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GEORGIA'S SECOND INLAND RECORD FOR LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AND A REVIEW OF THE SPECIES' STATUS IN GEORGIA

Jeff Sewell

On 11 November 1994, my wife, Carol Lambert, and I, saw the Atlanta area's first and inland Georgia's second Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) at Lake Lanier, Gwinnett County, Georgia some 55 km northeast of downtown Atlanta. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a far-ranging European gull breeding from Iceland in the west and eastward across northern Europe to the Baltic Sea area. There are three recognized subspecies: *fuscus*, the darkest, *intermedius*, and *graelisii*, the lightest, and, with a few exceptions, the only one seen in North America. *L.f. graellisii*, which breed in Iceland, the Faeroes, British Isles, Netherlands, Brittany and northwest Spain, usually migrates southward to western Europe and west Africa, but have with increasing frequency strayed to North America (Grant 1986).

The first North American specimen was collected in 1948 at Assateague Island, Virginia. Over the next twenty-five years the bird was considered accidental on this side of the Atlantic, but in the last twenty years has become so common in North America (though still in relatively small numbers) that they can be expected every fall and winter (Conner 1988). Although the species is most common on the East Coast from Canada to Florida, the Great Lakes also host a small wintering population. They have been seen at many inland locations and on the West Coast. The five that were seen in June 1994 in Cameron Parish, LA will surely add fuel to the speculation that they are breeding on this continent in some yet undiscovered location (Purrrington 1994).

The first Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in Georgia was spotted on Jekyll Island's South Beach on 15 October 1977 by Robert Manns (Manns 1978). The second sighting came three years later on 31 August 1980 when Robert Manns and others found two individuals at the same location (Manns 1980). Since then sightings have been regularly reported from several coastal locations, with Jekyll, St. Simons and Tybee islands being the most consistent locations (not coincidentally these are also the most accessible beach habitats for birders). The species is most common in Georgia in the fall, but many have been seen in August and during the winter, including several seen on pelagic trips (Haney 1983, Brisse 1984

and Brisse 1985b). A number of birds have wintered at the various locations mentioned above (Moore 1990, Moore 1992, Moore 1993), including Georgia's first inland bird which was seen in Macon on 21 January 1989 and stayed to 7 March 1990 (Ivey 1989). The earliest date for a sighting I have found was 18 August 1990, one bird seen at Jekyll Island which stayed until late September (Moore 1991a), and the latest sighting was of a bird seen 27 April 1991, also at Jekyll Island (Moore 1991b). The only months during which the species has not been reported in Georgia are May, June and July. The most seen at one time was five, seen 31 October 1984 at Wolf Island (Brisse 1985a). All of the other sightings are of ones and twos until the fall of 1994 when the numbers increased significantly, perhaps due to better coverage and reporting from the usual coastal locations. At St. Simons Island, three were seen on 3 October 1994 and at Jekyll Island during the same period four were seen on two occasions, on 26 September 1994 and again on 9 October 1994 (*Wingbars*, newsletter of the Atlanta Audubon Society, December 1994 and January 1995 issues) arguably indicating a total of seven birds. One seen at Sapelo Island on 24 September 1994 would make eight (Jerry Amerson, Dan Guynn, pers. comm.).

It was about 1600 on 11 November 1994 that Carol and I stood on the northerly most point of land at Lanier Park, a Gwinnett County park on the southside of Lake Lanier, looking through a newly arrived raft of about 400 Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) with my 60 mm spotting scope with a 25X eyepiece. We had already seen several Common Loons (*Gavia immer*), Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*), 35 or so Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) and three or four Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*). These birds had arrived in the last few days as we were here a few days before and saw only a lone Ring-billed Gull and one or two Common Loons. Perhaps the weak cold front that pushed out three days of cloudy weather brought them in. As I panned through the flock I stopped on a large dark backed gull about the same size as a nearby adult Herring Gull but much darker. I felt immediately that the bird was an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in winter plumage, similar to the several I had seen at Jekyll and St. Simons islands the previous month. At first the bird was alone in my scope and about 200 m away, but it slowly drifted closer and into the flock of Ring-billed Gulls. It appeared about 20% larger than the Ring-bills. The Herring Gulls were a little bit too far away to get them in the same scope view but appeared to be slightly larger than the Lesser Black-backed and bulkier.

Carol and I studied the bird as it floated and preened. The upperparts including the wings were a dark slate gray, but not black like a Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*). The head was white with some smudgy gray feathers on the hindneck. The underparts were also white, as was the tail. We were able to tell that the bill was all yellow with no dusky bill tip, so together with the all white tail, we concluded that we had a fourth

winter/adult winter bird (Third winter birds usually have a faint subterminal tail band and a dark subterminal band around the bill per Grant 1986.) and that it belonged to the subspecies *graellsii*. The darkest Lesser Black-backed Gull, *L. fuscus fuscus*, is as black backed as a Great Black-backed but only a few have been seen in North America (Conner 1988). Its usual range is east of *graellsii* breeding in Scandinavia and the Baltic Sea area (Grant 1986).

As with our bird, most of the Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen in Georgia and nationally for that matter, are adults (Conner 1988). Why are we not seeing immature birds in the same proportion to adults as we see in Ring-billed and Herring Gulls? There seem to be two possibilities. One is that immature birds simply are not here in the first place. Grant (1986) says that first and second year birds are scarce in northern Europe because most of them remain in wintering/non-breeding areas farther south in Europe and in Africa. So it could be that we see few first and second winter birds simply because they do not stray westward to North America as do the older birds.

The other possibility is that because of the close similarity to first and second year Herring Gulls, we are just missing the young Lesser Black-backed strays to our coast. Indeed, one field guide says that a first year Lesser Black-backed cannot be safely distinguished from a Herring Gull of the same age unless the observer has a good look at the bird in flight (Farrand 1983). If we are missing the younger Lesser Black-backed then their true numbers may be considerably higher.

The presence of a proportionate population of the younger birds could indicate nesting in North America or could simply mean that younger birds are as likely to stray westward to this continent as the adults, but in either case, we should be looking very carefully for the younger plumaged Lesser Black-backed Gulls if only to get a true picture of their numbers in Georgia.

Several authors cited herein say that with good views and diligent study, the careful watcher should be able to separate juvenal and first winter plumaged Lesser Black-backed from Herring Gulls and from Great Black-backed of the same age especially if you should be so unfortunate as to confront a lone juvenile or first winter bird with no other species around with which to compare its size. In this regard, Grant (1986) is particularly helpful. He includes a table comparing in detail the juveniles of these three species. First winter plumages are similar.

In addition to Grant (1986), the ardent gull watcher will want several other books in his or her gull library. Conner (1988) has a very informative and readable chapter on gulls devoted to separating the many confusing gull look-alikes and Kaufman (1990), though he does not analyze the Lesser Black-backed Gull in detail, has a very good chapter on the "Basics of Learning the Gulls". The guide book with the most illustrations of gulls is by Peter Harrison (1983). The book by Grant

(1986) is the most detailed of all and contains numerous drawings and photographs of the world's gulls. With such information at hand and with carefully study and practice, perhaps we will be able to determine whether young Lesser Black-backed Gulls are, in fact, frequenting Georgia.

Recent reports of both adult and sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls from inland locations in Tennessee and Alabama suggest that we should begin seeing more of these gulls at inland Georgia locations, particularly on the larger lakes they seem to prefer.

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

GENERAL NOTES

EARLY SIGHTING OF MIGRATING BROAD-WINGED HAWKS -

At approximately 1135 on 26 February 1995 I was returning from a trip to the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, Georgia. The weather was clear and mild with only a slight wind. Traveling north on the downtown connector (I-75/I-85) in Atlanta, I spotted a loose cluster of birds just to the east of the city. My path intersected that of the birds at approximately a mile to a mile and a half south of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. By this time the birds were just west of the expressway and forming a kettle numbering 40-50 birds in a thermal just above treetop level. I pulled off onto the shoulder and got out to watch with my 9.5 X 44 binocular.

The size and shape of the birds indicated a buteo type of hawk. The build was short and stocky with a short tail. The heads were dark with no discernible markings. The underbodies were light; some birds with reddish-brown barring and some mostly clear breasted. The wings were slightly pointed and the undersides were mostly light including the linings. This fact along with the tail banding of the birds suggested Broad-winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*). Some of the birds had one or two wide white bands between alternate wide dark bands (adults) and some had several dark bands with the wider being at the end of the tail (immatures).

The shape, coloring, markings and number of birds convinced me that these were Broad-winged Hawks. I watched this magnificent sight for ten minutes or so until they had risen and moved on toward their spring destination. The previous early record mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) is 2 March 1983.

Steven T. Ehly, 3610 Embury Circle, Chamblee, GA 30341.

GLAUCOUS GULL AT LAKE LANIER - The day of 18 January 1995 was an unusually productive one for gulls at Lake Lanier. While searching the lake from Lanier Park, Gwinnett County, Georgia, Kevin Danchisen and I discovered over 2,000 gulls in an area that typically has only a few dozen Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*), plus the occasional Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*). We did not see any Bonaparte's this day, but the vast majority of the flock was Ring-bills in every conceivable plumage. Mixed in with all the smaller gulls were 26 Herring Gulls, a very unusual number, and virtually all in dark first winter plumage. While scanning this horde of wheeling and preening birds, our attention was quickly drawn to a large, pale bird on the edge of the flock. We immediately suspected this bird might be an

immature Glaucous Gull (*L. hyperboreus*) as it dwarfed the nearby Ring-billed Gulls and was obviously larger than the Herring Gulls.

The bird was not ghostly pale, as this species can be, but was an off-white color with a hint of buffiness and a bicolored bill which was black at the tip. As we continued to observe the bird, one of the many passing speedboats came a little too close to the flock and some of them flew off a short distance, including the Glaucous. We were able to note the translucent primaries in flight, another good field mark for this species. In attempting to age this bird accurately, we were unable to tell for sure what the eye color was. We were able to observe that the gull did not seem to be developing any of the gray mantle typical of second winter Glaucous Gulls and so was probably a first winter bird.

This is only the second record of Glaucous Gull in the Atlanta area, the third inland record for Georgia and about the tenth record anywhere in the state (Jeff Sewell, *Oriole* 57:6-7). Subsequent visits by numerous birders failed to relocate the Glaucous Gull but while most of the Ring-bills stayed and even increased in numbers, the majority of the Herring Gulls along with the Glaucous Gull appeared to leave the area.

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

SECOND RECORD OF VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY - A male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) was discovered on the Albany Christmas Bird Count (CBC) held on 17 December 1994. A group led by Dr. Bill Buntin and Dr. Estol Belflower found the flycatcher on Pine Knoll Plantation, owned by William Clark, Mud Creek Road, Dougherty County.

In late January 1995 my grandparents sent me a newspaper article from the 17 January 1995 *Albany Herald*, titled "Audubon's rare bird, Vermilion Flycatcher seen in Albany after 40 year absence". Actually it had been 45 years since Georgia's and Dougherty County's first sighting. On 28 December 1949, Charles Jones, Sr., and his brother Joe Jones found an adult around a small, partly dried-up pond in Dougherty County. The bird was last seen on 22 January 1950.

After getting in contact with the Albany's CBC compiler, Alan Ashley, I found out that the flycatcher was still present as of late January. After making arrangements to see the bird, my dad and I met Alan on 4 February 1995 to go to the plantation. We arrived at the plantation at 1030, but did not see the Vermilion Flycatcher immediately. The temperature was about 45° F and it was very windy. Most often the bird had been seen around the equipment shed, so that was the first place we checked. After searching the shed area thoroughly, we birded the perimeter of the pecan orchard. Finally at 1330, Alan located the



Vermilion Flycatcher in Dougherty County - 17 Dec. 1994 to 4 March 1995. Photo taken by Giff Beaton on 24 Feb. 1995.

flycatcher. It was first seen perching on an old pecan stump. It also perched on several water faucets and the young pecan trees.

The Vermilion Flycatcher's breast was red-orange, and the crown was bright red. There were three tufts of white feathers on the breast. The bill, eyeline, back, wings, and tail were quite dark. The bird acted like an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) as it frequently flew from its perch to get an insect on the ground, and about 50% of the time it flew back to the same perch. It occasionally flicked, fanned and pumped its tail. We watched the bird for approximately 25 minutes. The accompanying photograph clearly shows the basic pattern of the bird.

I later relayed the information to Jeff Sewell that a Vermilion Flycatcher was spending the winter in Albany and the sighting was then placed on the GOS Rare Bird Alert. The last known sighting was on 4 March.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the flycatcher as an accidental winter

visitor on the coastal plain, 2 Nov. (1972) - 22 Jan. (1950). Therefore, the bird in Dougherty County broke the extreme departure date for Georgia by 41 days.

Paul Johnson, 901 Santa Fe Trail, Macon, GA 31210.

WINTERING AMERICAN REDSTART IN COBB COUNTY - The day of 18 January 1995 was mild and sunny. As I lunched on my backyard deck I caught a glimpse of yellow among the red and brown colors of numerous House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) flitting about in the Bradford pear tree located at the deck's edge, 3 m from bird feeders and a dripping birdbath. American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) crossed my mind as I decided not to pursue the bird. An hour later the same flash of yellow, but to my surprise it came from the fanned tail of an American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) which was bathing in the ground-level birdbath. The bird's orange flank patches which led me to believe it was a first year male were noticeable as I observed with binoculars at 9 m as the bird sat and preened at eye level in a red maple tree adjacent to the bath.

I felt the sighting was unusual enough to refer to the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) which lists the latest fall departure date as 7 November 1945 with no winter records.

The next sighting was 20 January. The weather had turned unusually cold and an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) which was warming itself at the entrance to an owl nesting box was being harassed by Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*), Tufted Titmice (*Parus bicolor*), Carolina Chickadees (*Parus carolinensis*) and the American Redstart.

The following week the weather continued to be cold with light snow and no redstart was observed. Then on 27 January I heard a redstart at the sunny south side of the house in the vicinity of a large privet shrub but I was not able to see the bird. The last sighting was the afternoon of 2 February when a redstart was observed flitting about in the same privet shrub.

Nancy Iha, 501 Boyds Drive, Marietta, GA 30067.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK AT FEEDER IN PERRY, GA - My wife Betsy was conducting her Feeder Watch Survey on 14 January 1995 when she observed a different bird at our platform feeder in Perry, Houston County, GA. It was obviously a grosbeak because of its size and



Black-headed Grosbeak in Houston County - 14 Jan. 1995 to 12 March 1995. Photo taken by Tommy Willard on 8 March 1995.

thick conical bill but we were uncertain as to which species it was. This was the first grosbeak of any kind seen by either of us, much less one in our own backyard. The bird had white wing patches, a dark back with rust colored breast and nape, stripes above the eyes and on top of the head. The accompanying photograph clearly shows the wing patches and striped head. The bird was feeding on sunflower seeds during its visits to our feeder.

We noticed the bird from time to time at the feeder but because we were not at home much, we didn't know how often it visited our yard. I was able to photograph the bird on 8 March 1995 and mentioned it to Jerry and Marie Amerson on 12 March 1995 as a possible Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) and they went that day to try to view the bird. The Amersons were unsuccessful in seeing the bird and left our house at about 1800. About thirty minutes later our son spotted the bird sitting on a fence but that was the last time it was seen. I showed the pictures to Nancy Gobris on 14 March 1995 and she verified the identification as a Black-headed Grosbeak. Nancy called the Rare Bird Alert in hopes that the bird might return for other observers to view it. My wife and I had no idea this was such a rare bird for Georgia and it created quite an interest for a few days.

This is apparently the eighth record for Georgia but the first since April 1973 when a bird visited a feeder in Atlanta (*Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

Tommy Willard, 1001 Pine Needle Drive, Perry, GA 31069.

FROM THE FIELD

August - November 1994

This period was marked by great reporting for much of the period, both in the quantity and quality of reports received, though, as usual, we are still receiving no reports from many areas of the state. The fall migration seemed very good in certain hotspots that were birded intensively, like Kennesaw Mountain in Cobb County, where the numbers of many species were up. Also, many of the rarer neotropical migrants were seen in numbers unprecedented in recent years. The effect of the weather on this season's songbird migration was puzzling as the period was characterized by few strong cold fronts and, in fact, will be remembered as a very warm fall. In Atlanta, for example, the period passed without a freeze, the average first freezing date being November 11.

The flood in July in the wake of Hurricane Alberto was probably responsible for the single most unusual sighting, that of a Limpkin seen in September in Monroe County, northwest of Macon, which, most likely, had been forced out of its usual range by high water levels.

I cannot close without noting the loss to Georgia birders (and worse to the birds) of a prime birding spot over the years, that of the "sparrow field" near Pendergrass, GA, off I-85, where White-crowned Sparrows could reliably be found in winter. Though 72 km (45 miles) northeast of Atlanta, that area has fallen victim to "progress". It is now a flea market!

Abbreviations used include: AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society, AASMW - Atlanta Audubon Society sponsored Migration Walk, *Annotated Checklist - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, ASWMA - Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area near Darien, McIntosh County, CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Cobb County, DNR - Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, GOS - Georgia Ornithological Society, JIBS - Jekyll Island Banding Station, Kennesaw Mt. - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County, MIA - Macon Industrial Area, m.ob. - many observers, OAS - Ocmulgee Audubon Society (Macon), SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON - Though uncommon, a few probably spend some or all of the summer at Lake Lanier. Brad Fogle, an employee of the Corps of Engineers, reported seeing three in breeding plumage on 4 and 5 Sept. Another early arrival or summer visitant was seen by Jeff Petit at Carter's Lake in Gilmer County on 14 Sept. Marylyn McLeod reported one summering at Clark Hill Reservoir. The first winter plumaged bird was seen at Lake Lanier by Jeff Sewell on 17 Oct., but most arrivals from around the state began in early Nov. Peak counts reported were 95 birds seen on 29 Nov. on Lake Lanier in two large rafts (Jeff Sewell) after which numbers tapered off.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - The 51 seen by Paul Raney on 17 Sept. at SCSP was an outstanding count for the Atlanta area.

EARED GREBE - This fall this "accidental" (*Annotated Checklist*) species surpassed last year's record count as no fewer than 23 birds were reported beginning on 21 Aug. when three were seen at ELHLAF by Chuck and Sylvia Saleeby and Chuck and Peg Hunter. At least one of these was seen by many observers through 28 Aug. (AASMW). Single birds were seen again at ELHLAF on 11 Sept. (AASMW) and on 11 Nov. (Brock Hutchins). Elsewhere, Jeff Sewell saw one at the DeKalb Reservoir on 2 Sept. and four were reported at Garden Lake, Rome on 20 Sept. (Lanny Henson). Though apparently absent in Oct., the species turned up again in Nov.: six on 11 Nov. at Lake Spivey in Clayton/Henry counties (Brock Hutchins), five at Plant Scherer, Monroe County, seen from 12 Nov. (AAS) through 25 Nov. (Brock Hutchins). Finally, two were seen at Lake Lanier on 22 Nov. (Jeff Sewell).

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Malcolm Hodges saw two on 26 Aug. at about 72 km off Savannah and the GOS pelagic trip, also out of Savannah, a few days later on 28 Aug. also produced two at about 177 km (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - The 28 Aug. GOS pelagic trip out of Savannah reported one bird (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - On 26 Aug., Malcolm Hodges saw six off Savannah at about the 80 km mark. The GOS pelagic trip on 28 Aug. reported seven (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

NORTHERN GANNET - The peak number counted from shore was 25 from Tybee Island on 27 Nov. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - This rare coastal visitor was first reported on 29 Sept. when Paul Sykes et al. saw 17 near the King's Bay Submarine Base, Camden County. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw 22 in the same area near the mouth of the St. Mary's River at Point Peter, on 26 Nov. Single birds were seen on Sapelo Island on 6 Nov. (Jim and Peggy Blum) and on St. Simons Island on 12 Nov. (Lydia Thompson). Brian Quigley, a National Park Service employee, mentioned seeing a flock in the Cumberland Island area during both years he has been on the island, so perhaps we can count on this flock every winter. Quigley said they counted 131 birds in early March of this year.

BROWN PELICAN - Making only its seventh inland appearance, one was seen, then captured by DNR on a small, private lake in the Rome area on 6 Sept. It was transported to the coast and released (fide Gordon Hight). Malcolm Hodges reported a high count of 700 at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, at low tide on 11 Sept.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - The highest inland count reported was of 46 in Bibb County on 13 Oct. (Jerry and Marie Amerson).

ANHINGA - This species seems to be pushing toward the fall line as evidenced by reports from Augusta and Macon. In Macon the two seen on 27 Aug. (Paul Johnson) and the one on 27 Sept. (Lisa Moreley) were thought to be permanent residents (fide Paul Johnson).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - Larry and Carol Eldridge saw this very rare coastal visitor near Skidaway Island on the late date of 5 Nov. The late date in the *Annotated Checklist* is 15 Oct.

AMERICAN BITTERN - Two seen on 9 Sept. at ASWMA by Doris Cohrs and one seen in the same place during a GOS field trip on 8 Oct. (Malcolm Hodges et al.) were about average for the period.

GREAT BLUE HERON - The high count came from Macon where on 3 Sept. Ty Ivey et al. saw 33 in one pond. Harriett DiGioia reported that one spent the period June-October at a small pond at the 3150 foot elevation in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

GREAT EGRET - Good counts came from several locations. At the ELHLAF, 14 were seen on 6 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell), on 4 Sept., 11 were still there (AASMW). The high count, though, came from the MIA on 27 Aug. when 36 were spotted (Paul Johnson et al.). Two late birds were seen on 6 Nov. in Henry County (Jeff Sewell).

SNOWY EGRET - Rare, but perhaps now regular in the Atlanta area as a post-breeding wanderer, was one seen from 10 Aug. through 17 Aug. at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - This uncommon inland wanderer appeared on 8 Aug. at the ELHLAF when three were seen (Terry Moore), stayed most of the month, peaking on 17 Aug. with five (Jeff Sewell). Paul Sykes noted on 6 Aug. that eight were still present from early July at a marsh in northern Greene County.

TRICOLORED HERON - This species, rare inland, was sighted more than usual this fall. On 4 Aug. Mark Davis saw one at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA. Singles were also seen in Augusta on 27 Aug. (Anne and Vernon Waters) and in Laurens County on 23 Aug. (Tom Patterson). At the brickyard ponds in Macon, one bird was first seen on 13 Aug. (Jerry and Marie Amerson), two immatures were seen on 27 Aug. (Ty Ivey et al.) with one bird staying until 3 Sept. (Paul Johnson, Nancy Gobris).

REDDISH EGRET - For the first time I know of, it might be said that there were almost too many sightings to mention them all. Beginning in late July, one, and often two, could usually be seen at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, through early Oct. Unfortunately, and a very sad sight at that, was an immature bird seen there on 21 Aug. that had a hurt leg and was having obvious difficulty hunting (Paul Johnson). The last report from Gould's Inlet was of one on 4 Oct. (Anne Waters). From South Beach, Jekyll Island, the first report was of one immature dark phase seen 15 Aug. (Peggy and Terry Moore), two dark phase, adult and an immature seen on 9 Oct. (GOS field trip). Most likely the same two birds were seen there through 22 Oct. (Malcolm Hodges, Nancy Gobris). One bird was seen by Sheila Willis at Cumberland Island on 21 Sept. On 9 Oct., a GOS field trip to Little St. Simons Island reported five, the same day two were seen on the above mentioned GOS field trip to Jekyll Island. Elsewhere, Dan and Pam Guynn and Jerry Amerson saw an immature at Sapelo Island on 24-26 Sept., and Hunter Patterson saw one at St. Catherines Island on 16 Oct.

CATTLE EGRET - Good reports from the piedmont were received. On 15 Aug., Larry and Charlotte Camp saw 200 plus in Meriwether County. On 27 Aug. the following reports were received: OAS had 40 in Macon, 125 were seen by Paul Sykes in Greene County, and the ELHLAF hosted one (Paul Raney). The oddest report was of three on the late date of 14 Nov. near downtown Macon (Paul Johnson et al.).

- WHITE IBIS - Six birds, all immatures, seen on 1 and 2 Aug. by John Kilgo in Oglethorpe County, were quite far inland, as was the one immature seen at the ELHLAF on 2 Oct., beating the Atlanta area late date of 17 Sept. (AASMW).
- GLOSSY IBIS - Surveys in McIntosh and Glynn counties by Malcolm Hodges turned up one in Aug., 12 in Sept. and 21 in Oct.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - This was an average year for this rare but regular coastal visitor. One was seen 6 Aug. along the Jekyll Island Causeway by Larry Edmonds, two were there on 27 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller), one or two were seen at the same location during Sept. by several observers, peaking at five on 30 Sept. (Paul Sykes, Cam Kepler), with the last sighting on 8 Oct. of one (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Sheila Willis).
- WOOD STORK - Inland sightings of this species which regularly disperses inland during the late summer were numerous. Furthest from known nesting areas was one seen 15 Aug. in Meriwether County (Larry and Charlotte Camp). In Macon, the brickyard ponds hosted a flock of 25, mostly immatures, first reported 27 Aug. and seen again on 3 Sept. (Ty Ivey). One was seen there as late as 14 Nov., a rare occurrence (Bill Smith). Elsewhere inland, one was seen on 23 Aug. at Beaver Dam Creek on the Madison-Oglethorpe county line (John Seginak) and a good count of 20 was noted on 27 Sept. in the Albany area (Paul Raney). The high count from the coast was the 130 seen by Paul Sykes et al. who were surveying bird life at the King's Bay Submarine Base in Camden County.
- FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - A lot could be learned about the movement of this species along the coast. This year only one was reported: on 23 Aug. at ASWMA by Malcolm Hodges.
- SNOW GOOSE - Nancy Gobris saw eight (six blue, two white) on 15 Oct. at Jekyll Island, Malcolm Hodges saw one immature white phase on 30 Oct. at Butler Island (ASWMA), one blue phase appeared at Tybee Island on 5 Nov. (Larry and Carol Eldridge) and stayed until 11 Nov. (Malcolm Hodges). At Andrews Island near Brunswick, an adult blue phase was seen on 13 Nov. (Mike Chapman) and again on 20 Nov. (Malcolm Hodges). Back at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov., Mark Oberle reported two and finally, on the other side of the state, Oberle saw one at Callaway Gardens on 26 Nov.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL - One seen on 5 Oct. at the ASWMA was a rather early arrival for that area (Malcolm Hodges). Small numbers passed through the Atlanta area during the period as evidenced by these reports: six at the ELHLAF on 10 Oct. (AASMW), eight at SCSP on 5 Nov. (Hal Massie) and four at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA on 14 Nov. (Pierre Howard).
- MOTTLED DUCK - This species, introduced starting about ten years ago into coastal South Carolina by the South Carolina game department, continues to be reported from the Georgia coast (Don and Doris Cohrs) but no information regarding numbers or period of occurrence has been published as yet.
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - About average numbers of this species were reported beginning with 35 at the ELHLAF on 27 Aug. (Paul Raney), 50 on 3 Sept. at Macon's brickyard ponds (Ty Ivey et al.), 20 on 24 Sept. in

- Greene County (Paul Sykes) and 65 on the coast in Camden County on 29 Sept. (Paul Sykes).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER - This species was well reported for the period. Beginning with two early arrivals on 22 Aug. at ELHLAF (Brock Hutchins), up to ten could usually be found there through 6 Nov. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Pierre Howard). The last report of this flock was of eight on 27 Nov. (Mark Davis). Paul Sykes saw seven in northern Greene County on 24 Sept. and 40 in Camden County on 29 Sept. In Macon, the brickyard ponds hosted 15 on 5 Nov. (Ty Ivey et al.).
- GADWALL - Only a few were reported. At Garden Lake in Rome, Nelson Dobbs saw one on 30 Oct. and several on 27 Nov. Brock Hutchins reported five from Lake Spivey in Clayton/Henry counties on 11 Nov. and Jeff Sewell saw one at the DeKalb Reservoir on 29 Nov.
- AMERICAN WIGEON - Two spotted on the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County were a bit early on 6 Oct. (Jeff Sewell), 80 were reported from Garden Lake, Rome, on 30 Oct. (Nelson Dobbs), twelve were seen at Lake Spivey in Clayton/Henry counties on 11 Nov. (Brock Hutchins) and a good count of about 100 on the Chattahoochee River, Fulton County, were spotted by Chuck Saleeby on 22 Nov.
- CANVASBACK - Small numbers were reported beginning with one on 11 Nov. at Lake Spivey in Clayton/Henry counties (Brock Hutchins), two first seen on 19 Nov. at the Griffin Reservoir stayed about two weeks (Patrick Brisse, Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell), and on 27 Nov. Nelson Dobbs and Lanny Henson saw six at Garden Lake, Rome. Lake Juliette in Monroe County hosted a small flock with four on 12 Nov. (AAS) and 12 on 19 Nov. (OAS).
- REDHEAD - Two very early arrivals were seen on 18 Sept. at SCSP by Paul Raney. Park employees told him that the male had been there two weeks. This bird remained there throughout the period and as he was often seen feeding with Mallards and American Coots near shore and was quite tame, doubts were raised about his origin. Elsewhere, on 12 Nov., five were seen at Plant Scherer, Monroe County (AAS) and four were seen at Blalock Lake, ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse). Other sightings were of singles: 19 Nov. at the Griffin Reservoir (Patrick Brisse, Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell) and 20 Nov. at Commerce Lake in Jackson County (AAS).
- RING-NECKED DUCK - An early arrival was seen on 24 Sept. at the ELHLAF by Patrick Brisse. The number there grew slowly, peaking at 100 on 19 Nov. which remained through the end of the period (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell). On the coast, Malcolm Hodges noted the first arrival on 14 Oct. at ASWMA. Nelson Dobbs saw 80 at Garden Lake in Rome on 30 Oct. and Paul Sykes saw his first Greene County arrivals with six on 5 Nov. which by 19 Nov. had grown to 33. The peak count from the Rum Creek WMA was 150 on 12 Nov. (AAS).
- GREATER SCAUP - A few birds can now be expected inland every fall as shown by the one female seen at the ELHLAF on 5 Nov. (Patrick Brisse) which remained most of the month, one bird on 18 Nov. at Garden Lake, Rome (Lanny Henson), but the coast produced the high count where on 11 Nov. at Jekyll Island Malcolm Hodges saw five.

- LESSER SCAUP** - The first arrivals reported were by Paul Sykes who on 29 Oct. had one in Greene County, growing to ten by 19 Nov. At the ELHLAF, one arrived on 30 Oct. (AAS) and was joined by 24 others by 12 Nov. (Paul Raney). Other flocks moving in or through were the ten seen on 31 Oct. at the DeKalb Reservoir (Jeff Sewell) and on 11 Nov. Brock Hutchins saw 100 at Lake Spivey, Clayton/Henry counties and 80 at the Smith Reservoir, Clayton County.
- OLDSQUAW** - An early female plummaged bird was seen 5 Nov. at Plant Scherer, Monroe County (Brad Winn, Joe Greenberg). It was seen again the next day, but did not stay long after. Jim Blum reported seeing at least one and perhaps as many as five off Sapelo Island on 6 Nov.
- BLACK SCOTER** - Huge rafts were seen on the coast during Nov. Jim Blum saw hundreds off Sapelo Island on 6 Nov. and Malcolm Hodges counted 800 off the north end of Jekyll Island on 11 Nov.
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Jim Blum saw one off Sapelo Island on 6 Nov. and from the north end of Jekyll Island on 11 Nov. Malcolm Hodges reported two. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw three also at the north end of Jekyll Island on 26 Nov. The only inland report was one seen on 28 Nov. at Plant Scherer, Monroe County by Todd Schneider.
- HOODED MERGANSER** - Small numbers began to be reported from inland locations in Nov. with six being the highest number. Brock Hutchins saw that number on 11 Nov. at the Smith Reservoir, Clayton County, and Carol Lambert saw the same number at the ELHLAF on 15 Nov.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - An early arrival was seen at the DeKalb Reservoir on 31 Oct. (Pierre Howard). On 11 Nov., Brock Hutchins counted 45 at the Smith Reservoir, Clayton County and on the other side of the metro Atlanta area the same day, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw 18 at Lake Lanier, Gwinnett County. Nov. 20 was also a good day: 39 were seen at Commerce Lake in Jackson County (AAS) and SCSP hosted 40 (Bill Bouthillier).
- RUDDY DUCK** - Four early arrivals were seen on 22 Oct. at SCSP (Paul Raney), 12 were counted at Garden Lake, Rome, on 30 Oct. (Nelson Dobbs), but the most unusual sighting was the seven by Jerry Brunner on 18 Nov. at the Emory University President's estate in Atlanta, DeKalb County, which were the first Jerry had ever seen there.
- BLACK VULTURE** - A number of migrating flocks were reported, the best counts being the 150-200 seen in Meriwether County on 7 Nov. (Pierre Howard) and the 80 seen on 19 Nov. at the Rum Creek WMA (OAS).
- TURKEY VULTURE** - Migrating flocks of Turkey Vultures for the most part preceded the Black Vultures. These reports were received: 60 over Woody Gap, Lumpkin County on 17 Oct. (Mark Oberle), 75 over Amicalola Falls, Dawson County, on 27 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert), 37 over Northlake Mall, DeKalb County on 29 Oct. (Carol Lambert), 70 over Conyers on 31 Oct. (Paul Raney) and 35 in Forsyth County on 13 Nov. (Jeff Sewell).
- OSPREY** - Following the destruction of their nest by the rains of Hurricane Alberto and the loss of their two chicks in July, the two Ospreys at Blalock Lake, ELHLAF, were seen rebuilding their nest on 14 Aug. (Patrick Brisse). One bird was seen there by Brisse as late as 23 Oct. At Lake Oconee, another pair was nest building on the late date of 26 Aug. (Louis Schreiber). A single bird seen on 4 Sept. over Kennesaw Mt.

- was a good spot (Malcolm Hodges). Other singles were reported at the DeKalb Reservoir on 2 Aug. (Jeff Sewell) and at SCSP on 8 Sept. (Paul Raney).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** - The two birds that were first seen in mid-July near Palmetto, south Fulton County, remained through Aug., being last seen on 31 Aug. by Pierre Howard.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** - In Jones County, on the edge of the fall line, Nancy Gobris saw one on 8 Aug., then two on 10 Aug. and again one on 12 Sept. Continuing a spate of recent Atlanta area reports, Jeff Sewell saw one on 23 Aug. over the same field in south Fulton County that hosted the Swallow-tailed Kites.
- BALD EAGLE** - This recovering species was widely reported from around the state once again. The most interesting sightings were of three on 12 Sept. at Lake Oconee (Dale Davis), one adult and two immatures on the same day near Darien (Doris Cohrs), and one adult and one immature on 27 Nov. at Carter's Lake, Gilmer County (Jeff Petit).
- NORTHERN HARRIER** - Doris Cohrs saw a rather early arrival on 8 Sept. at ASWMA.
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** - Early arrivals in the Atlanta area were two seen on 12 Aug. and three on 17 Aug. at Kennesaw Mt. (Giff Beaton). Doris Cohrs reported average numbers during banding operations at Jekyll Island during the fall.
- COOPER'S HAWK** - Malcolm Hodges saw an early arriving Cooper's Hawk being chased by an American Kestrel near Brunswick on 18 Sept.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - Continuing the recent downward trend of sightings of migrating flocks, only one report was received, that of 50 or so in a flock over Roswell on 4 Oct. (Chuck Saleeby).
- AMERICAN KESTREL** - Two rare summer sightings were received. On 12 Aug., Billy and Brenda Dunbar saw two adults feeding two fledglings in Newton County, evidence that perhaps a few still nest in the piedmont. From the surprising location of downtown Atlanta, near Georgia State University, Patrick Brisse saw two birds several times during Aug. Perhaps the same two birds were seen near the Richard Russell Building, downtown Atlanta on 1 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Mark Davis). Malcolm Hodges reported that his first sighting of the fall was the one chasing the Cooper's Hawk (see above) on 18 Sept. near Brunswick. Paul Raney reported decent numbers from along the coast (six between 24 and 26 Sept.) and from Seminole County (four on 26 Sept.).
- MERLIN** - This species was widely reported during the period. A rather early one was seen 4 Sept. at Andrews Island, Brunswick by Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh followed by another on 11 Sept. at ASWMA (Doris Cohrs), another single at the Richard Russell Dam, Elbert County, on 21 Sept. (Peter Johnson), one at Kennesaw Mt. on 11 Oct. (Giff Beaton), two were noteworthy at the ELHLAF on 23 Oct. (Paul Raney) and toward the end of the period, on 26 Nov., Jeff Sewell saw one at South Beach, Jekyll Island.
- PEREGRINE FALCON** - Following Hunter Patterson's report of seeing one on 12 Aug. in downtown Atlanta, numerous reports of sightings from downtown Atlanta, usually near the Richard Russell Building, were called in by Chris Geller. On several occasions during Sept. and Oct.,

he saw three birds, two adults and one immature, though all three were never together at the same time. The last report came on 4 Nov. when Jeff Sewell saw one bird at that location. Elsewhere, a number of reports were received. On 4 Sept. one was seen at Jekyll Island (Jeannie Wright), on 15 Sept. one was seen at the Richard Russell Dam in Elbert County (Peter Johnson), the OAS saw one at Sapelo Island on 24 Sept., three were seen together in western Bartow County on 25 Sept. (Lanny Henson), a single bird was seen at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island on 3 Oct. (Malcolm Hodges) and again the next day (Anne and Vernon Waters), but the highest count was the five seen at JIBS on 3 Oct. (Don Cohrs, Nancy Gobris, et al.).

VIRGINIA RAIL - This species proved scarce at a reliable marsh in Greene County, where Paul Sykes had only singles and infrequently at that during the period.

SORA - Malcolm Hodges witnessed an early arriving Sora hit a car window in Darien on 9 Sept. The bird, though suffering a cut over the eye, was treated and released. At the ASWMA, a GOS field trip tallied four by sound on 8 Oct. On 27 Nov. Jeff Sewell estimated at least ten calling at dawn at the ASWMA. This species is thought to be a regular transient through the Atlanta area, though difficult to find. Mark Davis heard one at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA on 20 Oct. and Joel Volpi reported seeing one in the same spot on 22 Oct.

AMERICAN COOT - The first fall arrivals in the Atlanta area were seen on 13 Oct. at the DeKalb Reservoir where 27 were seen, increasing to 185 on 19 Nov. (Jeff Sewell). Though abundant in a number of Georgia area lakes, Paul Sykes noted that the four he saw on 19 Nov. in Greene County were rather uncommon there.

LIMPKIN - In **THE** sighting of the period, Dan Adrien saw and photographed one at his farm pond in southwest Monroe County on 5 Sept. This location is about 55 km northwest of Macon in the lower piedmont. Perhaps the bird was flooded out of Florida by the deluge brought in July by Hurricane Alberto. The snail that Limpkins dine on almost exclusively is not known to occur in Georgia and, indeed, Adrien did not, in the 30 minutes he watched it, actually see it eat anything. It eventually worked its way around the edge of his pond and disappeared from sight and was never seen again. Please see *Oriole* 59:93-95 for more details of this sighting.

SANDHILL CRANE - Though a few good reports were received from the Atlanta area, the highest counts came from the Macon area where between 22 and 25 Nov. five flocks totaling 252 birds were seen (Ken and Arlene Clark, Mike Sewell, Jerry Amerson). From the Atlanta area, only 150 birds were seen between 19 and 26 Nov. (fide Terry Moore). Perhaps the very warm fall left the many that must still be farther north no reason to depart yet.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - On 16 Aug. the ELHLAF hosted a molting adult for one day (Jeff Sewell, Jack Carusos, Peggy Marinos). The species is very rare in the Atlanta area, there being fewer than ten previous records. Also, this bird set a new early date for the Atlanta area by ten days.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - The discovery of new sod farms around the state has greatly increased the sightings of this species. In Peach

County, on 26 Aug. Nancy Gobris saw one at the Super Sod Farm and by 11 Sept. the number had increased to seven (Paul Johnson, Richard Ellenberg). At a sod farm in Bartow County, Lanny Henson saw five on 9 Sept., three on 25 Sept. and one on 5 Oct. At the ELHLAF, the usual one or two showed up on time, on 16 Sept., when one was seen (Jeff Sewell), two were seen the next day (OAS), and again on the 18th (AASMW).

WILSON'S PLOVER - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert counted 21 at South Beach, Jekyll Island on 21 Aug. and on a GOS field trip to Little St. Simons Island on 9 Oct., another good count of 11 was tallied (Doug Phillips).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - On Jekyll Island on 21 Aug., Malcolm Hodges noted 250. Inland location reports were of six first seen on 27 Aug. at the Macon brickyard ponds, increasing to 18 on 3 Sept. (Ty Ivey et al.) and at the ELHLAF, five were seen on 10 Sept. (Patrick Brisse) with one remaining to 25 Sept. (AASMW).

PIPING PLOVER - Reports of this threatened species this period were very encouraging. Several reports came from South Beach, Jekyll Island, where on 27 Aug. six were seen (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller), then seven there on 9 Oct. (Nancy Gobris). At Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, five were seen on 23 Aug. (Kevin Calhoun) and four were tallied on St. Catherines Island on 23 Sept. (Pierre Howard, Royce Hayes). These good reports pale in comparison to the 100+ seen at three different locations on Little St. Simons Island on 24 Sept. by Bob and Didi Manns and Kevin McIntyre, the island's naturalist. This is the highest number I have ever heard of in Georgia. Thirty-seven remained through 9 Oct. when a GOS field trip spotted them (Bill Blakeslee, Brad Bergstrom). It must have been a great breeding season for the species.

KILLDEER - A count of over 200 on 19 Nov. at the Rum Creek WMA was the highest number reported (OAS field trip).

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - The 47 seen on 9 Oct. at Little St. Simons Island on a GOS field trip was an outstanding number for a bird usually seen in very small numbers (Bill Blakeslee).

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Though good numbers were seen on the coast prior to Hurricane Alberto in July, after that this species was difficult to find. Brad Bergstrom saw two at Andrews Island, Brunswick, on 15 Aug. Malcolm Hodges saw four during Aug. on his surveys in McIntosh and Glynn counties but none after that.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Three seen at Jekyll Island on 28 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller) were the earliest reported. In the survey of the Kings Bay Submarine Base, Camden County, Paul Sykes tallied 26 on 29 Sept. Five sightings came from Jekyll Island: several were seen the weekend of the GOS convention on 8-9 Oct., a count of 14 was seen on 21 Oct. (Nancy Gobris et al.) and again on 13 Nov. (Billy and Brenda Dunbar), both at the old marina and 15 on 23 Nov. (Mark Oberle). Nearby, at Andrews Island, Brunswick, Malcolm Hodges saw 28 on 20 Nov., a good number for Georgia. The "Avocet of the Year" award goes to Harriett DiGioia who saw one in Murray County on 21 Sept. to add to a handful of records for the interior.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - This species was much in evidence at several inland locations this fall. The high count from Macon was 12 on 27

Aug. (Ty Ivey et al.). Two were still to be found in Bibb County on 13 Oct. (Jerry and Marie Amerson). At the ELHLAF, the first report was one on 5 Oct. (Jeff Sewell), 13 on 30 Oct. (Patrick Brisse), 20 on 1 Nov. (Pierre Howard) and one seen first on 15 Nov. (Carol Lambert) and last seen on 20 Nov. (Bill Bouthillier) exceeded the late date for the Atlanta area by 13 days. Many of these sightings are thought to be separate flocks passing through as most were not seen, at ELHLAF anyway, continuously over the period.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - Two good inland counts were received: on 27 Aug. 16 were seen at the Macon brickyard ponds (Ty Ivey et al.) and on 18 Sept. 12 were spotted at the ELHLAF (AASMW).

WHIMBREL - Several nice sized flocks were reported on the coast. On 15 Aug. Brad Bergstrom saw 50+ in small flocks of 10-15 birds in different locations in coastal Glynn County. At the old marina, Jekyll Island, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had 35 on 21 Aug. The last report was of one at Jekyll Island on 23 Nov. (Mark Oberle).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The report of two during the period is about twice the average. On their magnificent field trip to Little St. Simons Island on 9 Oct., GOS conventioners saw one and Hunter Patterson saw one on St. Catherines Island on 15 Oct.

MARbled GODWIT - Small numbers (one's and two's) began arriving on the coast in Sept. Brad Bergstrom saw two at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, on 10 Sept. Two birds were seen regularly at this location through the period (m.ob.). Four were reported from St. Catherines Island on 23 Sept. (Pierre Howard, Royce Hayes), two on Jekyll Island on 9 Oct. (Nancy Gobris et al.), but the best number by far was the 99 counted on Little St. Simons Island on 9 Oct. by the lucky GOS members who made the field trip (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

RED KNOT - Good numbers of this species could be seen on the coast almost throughout the period beginning on 15 Aug. when four were seen on South Beach, Jekyll Island by Peggy and Terry Moore through 26 Nov. when Jeff Sewell counted over 500 there.

SANDERLING - The only inland sighting came from the Macon brickyard ponds when one appeared on 27 Aug. and by 3 Sept. the count had increased to two birds (Ty Ivey et al.).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - Twenty-five arrived in Macon on 27 Aug. and stayed about a week (Ty Ivey et al.). At the ELHLAF, two arrivals on 1 Sept. (Jeff Sewell, Brock Hutchins) grew to nine on 17 Sept. (Jeff Sewell) and one was last seen there on 23 Oct. (Paul Raney).

WESTERN SANDPIPER - A good count of 400+ was tallied by Malcolm Hodges on Jekyll Island on 21 Aug. Inland, a few were seen at the usual spots. In Macon, one was seen at the brickyards on 27 Aug. (Ty Ivey et al.), growing to eight on 3 Sept. (Nancy Gobris et al.). At the ELHLAF, three birds arriving on 11 Sept. stayed a week (Jeff Sewell).

LEAST SANDPIPER - As usual, this species arrived early and stayed late at its favorite inland locations. At the ELHLAF, holdovers from July swelled to 40 on 17 Aug. (Patrick Brisse), decreased in Sept. (on 4 Sept. 25 were seen - AASMW), with three holding on as of 6 Nov. (Jeff Sewell) which is a rather late date. At the Macon brickyard ponds, 55 were seen on 27 Aug. (Nancy Gobris et al.) and three were still being seen there on 5 Nov. At the mud flats on the Flint River in Crisp County, at what

used to be Lake Blackshear, before Hurricane Alberto's flood broke the dam, Dan and Pam Guynn saw a flock of 35 on 23 Oct.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - The only reports came from the ELHLAF where the species is becoming a regular fall visitor. On 10 Oct. Brock Hutchins found 12, most of which stayed for several days and were seen by many observers. The last report was of three on 17 Oct. (Giff Beaton).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - This is another rare shorebird species whose status in Georgia is changing, especially inland. It was not even listed in "Birds of the Atlanta Area" by Patrick Brisse (*Oriole* 46:21). The *Annotated Checklist* called it accidental in Georgia. The ninth state record occurred in August 1988 (*Oriole* 54:10) but since then there have been 14 sightings. At the ELHLAF one or two are now expected in the fall. This year was no exception. On 17 Aug. one was seen there by Paul Raney and again the next day (Jeff Sewell). It was gone the next day but another bird was spotted there on 11 Oct. (Brock Hutchins). At the Macon brickyard ponds, one was seen on 13 Aug. (OAS) and another there on 5 Sept. (Ty Ivey et al.).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - The most notable inland sightings were from the ELHLAF which hosted a good sized flock much of the period. A high count of 35+ came on 17 Aug. (Patrick Brisse). Five were still being seen on 15 Nov. (Carol Lambert) and the last one was seen on 19 Nov. (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). On the coast, Malcolm Hodges reported a good count of 50 at ASWMA on 11 Sept.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Early arrivals were seen on 24 Nov. when Anselm Atkins and Margaret Kavanaugh saw ten at the north end of Tybee Island. Three days later on 27 Nov., Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert found only five at the same spot.

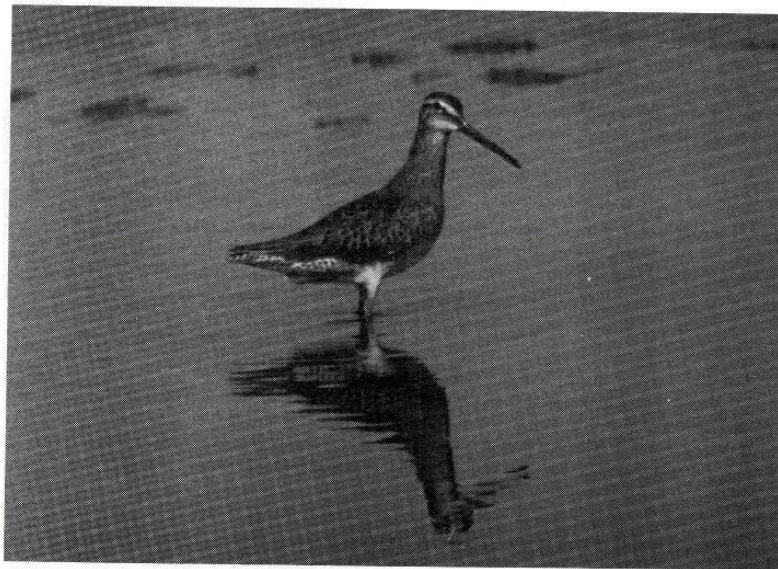
DUNLIN - Befitting its status as a late migrant, the first one seen was at Jekyll Island on 25 Sept. where Malcolm Hodges spotted one in molt from alternate to basic plumage. The first inland report came from the ELHLAF where one was seen on 10 Oct. (Brock Hutchins). The last report there was of two seen on 17 Oct. (Giff Beaton). Back at South Beach, Jekyll Island, Jeff Sewell counted over 100 on 26 Nov.

STILT SANDPIPER - This is another shorebird that had a strong showing this fall. The first report was of a single bird seen on 18 Aug. (Patrick Brisse) and 19 Aug. (Jeff Sewell) at the ELHLAF. Then, Tommy Patterson saw two in Laurens County on 22 Aug. The high count came at Macon on 27 Aug. where seven were noted (Ty Ivey et al.). Back at the ELHLAF after an absence since 19 Aug., four were found on 1 Sept. increasing to six on 3 Sept. (both by Brock Hutchins). Three remained there until at least 18 Sept. (AASMW).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - This and American Golden-Plover are two species whose numbers have increased at least partially due to our discovery of sod farms around the state that provide good habitat. On 27 Aug. seven were seen at a sod farm in Peach County (OAS). As late as 16 Sept., three were still there (Pierre Howard). In Bartow County, at a sod farm he discovered, Lanny Henson saw two on 9 Sept., three on 25 Sept. and the last report was of one on 5 Oct. Other locations furnishing sightings were the brickyard ponds in Macon where on 27 Aug. one



White-rumped Sandpiper at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County - 17 Oct. 1994. Photo by Giff Beaton.



Long-billed Dowitcher at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County - 17 Oct. 1994. Photo by Giff Beaton.

was seen (Ty Ivey et al.) and ASWMA had one on 6 Sept. (Malcolm Hodges). A good fall for this species!

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - The Macon brickyard ponds proved the best inland location for this species too. Eight were seen on that wondrous field trip on 27 Aug. by the OAS followed by a report of 11 on 3 Sept. (Nancy Gobris et al.). At the ELHLAF, the most seen were two during the period 17-28 Aug. (m.ob.).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - On the same 27 Aug. field trip mentioned previously, OAS found a single Long-billed among the Short-billed. Also, on a storied field trip, the 9 Oct. GOS field trip to Little St. Simons Island chalked up a single bird. Another single bird was spotted at the ELHLAF on 11 Oct. (Jeff Sewell) and remained there through 17 Oct. (Giff Beaton).

COMMON SNIPE - The first inland fall arrival was one on 1 Sept. (Brock Hutchins, Jeff Sewell) at the ELHLAF. The first seen on the coast were three on 27 Sept. at ASWMA (Malcolm Hodges). Paul Sykes saw his first one in Greene County on 1 Oct. The peak count at the ELHLAF came on 10 Oct. with 18 birds (Brock Hutchins).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - One bird spotted at the ELHLAF on 3 Sept. and last seen on 8 Sept. (Brock Hutchins) was a good find for the Atlanta area. In the Kings Bay Submarine Base survey, Camden County, Paul Sykes et al. had one on 29 Sept.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - The only reports of this species came from the ELHLAF where on 6 Aug. Fred and Gail Casteel reported seeing three, a truly amazing number for a species so rare inland. One was seen the next day there (Paul Raney, AASMW), but not the following day. Yet another was seen at the same location on 16 Aug. (Jack Carusos, Peggy Marinos).

PARASITIC JAEGER - As occasionally will happen, one was seen from shore. On 11 Nov. Malcolm Hodges saw an adult light phase from South Beach, Jekyll Island among a wake of gulls trailing a shrimp boat.

LAUGHING GULL - Always noteworthy inland, two immatures were seen at the ELHLAF on 28 Aug. (Carolina Lane, AAS). Malcolm Hodges counted 1100 at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island on 11 Sept.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Early sightings were four seen on 28 Sept. at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island (Anne and Vernon Waters) and one on 10 Oct. at the ELHLAF (Brock Hutchins). Jeff Sewell counted 12 arrivals at Lake Lanier on 11 Nov.

RING-BILLED GULL - In the Atlanta area, this species began arriving in small numbers in early Nov. By 30 Nov. the number at Lake Lanier had grown to 425 (Jeff Sewell).

HERRING GULL - A very early fall arrival was an adult seen on 3 Sept. at Carter's Lake, Gilmer County (Jeff Petit). The *Annotated Checklist* gives the fall arrival date inland as 4 Oct. The first two reported from Lake Lanier were on 11 Nov. (Jeff Sewell).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - The Atlanta area had its first sighting and Georgia's second inland sighting on 11 Nov. when Jeff Sewell picked out a winter plumaged adult at Lake Lanier from among a flock of newly arrived Ring-billed Gulls (see elsewhere in this issue for more details of this sighting). The first inland sighting was in Macon on 21 Jan. 1989. Good coverage of the coast this period turned up more than

the usual number of this slowly increasing European invader. Reports came from South Beach, Jekyll Island, where an early arrival was seen on 28 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller). As many as four were seen there consistently during the period, the last report being of three on 13 Nov. (Billy and Brenda Dunbar). Also a reliable spot for the species, Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, produced two early arrivals on 2 Sept. and three on 3 Oct. (both by Malcolm Hodges). On Sapelo Island, Dan Guynn and Jerry Amerson saw one on 24-26 Sept.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - This is another invading gull whose presence on the coast is building year after year. Two seen toward the end of July increased to seven at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island on 20 Aug. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). On their Sapelo Island trip 24-26 Sept. Dan Guynn and Jerry Amerson saw six. On 13 Nov. at South Beach, Jekyll Island, Billy and Brenda Dunbar had two and at Tybee Island on 27 Nov. five were seen (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert).

GULL-BILLED TERN - Twelve seen at the old marina, Jekyll Island, on 16 Aug. was a good count (Peggy and Terry Moore). On 26 Sept., two were spotted at both Jekyll and St. Simons islands (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). The last report was of one on St. Simons Island on 28 Sept. (Anne and Vernon Waters).

CASPIAN TERN - Always a good sighting inland were the two birds seen on the OAS field trip to Macon's brickyard ponds (Ty Ivey et al.) on 27 Aug. and one at Peachtree City Lake on 19 Sept. (Brock Hutchins). Best counts were the 50 at St. Simons Island on 11 Sept. (Malcolm Hodges) and the 60 at Jekyll Island on 27 Sept. (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

SANDWICH TERN - This species was also well reported throughout the period. Best count was the 200+ at Jekyll Island on 28 Aug. (Patrick Brisse, Terry Miller). Late sightings were the seven at Jekyll Island on 26 Nov. (Jeff Sewell) and one at Tybee Island on the same day (Carol and Larry Eldridge).

COMMON TERN - Several observers noted that this species outnumbered Forster's Terns on Jekyll Island during late Aug. The high count reported was 101 at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, on 2 Sept. (Malcolm Hodges). The species is a rare transient inland so the following sightings are noteworthy: on 1 Aug. one at the DeKalb Reservoir (Jeff Sewell), on 3 Sept. three at Carter's Lake, Gilmer County (Jeff Petit), and on 11 Oct., seven at Lake Spivey, Clayton/Henry counties (Jeff Sewell).

FORSTER'S TERN - This uncommon fall inland transient was noted on 4 Aug. with one at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse), which hosted another on 28 Aug. (AASMW), and on 25 Aug. one was seen at the DeKalb Reservoir (Jeff Sewell). On 17 Sept. Paul Raney saw three at SCSP and one was noted on 14 Oct. in Laurens County (Tommy Patterson).

LEAST TERN - On 28 Aug. Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller saw nine at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, a good count for such a late date. Carol and Larry Eldridge reported seeing two together with Royal and Sandwich Terns on the very late date of 26 Nov. at Tybee Island. As this species has usually departed the US by the end of Sept., this observation should be detailed in *The Oriole*.

SOOTY TERN - On a 26 Aug. fishing/pelagic trip, Malcolm Hodges saw 11 Sooty/Bridled terns too far off to identify. The location was at 72 km off

Savannah. The GOS pelagic trip on 28 Aug. spotted seven also off Savannah (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

BRIDLED TERN - Of the 11 Sooty/Bridled terns seen by Malcolm Hodges on 26 Aug. (see above), one was definitely a Bridled Tern. The 28 Aug. pelagic trip scored three Bridleds (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

BLACK TERN - This species was well seen migrating all over the state with too many reports to list all of them. The first ones were seen in mid-July, both inland and coastal. The most seen at the ELHLAF were six on 21 Aug. (Chuck Hunter). On the coast, South Beach, Jekyll Island, produced 22 on 21 Aug. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert) and the 28 Aug. GOS pelagic trip off Savannah counted 28 (Bill Blakeslee et al.). Tommy Patterson reported small numbers passing through Laurens County from 22 Aug. through 3 Sept. The last report was of four on 18 Sept. at the ELHLAF (AASMW).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - The population of this recent invader seems to really be taking off. A whopping 26 were seen at the usual site in Brunswick on 8 Oct. (Ricky Davis). Two new locations were reported: the north end of Jekyll Island, where on 10 Oct. Jeff Sewell saw one, and in Bulloch County where one was shot by a dove hunter this fall (fide Mark Oberle).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - Paul Sykes saw two on 27 Aug. in Warthen, Washington County. This is north of their known breeding range. Other good reports were the 15 seen on 25 Sept. at Andrews Island, Brunswick (Paul Raney, Malcolm Hodges) and nine on 17 Nov. in intown Macon, also at the northern edge of their range (Paul Johnson et al.).

RINGED TURTLE-DOVE - A number of observers saw this bird, probably an escapee, during the month of Sept., at the home of Jim Wilson in Atlanta. Though this bird was darker than a Eurasian Collared-Dove, which is not usually the case, the pattern of the undertail and its tameness pointed to this species. If this was in fact a Eurasian Collared-Dove, it would be the first reported from the Atlanta area.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - Three reports were received which is a little above average for the period. On 13 Sept. Giff Beaton spotted one at Kennesaw Mt. and on 3 Oct. Bob Sargent saw one at the State Botanical Gardens in Athens. On 14 Oct. one was banded at JIBS, only the ninth in 17 years (fide Paul Johnson).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - A few reports were received, but surely many of you did not report your sightings of this migratory species as the total numbers seemed lower than usual. The first sighting near Stone Mountain on 1 Sept. of 142 was also the high count (Patrick Brisse). In Roswell on 10 Sept., 100+ were counted by Peggy and Terry Moore. The last sighting was on 16 Oct. in Marietta when nine were seen (Giff Beaton).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - An interesting report was a calling bird in Roswell on 24 Aug. Perhaps the same bird, getting rather late, was reported on 7 Sept. (both by Terry Moore).

NIGHTJAR (SP.) - Very late for either a Whip-poor-will or a Chuck-Will's-Widow was a nightjar, not a Common Nighthawk, seen before sunrise at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA on 22 Oct. by Mark Davis and Jeff Sewell.

- CHIMNEY SWIFT - On 24 Sept. Paul Sykes noted loose flocks of twenty or so headed south in Greene County. Giff Beaton counted 150 over Kennesaw Mt. on 4 Oct. and Doris Cohrs saw her last swift in Darien on 16 Oct.
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - An albino was photographed at a feeder in Hall County on 1 Sept. (Carol Lambert). This bird stayed until 15 Sept. Good numbers were reported from along the Chattahoochee River in Sept. On 3 Sept. there were 20, on 10 Sept. 30 and on 24 Sept. 25 (all AASMW). Doris Cohrs saw her last bird in McIntosh County on 6 Oct.
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - The first wintering hummer to be banded by Bob and Martha Sargent was at the home of Kathy Sawyer of Roswell. This bird appeared on 22 Nov. and remained through the period. Other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported from Clarksville, Monroe and Kennesaw toward the end of the month but had not been banded yet.
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - Georgia's second record for this species was first seen on 27 Nov. at a feeder in Kennesaw. It was banded by the Sargents on 3 Dec. for positive identification. It was last seen on 3 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - This was a good fall for this rare transient. On 24 Aug., one was seen in south Fulton County (Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Mark Oberle, Bruce Hallett), one was spotted at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA on 10 Sept. (AASMW) and perhaps the same bird was seen 20 Sept. at the same place (Mark Davis).
- EASTERN PHOEBE - The first coastal arrivals were spotted on 5 Oct. when two were seen by Malcolm Hodges and Doris Cohrs at ASWMA.
- EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHERS - Many more empids than usual were reported this fall, mostly from the Atlanta area. In addition to the specific species noted below, several went unidentified as empidonax sp.
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - An outstanding total of four reports were received, all from metro Atlanta: on 9 Sept. one was banded at Grant Park (John Fowler), Giff Beaton saw one at Kennesaw Mt. on 13 Sept., and the Cochran Shoals section of the CRNRA produced two, one on 24 Sept. (AASMW) and one on 27 Sept. (Bruce Hallett).
- ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - On 3 Sept., one was seen and heard at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA (AASMW) as was one on the late date of 29 Sept. at Kings Bay Submarine Base, Camden County (Paul Sykes).
- TRAIL'S-TYPE FLYCATCHER - Three reports: one at Kennesaw Mt. on 7 Sept. (Giff Beaton), one on 25 Sept. at the ELHLAF (AASMW) and one at Fernbank Forest on 1 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - Two seen in the Atlanta area were more than are usually reported. On 22 Sept. the new banding operation at Zoo Atlanta banded one (John Fowler) and one was seen on 1 Oct. at Fernbank Forest (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD - Jeannie Wright saw a sight on 4 Sept. at Jekyll Island that is not often witnessed, that of 200 plus Eastern Kingbirds headed south. Their movements during fall migration are poorly understood.
- GRAY KINGBIRD - It was, apparently, a good breeding year on the coast for this rare, local coastal species. On 15 Aug. Peggy and Terry Moore found two adults with three grown young at the north end of Jekyll

- Island. Two miles away at the well known convention center site, two adults were seen on 27 Aug. feeding two young (Bill Blakeslee et al.). Later, on 9 Oct. two adults were seen feeding cowbirds at the same location (Mark Oberle).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - This very rare visitor to our state turned up in a most unlikely location - in the congested Piedmont-Lindberg area of Atlanta! It was spotted by Hunter Patterson on 22 Oct. and was seen by about 30 people the next day but not thereafter.
- TREE SWALLOW - On the coast, an early arrival was spotted by Malcolm Hodges on 20 Aug. at AASMW. In the piedmont, Paul Sykes noted two late transients on 12 Nov. in northern Greene County.
- CLIFF SWALLOW - One seen on 26 Sept. in Seminole County was quite a good find for that area (Paul Raney).
- BARN SWALLOW - Malcolm Hodges saw the last of the southward migrants on 29 Oct. at Andrews Island, Brunswick, where he counted 25.
- FISH CROW - The 100 or so seen on 4 Nov. at the DeKalb Reservoir apparently indicated the gathering of an area-wide migrating flock as the usual number seen there since the summer was about 25. The last group to depart (15 birds) was seen on 23 Nov. (Jeff Sewell). On 24 Nov. an enormous flock of about 3,000 was seen flying over the ASWMA (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert).
- COMMON RAVEN - On 21 Aug., two were seen at a very low altitude above US 76 between Hiawassee and Blairsville (Georgann Schmalz). I believe this is our first record away from the mountain tops where they are usually seen. A similar downward movement was noted in North Carolina. Maybe an invasion is in the works. More normal was one seen at Rabun Bald on 1 Nov. (Giff and Becky Beaton).
- HOUSE WREN - An early coastal arrival was banded on 22 Sept. at ASWMA (Doris Cohrs).
- WINTER WREN - Early arrivals noted were one on 5 Oct. at Kennesaw Mt. (Giff Beaton), one on 15 Oct. at Fernbank Forest (AASMW) and one on 22 Oct. in Greene County (Paul Sykes).
- SEDGE WREN - The first reported was one seen in Greene County on 24 Sept. where they are known to winter (Paul Sykes). Several passed through Cochran Shoals, CRNRA - on 8 Oct. two were seen there by Jerry Brunner.
- MARSH WREN - This species is an uncommon transient through the piedmont in the fall. At the ELHLAF, one was seen 16 Sept. and two on 2 Oct. (both by Jeff Sewell). In Greene County, a rather early arrival showed up on 24 Sept. (Paul Sykes).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Kennesaw Mt. hosted 21 on 11 Aug. for an excellent count (Giff Beaton).
- THRUSHES - In general, of all the fall migrants, thrushes were the most poorly reported. Only the Gray-cheeked Thrush did better than average.
- VEERY - Few reports were received. Fernbank Forest did the best with the high counts of four on both 1 and 8 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW). Numbers from Kennesaw Mt. were down: one on 17 Oct. of the western race (see elsewhere in this issue for more details of this sighting) and one on 18 Oct. (Giff Beaton et al.).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - This rather rare transient was noted several times during the period. The first was one at Lake Conasauga in

Murray County on 10 Sept. (Harriett DiGioia). At Kennesaw Mt., two were seen on 24 Sept. (AAS), two on 17 Oct. (Giff Beaton) and one on 18 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Pierre Howard). Fernbank Forest had their usual one or two for the fall, in this case one each on 1 Oct. and 15 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW). One was banded in Grant Park on 6 Oct. at Zoo Atlanta's first banding operation (John Fowler).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Once again, Fernbank Forest and Kennesaw Mt. provided the best reports. On the mountain, these reports, all by Giff Beaton were received - seven on 10 Oct., six on 17 Oct. and two on 18 Oct. At Fernbank Forest, five each were seen on 1 and 8 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz, AASMW).

HERMIT THRUSH - The first arrival at Kennesaw Mt. was on 16 Oct. when Bruce Dralle et al. saw two.

WOOD THRUSH - A rather late departing one was reported on 29 Oct. at Fernbank Forest (AASMW).

GRAY CATBIRD - Thirty-one seen on 5 Oct. passing through Kennesaw Mt. was an excellent count (Giff Beaton). The last sighting came from Greene County where on 22 Oct. two were seen (Paul Sykes).

BROWN THRASHER - Paul Sykes, who is studying the winter movements of resident species, reported that 18 thrashers moving through the study area in Greene County on 1 Oct. was a good count of southward moving birds.

WATER PIPIT - Wintering flocks began arriving in Sept. The first sighting was on 14 Sept. at ASWMA (Malcolm Hodges). On 5 Nov. the number at the ELHLAF peaked at 150 (Patrick Brisse).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - This writer thought the 10-12 seen in Glynn County between 24-26 Nov. was an unusual number for that location.

SOLITARY VIREO - The one seen 17 Sept. at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA was early (Paul Raney). Kennesaw Mt. yielded seven on 24 Oct. which was a good count for the location (Giff Beaton).

WARBLING VIREO - Tying the Atlanta area early fall arrival date was one seen on 17 Aug. at Kennesaw Mt. (Giff Beaton). This continues a trend of early vireo fall arrivals there.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - For the first time in this reporter's experience, reports of this usually rare transient were too numerous to mention. Reports came from Macon, Augusta, Kennesaw Mt., Stone Mountain, Cochran Shoals (Cobb County), and east Cobb County. Beginning with one seen on 5 Sept. at Kennesaw Mt. (Giff Beaton), one or two birds were seen there on seven separate days, with the last one on 18 Oct. tying the Atlanta area late departure date (Jeff Sewell). At Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, five birds were reported on three days between 10 and 29 Sept. (AASMW, Bruce Hallett). Elsewhere, Paul Johnson saw two on the Augusta Levee on 1 Oct. and Lisa Moreley and Barbara Edwards saw one on 4 Oct. in Macon.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - This species was well reported this season. The best count came from Kennesaw Mt. with five on 3 Sept. (Giff Beaton). Rarely reported from the coast, one was seen by Doris Cohrs on 5 Sept. near Darien.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Sightings of this species in the Atlanta area nearly equalled the Blue-winged Warbler in numbers, particularly at

Kennesaw Mt. Elsewhere, Paul Sykes saw one in Greene County on 10 Sept. and Nancy Gobris had one in Jones County on 12 Sept.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - Twenty-five in one flock on 23 Sept. at Emory University in Atlanta was a good count (Jeff Sewell).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - One seen on 16 Oct. at Kennesaw Mt. beat the old published arrival date for the Atlanta area by one day (Jeff Sewell et al.).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - This is one of the few neotropical migrants reported this fall more frequently than usual. An early arrival was spotted in Jones County on 13 Sept. (Jerry and Marie Amerson, Nancy Gobris). At Kennesaw Mt. one, and sometimes two, were seen often beginning on 24 Sept. through 5 Oct., usually in the same area (Giff Beaton). In the Stone Mt. area, one was seen on 1 Oct. (Patrick Brisse).

YELLOW WARBLER - Four were seen in Macon on 3 Sept. (Nancy Gobris et al.) for a good count for that location. A late departing bird was banded at ASWMA on 27 Oct. by Doris Cohrs. These were the only reports received. None were reported from Kennesaw Mt. per Giff Beaton.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - High counts came from Cochran Shoals where 40 were counted on 10 Sept. and 30 on 24 Sept. (AASMW).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - Good counts received were of 20 on 24 Sept. at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA (AASMW), 12 in Greene County on 1 Oct. (Paul Sykes) and 16 on 18 Oct. at Kennesaw Mt. (Giff Beaton).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Though reports of this species have been declining in recent years, it seems to have rebounded at JIBS where 30 were banded in Oct. which is an above average fall count. Elsewhere it was poorly reported. For example, the only report from Kennesaw Mt. was on 17 Oct. when two were seen (Giff Beaton). Most regular observers at the mountain did not see a single bird this fall.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Reports show an average fall. Best count was of nine at Kennesaw Mt. on 18 Oct. (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - At Kennesaw Mt., the fall migration of this species begins in mid-July. The high count in Aug. was of eight on 3 Aug. (Giff Beaton), in Sept. 14 were seen on the 24th (Bruce Dralle) and in Oct. 16 were tallied on 5 Oct. (Giff Beaton).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Once again, Kennesaw Mt. led all hotspots with a peak count of 11 on 7 Sept. (Giff Beaton).

PALM WARBLER - The 60 seen by Paul Sykes in Greene County on 1 Oct. was an excellent count. At ASWMA, Doris Cohrs banded a western immature on 9 Sept.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - Jerry Amerson reported that he saw the most he had ever seen in Jones County with 50+ seen on three outings on 16, 19 and 22 Oct.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - This is a rare transient inland during the fall so one seen on 6 Oct. and two on 14 Oct. at Kennesaw Mt. were noteworthy (both by Jeff Sewell). Doris Cohrs reported banding 10 on 13 Oct. at Butler Island, ASWMA.

CERULEAN WARBLER - Good numbers of this species passed through Kennesaw Mt. from mid-July to 5 Oct. when the last one was reported. Peak days were 11 Aug. with 17, 19 Aug. with 14 and 3 Sept. with 13

(m.ob.). On the coast, the species is much rarer. Doris Cohrs saw only her 4th record there on 4 Sept. near Darien.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb County, beat out Kennesaw Mt. this fall for the high count (25) on 10 Sept. (AASMW). Kennesaw Mt. had 12 on 3 Aug. and 13 on 19 Aug. (Giff Beaton).

AMERICAN REDSTART - Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb County, also edged out Kennesaw Mt. this season with the peak count of 30 on 10 Sept. (AASMW), 20 on 24 Sept. (AASMW). On 24 Sept., 25 were seen at Kennesaw Mt. (AASMW).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - JIBS banded only its third in 17 years in Sept. (fide Paul Johnson). I assume this mostly low level nester was hard hit by July's floods.

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Again, Kennesaw Mt. scored the season's high count - six on 19 Aug. (Giff Beaton). At JIBS, one banded on 13 Oct. was only the fourth in 17 years (fide Paul Johnson).

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - This resident breeder is considered late after Labor Day in the Macon area so one seen 20 Sept. by Paul Johnson was a good find.

KENTUCKY WARBLER - This species passed through Kennesaw Mt. during a narrow window of time. The only ones seen were as follows: 3 on 3 Sept., 2 on 7 Sept. and 3 on 13 Sept. (Giff Beaton).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Two were banded at JIBS on 13 Oct. There have only been nine banded there previously (fide Paul Johnson).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT - On 1 Oct., 32 were seen in the same general area in Greene County (Paul Sykes).

HOODED WARBLER - Both high counts, on two widely separated dates, both came from Kennesaw Mt. On 19 Aug. Giff Beaton counted 12 and on 18 Oct. he had 15.

WILSON'S WARBLER - An adult male was seen on 10 Sept. in Greene County (Paul Sykes) and one was noted at the ELHLAF on 23 Sept. (Joe Greenberg). From Kennesaw Mt. on 5 Oct., Giff Beaton saw one and on the same day Nelson Dobbs saw two males in Bartow County. Also, one was spotted in Hall County in early Oct. by Jack Caruso and John Paget. Perhaps this high seasonal count has more to do with the number of birders than with the actual number of birds.

CANADA WARBLER - Good numbers of this species were seen this fall as compared to just the usual few seen during migration. As usual, the best sightings came from Kennesaw Mt. with four on 19 Aug. and 10 on 3 Sept. (both by Giff Beaton).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - A late departing bird was noted at ASWMA on 19 Oct. by Malcolm Hodges.

SUMMER TANAGER - Kennesaw Mt. also furnished the state's one day high count for this species, ten on 22 Sept. (Bill Blakeslee, Giff Beaton).

SCARLET TANAGER - Kennesaw Mt. did likewise for this species: 28 on 7 Sept. and 18 on 13 Sept. (Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK - On 1 Oct., Fernbank Forest hosted 30 (AASMW) and in Macon, 10 were counted on 8 Oct. by Paul Johnson. Back at Fernbank, 15 were seen on 8 Oct. (AASMW).

BLUE GROSBEEK - Paul Johnson saw a late departing female on 12 Nov. in Macon.

INDIGO BUNTING - Good counts were reported by Paul Sykes on 24 Sept. in a small area of Greene County where he saw 48 and on 8 Oct. Jeff Sewell tallied 80 in McIntosh County.

PAINTED BUNTING - In Macon, at the usual site, Jerry and Marie Amerson and Nancy Gobris saw two immatures as late as 4 Sept. A late report from Anne and Vernon Waters said that Gary Gray saw two males at Clark Hill Reservoir during June and July. This is a good bit farther north of their usual range.

DICKCISSEL - On two occasions, Paul Sykes saw a female in Greene County, 22 and 29 Oct.

CHIPPING SPARROW - An interesting report of 148, migrating in a continuous stream, past his position on Kennesaw Mt. on 9 Nov., was received from Giff Beaton.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - For the first time in my birding experience, this rare or accidental species was found and stayed in an accessible location. On 24 Sept. Paul Raney discovered one feeding with House Sparrows in a yard adjacent to the parking lot at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island. Word to birders spread quickly and on 26 Sept., three were seen by Bruce Dralle and Jeff Sewell, then on 28 Sept. Paul Sykes saw one there. In another location, a few miles up the coast at Butler Island, ASWMA, near Darien, Doris Cohrs saw two on 27 Sept. After an absence from the Gould's Inlet location for several days, another bird was seen there during the weekend of the GOS convention 7-9 Oct. (m.ob.).

LARK SPARROW - In the same place at Gould's Inlet where the Clay-colored Sparrows were seen, Malcolm Hodges found the rare Lark Sparrow among the House Sparrows and one Clay-colored Sparrow feeding on 7 Oct..

SAVANNAH SPARROW - Fall arrivals were reported by Paul Sykes who saw his first on 24 Sept. in Greene County. At JIBS, the first bird banded was on 5 Oct. (fide Malcolm Hodges). On the same date, two were seen at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - The *Annotated Checklist* states that this species is a rare winter coastal resident, so one reported at JIBS on 19 Oct. (Nancy Gobris) and two on 27 Nov. near Warsaw in McIntosh County were noteworthy (Malcolm Hodges).

HENSLow'S SPARROW - After a year's absence, this rare winter resident was seen again in the power line right of way at Paulk's Pasture WMA, Glynn County. On 13 Nov., Mike Chapman saw four. Several later observers reported as many as eight. Malcolm Hodges found another power line right of way location for this species near Jones, McIntosh County, where on 27 Nov. he saw four. One wonders how many a thorough survey of suitable habitat would turn up.

LECONTE'S SPARROW - A good sparrow season such as this period would not be complete without this species which is even harder to find than the Henslow's. Paulk's Pasture WMA, Glynn County, came through with this very rare winterer on 13 Nov. when Mike Chapman found one (see Henslow's above). On 24 Nov., Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert also saw one there but it was not found by several observers thereafter.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - The first arrival report of this coastal winter resident came from St. Simons Island where on 25 Sept. Malcolm

Hodges saw one but the most notable report came from inland Greene County where on 29 Oct. Paul Sykes spotted one, the county's first.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - More reports than usual of this rare winter visitor were received. The first, on 18 Sept., came from Jekyll Island where one was seen (Malcolm Hodges), followed by three reports a few days apart in the Atlanta area: one bird at the bottom of Kennesaw Mt. on 17 Oct. (Giff Beaton), one at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb County on 22 Oct. (Jeff Sewell) and back at Kennesaw Mt. near the top another bird was seen the same day, 22 Oct. (Mark Oberle). Then, back on the coast, one was spotted near Warsaw, McIntosh County on 27 Nov. (Malcolm Hodges).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Rare in coastal counties (per the *Annotated Checklist*) were two, the first at Butler Island, ASWMA, near Darien on 14 Oct. (Doris Cohrs) and the second at JIBS on 20 Oct. (Don Cohrs). Reports of other single birds came from Forsyth and Jackson counties (John Paget, Jack Carusos) and Peach County on 22 Oct. (Paul Johnson).

DARK-EYED JUNCO - Two seen on 16 Oct. at Kennesaw Mt. were rather early (Bruce Dralle et al.).

BOBOLINK - This species is rarely seen at the ELHLAF in the fall so one on 7 Sept. (Jeff Sewell) and five on 18 Sept. (Patrick Brisse) were noteworthy. Also, inland, eight were seen in Greene County on 1 Oct. (Paul Sykes), but as usual, the high count of 350 came from the coast where on 17 Sept. Malcolm Hodges saw them at the ASWMA near Darien. The last seen on the coast and equalling the late date in the *Annotated Checklist*, was one seen in the same location on 24 Oct. (Malcolm Hodges).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Probably the only reliable place in the state to see this rare local winterer in any numbers is in Laurens County where the flock of 200-300 returned again on 25 Nov. (Tommy and Hunter Patterson).

ORCHARD ORIOLE - I was surprised to get the report from Giff Beaton that the one he saw at Kennesaw Mt. on 19 Aug. was the only one he has seen there or even heard of being seen there.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - This was a great fall for this migratory neotropical species which is called "uncommon" in the *Annotated Checklist*, but in recent years has seemed more rare than that. On 27 Aug., two were found in south Fulton County (Jeff Sewell et al.), on 31 Aug. one was seen at Kennesaw Mt. (Kevin Danchisen), then numbers began to be seen that exceed any in my experience (and these are only the high counts): on 6 Sept. Mark Davis saw six males at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb County, on the same day, Bruce Dralle had four at Kennesaw Mt., on 7 Sept. Giff Beaton counted seven also at Kennesaw Mt. and back at Cochran Shoals on 10 Sept. four were seen (AASMW). The totals show 28 individuals seen between 3 and 10 Sept. by many observers in the Atlanta area.

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A Statement of Policy

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