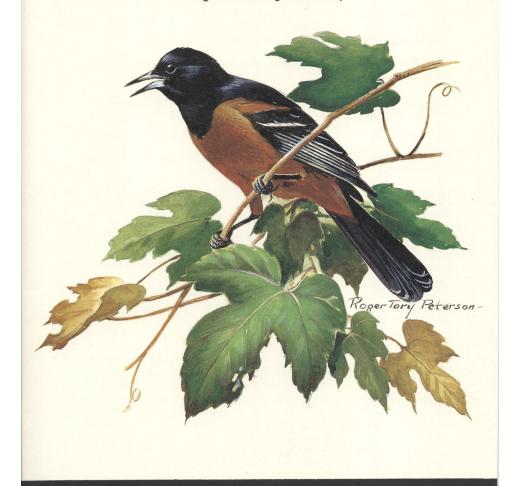
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FROM THE FIELD - August-November 1995

THE ORIOLE

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NO. 1

WOOD THRUSH NESTLINGS FED FRUIT BY SINGLE PARENT

Larkin A. Powell^{1,2}, Kathleen L. Rangen² and Jason D. Lang ^{1,2}

The Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) diet consists of both insects and fruits. Insects provide birds with more crude protein (31-80%, Robbins 1983) than fruit (e.g. cherry: 2%, Martin et al. 1951). Thus, Wood Thrushes eat little fruit material during spring (5% of diet) and summer months (35%), but fruits comprise 77% of the diet during the fall when insects are less available (Martin et al. 1951). Wood Thrush nestlings are fed largely on an insect diet and are not fed plant materials until they are well developed (Martin et al. 1951, Ehrlich et al. 1988). Of course, the type of food and amount delivered to nestlings is determined by the energy content of the food delivered and the adults' foraging ability and time constraints (Ricklefs 1974).

We monitored 153 Wood Thrush nests during 1993-96 at the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR), as part of a research project for the University of Georgia. PNWR is located in Jones and Jasper Counties, north of Macon, Georgia.

On 4 July 1995, we found 20-30 Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) pits in the cup of a Wood Thrush nest that had fledged the previous day. We found some insect remains in several nest cups during 1993-96, but this was the only nest to exhibit evidence that nestlings are fruit. We believe the female, who fed the nestlings without the help of a mate, may have switched to a fruit diet to efficiently provide her brood with the necessary energy to complete their growth in the nest.

We had been using radio telemetry to monitor the male and female Wood Thrushes since 10 May and 6 May, respectively. The pair were successful at producing fledglings from the first nest, and this was their second nesting attempt during 1995.

The pair initiated the nest on 12 June with a clutch of 3 eggs, and the eggs hatched on 23 June. On 26 June, the male died during mist netting which was conducted in an attempt to attach a new radio transmitter.

Both male and female Wood Thrushes feed the young (Brackbill 1958). Following the male's death, we did not observe any new males or helpers at the nest. Also, the female was only on the nest during 43%

(n=3 of 7) of the telemetry observations, compared to 58% (n=7 of 12) of the observations during the nestling period of her previous nest (chisquare = 0.425, P = 0.52). So, the female apparently raised the nestlings alone, and she may have become more active as a single parent, although our limited numbers of telemetry observations during both nesting attempts did not show a significant change.

Black Cherry fruits furnish less energy per unit mass than insects: fruits provide 0.64 kcal/g of metabolizable energy, compared to 1.18 kcal/g from insects (Rickkefs 1974). However, Black Cherries are locally common at the PNWR. In late June and early July this was an available food source which, once located, would provide a constant supply. In contrast, insects may have required more intensive foraging efforts by the lone female.

Three fledglings were produced from this nest. We believe the female Wood Thrush may have changed foraging strategies after the death of her mate. She found a readily available source of food to facilitate her efforts to feed her brood in the late nestling stage. This underscores the current efforts of habitat managers at PNWR to provide diverse habitats for nesting songbirds.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was carried out during a large scale Wood Thrush research project for the D.B. Warnell School of Forest Resources and Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, under the direction of M.J. Conroy and D.G. Krementz. We are grateful to R. Shell and the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge for their support. C. Straight, R. Ranalli, C. Ploegstra, R. Anderson, J. Tomita, D. Jacobson, and J. Savage helped find and monitor nests. The Georgia Ornithological Society, National Biological Service, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided funding for this project.

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AOU CHECK-LIST CHANGES AFFECTING GEORGIA BIRDS

William P. Blakeslee

Listed below are all the changes to the AOU Check-list, through the 40th Supplement, that affect either the English or scientific names of birds published in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al. GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986).

PACIFIC LOON - The Pacific Loon (Gavia pacifica) is split from the Arctic Loon (Gavia arctica).

NORTHERN GANNET - The scientific name of Northern Gannet becomes Morus bassanus.

GREAT EGRET - The scientific name of Great Egret becomes Ardea alba.

GREEN-BACKED HERON - The Green-backed Heron reverts back to its former English and scientific names, Green Heron (Butorides virescens), because of a taxonomic split involing the species Striated Heron.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - The scientific name of Yellowcrowned Night-Heron becomes Nyctanassa violacea.

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - The English name of American Swallow-tailed Kite is changed to Swallow-tailed Kite. The modifier American is no longer needed because the African species called by the same name in earlier literature is now usually called Scissor-tailed Kite.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE - The Black-shouldered Kite reverts back to its older English and scientific names, White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), because of a taxonomic split from a species that is confined to the Old World

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER - The Lesser Golden-Plover is split into two species, American Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis dominicus*) and Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*). The American Golden-Plover is the species which is seen in Georgia.

COMMON BARN-OWL - The English name of Common Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*) is changed to Barn Owl to bring it into accord with international usage.

BURROWING OWL - The Burrowing Owl is returned to the genus Speotyto and is now Speotyto cunicularia.

SCRUB JAY - The Scrub Jay is split into three species, Florida Scrub-Jay, (Aphelocoma coerulescens), Island Scrub-Jay (Aphelocoma insularis) and Western Scrub-Jay (Aphelocoma californica). The Florida Scrub-Jay is accidental on Jekyll Island and in Okefenokee Swamp.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - The Gray-cheeked Thrush is split into two species, Gray-cheeked Thrush (Catharus minimus) and Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknelli). Both species occur in Georgia in the spring and fall

WATER PIPIT - The Water Pipit (Anthus spinoletta) is removed from the Checklist and is replaced by American Pipit (Anthus rubescens) because of a taxonomic split from a species outside the Check-list area.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE - The Rufous-sided Towhee is split into two species, Eastern Towhee (Pipilo erythrophthalmus) and Spotted Towhee

(Pipilio maculatus). The Eastern Towhee is the species that occurs in

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is split into two species, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus caudacutus) and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Ammodramus nelsoni). Both species winter in Georgia.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - The Northern Oriole is split into two species,
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). The Baltimore Oriole is the species usually seen in Georgia;
the Bullock's Oriole is an accidental visitor to southern Georgia.

Further information on these species can be obtained from the base publication, *Check-list of North American Birds* (American Ornithologists' Union, 1983, 6th Edition, Washington, D.C.). Additional details regarding these changes can be obtained by referring to the 35th through the 40th Supplement to the 6th Edition of the Check-list, *Auk* 102:680-686, *Auk* 104:591-596, *Auk* 106:532-538, *Auk* 108:750-754, *Auk* 110:675-682, and *Auk* 112:819-830 respectively.

Secretary, GOS Checklist and Records Committe, 1722 Noble Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.

GENERAL NOTES

AN INLAND RECORD FOR HARLEQUIN DUCK IN DOUGLAS COUNTY - On 20 February 1996 my sister Ruth and her husband, Ladd Dunfield, were visiting from Ontario, Canada. As usual, when we get together, we decided to do some birding. Since it was February and midafternoon, I really didn't expect that we would see much bird activity on the trail down to the river at the Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County. But as we made our way past the mill ruins, some movement in the water caught my eye. Swimming madly upstream, not more than 20 m from me, was a pair of gray colored ducks. I did a double take as I watched them hop out of the water onto a rock, I called Ladd over and pointed to the ducks, which were preening themselves, totally unconcerned about our presence.

"Harlequin Ducks?" asked Ladd incredulously. I replied in the affirmative. We watched them for several minutes and then continued with our hike.

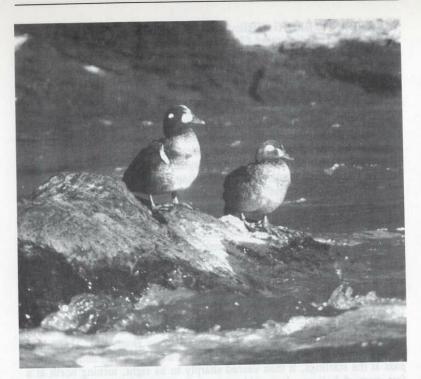
When we got home, Ladd, who operated the rare bird alert in Oshawa, Ontario for several years, suggested that I might want to call the local bird hotline. Since I'd seen Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) on both coasts (but never in Georgia), I wasn't too excited, but I thought "Why not?" So I left a message on the GOS hotline.

The next afternoon Jeff Sewell returned my call. He sounded somewhat skeptical and suggested that maybe we might have seen Wood Ducks (Aix sponsa). Now that I know that this was the first confirmed inland sighting of Harlequin Ducks in Georgia, and possibly only the third ever in the state, I can understand his hesitancy. When I pointed out to Jeff that the birds were diving, I could almost hear his heart start to beat faster. We then agreed to meet Pierre Howard at the park and try to see if we could find them again. We found them easily, near the same spot, and Pierre confirmed that they were indeed a pair of Harlequin Ducks.

This pair of Harlequin Ducks was obviously composed of a male and female. The male was showing definite signs of molting into his "harlequin" pattern of spots and cresents on its face plus the blue and chestnut plumage characteristic of a male Harlequin Duck. The female was more subdued in coloration but clearly showed the diagnosite small white spots on its face. These features are easily seen on the accompanying photograph.

This would appear to be the third record for this species in the state of Georgia. The first two records both came from Tybee Island, Chatham County, with a male being seen there between 18 February 1984 and 10 March 1984 and again on 10 March 1985 (Lane, C., First Georgia Record of the Harlequin Duck, *Oriole* 59:91-92). However, my sighting certainly lends credence to the report of another bird seen at Sweetwater

Creek State Park on 23 November 1989 by Paul Raney (Oriole 54:47).



Harlequin Ducks at Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County, 25 Feb. 1996. Photo by Victor Williams.

It is interesting that these birds were seen during the winter in a habitat that is more typical of their breeding range. That is, they typically winter along both northeastern and northwestern coasts preferring jetties, piers and rocky shores. During the summer they nest along swiftly flowing cold water streams.

Fortunately, the birds remained in the area for about 10 days and were seen by a large number of observers. They were last reported on 28 Feb. by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

Don Sutherland, 825 Tranquil Drive, Austell, GA 30001.

A MERLIN DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE IN CLAYTON COUNTY - The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the Merlin (Falco columbaris) as an "uncommon but regular transient and rare to uncommon winter resident over most of the state; 2 Sep (1948) - 7 May (1933); more common along the coast."

During the afternoon of 18 June 1995, my wife, Carol Lambert, Jeff Dixon and I were standing on the northerly dike of Pond E, the largest of the ponds at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, a project of the Clayton County Water Authority, located along US 19/41 (Tara Boulevard) just south of Jonesboro, Clayton County, Georgia. We were looking through the ducks and geese feeding in the pond when we saw the large flock of European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) feeding on the exposed mud flat adjacent to the big island in the pond take flight in alarm. They burst up in all directions at once accompanied by alarm calls. I alerted the other two observers to this and suggested we watch for a falcon as I have seen this sort of response by small birds under falcon attack, especially at Jekyll Island. After flying around a bit, the starling flock settled down again in about the same place.

A few minutes passed, then once again the starling flock took flight in panic. I was looking through the flock for a passing raptor when out of the corner of my eye I saw a small dark brown bird, about the size of an American Kestrel (F. sparverius) rocketing through the starlings at about eye level headed west, to my right, toward Tara Boulevard. I estimate when I first saw the bird, it was about 50 m away. Having completed its pass at the starlings, it then veered sharply to its right, turning north at a fast, powerful clip, and passed between us and the northwest corner of the pond. It continued toward and into the trees on the west side of the ponds where I lost sight of it.

Based on the size of the bird, its uniform dark chocolate brown upperparts, the pointed falcon-like wings, thicker at the base than an American Kestrel and the deep, smooth, powerful wing strokes, I concluded that I had seen a Merlin. I ruled out American Kestrel as my bird's upperparts were much darker than the bright rufous-colored back and wings of the female kestrel and I saw nothing of the white face and black mustache of the kestrel which I believe would have been visible to me in spite of the distance and speed of my bird. There was certainly no color contrast of blue wings and reddish back that one would see on a male American Kestrel. Then there was the way this bird attacked the flock of starlings. I have never seen an American Kestrel make a strafing run on a flock of ground-feeding birds the way this bird did. This bird flew with straight-forward power, using deep, smooth, powerful wingbeats, very unlike the light, more bouyant flight of the lighter kestrel. From what I could see of the underparts, they too were dark, though not as dark as the upperparts.

That the bird might have been a Peregrine Falcon (F. peregrinus) occurred to me. Indeed, given the date (mid-June) and the fact that there is a small group of two or three Peregrines in downtown Atlanta, 31 km to the north, the thought of Peregrine Falcon quickly followed the first thought of Merlin; but I ruled out Peregrine Faclon in view of the small size and very dark brown upperparts of the subject bird. Also, had it been a Peregrine I believe I would have been able to see some white around the mustache mark on the face or the much lighter underparts, both of which were lacking on the bird that passed me.

My conclusion of Merlin is also based on my experience of watching Merlins attack flocks of shorebirds at Jekyll Island especially at the old marina. My observation is that, seen at a distance, a swooping Merlin looks all dark brown. I have watched them coming in low with rocket-like speed swooping just above the ground into the feeding flock of shorebirds and noted that only when one came very close was I able to make out the

face markings as shown in field guides.

As noted at the outset, the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986) gives 7 May as the latest spring departure recorded. An 18 June sighting would be Georgia's only summer sighting and perhaps the only summer record for North and South Carolina as well. According to Audubon Field Notes (49:920) the bird "...had to have been a very late migrant or a wandering non-breeder."

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

GEORGIA'S FOURTH INLAND LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - On 1 December 1995, my wife, Carol Lambert and I received a call from a friend that two Black-legged Kittiwakes (Rissa tridactyla) had been sighted at the Walter F. George Dam on the Chattahoochee River near Ft. Gaines in Clay County, Georgia. We drove down the next day, arriving at the dam at about 1115. Unfortunately a quick search turned up no Black-legged Kittiwakes, but as we looked through the 200 or so Ringbilled Gulls (Larus delawarensis) resting on the big concrete platform just below the dam, I spotted in my scope (60mm with 25X eyepiece) an obviously different species of gull. It was considerably larger than the nearby Ring-bills, but not as large as a Herring Gull (L. argentatus) would be.

For the whole time I studied it, the bird remained in a sitting position, so I never saw its legs, belly or rump, but I saw enough to identify it as a second winter Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*), probably of the subspecies *graellsii*. This latter conclusion is easy enough

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to make as there are very few records of the other two subspecies in North America (Post and Lewis 1995a, 1995b). The head was mostly white but streaked with dusky, dirty markings mainly on the crown and hindneck. The area around the eye was quite dark, but not so dark as on the first winter Lesser Black-backed I saw on 19 Feb. 1995 at Lake Lanier (Sewell 1995b). Overall this bird was much whiter than the first winter bird, but much of the scaly scapular and mantle effect of a first winter bird was retained, though not quite so contrasting. The black bill had a pale area at the base. The chest area was white with short pale brown streaks. The tail, as best as I could see, was white with a narrow dark subterminal band. The folded wings were a very dark brown or black. Based mainly on the pale base of the bill and the overall whiter plumage, as compared to the overall darker first winter plumage, I concluded that the bird was a second winter bird, though I am bothered by the retention of the scaly effect on the scapulars and mantle which points more to a first winter bird. I referred to Grant (1986) to make this determination.

This is the fourth inland record of a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Georgia. The first was seen in Macon from 12 January to 7 March 1989 (Ivey 1989), the second and third were seen at Lake Lanier, north of Atlanta on 11 November 1994 and 19 February 1995, respectively (Sewell 1995a, 1995b).

I reviewed the status of the species in Georgia on the occasion of the sighting of the second inland Lesser Black-backed Gull, which, incidentally, was an adult (Sewell 1995a). In view of the difficulty of separating first winter plumage Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Herring Gulls, it is possible that some sub-adults of the former are escaping detection. I would recommend to those who might dedicate themselves to learning more about this species that they visit the usual Georgia coastal spots where the species is often found in small numbers in the fall and winter and look for first or second winter birds among the more easily identified adults. Then find a Herring Gull of like age and compare the two carefully. After seeing a number of the younger birds, you will be better prepared when you find one in your scope on an inland lake by itself, or if you are lucky, in the company of sub-adult Herring Gulls.

If the rapid spread of this European species in North America over the last 20 years is any indication, no doubt we can expect more sightings of this species both coastal and inland.

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second Lesser Black-backed Gull. Oriole 60:86-89.

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

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FROM THE FIELD

August - November 1995

Too far south - too far east - too far north - and too far from the Gulf Stream: this is what some birders give as the reason that Georgia seems not to get quite the number and variety of rarities that neighboring states report. They say we are too far south to get the irruptive winter species that never seem to make it this far south; too far east to get the western strays that seem to make it only about as far east as Alabama; too far north to get the Caribbean strays that make for such exciting birding in Florida and too far from the Gulf Stream, making pelagic trips too long and too expensive unlike North Carolina where the Gulf Stream is a mere twenty miles offshore. In spite of our "too-far-ness", things were not dull this fall. We did miss out on the record Northern Saw-whet Owl invasion to our north, but we did have the first good Red-breasted Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeak flight in many years.

The Mid-West had record numbers of Franklin's Gulls a few of which wandered as far east as Georgia providing our first sightings in a long time. Western hummingbirds definitely made it as far east as Georgia as shown by the record numbers of *selasphorus* hummers we had this fall, including the state's third Allen's, but our "too-far-ness" brought us up short compared to the Alabama coast which saw a Buff-bellied and, amazingly, a Green Violet-ear from way down in Mexico.

Being on the coast during the passage of an offshore hurricane can sometimes be as rewarding as a trip to the Gulf Stream. In early August, Hurricane Erin drove ashore several species of pelagic birds that are often hard to find even on pelagic trips, most notably, a Brown Noddy, which was found exhausted on Sapelo Island. The offshore hurricanes may have accounted for the eye-popping four Magnificent Frigatebirds reported this fall, but I would guess that the weak Hurricane Jerry had nothing to do with the Atlanta area's first sighting of a Roseate Spoonbill (and inside I-285, too). This species has a reputation as a wanderer and they can, and do, turn up regularly inland very far from saltwater.

Warbler migration was tough to judge. Reports from Kennesaw Mt. near Marietta and from the coastal banding stations point to an excellent fall, but, except for a few other places, I received no indication whether Georgia birders thought migration was above normal, normal, or below. Remember, I am just as interested in the species you think are below normal in numbers as I am the vagrants that always make the field reports.

One warbler that appeared in numbers far above normal was the Mourning Warbler. This species usually migrates well west of our state, but this fall our "too-far-eastness" did not stop four from straying here, an amazing number for a bird that can go years without being reported. Single birds were reported from Dawson County in the foothills, Jeykll Island and an amazing two reported in the Atlanta area. Unfortunately, I

saw none of them, so I still have never seen one in Georgia. Read on for more of the many species we did not miss this fall in spite of our "too-farness".

Abbreviations used include: Annotated Checklist - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986, Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10.; ASWMA - Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area near Darien, McIntosh Co.; AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society, Co. - county; CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, north of Atlanta, Cobb Co.; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.; GOS - Georgia Ornithological Society; JIBS - Jekyll Island Banding Station; KBSB - Kings Bay Submarine Base, Camden Co.; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; and SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - SCSP produced this rare Atlanta visitor on 25 Nov. (Pierre Howard). Perhaps it is due to better coverage of the Atlanta area's deep-water lakes that this species has been seen more frequently than in the past.

COMMON LOON - A non-breeding plumaged bird summered at the DeKalb Reservoir, being last seen on 11 Sept. (Jeff Sewell). Paul Sykes noted that he found only one in his survey at the KBSB on 30 Nov.

HORNED GREBE - The peak counts for this species were 11 at SCSP on 20 Nov. (Giff Beaton), 22 at Lake Lanier on 12 Nov. (Jeff Sewell, Patrick Brisse) and 26 on 18 Nov. on Lake Juliette and at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert).

EARED GREBE - It appears that the Rum Creek/Plant Scherer area is the most reliable place in the state to find this species. One bird was reported on 11 Nov. (Terry Johnson), six on 18 Nov. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert) and 11 on 20 Nov. (Pierre Howard).

CORY'S SHEARWATER - On the GOS pelagic trip out of Savannah, Bill Blakeslee et al. counted 45 on 20 Aug.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - One was found alive on St. Simons Island on 3
Aug. following the passage of Hurricane Erin, but died two days later.
On 4 and 5 Aug., four dead birds were found on Sapelo Island's beach (both reports by Brad Winn). Another dead Audubon's was found at South Beach, Jekyll Is. on 6 Aug. (George Griffeth). The 20 Aug. GOS pelagic trip out of Savannah had 20 (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

STORM-PETREL (sp.) - This fall's most momentous weather event, Hurricane Erin, produced a number of pelagic bird sightings along the coast in early August, including three storm-petrels on 2 Aug. off St. Simon's Is., but high winds and seas prevented a more specific identification (Brad Winn).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - An amazing record was a bird which spent about 30 minutes at the ELHLAF on 23 Aug. It was reported by a coworker to Carol Lambert who quickly went up and saw the bird but unfortunately it left before anyone else could get down to the facility. Surprisingly, this is the second record for the ELHLAF as another worker produced a photo of a flock he saw on an adjacent lake just a few years ago. Brad Parks saw five on the very early date of 27 Aug. in

the St. Marys River from the Cumberland Is. ferry. Paul Sykes had two sightings nearby at the KBSB: one on 27 Sept. and three on 29 Sept. Both of these locations are in Camden Co. This species has been seen at these locations for the last several winters.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - An invasion! An amazing total of four reports this period. Larry Edmonds reported one from Jekyll Is. on 3 Aug. that may or may not have been hurricane related. Doris Cohrs saw one in Buttermilk Sound on 19 Aug. at the mouth of the Altamaha River. Lydia Thompson, Brad Winn and Mike Chapman saw one in McIntosh Co. on 20 Aug. also at the mouth of the Altamaha River which could possibly have been the same bird as Doris saw. The last one was seen at Tybee Is. on 7 Oct. by Paul Johnson.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - A very interesting local record for the Atlanta area was the sighting of two birds over Fernbank Forest in

DeKalb Co. on 28 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz).

ANHINGA - The count of 11 at the Macon Brickyard Ponds was rather

impressive for the date of 18 Nov. (Ty Ivey et al.).

AMERICAN BITTERN - Two birds were seen at the ASWMA on 29 Oct. by Ellery McClintock, one was seen at St. Catherines Is. during the month of Oct. by Hunter Patterson and one was seen at the Macon Brickyard Ponds on 18 Nov. (Ty Ivey et al.). This is a good number of reports for this elusive wader.

LEAST BITTERN - One seen in the Macon Brickyard Ponds on 5 Aug. was

unusual for the location (Ty Ivey et al.).

GREAT BLUE HERON - Georgia's first Wurdemann's Heron, a Great Blue/Great White mix, was seen at Youman's Pond, Liberty Co., on 16 Aug. (Giff Beaton). The usual range of this form is the Florida Keys.

GREAT EGRET - There were excellent numbers at the ELHLAF during the period with the peak of 52 counted on 10 Sept. (Gordon McWilliams) falling to two on 28 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Patrick Brisse, Russ Wigh). One on 18 Nov. at Rum Creek WMA, Monroe Co., was late (Brock Hutchins)

SNOWY EGRET - An excellent count of eight was made on 27 Aug. at the Ocmulgee National Monumnet in Macon (Jerry and Marie Amerson).

TRICOLORED HERON - Rare for the piedmont were sightings at the ELHLAF with one on 19 and 21 Aug. (Jeff Sewell, Ted Seckinger) and two on 20 Aug. (Aubrey Scott); at the Macon brickyard ponds where an immature stayed from 5 Aug. through 2 Sept. (Ty Ivey), and not far away at the Ocmulgee National Monument another immature was seen from late Aug. through 9 Sept. (Barbara Edwards, Liza Moreley); in the Peachtree City vicinity on 8 and 12 Sept. (David Cree); one in Laurens Co. on 16 Sept. (Tommy Patterson); and, finally, one at Grassy Pond near Valdosta on 23 and 24 Sept. (Barbara Passmore). This species is becoming a more frequent inland wanderer judging from these sightings and others from recent years.

REDDISH EGRET - Yet again it can be said of this species that its numbers are increasing on the coast. Where only a few years ago (the late 1980s) the report of one would send inland birders to the coast on a chase, now they are expected in the fall at several locations. It is possible they are even breeding in Georgia! Who knows, but so far, no nests have been located. Here is the list by first date of discovery: four immatures at Ossabaw Is. on 16 Aug. (Brad Winn); one on 19 Aug. in Buttermilk Sound (Doris Cohrs); at least four on St. Catherines Is. on 20 Aug.

(Hunter Patterson); one on Sapelo Is. on 20 Aug. (Doris Cohrs); two there on 30 Aug. (Brad Winn); and four still at St. Catherines Is. on 14 Sept. (Brad Winn). After this date, only singles were seen: one on 4 Oct. on Jekyll Is. (Brad Winn) and again on 9 Oct. (Nancy Gobris); Wassau Is. on 7 Oct. (m.ob.); Ossabaw Is. on 9 Oct. (Brad Winn) and at Jekyll Is. (Nancy Gobris) and finally two at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Is. on 10 Oct. (Nancy Gobris). At this rate, this may be the last detailed listing of all the sightings.

CATTLE EGRET - Somewhat rare for the Atlanta area were single birds in the Cartersville area on 5 Aug. by John Swiderski and five at the ELHLAF on 10 Sept. (m.ob.). In Bibb Co. Rebecca Rogers had an excellent count

of 250+ on 11 Sept.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Rather rare for the Macon area was a bird at the Macon Brickyard Ponds on 2 Sept. (Ty Ivey et al.).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Also rare in the area, an immature Yellow-crowned was spotted on 9 Sept. at the Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon (Jerry and Marie Amerson, Nancy Gobris, Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). Could this bird have lingered in the area after nesting season? Two at the KBSB on 11 Oct. were rather late (Paul Sykes).

WHITE IBIS - Gena Dwyer had a good count of 30 in Brooks Co. on 30 Sept.

Paul Sykes and Cam Kepler counted 600 at a heronry at the KBSB on

29 Sept

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - A remarkable season for this species that also seems to be increasing in numbers along the coast, not to mention several very rare inland sightings. Thomasville had its first on 9 Aug. through 10 Sept. (Bobby Crawford), the Atlanta area its first on 19 Aug. (Jim Wilson) and two were way out of range at Eufaula NWR on 30 Sept. (Brock Hutchins). On the coast there were several reports away from the usual site on U.S. 17 south of Brunswick. Cumberland Is. had one on 20 Aug. (Sheila Willis), St. Catherines Is. also had one on 30 Sept. (Hunter Patterson) and one over I-95 at Belfast Siding Road flying in formation with Wood Storks (Brad Winn). Paul Sykes and Cam Kepler counted 12 on 28 Sept. at the KBSB which I believe is a state record count. Five were still there on 11 Oct. (Paul Sykes).

WOOD STORK - This species seems to be faring well both along the coast and inland. The best inland counts were 81 near Dublin on 23 Aug. (Allen Rhodes and Tommy Patterson), 30 in Macon on 24 Aug. (Jerry and Marie Amerson) and 200(!) in Brooks Co. on 30 Sept. (Gena Dwyer),

the high count for the state.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - The few of this species that are seen are usually seen much later in the fall than the 2 Sept. date when Craig Faanes saw seven on Cumberland Is.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The only report was of one bird, first seen on 25 Nov., that remained through the end of the month in Laurens

Co. (Tommy Patterson).

SNOW GOOSE - Five blue phase birds seen at ELHLAF on 2 Nov. (Brock Hutchins) remained for about a week, then on 24 Nov., two birds (one white, one blue) appeared (Mark Davis). On 25 Nov., Tommy Patterson saw seven in Laurens Co. An adult seen 28 Sept. and 11 Oct. at the King's Bay Submarine Base in Camden Co. with feral Canada Geese has been there since the fall of 1994.

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CANADA GOOSE (Richardson's) - A very small Canada Goose arrived at SCSP in late Aug. (Hal Massey) and was last seen on 26 Nov. (Jeff Sewell). Only slightly larger than the Mallards whose company it preferred to that of its larger "normal" sized Canada cousins nearby, it was thought to be of the race hutchinisii (Richardson's Goose) meaning that it was way off course for its usual Gulf Coast wintering grounds, though it is possible that it was an escaped bird.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - A rather early bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 23
Sept. by Patrick Brisse (AAS). A good count of 23 was made at
ELHLAF on 4 Nov. by Jeff Sewell. Nine tallied on 5 Nov. at the
Lower Ocmulgee State Park, Wheeler/Telfair Cos., were the first seen

there by Dan and Pam Guynn.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - One bird spent much of August at the ELHLAF (m.ob.) and another spent most of August at a small pond near Macon (Nancy Gobris) for rare summer records. Seven in a group were seen on 30 Nov. at King's Bay Submarine Base, Camden Co. (Paul Sykes, Joe Meyer).

MOTTLED DUCK - Brad Bergstrom reported two of this species from the

ASWMA area on 10 Sept.

NORTHERN PINTAIL - On 9 Oct. Paul Sykes noted nine in Greene Co. where

they are rare.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - This species moved through the state in good numbers with the high count being 1500 at the KBSB on 29 Sept. (Paul Sykes, Cam Kepler).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Two birds were early at Cartersville on 18 Sept. (Giff Beaton). On 29 Sept., Paul Sykes saw 106 and on 28 Nov. had 109 at the KBSB. Dan and Pam Guynn saw one at the Lower Ocmulgee State Park, Wheeler/Telfair Cos. on 5 Nov., their first for that location.

GADWALL - Two arrived at the ELHLAF on 22 Oct., peaking at 13 on 4 Nov. (Jeff Sewell). A flock of 35 was reported at Lake Juliette, Monroe Co. (Brock Hutchins et al.) and 31 were seen on 28 Nov. at KBSB (Paul Sykes).

CANVASBACK - This uncommon inland transient was seen on two occasions: one at SCSP on 19 Nov. (Paul Raney) through 26 Nov. (Karen Theodorou) and a good count of 11 at Lake Juliette, Monroe Co. (Brock Hutchins et al.). Not all that more common on the coast were 12 on 24 Nov. at Jekyll Is. (Billy and Brenda Dunbar).

REDHEAD - This species was reported from a few sites, as usual, with the best count coming at a flooded field in Greene Co. with 27 on 25 Nov. seen

by Paul Sykes who says they are very unusual in that area.

RING-NECKED DUCK - The male which spent the summer at the ELHLAF remained there at least until the first migrants started to show up in Oct. (m.ob.).

GREATER SCAUP - The only reports came from the ELHLAF. On 5 Nov., Carol Lambert and Patrick Brisse spotted a female among the many Lesser Scaup, then on 12 Nov., a male was seen (Bill Blakeslee). Two males were noted on 25 Nov. (Jeff Sewell) and finally two males and three females were reported by Brad Bergstrom on 26 Nov.

OLDSQUAW - A record early arrival for the state was a single bird at Jekyll Island on 15 Nov. by Paul Raney. The same or another bird was also seen at Jekyll Island 23 and 24 Nov. by Billy and Brenda Dunbar.

BLACK SCOTER - The 44 seen off Jekyll Is. on 11 Oct. set a new early arrival date for the state (Nancy Gobris, Jerry and Marie Amerson, Dan and

Pam Guynn). The flock there grew to about 3000 on 17 Nov. (Pierre Howard).

SURF SCOTER - Three were seen at Jekyll Island 23-24 Nov. by Billy and Brenda Dunbar.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - This rare sea duck was seen off Jekyll Is. (two) on 15 Nov. (Paul Raney) and several were seen there a few days later on 23 Nov. (Billy and Brenda Dunbar). Plant Scherer, Monroe Co., produced one on 18 Nov. (Todd Schneider), this being only the third ever seen there.

BUFFLEHEAD - A pair seen on 5 Nov. at the Lower Ocmulgee State Park, Wheeler/Telfair Cos., was the first Dan and Pam Guynn have seen there, KBSB produced 150 on 28 Nov. (Paul Sykes).

HOODED MERGANSER - A count of 51 was good at the ELHLAF on 16

Nov. (Paul Raney).

COMMON MERGANSER - This extremely rare species was reported in the tidal creek at the Marshes of Glynn Overlook, Brunswick, on 26 Nov., when a female was seen with Red-breasted Mergansers (Billy and Brenda Dunbar). Any sighting of this species should be documented!

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - A good count for an inland location was the

45 seen at Lake Juliette on 16 Nov. (Terry Johnson)

RUDDY DUCK - SCSP hosted a good number of this species during the month of November with the count going from 17 on 2 Nov. (Paul Raney) to 71 on 26 Nov. (Karen Theodorou). On the coast at KBSB the number grew from one on 13 Oct. to 88 on 28 Nov. (Paul Sykes)

TURKEY VULTURE - The migration of this species is generally ignored so the following observations are worth noting. Giff Beaton and Bruce Dralle saw 87 at KMT on 4 Nov. Also on 4 Nov. Jeff Sewell had 100 in DeKalb Co. and the next day Carol Lambert saw 120 at the ELHLAF.

OSPREY - It seems that fewer birds were seen around the state this fall, at least fewer were reported. Odd for such an urban location was one seen over Fernbank Forest, DeKalb Co., on 19 Sept. (Georgann Schmalz). Four reports of migrating birds from the Atlanta area clustered around 26-28 Sept. Late for the Atlanta area was one seen over KMT on 4 Nov. (Bruce Dralle et al.).

MISSISSIPPI KITE - A good count of four was reported from Laurens Co. on 19 Aug. (Tommy Patterson et al.). Four were also reported in August in the Macon area (Ken Clark). A record late bird was reported from Wassau Is. on 7 Oct. (Brad Bergstrom, Mark Welford). Sightings which establish an early arrival date or a late departure date of a species, or are unusual for the location, should be written up in *The Oriole*.

BALD EAGLE - Reports of as many as nine birds were received from the Atlanta area south to the coast, the most notable of which was of two seen building a nest on Wassau Is. on 7 Oct. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert).

NORTHERN HARRIER - Early arrivals were seen in the Cartersville area on 3 Sept. (Kevin Danchisen, Pierre Howard, et al.) and in Bibb Co. on 5

Sept. (Pam Guynn).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - For the first time in several years there were good numbers of this hawk reported from the Atlanta area. After a period of several days of rain and low clouds good weather returned on 26-27 Sept. just in time for these hawks to move through. Kevin Danchisen reported a good count on 26 Sept. with 200+ at Blackjack Mt. in Cobb

County. The same day, Bruce Dralle and Giff Beaton had 422 at KMT. On 27 Sept. Peggy Moore had 100+ just north of KMT, Bill Blakeslee and Giff Beaton had 222 at KMT and Terry Moore and Ernie Clarke had a single flock of 600-700 along the Chattahoochee River in Cobb Co. several miles south of KMT.

MERLIN - A rare find for the Atlanta area was a bird seen at KMT on 6 Oct. by Giff Beaton. Brad Bergstrom and Gena Dwyer spotted one near Valdosta on 15 Oct. Three reports of individual birds came from the

coast in the period from late Sept. through Oct.

PEREGRINE FALCON - This species was well reported during the period. At least one pair continued to inhabit the downtown Atlanta area being seen on many occasions during the period (Chris Geller, Lee Adams). Three other reports of single birds came from areas just outside Atlanta. Singles were seen in Bainbridge on 9 Sept. (Rich Waldrop), in Laurens Co. on 3 Aug. (Tommy Patterson), but it was on the coast, as usual, that the most were reported: at the GOS Fall Meeting in Savannah, six were seen on Blackbeard Is. on 7 Oct. (Bill Blakeslee, John Metz), four the same day on Wassau Is. (Jeff Sewell) and on 11 Oct., two were seen at KBSB (Paul Sykes). Several other singles were seen along the coast during the month of Oct.

BLACK RAIL - This rare species was heard at the ASWMA on 9 Sept. by Brad

Bergstrom.

CLAPPER RAIL - Paul Sykes counted very good numbers during his surveys at

KBSB: 55 on 29 Sept. and 133 from 28-30 Nov.

KING RAIL - Rare for the location was one seen at the CRNRA, Cochran Shoals section in Cobb Co. on 15 Sept. (Jack Carusos). One was noted at a marsh in Greene Co. on three occasions between 14 Oct. and 25 Nov. (Paul Sykes, Billy Dunbar).

VIRGINIA RAIL - At the Greene County marsh, Paul Sykes and Billy Dunbar recorded 10-14 birds on 14 Oct. Four were found at a marsh in the

vicinity of KMT on 26 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).

SORA - At the ASWMA on 10 Sept., "many" were reported (Brad Bergstrom, Gena Dwyer) and at a marsh in Greene Co., between 16 Sept. and 28 Nov. Paul Sykes averaged about 8 per visit for 8 visits, including a high count of 22 on 14 Oct.

GALLINULE (sp.) - Nelson Dobbs and Bill Allen reported seeing an immature

gallinule on 2 Sept. at the Arrowhead Hatchery near Rome.

AMERICAN COOT - One or two have been found in the Atlanta area for the last several years. This season, single birds spent all summer and greeted wintering birds at the ELHLAF and the DeKalb Reservoir (Jeff Sewell). Over three days, 28-30 Nov., 6800 were tallied at KBSB (Paul Sykes).

SANDHILL CRANE - There were about 20 reports totalling about 1500 birds but these observations were pretty well scattered all during the month of Nov. and there didn't appear to be very much "clumping" of the migration.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Very rare for the Atlanta area were two reports of this species - single birds in Bartow County on 1 Oct. (Nelson

Dobbs) and at the ELHLAF on 5 Oct. (Carol Lambert).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - More birders covering more sod farms have greatly increased the reported numbers of this species that, not too many years ago, was considered a very rare migrant. At the sod farm near Statesboro, one was seen on 24 Aug. and two on 29 Sept. (Ray

Chandler). Nelson Dobbs saw six on 2 Sept. at a sod farm near Cartersville where they were seen through 18 Sept. (m.ob.). The sod farm in Peach Co., which usually has the most, this year produced only one report, that of one on 4 Sept. (Jerry and Marie Amerson), Nancy Gobris, Paul Johnson). Finally, Paul Sykes tallied two on 29 Sept. at KBSB, the latest sighting reported.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - On his surveys at KBSB, Paul Sykes counted

830 on 29 Sept., an excellent count.

PIPING PLOVER - Brad Winn had an excellent count of 17 at Ossabaw Island on 9 Oct.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Brad Bergstrom reported 26 from Andrews Island near Brunswick on 10 Sept. for a good count and Paul Sykes counted 24

on 29 Sept. at KBSB.

AMERICAN AVOCET - This species seems to be slowly increasing both in its usual locations near Brunswick and at KBSB where Paul Sykes has been doing official surveys. Sykes counted 77 on 28 Sept. and 56 on 28 Nov. Mike Chapman reported 100 at Andrews Is. near Brunswick on about 15 Nov. (fide Pierre Howard), this being considerably more than are usually reported in this area.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - One bird was rather late at the ELHLAF on 10

Nov. (David Cree).

WILLET - One inland sighting from Bulloch Co. on 10 Aug. (Ray Chandler) was rare enough but 21 in the Atlanta area, at the ELHLAF, on 21 Aug. was truly outstanding (Ted Seckinger).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - A late bird was seen at the CRNRA on 28 Oct. by

Bill Blakeslee.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Although this species can regularly be found at a particular farm in Laurens Co. in the spring, they are much less common in the fall. Allen Rhodes found one there on 15 Aug. Also noteworthy was the one seen on 20 Aug. in Bulloch Co. (Ray Chandler).

WHIMBREL - Small numbers could be found along the coast early in the period, as was the case during the summer perhaps indicating that a few spent the entire summer on the Georgia coast. However, the reports here could also have been of migrants: on 6 Aug., Shiela Willis counted 10 on Jekyll Is., and on 16 Aug. Giff Beaton saw 15 on St. Simons Is. On the next day Giff had 15 on Jekyll Is.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - One bird was seen at St. Catherines Island on 16
Oct. by Hunter Patterson. Two birds were seen at Ossabaw Island on

26 Nov. (Brad Winn) and 28 Nov. (Steve Kyles).

MARBLED GODWIT - Two birds were seen at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Is. from 19 Aug. (Paul Raney) through 10 Oct. (Nancy Gobris et al.).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Very rare for an inland area was a Ruddy Turnstone at the ELHLAF from 11 Sept. (Bruce Hallett, Carol Lambert) through 20 Sept. (Carol Lambert). On 29 Sept. Paul Sykes had a good count of 162 at KBSB.

RED KNOT - Only a few reports were received, indicating that either there were very few seen, or most birders did not report them. Seven were seen by Bill Blakeslee on 19 Aug. at Jekyll Is. and four on Wassau Is. on 7 Oct.

(Mark Welford et al.).

SANDERLING - There were two inland reports, both on 9 Sept.: a sod farm in Bartow Co. had one (Nelson Dobbs) and two were seen at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell et al.) which remained for four days (m.ob.).

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - The ELHLAF hosted 35 on 3 Aug., a good count for there (Jeff Sewell), but more impressive by far was the report of 8060 on 29 Sept. at KBSB by Paul Sykes who speculates that this may be the highest number ever counted in Georgia.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - To go with the numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers referred to above, Paul Sykes had about 17,000 at KBSB on 29 Sept.,

which he thinks may also be the state's highest count ever.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Eighty-four birds consisting of 81 juveniles and three adults managed to crowd into a small marshy pond on the sod farm near Statesboro in Bulloch Co. on 12 Sept. (Ray Chandler).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - The Atlanta area had one of this rare fall migrant on 6
Sept. when one was seen at a sod farm near Cartersville (Nelson
Dobbs) and another single bird spent three days, beginning 23 Aug., at
the Bulloch Co. sod farm (John Parrish fide Ray Chandler).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - The Bulloch Co. sod farm produced the high count for this species with 208 on 25 Aug. (Ray Chandler). One at the

ELHLAF on 12 Nov. was rather late (Bill Blakeslee).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The only reliable spot in Georgia for this species, the north end of Tybee Is., was reliable again for Ray Chandler who saw two there on 27 Nov.

DUNLIN - Unusual for the Atlanta area were single birds at the ELHLAF on 25

Sept. and again from 26 through 29 Oct. (Carol Lambert).

STILT SANDPIPER - A very good fall at the ELHLAF for this rather uncommon inland migrant, where they were present off and on from 27 Aug. (one bird, Jeff Sewell) through 2 Oct. (one bird, Carol Lambert) with the high count of ten on 24 Sept. (Bill Blakeslee). In his 1981 "Birds of the Atlanta Area" (Oriole 46:21) Patrick Brisse described this species as "accidental". Elsewhere, the Peach Co. sod farm hosted one, seen 26 and 29 Aug. (Nancy Gobris, Giff Beaton) and the sod farm near Statesboro had one on 30 Sept. (Ray Chandler).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - The three sod farms previously referred to proved good habitat for this species that used to be very difficult to find. With two exceptions, the sightings all came from the three sod farms beginning on 26 Aug. (seven at the Peach Co. sod farm, Nancy Gobris, Jerry and Marie Amerson) and ending on 18 Sept. (three at the Bartow Co. sod farm, Giff Beaton). High counts are these: ten at the Peach Co. location on 3 Sept. (Dan and Pam Guynn, Jerry and Marie Amerson) and ten at the Bartow Co. site on 9 Sept. (Nelson Dobbs). The two exceptions mentioned are St. Catherines Island's first record on 20 Aug. (Hunter Patterson) and one that stayed three days at the ELHLAF beginning on 23 Sept. (Patrick Brisse).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Close scrutiny of the ELHLAF ponds since the mid-1980's has shown that a few of this species visit there in the fall. This fall one was there on 29 Aug. and two on 5 Sept. (Carol Lambert-both sightings) and four on 14 Oct. (Jeff Sewell). Paul Sykes

counted a flock of 500 at KBSB on 29 Sept.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Only very occasionally do we see this species, especially inland. Tommy Patterson noticed two in Laurens Co. on 28 Oct. and Paul Sykes discovered a small flock (19) on 28 Nov. at the KBSB. Identification was confirmed by the call notes, distinct from Short-billed Dowitchers, and the only reliable way to separate the two species in winter plumage.

COMMON SNIPE - Two rather early birds were seen in Peach County on 26 Aug. by Nancy Gobris and Jerry and Marie Amerson.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - The only report was a single bird in Laurens

County on 3 Oct. by Tommy Patterson.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - Five birds were seen on 20 Aug. on the GOS pelagic trip out of Savannah (Bill Blakeslee).

PARASITIC JAEGER - Occasionally this species is seen on a barrier island as was one immature bird on the beach at Wassau Is. on 8 Oct. during the GOS fall meeting (Paul Johnson, Bill Blakeslee).

LAUGHING GULL - Rare inland, two were found at the Walter F. George Dam, Clay Co., on 11 Nov. (Adam Byrne). I don't know too many birders who would count the Laughing Gulls on the south end of Jekyll

Is., but on 29 Sept., Paul Sykes counted 4,000 of them.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - One of the rarest sightings of the period was a single Franklin's Gull which briefly appeared (1.5 hr) at the ELHLAF on 28 Oct. and then disappeared (Russ Wigh, Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell). This is the second Atlanta area record and the eleventh for the state. Georgia's 12th record occurred when two birds were seen at the Walter F. George Dam below Georgetown on 11 Nov. (Adam Byrne). Unfortunately the birds did not remain at that spot.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - A good count for the Atlanta area was 17 on 26 Nov.

at SCSP (Giff Beaton).

RING-BILLED GULL - A rather amazing local sighting was a single Ring-billed Gull over Fernbank Forest in DeKalb County on 30 Sept. (Georgann Schmalz, AAS).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Considering the coverage on the coast this fall, I am a little surprised that a few more of this species weren't reported. Three adults were on Wassau Is. on 7 and 8 Oct. for the GOS field trip (Jeff Sewell, Bill Blakeslee) and one was seen 8 Oct. at Tybee Is. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). Please continue to look for and report this species and don't overlook the immature birds.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Fourteen was a good count on 10 Oct. at

St. Simons Is. (Nancy Gobris et al.).

GULL-BILLED TERN - The old marina at Jekyll Is. produced a very good count, 12, on 19 Aug. (Bill Blakeslee) and Paul Sykes had one at KBSB on 29 Sept.

CASPIAN TERN - On 25 Sept., Tommy Patterson saw three in Laurens Co., only the second county record.

ROYAL TERN - To go with his 4,000 Laughing Gulls (see above), Paul Sykes tallied 1200 Royal Terns at the south end of Jekyll Is. on 29 Sept.

COMMON TERN - An unusual number of this species and Forster's Terns visited the ELHLAF this fall, where both species are rare. On 23 Sept. a mixed flock of 35 was seen (Patrick Brisse). The next day, twenty birds were identified as this species (Brock Hutchins) and on 25 Sept. three Common Terns were seen (Carol Lambert). Two adults were seen in Bulloch Co. (Ray Chandler) and a single bird was seen in Macon on 5 Oct. (Paul Johnson).

FORSTER'S TERN - Of the flock that visited the ELHLAF (see Common Tern), eight were identified as Forster's, on 24 Sept. (Bill Blakeslee) and 25 Sept. (Carol Lambert) A solo transient visited Lake Wildwood in

Macon on 5 Oct. (Paul Johnson).

BRIDLED TERN - On the 20 Aug. GOS pelagic trip eight birds were seen by Bill Blakeslee et al.

SOOTY TERN - Brad Winn saw ten in the St. Simons Is. area on 2 Aug. thanks to Hurricane Erin which passed up the coast. A few days later, on 5 Aug., one was found dead on Sapelo Is. (also Brad Winn) and the 20 Aug. GOS pelagic trip counted eight (Bill Blakeslee). Very unusual was the injured bird found on 24 Sept. in a pasture following a storm near St. George in Charlton Co. Sheila Willis identified it and took it to a rehabilitation facility but it died a few days later.

BLACK TERN - Hurricane Erin deposited 200-300 birds on St. Simons Is. on 2 Aug. (Brad Winn) and about 200 were seen on the GOS 20 Aug. pelagic trip out of Savannah (Bill Blakeslee). As usual, scattered reports came from all over the state of small numbers passing through with the most interesting report being of two rather late birds at KBSB on 28

Sept. (Pauk Sykes).

BROWN NODDY - Brad Winn reported that a DNR biology intern, Laura Feakes, found an exhausted bird on 8 Aug. at Sapelo Is., apparently driven ashore by Hurricane Erin. She approached the bird to within 3-4 m but as far as I know, took no photographs. Details should be submitted, but to date have not been received. This would be only the eighth Georgia sighting according to my records.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - This recent invader continues to increase. Sightings in several new places were received, as follows: 23 Aug., two in Madison (Billy Dunbar), on 26 Aug., five in Blakely (Dot Freeman) and on 12 Sept., two near Wrens (Anselm Atkins, Margaret Kavanaugh). A colony in St. Marys of as many as 16 was seen during the period (Brian Quigley).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - The only reports were single birds seen in Rabun County on 1 Sept. by Mark Oberle and at KMT on 23 Sept. by Jeff

Sewell, Billy Dunbar and Chuck Saleeby.

BURROWING OWL - Rick Waldrop visited the Bainbridge site that has hosted this species this year and was rewarded by seeing one there on 9 Sept.

SHORT-EARED OWL - Rare anywhere in the state was a bird near Lawrenceville on 12 Nov. (Joel Volpi). Unfortunately this bird could not be relocated.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK - The best counts were 100+ seen in the Marietta area on 5 Sept. by Kevin Danchisen and at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Fulton County, Greg Greer saw 140+ on 2 Oct. and 250+ on 9 Oct.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Late calling birds were heard in Roswell 21-23 Aug. (Terry Moore), in Decatur 10 Sept. (Anselm Atkins, Margaret Kavanaugh) and on the coast on 11 Oct. in McIntosh Co. near Cox (Brad Winn), 27 Nov. on Cumberland Is. (Sheila Willis) and, finally, on 28 Nov. at KBSB (Paul Sykes). These coastal birds may winter.

CHIMNEY SWIFT - I wonder how many of us do not notice the fall migration of this species? Greg Greer noted huge numbers moving along the Chattahoochee River in the Roswell area on 11 Sept. and 9 Oct., Jeff Sewell counted about 200 at the ELHLAF on 14 Oct. and Paul Sykes saw large flocks in Greene Co. on 30 Sept. (40). 7 Oct. (64), 9 Oct. (80) with the last three departing birds on 22 Oct.

HUMMINGBIRD, HUGE (sp.) - Helen Duncan of Augusta saw a huge hummingbird, larger than a chickadee, on 25 and 26 Sept., but

unfortunately was unable to get photographs.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Good numbers were reported from around the state. It seems they are staying longer now than 6-7 years

ago. Good counts of non-feeder related birds were 13 at KMT on 13 Aug. (Kevin Danchisen) and 12 at the CRNRA on 26 Aug. (Helen Ogren). Buddy Rowe of Newborn in Newton Co. estimated that he had 50-60 in his yard at season's peak and several observers reported smaller numbers at feeders well into Oct. Two birds stayed in the Atlanta area as late as 28 Nov., one in Villa Rica and one in Acworth (Richard Cole).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - An immature male was reported from the Summerville area on 1 Sept. by David Brown. Hopefully details of

this sighting will be documented in The Oriole.

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRDS - The first bird appeared at a feeder in Crabapple on the early date of 28 Sept. (Helen Ogren). This particular bird was felt to be a Rufous Hummingbird. By the end of the period there were at least 10 reports of birds around the state.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - Georgia's third record of this rarity was banded at Macon on 19 Nov. (Donna and Duane Berger fide Bob Sargent).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - A very good fall for this rather rare transient as we usually get no more than one sighting, if that. Billy Dunbar reported single birds at Eatonton on 11 Aug. and at Athens on 30 Aug. Other single birds were seen at KMT on 19 Sept. (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard) and at Piedmont Park in downtown Atlanta on 23 Sept. (Richard Ellenberg).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - A great season for this rarely reported migrant! On 24 Aug. one was seen in Whitfield Co. (Rick Waldrop) and, amazingly, three spent several days beginning on 16 Sept. at the Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, spaced out along a trail as

though on territory (Jerry Amerson).

EASTERN PHOEBE - This is another species we often don't notice during its migratory movements. Two reports of interest were received: ten arrivals on 15 Oct. in Lowndes Co. (Brad Bergstrom) and 45 counted over a two day period at KBSB (Paul Sykes) on 29-30 Nov.

GRAY KINGBIRD - One bird was seen in Brunswick on 19 Aug. (Bill Blakeslee) giving rise to speculation that a pair may be breeding there as

they have been seen in town a few times in recent years.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - This rare species was seen in Houston Co. on 3 Sept. by George Griffeth.

HORNED LARK - Eight birds were seen in the Macon area on 29 Aug. by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen. Twenty birds were seen at Sod Atlanta near Cartersville on 18 Sept. by Giff Beaton.

TREE SWALLOW - Bettering the late departure date in the Annotated Checklist by three days were two seen on 18 Nov. at Lake Spivey in Henry Co.

(Patrick Brisse).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - The sight of 100+ migrating birds on 21 Aug. in Houston Co. was noteworthy (Dan and Pam Guynn) as was 30 on 26 Aug. at the CRNRA (Helen Ogren).

BANK SWALLOW - As usual only a few were reported: two on 27 Aug. at the ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell) and one on 10 Sept. at the same location (Bill Blakeslee). Tommy Patterson reported unusually high numbers for the

period in Laurens Co., seen in early Aug.

CLIFF SWALLOW - Perhaps the most ever seen at the ELHLAF were recorded on 24 Sept. (15) by Bill Blakeslee et al. and a bird that shatters the Annotated Checklist late date of 20 Sept. was reported at the Rum Creek WMA, Monroe Co., by Barbara Edwards and Lil James (fide Paul Johnson) on 16 Nov. This sighting should be documented in The Oriole.

BLUE JAY - We don't think of this species as a migrant, but Paul Sykes has studied the seasonal movements of several species usually thought of as residents, including Blue Jays. On 9 Oct. he counted 52 in a migrating flock on the Oconee River in Greene Co.

COMMON RAVEN - Two reports: one bird on 25 Nov. from Tray Mt., Towns/Rabun counties (Dot Freeman) and one from the usually reliable

Rabun Bald, Rabun Co., on 9 Nov. (Kevin Danchisen).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - This species invaded in numbers not seen in the last ten years. Most sightings were of singles, with a few doubles here and there and three in Duluth on 25 Oct. which stayed for several days (Karen Theodorou) and at least four coming to a feeder beginning 24 Nov. in Adairsville (Terri and Noel Holcomb). A total of 28 were reported beginning on 1 Sept. and continuing throughout the period.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH - One bird was seen in Macon where they are rare (Dan Guynn, Paul Johnson, Ty Ivey - no date given).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH - Reminding us once again that birds can fly were two coming to a feeder in Dalton in Oct. (Harriett DiGioia). The species has historically been absent in the mountains but there is evidence that it has expanded its range northward in recent years.

BROWN CREEPER - Early reports came from KMT on 11 Oct. by Giff Beaton and 19 Oct. at Blackjack Mt. in Cobb County by Kevin Danchisen.

WINTER WREN - A bird seen on 10 Sept. in Cartersville (John Swiderski) equals the early arrival date for the state and beats by a month the Atlanta area arrival date.

SEDGE WREN - One bird was seen at the CRNRA on 14 Oct. (Mark Oberle, AAS) and 4+ were found in a small marsh at the KMT on 19 Oct. (Giff Beaton). Two were at the same marsh on 5 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell) and six were there on 26 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett). At the Macon brickyard ponds, six or eight were found on 18 Nov. (Ty Ivey).

MARSH WREN - A few turned up inland as usual: a marsh in Greene Co. had one on 16 Sept. (Paul Sykes et al.) and 17 Oct. (Pierre Howard) and in

Macon, one was seen on 18 Nov. (Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - The first migrant was a bird near the ELHLAF on 12 Sept. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). An amazing total of 118 was counted over three days at KBSB beginning on 28 Nov. (Paul Sykes).

VEERY - A few intrepid birders counted incoming thrushes before dawn at KMT. On 27 Sept. 22 Veeries were tallied and the next day 7 (Giff Beaton et al.). Otherwise very few reports were received.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - More reports than usual of this species were received and it far outnumbered Veery reports this fall. The Atlanta area had 16 birds between 14 Sept. and 15 Oct. (m.ob.), Macon one on 15 Oct. (Barbara Edwards) and one at KBSB on 12 Oct. (Paul Sykes).

BICKNELL'S THRUSH - The recent split of this species from the Gray-cheeked Thrush by the American Ornithologists' Union (The Auk 106:819, July 1995) presents birders with a very difficult identification problem. Brad Bergstrom saw two thrushes on 15 Oct. near Valdosta which he described as probable Bicknell's (fide Mark Oberle). I have re-read the article in Birding magazine on the field identification of Bicknell's Thrush (27:358) and a follow-up comment in Birding (28:275). The conclusion reached is, I think it reasonable to say, that away from their

breeding grounds and under field conditions the Bicknell's Thrush cannot be safely distinguished from the Newfoundland race of the Graycheeked Thrush.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Good counts were made at KMT and Fernbank Forest during the period with 25-30 seen at KMT on 1 Oct. (Billy and Brenda Dunbar) and the 32 heard before dawn on 6 Oct. (Giff Beaton) being the high counts. There were few reports from any other locations.

HERMIT THRUSH - The 52 counted on KBSB between 28 and 30 Nov. was a

remarkable number (Paul Sykes).

BROWN THRASHER - On 7 Oct., 27 were tallied in a small area in Greene Co., indicating migratory movement (Paul Sykes). Also see Paul's

report on migratory Blue Jays.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - That 27 were counted on the KBSB between 28 and 30 Nov. was good news for a species experiencing serious declines in many areas of its breeding range (Paul Sykes). One seen in the mountain region in Whitfield Co. by Harriett DiGioia on 21 Nov. was unusual as the species is thought to be absent from the mountains.

SOLITARY VIREO - An early bird was seen at KMT on 19 Aug. by Jeff Sewell et al. Generally this species lives up to its name and is seen singly or in small numbers but Giff Beaton had 11 at KMT on 23 Oct. The total of 19 seen by Paul Sykes in his survey of KBSB between 28 and 30 Nov. was a good count for a coastal location.

WARBLING VIREO - This species was reported only once - one bird was seen

at KMT on 18 Sept. by Chuck Hunter.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Intense coverage of several area hotspots produced a record number of this very uncommon migrant. Approximately ten birds were seen between 16 Sept. and 11 Oct., mostly at KMT (m.ob.). Hunter Patterson had one near Dublin on 16 Sept. and one was seen at the Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, on 15 Oct. (Barbara Edwards).

WARBLER MIGRATION (IN GENERAL) - Poor numbers were reported from several locations this fall (e.g. Fernbank Forest), but KMT again proved to be a migrant trap, giving the appearance, at least there, that migration

was at normal levels.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - One seen on 2 Oct. on Blackjack Mt., Cobb Co., was fairly late for the location (Kevin Danchisen).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - Reported from 13 Aug. (three by Bruce

Dralle) through 6 Oct. (one, Kevin Danchisen) at KMT, the high count being six on 19 Sept. (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard). No other reports were received.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - This hybrid of the Blue-winged and Goldenwinged Warblers was reported twice: one on 18 Sept. in Macon (Barbara Edwards) and one on 20 Sept. in Peachtree City (David Cree). It would be interesting to get details of all sightings of Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids since there is so much variation in their plumages.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - Two late birds were seen at KMT on 1 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen) and one bird was at Dublin on 3 Nov. (Giff

Beaton, Tommy Patterson).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - Establishing a new early arrival date by four days for the Atlanta area was one seen on 23 Sept. at KMT (Jeff Sewell).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - The most reliable place in the state for this species seems to be KMT as sightings of at least one bird were made there on six occasions between 16 Sept. and 7 Oct. with three being seen on 27 Sept. (Giff Beaton) and two on 7 Oct. (Bruce Dralle, Pierre Howard). Elsewhere, one was banded at JIBS in Oct. (Don Cohrs).

YELLOW WARBLER - One seen on 5 Aug. in Macon (Ty Ivey) was unusual

for so early in the season.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - An excellent day was had on 16 Sept. when 20 were

counted at the CRNRA (Jack Carusos et al.).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Besting the Annotated Checklist early arrival date by 14 days was one seen by Doris Cohrs near Darien on 2 Aug. Two late departures were seen at KMT on 24 Oct. (Giff

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - For a "negative" count, only one was reported from the fall migration walks at Fernbank Forest, DeKalb Co., that on 9

Sept. (Georgann Schmalz).

PALM WARBLER - On the GOS fall field trip, 70 were counted on Skidaway

Is. on 8 Oct. (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - Another "negative" count from Fernbank Forest, DeKalb Co., as only four were reported and those were all seen on 28 Oct. (Georgann Schmalz). I had more than that in my yard in Tucker - really odd! At KMT, a rather late bird was seen on 1 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen).

CERULEAN WARBLER - KMT produced an amazing count of 32 on 13 Aug. (Kevin Danchisen, Giff Beaton) and one seen on 27 Sept., also at KMT. was an Atlanta area fall departure record by five days (Giff Beaton).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - One would not expect to see this species in the dry, upland hardwood forest at KMT, but proving once again that in migration anything might be seen anywhere, one bird was seen there on the rather early date of 21 Aug. (Bruce Dralle, Giff Beaton), this being the first sighting of the species on the mountain.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - One bird banded in Oct. at JIBS was the only report (Don Cohrs). My records indicate this is the eleventh time the

species has been banded at JIBS since banding started in 1978.

MOURNING WARBLER - A remarkable number of reports were received this fall for this very rare species. On 2 Sept., one was in the Dawson Forest, Dawson Co. (Jack Carusos, John Paget)), Terry Moore saw one on 7 Sept. at the CRNRA, Cobb Co., and Don Cohrs reported that he banded one at JIBS on 7 Oct. only the second in 18 years of banding. This is quite amazing as only four have been reported over the last 10 years.

WILSON'S WARBLER - Three this migration season was a good number. Singles were reported 27 Sept. in Atlanta (Bill Summerhour), on 14 Oct. banded at Jekyll Is. (fide Brad Bergstrom) and one seen in

Valdosta on 15 Oct. (Brad Bergstrom).

SCARLET TANAGER - Georgia's late fall departure date was shattered by two late sightings: on 12 Nov., a winter plumaged male was seen in Forsyth Co. (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell) and an even later record was established on 19 Nov. when a similarly plumaged bird was seen near Athens (Marion Dobbs). See The Oriole 60:90 and 60:92 for details of these two sightings.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - On 1 and 2 Aug. John Kiser observed a young female on Johns Mountain in NE Pickens Co. and speculated that it may have hatched nearby, but it can not be ruled out that the bird had moved south from higher mountains further north where it is known that

DICKCISSEL - Once again, one or two were seen. On 9 Oct. and then again on 14 Oct. one bird was seen in Greene Co. (Paul Sykes, Billy Dunbar).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - This fall saw a small invasion of this rare species with all sightings coming from the coast where we expect them, with the two coastal banding operations providing most of the reports. JIBS banded two between 7 Oct, and 16 Oct. (Don Cohrs) and at the Butler Is. Banding Station near Darien, two also were banded in Oct. (Doris Cohrs). Other reports: Pierre Howard saw one on Jekyll Is. on 16 Oct. near the banding station and on 23 Nov. two were reported at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Is. where they have been seen before (Billy and Brenda Dunbar).

VESPER SPARROW - Six seen on the coast at KBSB on 30 Nov. was a good find (Paul Sykes).

LARK SPARROW - Three sightings in one season is two more than I recall ever being seen in one season! Near downtown Marietta, Richard and Nancy Cole photographed a bird on 2 Sept. with other "city" birds coming to seed tossed out in a parking lot at the rear of their office park. On 28 Sept., one was seen on St. Catherines Is. (Hunter Patterson) and finally on 16 Oct., one was seen on Jekyll Is. (Don Cohrs, Pierre Howard).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Interesting sightings included one seen on the coast where they are rare on 28 Sept. at KBSB (Paul Sykes) and a late

bird on 28 Oct. at the CRNRA (Bill Blakeslee).

SONG SPARROW - Rather impressive counts of winter arrivals or migrants were made in Greene Co. on 18 Nov. (110) and 25 Nov. (105) by Paul

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Three reports were received of this rare transient. On 28 Oct. Paul Sykes saw two in Greene Co., on 29 Oct., one was seen at Berry College, Rome (Nelson Dobbs) and Brad Bergstrom saw one in a very unlikely location, the Carter Center near downtown Atlanta on 26 Nov.

SWAMP SPARROW - Besting the Annotated Checklist fall arrival date by two days was one seen on 30 Sept. in Greene Co. (Paul Sykes) who also

counted 60 on 25 Nov. in the same location.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Good numbers of this species were also reported. Billy and Brenda Dunbar had two noteworthy sightings in Watkinsville at their feeder. First was a record early fall arrival on 4 Oct. (one bird) and on 7 Nov. they saw a banded bird that was returning to their yard for the third year in a row. On 16 Oct. Pierre Howard saw one on Jekyll Is. where they are rare. The Carter Center in downtown Atlanta on 26 Nov. was a great place for sparrows (see Lincoln's above) as Brad Bergstrom saw one there on 26 Nov.. Three each were seen on 18 Nov. in Macon (Ty Ivey) and on 25 Nov. in Greene Co. (Paul Sykes).

BOBOLINK - About 60 birds spent a few days at the ELHLAF starting 25 Sept. (Brock Hutchins) and Paul Johnson counted 135 at Ft. Pulaski near Savannah on 7 Oct. but no huge flocks were reported this fall.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - The only reports of this alledgedly common winter resident were these: one on 15 Nov. at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse) and one on 18 Nov. in Greene Co. (Paul Sykes). Are birders just not reporting this species or have they become quite rare?

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - The Dublin flock of about 300 birds returned

faithfully in early Nov. (Tommy Patterson).

NORTHERN ORIOLE - Early birds were seen at Blackjack Mt. in Cobb County on 22 Aug. (Kevin Danchisen) and two at KMT on 28 Aug. (Giff Beaton et al.). The peak count was 10 at KMT on 3 Sept. (Jeff Sewell. Carol Lambert, Kevin Danchisen and Pierre Howard). At KBSB two were seen on 28 Sept. and, later, on 28 Nov. one seen in the same place was evidently wintering (Paul Sykes).

PURPLE FINCH - After an absence last winter, more normal numbers returned to the state. As usual the higher counts came from the mountains. In late Oct. a flock of 30 and another of 10 were noted near Lake Conasauga near the Cohutta Wilderness Area (Harriett DiGioia). Only one was reported from the coast: one bird on 30 Oct. at KBSB (Paul Sykes).

RED CROSSBILL - This difficult to find mountain resident was reported on 1 Sept. in Rabun Co. (Mark Oberle) and one bird displayed their irruptive nature, appearing at a feeder in Snellville for over a week in mid-Sept.

(Tony Wilbanks).

PINE SISKIN - The first bird of the season was one at KMT on 17 Oct. by Terry Moore. After that, small numbers were reported from a variety of locations through the end of the period but nothing like in the numbers that we used to see in the past. The highest count came from south

Fulton Co., that of 15 on 15 Nov. (Dennie McClure).

EVENING GROSBEAK - Portending an invasion year, more than ten reports were received with the best counts, of course, coming from feeders in the mountains. Dot Freeman and John Kiser both reported them from at least three feeders in their areas near Vogel State Park and NE Pickens Co., respectively, with one feeder owner reporting 30 (fide Dot Freeman).

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

CORRECTIONS

Giff Beaton called to report that it was not he who reported the Least Bitterns in Greene County on 8 July 1995 (Oriole 60:96) and Doris Cohrs said it was only one, not ten, Blackpoll Warblers that she banded on 13 Oct. 1994 at Butler Island (Oriole 60:29), Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area. The control of the co

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