at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse and Paul Raney); five at Carter's Lake, Gilmer County (Jeff Petit); and seven in Greene County (Paul Sykes).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - Continuing the documentation of the rapid expansion of this recent invader, Dan and Pam Guynn saw two in Dooly County on 4 June and Hunter Patterson reported a pair mating in Dudley, Laurens County, on 5 June. So, they are near the fall line! In their usual spot in Brunswick, Nancy Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson saw six on 3 July.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - As further evidence of the continued southerly extension of its range, two were found by Tom Patterson in southern Laurens County, 40 miles south of the previous southernmost site in the county and 70 miles south of the fall line. Near Lawrenceville, Joel Hitt again heard one calling in its usual spot during July. Unfortunately, urban sprawl threatens the site.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Perhaps also expanding southward in Georgia, a singing male was last seen on 15 June by Jeff Sewell at the Suwanee Creek Section of the CRNRA in Gwinnett County. Several observers again located two or three nesting pairs in Dillard, Rabun County on 28 June, at the usual site (Dot Freeman). The species did not return this year to its site in Greene County (Paul Sykes).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Terry Moore and Jack Carusos located a territorial male singing in northern Rabun County on 2 June. It was seen many times during the month. A nesting pair was located just over the North Carolina line nearby (Bruce Hallett).

GRAY KINGBIRD - This species again nested near the Jekyll Island Convention Center (m.ob.). Another pair was located at a new site in Brunswick in July (Paul Sykes, Paul Raney and Mike Chapman).

HORNED LARK - New sites for this species were also discovered. On 12 June, Jerry and Marie Amerson saw six in Twiggs County. An immature and two adults were seen at AMS on 3 July (Jeff Sewell), where the species had been seen since February when a flock of about 75 was found. The next day, 4 July, Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller and Jeff Sewell saw six adults at the same place.

TREE SWALLOW - On 2 June, Terry Moore and Jack Carusos saw a pair entering a nest hole in a snag on the Hiawasee River, Towns County, not far from Lake Chatuge, a confirmed nesting site. Malcolm Hodges reported 60 adults and juveniles at Harris Neck NWR, McIntosh County, on 30 July.

BANK SWALLOW - In Laurens County, Tom Patterson had an excellent count of 200-300 on 23 July. At the ELHLAF, only one was seen during the period on 30 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

CEDAR WAXWING - This species was more commonly reported than usual. On 11 June, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert located a nest at the top of Brasstown Bald. Patrick Brisse saw the species at four locations in Union County between 13 and 17 June with two nesting sites in the same area. On 26 June, Patrick Brisse saw one at Blalock Lake, a part

of the ELHLAF, and on 2 July he saw an adult feeding two fledged young in the same area.

FISH CROW - Unusual for a north Georgia location was one heard on 25 June at Dockery Lake, Chattahoochee National Forest, Lumpkin County, by Hugh Garrett. In the Atlanta area, 35-40 spent the period at DeKalb Reservoir, but once again, no nest was located (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert). John Paget reports having seen Fish Crow nests around Lake Lanier but so far no nesting has been documented in *The Oriole* for the Georgia piedmont.

COMMON RAVEN - An employee of the U.S. Forest Service located a nest with two young on Brasstown Bald. The chicks fledged and were gone by 1 June (Milton Bradley). Nearby at Blood Mountain, Hugh and Liz Garrett saw two on 23 June.

WINTER WREN - Once again, this species was heard in June on Rabun Bald - 22 June by Giff and Becky Beaton.

VEERY - Believing in consistency, a Veery returned to the same spot in Fernbank Forest, DeKalb County, for the second year in a row where it was heard on 16 June by Georgann Schmalz.

AMERICAN ROBIN - For a rare summer coastal record, one was found by Malcolm Hodges during the last week of July near Darien.

SOLITARY VIREO - On 16 July, Patrick Brisse and Jeff Sewell found what they believed to be a young bird in southeastern Henry County.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Beginning what was to prove to be an excellent fall migration count, singles were seen on 29 July by Jeff Sewell at the Cochran Shoals Section of the CRNRA, Cobb County, and on 30 July near Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, by Patrick Brisse.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The first fall arrival was one seen at Kennesaw Mountain on 21 July by Giff Beaton.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - On 25 June, John Kiser, Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell found one at about 3000' in northeastern Pickens County. Bruce Dralle had an early migrant on 24 July at Kennesaw Mountain.

CERULEAN WARBLER - Patrick Brisse had an intriguing observation of a pair at Woody Gap in Lumpkin County on 17 June. Could this be a possible nesting location for the species in Georgia? Although there are rumors that the bird has been found nesting in the Cohutta Wilderness Area, nothing has been published to back this up. A strong fall migration began with two and possibly three extremely early birds on 28 June in Jeff Sewell's backyard in Tucker. Other reports were six on 9 July at Kennesaw Mountain (Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle) with the peak there of 19 on 31 July (Giff Beaton). The total count from Kennesaw Mountain for the month of July was 50 although some duplication of counts undoubtedly occurred (Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle).

BLACK-AND-WHITE-WARBLER - On 5 June, Jerry and Marie Amerson located a pair on territory at the edge of the fall line in Jones County. Malcolm Hodges noted an early fall migrant on 27 July in Glynn County.

AMERICAN REDSTART - The first fall migrant was seen on 17 July when Don and Doris Cohrs saw one near Darien. The first report received from the Atlanta area was one at Stone Mountain on 19 July (Patrick Brisse), followed with these reports: one on 27 July in Glynn County

(Malcolm Hodges) and a peak count of four at Kennesaw Mountain on 31 July (Giff Beaton).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - The *Annotated Checklist* describes this species as an uncommon nester in the upper piedmont, so a pair on territory found on 5 June in Jones County on the southern edge of the fall line was very unusual (Jerry and Marie Amerson). Malcolm Hodges found one on 12 June in Glynn County for another extra-limital sighting. The peak count for the period came from Kennesaw Mountain on 24 July when four were seen (Bruce Dralle).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Malcolm Hodges reported, because of high water in July, courtesy of Hurricane Alberto, he could not locate any Swainson's in any of their usual breeding places. He did find what was probably an early migrant in Glynn County on 27 July.

OVENBIRD - The only report was one at Kennesaw Mountain on 24 July (Bruce Dralle).

CANADA WARBLER - Again, there was only one report, one at Kennesaw Mountain on 24 July (Bruce Dralle).

SCARLET TANAGER - A wave of early migrants must have passed through the Atlanta area on 16 July: at the Cochran Shoals Section of the CRNRA, Cobb County, Mark Oberle had three and at Kennesaw Mountain, Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle counted eight.

PAINTED BUNTING - Far inland, one was seen at Fitzgerald by Mark Oberle and Milton Hopkins on 2 June. A few were seen in Macon during this period at their usual haunts (Paul Johnson).

DICKCISSEL - Of a large flock seen in a field near Athens in May, two pairs apparently stayed to nest and were seen by several observers during June and as late as 2 July (Paul Raney et al.). Also, Paul Raney found three near Albany on 10 June.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - A bird seen by Frank McCamey near Dawsonville on 3 July was a very rare summer record.

DARK-EYED JUNCO - On 4 June, Paul Raney found two at Black Rock Mountain State Park in Rabun County.

ORCHARD ORIOLE - Paul Sykes had a good count of 11 on 23 July in Greene County.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - A male was seen on 20 June in Rockdale County near the Conyers Monastery, perhaps one of the very rare Atlanta area nesters (Robert Manns and Steve Ehly). Interestingly, Jeff Sewell saw a first year bird at Blalock Lake (part of the ELHLAF) on 30 July which could have been a southward migrant or a local bird. There has been a small nesting colony in Macon for several years so it is certainly conceivable that other isolated nesting populations exist.

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