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The Oriole, a quarterly journal of Georgia ornithology, publishes original articles that advance the study of birds in the state of Georgia and adjoining regions. *The Oriole* welcomes submission of articles describing the occurrence, distribution, behavior, or identification of birds in Georgia, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology.

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RED-NECKED GREBE AT LAKE LANIER AND A REVIEW OF OTHER GEORGIA SIGHTINGS

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On the morning of 28 January 1996, Carol Lambert and I arrived at Lanier Park in northwestern Gwinnett County. This park, now closed to the public, affords a view of a large section of the southern part of Lake Lanier, a 23,475-ha reservoir project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We noticed a large grebe about 150 m away working its way along the shore in the cove on the east side of the park. Although the bird swam away rapidly as we approached, we were able to get good looks at the bird from as close as 30 m (with a 25x, 60-mm scope).

The size and shape of the grebe immediately suggested that it was a Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*). The black cap, thick yellow bill, white cheek, and throat lacking a well-defined ear crescent indicated an immature bird. With each dive the bird moved farther away until we lost sight of it in a flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). We then moved to the northern tip of the park where Carol located the same (or another) individual on the other side of the lake. Hoping for a better look, we drove a few kilometers west to the Lanier Project Management Office. Once there, we immediately saw a Red-necked Grebe close to shore, and Carol obtained several photographs (Fig. 1). We wondered whether this might be yet another individual because this location is 700–800 m by air from Lanier Park, and the head pattern on this bird seemed more diffuse than that of the first bird. However, the more I studied the bird as it changed position, I realized that the apparent head pattern changed with the viewing angle and the lighting, making the line of the cap more or less distinct. Thus, we could not be sure how many individuals we had seen.



Figure 1. Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) at Lake Lanier, Gwinnett County, Georgia, 28 January 1996. Photo by Carol Lambert.

Later that day, Giff Beaton (pers. comm.) saw two Red-necked Grebes from the Management Office. More than two weeks passed before the birds were seen again. On 9 February, Marion Dobbs saw two in the same location. After this date, 1–3 birds were seen consistently through 16 March. Interestingly, on 10 February Paul Sykes, Bruce Dralle, Pierre Howard, and Paul Raney, Jr. observed four species of grebes from the Management Office: Pied-billed (*Podilymbus podiceps*), Horned (*Podiceps auritus*), Eared (*P. nigricollis*), and three Red-necked (Paul Sykes, pers. comm.). This is surely a first for Georgia. The last sighting of the Red-necked Grebes was of two birds at the Management Office on 21 April by Jim Flynn (pers. comm.).

During the winter of 1995–1996, Red-necked Grebes were found in good numbers in the eastern United States, especially at inland locations. In the Hudson-Delaware and Middle Atlantic regions, numbers on the coast were said to be above average (*Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 50, No. 1). Eight were reported along the North Carolina coast and three at inland lakes, also above average for recent

Table 1. Review of sightings of Red-necked Grebes at inland and coastal locations in Georgia.

Date	Number Seen	Location	Reference
Coastal Locations			
late Oct 1972	1	St. Simon Island	ABAFN ^a 27:40
15 Nov 1980	1	Jekyll Island	AB/AFN 35:170
early Dec 1989	1	St. Catherine's Island	AB/AFN 44:411
2 Dec 1950	7	Cumberland Sound	Burleigh 1958:80
4 Dec 1983	1?	Sapelo Island	AB/AFN 38:306
18 Dec 1951	44	Cumberland Sound	Burleigh 1958:80
27 Dec 1996	1	Harris Neck NWR	Vic Carpenter
28 Dec 1988	1	Sea Island	<i>Oriole</i> 54:31
22 Jan 1965	1	St. Marys	AB/AFN 19:369
16 Feb 1951	15	Cumberland Sound	Burleigh 1958:80
18 Feb 1904	1	Cumberland Sound	Burleigh 1958:80
21 Feb 1981	1	St. Marys	AB/AFN 35:292
Inland Locations			
4 Nov 1932	1	Atlanta	<i>Oriole</i> 46:22
13 Nov 1990	1	Rome	<i>Oriole</i> 56:18
16 Nov 1975	1	Clark Hill Reservoir	Haney et al. 1986
20 Nov 1937	1	Atlanta	<i>Oriole</i> 46:22
22 Nov 1957	1	Rome	Haney et al. 1986
4 Dec 1996	1	Lake Lanier	this paper
7 Dec 1973	2	Columbus	Haney et al. 1986
14–15 Dec 1966	2	Columbus	<i>Oriole</i> 31:26
27 Dec 1937	1	Atlanta	<i>Oriole</i> 46:22
1 Jan 1965	1	Atlanta	<i>Oriole</i> 46:22
28 Jan - 21 Apr 1996	3	Lake Lanier	this paper
13 Feb 1904	2	Augusta	Burleigh 1958:80
22 Feb - 9 Mar 1930	1	Atlanta	<i>Oriole</i> 2:6
3 Mar 1927	1	Atlanta	Burleigh 1958:80
27 Mar 1917	1	Atlanta	Burleigh 1958:80
31 Mar 1985	1?	Clark Hill Reservoir	AB/AFN 39:28

a AB/AFN = American Birds/Audubon Field Notes

years, but none was reported in South Carolina or on the Georgia coast (*Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 50, No. 1). Inland records were widespread. For example, two birds were seen in northeastern Tennessee for that state's sixth and seventh records, one was in north Alabama in late February for that state's eighth record, and Nebraska

had one in December for its fifth record. There were scattered reports from other inland locations where the species is a rare winter vagrant (*Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 50, No. 1).

In Georgia, Haney et al. (1986) describe the Red-necked Grebe as a rare winter resident or visitor on the coast and an accidental to rare transient inland. The reference to the species as a "rare winter resident" on the coast may have originated with reports received by Burleigh in the early 1950s of small flocks seen in Cumberland Sound for two consecutive winters. Thus, Burleigh (1958:80) concluded that the Red-necked Grebe "apparently now winters commonly in Cumberland Sound," citing 7 on 2 December 1950, 15 on 16 February 1951, and 44 on 18 December 1951, all reported by the same observer. Because numbers like this have not been reported since, and none of the coastal sightings provide direct evidence that any birds are wintering, I believe that to call this species a "rare winter resident" is not supported by the available evidence. Nevertheless, half of the inland sightings occurred in November or March (suggesting transients), and most of the coastal sightings are from December–February (Table 1), suggesting that more field work may reveal a few winter residents along the coast. Contrary to Burleigh's (1958) assertion that Red-necked Grebes are more common on the coast, my review of the literature shows the species to be as common or more common inland (Table 1). On the coast, the earliest arrival date was one bird reported in late October 1972 at St. Simon's Island, and the latest departure was 21 February 1981 at St. Marys. Inland, dates range from 4 November 1932 in Atlanta to 21 April for the birds reported here.

As a footnote to the sighting at Lake Lanier from January–April 1996, on 4 December 1996 Pierre Howard and I observed a single Red-necked Grebe from the same location at the Management Office where the three birds were seen the previous winter. Further field work may reveal this species to be an irregular visitor to Lake Lanier.

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BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS IN PINE FORESTS OF SOUTH GEORGIA

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The Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), an obligate brood parasite, lays its eggs in the nests of other species. This often results in the host abandoning the nest or in the cowbird nestling out-competing the host's nestlings for food. In either case, the host fails to fledge any young of its own.

Prior to European settlement, the Brown-headed Cowbird was apparently confined to the plains and prairies of North America. As the eastern forests were cleared for farms and towns, Brown-headed Cowbirds exploited this opportunity by using the open spaces for their social displays and by foraging on waste grain from feed lots and large-scale agriculture (Bent 1958, Brittingham and Temple 1983). This range expansion is continuing. In Georgia, for example, Burleigh (1958:599–600) called the species a common transient and locally common winter resident, but he noted only a few breeding records. The first egg record for the state came in 1945. In southwest Georgia, Stoddard (1978) did not have strong evidence of local breeding until the mid-1960s, although the species was plentiful in winter. In adjacent Thomas County, Crawford and Dozier (1973) considered the cowbird a common winter resident and the first summer record for the county did not occur until 24 June 1973 (Crawford and Neel 1976). Now, cowbirds are common throughout the year in Thomas County.

As the Brown-headed Cowbird extended its range into eastern and southern North America, evidence accumulated that songbird populations were also beginning to decline. Cowbirds appear to be at least a contributor to the decline, if not the major cause (e.g., Brittingham and Temple 1983, Jackson 1988, Askins et al. 1990, Finch 1991, Terborgh 1992). Host species that have only recently come into contact with cowbirds, and thus have not developed effective defense mechanisms for dealing with brood parasitism, may be especially vulnerable (Brittingham and Temple 1983). Because of their potential to impact songbird populations, the purpose of this paper is to quantify the numbers and seasonal occurrence of Brown-headed Cowbirds along a standardized census route in Thomas County, southwest Georgia.

Methods

In April 1988, I began a standardized bird survey along a rural road in the Red Hills Physiographic Region in southern Thomas County, Georgia. The survey consisted of me walking along Millpond Road from Ward's Creek to my home in Thomasville (8 km), counting all birds seen or heard. The route took approximately 3 hr to complete. I surveyed this route beginning 0.5 hr after sunrise one morning per month (as close to the 15th as possible). I counted birds every month from April 1988–August 1990, and from April–June of 1991–1994. Thus, I completed 123 h of observation and covered 328 km during 41 surveys.

Using an aerial photograph of Millpond Road, I quantified the habitats occurring along the survey route. I determined that 41% consisted of annually burned pine forest, including second-growth old fields and old-growth longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*). Nineteen percent consisted of upland hardwood forest made up of oaks and pines with an subcanopy of vines and shrubs, with little or no fire influence. Another 11% was suburban pine forest and lawns. the remainder was small percentages of mesic hardwoods, hedgerows, and pecan orchards.

Results and Discussion

Most Brown-headed Cowbirds along my survey route occurred in annually burned pine forest. In 1988, I counted 17, 18, 13, and 4 in April–August, respectively. For the same months in 1989, I counted 33, 39, 33, and 7. The cowbirds were ubiquitous throughout the pine forest along the survey route, calling, displaying, and chasing one another about in pairs or groups up to six birds. Overall, there seemed to be a slight increase in numbers from 1988–1994 (Fig. 1).

Cowbirds were virtually absent from the forests during the winter months (Fig. 1), when they presumably flocked with other blackbirds in fields and feed lots. They showed up in the forest along the survey route in March and built to peak numbers in May, presumably as they search for host nests. By August, all cowbirds were gone. The counts in September, October, and December resulted from birds seen in flocks (e.g., 15 on 7 October 1989 and 25 on 16 December 1989, both flocks passing through the canopy). Another count of 22 was made on 15 October 1988, but I failed to note their exact location.

The implications of these results are disturbing. The avifauna of pine forests in Thomas County is facing large numbers of a brood parasite for which they may have evolved no behavioral defenses.

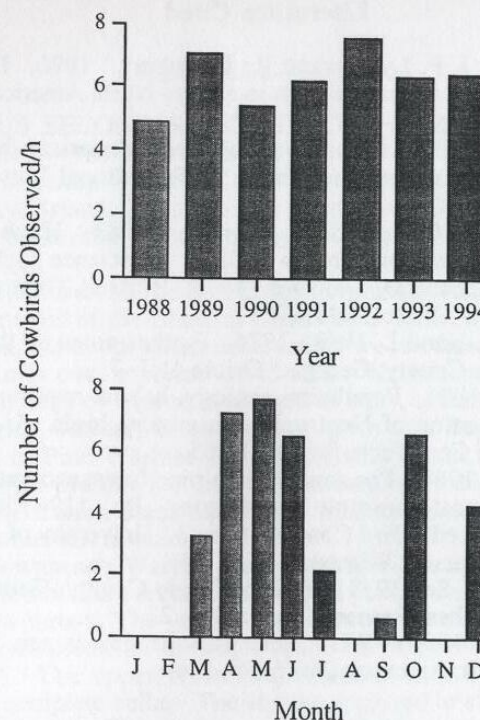


Figure 1. Number of cowbirds observed per hour along an 8-km route in Thomas County, Georgia, summarized by year and month.

The open character of annually burned pine forests may be especially conducive to the cowbird's social and nest-finding behavior. These park-like forests provide subcanopy perches from which female cowbirds can watch for hosts and potentially locate nests hundreds of meters away. Further studies are needed on cowbird parasitism rates in pine forests of the southeastern United States.

Acknowledgments

I could not have undertaken this effort without the patient assistance of my wife, Beth Crawford, who loyally drove me out to the starting point on 38 of the 41 mornings. R. Todd Engstrom made helpful suggestions on an earlier draft.

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GENERAL NOTES

GEORGIA'S SECOND STATE RECORD FOR TOWNSEND'S WARBLER — On 18 October 1996, we discovered Georgia's second Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). We found the bird on Jekyll Island, Glynn County during the 1996 joint meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Association of Field Ornithologists.

We first observed the bird at approximately 16:15 EDT on the northeastern end of the island at Clam Creek picnic area just east of Clam Creek. After our initial observation, we relocated the bird three separate times over a period of 45 min. We watched the bird for extended periods of time as it foraged in oaks, cedars, and pines. It was a largish warbler, comparable in girth to a Bay-breasted (*D. castanea*) or Pine Warbler (*D. pinus*), with a relatively long tail. Other species present for size comparison were Northern Parula (*Parula americana*), Black-and-White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), and Prairie Warbler (*D. discolor*).

The Townsend's Warbler had a brownish-black, almond-shaped cheek patch that was bordered above by a yellow eyebrow and below by a yellow throat. The yellow on the throat extended to the breast and was reminiscent of the color found on Magnolia Warblers (*D. magnolia*). The upper breast was streaked with brownish-black, forming a complete collar. The streaks appeared to extend down the sides of the breast. The crown was dark olive-green, as was the back and neck. All these areas had suggestions of black streaks. The wings were dark and had two distinct white bars, the leading bar being slightly broader than the trailing one. The belly was white and clear. There was a hint of yellow near the base of the tail and rump. The white on the outer rectrices was barely noticeable. The legs and bill were dark. Based on the lack of a black throat, faint rather than prominent back streaks, and lack of prominent white outer rectrices typical of adult males, we believe the individual we observed was an adult female. Generally, hatching-year birds lack the complete upper breast collar.

Although the olive-green coloration of the crown, back, and neck were suggestive of a female Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*), this species was ruled out because it lacks any streaking in these areas. We also considered the possibility that the bird was a female or immature Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*). However, this species usually shows pale median crown stripes and pale back stripes. Both the features were absent on the bird we observed. Additionally, female Blackburnian Warblers do not exhibit the

streaked collar present in the bird we observed.

The Townsend's Warbler was seen again that same day at 18:00 EDT by Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. and was seen numerous times by several independent observers over the next two days. Photographs of the bird are on record with the Georgia Ornithological Society checklist and records committee. The only other record of Townsend's Warbler for Georgia was also on Jekyll Island, at the Jekyll Island banding station in the fall of 1992.

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SNOW BUNTINGS IN CHATHAM COUNTY — On 28–29 November 1996, I observed three Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) at the North Pier at Fort Pulaski National Monument, Chatham County, Georgia. I first saw the birds as they flew in from the north, apparently over the open water of the Savannah River, and landed in the grassy area adjacent to the pier. I approached the birds closely (about 3 m) and observed them for 10 min as they crouched in the grass without feeding. The following day I relocated the birds in the same grassy area and watched them for about 5 min. On the second day they were much more active and appeared to feed on grass seeds.

The birds were approximately the same size as a White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), but plumper in appearance. Each bird's forehead, crown, and nape was buffy brown. The face and throat were creamy-white; the auriculars were buffy brown. The malar region was unmarked and the same color as the throat. The bill was light pinkish in color. The upperparts were complex in pattern, especially when contrasted with the unmarked buffy brown of the nape. The overall color of the upperparts was buffy brown, but each bird showed varying degrees of black marking interspersed along the back and wing coverts. There was more black in the wing coverts than the back. Each bird showed a white streak extending from the shoulder through the greater coverts and secondaries.

The underparts varied substantially among individuals. One bird had a virtually unmarked white breast, with only a small amount of buffy brown extending down from the shoulder. The other two birds had substantially more buffy brown extending down from the shoulder and forming a necklace. The necklace on one individual was broad with indistinct edges; the necklace on the other bird was narrow and not very distinct.

The tail feathers appeared to be black on a white background. The

ends of the rectrices were completely black with the portion near the rump completely white. There was no brown in the rectrices. All three birds showed distinct white flashes in the wings. The primaries were black and the secondaries were white. The whitest bird had completely unmarked secondaries, while the other two seemed to have some darker markings in the white secondaries.

The birds' arrival at Fort Pulaski coincided with strong northeast winds and clear skies. The birds were also seen (and photographed) on 1 December 1996 by Giff Beaton and Jim Flynn. One bird was found dead at the site on 4 December by John Stafford.

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EASTERN KINGBIRDS EAT SQUIRREL TREEFROGS — The Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is an aerial insectivore well known for eating a wide range of insects and fruit (over 200 species of insects and seeds or fruits from over 40 species of plants; F. E. L. Beal, 1912, USDA Biol. Survey Bull. 44). However, with the exception of a vague reference to "small fish" in the diet (H.C. Oberholser, 1938, The bird life of Louisiana) and a report of kingbirds eating an unknown species of frog (M. Murphy, 1996, Birds of North America No. 253), there are apparently no published records of Eastern Kingbirds consuming vertebrates. Therefore, the purpose of this note is to describe two observations of Eastern Kingbirds eating Squirrel Treefrogs (*Hyla squirella*).

On 8 May 1996, I observed one Eastern Kingbird catch and eat two Squirrel Treefrogs as the frogs crossed a small dirt road about 12 km south of Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia. It was early enough in the morning that the ground and vegetation were still moist with dew. As I walked down the road, I sporadically saw Squirrel Treefrogs hopping across the road from a overgrown ditch toward a wooded swamp. A kingbird suddenly flew down from the limb of a dead pine tree, landed on the ground for only an instant (barely long enough to fold its wings), grabbed a treefrog, and flew back to its perch. The kingbird held the frog by the head and struck its body against the tree limb 10–15 times. It then swallowed the frog whole. After sitting on the perch for about 5 min, the kingbird repeated this procedure and consumed a second frog. The Squirrel Treefrogs were typical in size for this species, with the head and body approximately 3 cm in length. Immediately after eating the second frog, the kingbird flew to a powerline about 200 m away and did not return during the 20–25 min I was at the site.

Despite the apparent rarity of vertebrates in the diet of Eastern

Kingbirds, I observed a remarkably similar situation once before. On 13 May 1995 at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Jackson County, Mississippi, I watched two Eastern Kingbirds catching and eating Squirrel Treefrogs as they crossed a narrow gravel path running between two pine savannas. It was early morning after a night of heavy rain, and the tree frogs were crossing the path in large numbers (well over 100 visible along a 50-m stretch of pathway). The two kingbirds flew down periodically from a powerline above the path, landed briefly to grab a frog, and returned to the powerline. My field notes at the time noted that the kingbirds beat the frogs against the wire for "a few minutes" and then swallowed them "with some difficulty." I did not note how many frogs each individual kingbird consumed.

Although it is rare for Eastern Kingbirds to eat vertebrates such as frogs, other kingbirds (particularly tropical species) do include vertebrates in their diet on a regular basis. For example, Gray Kingbirds (*T. dominicensis*) are known to include lizards in their diet (A. Wetmore, 1916, Birds of Porto Rico, USDA Bull. 326) and Loggerhead Kingbirds (*T. caudifasciatus*) have been recorded eating frogs (R. Pérez-Rivera, 1997, J. Field Ornithol. 68:178-182). Thus, the observations reported here are unusual, but not without precedent among *Tyrannus*.

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FROM THE FIELD

June-July 1996

Summer is often the Georgia birder's least interesting season. Most migrants have passed over the state and vagrants are few. This summer was not an exception, but there were enough late or early migrants to keep things lively. Only one or two reports fell into the "grab-your-binoculars-and-head-for-the-car" category. The most unusual aspect of the season was the discovery in the mountains of two species not thought to nest in Georgia: Red-breasted Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Several of these finds were made by ornithologists doing research on breeding birds in the Cooper's Creek area of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, ARE - Altamaha River Estuary, Glynn/McIntosh Cos., CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Cobb Co., DNR - Georgia Department of Natural Resources, ELHLAF - E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GOS - Georgia Ornithological Society, KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co., KBSB - King's Bay Submarine Base, Camden Co., NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, SGRBA - South Georgia Rare Bird Alert, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - One seen on 7 July flying upriver at the mouth of the Ogeechee River on the Chatham/Bryan County line was only the second inland record (Brad Winn), the first (*Oriole* 60:45) being only last year.
- ANHINGA - One bird at Lake Wildwood in Bibb County on 26 July was the first for that location (Paul Johnson). This species appears to be increasing at a number of locations around the state.
- LEAST BITTERN - One, sometimes two, were seen at a marsh in northern Greene Co. throughout the period (Marion Dobbs, Paul Sykes).
- GREAT BLUE HERON - Nesting by this species in the piedmont is rare, so two adults with three young at the ELHLAF on 2 June were an excellent find (Carol Lambert). They were still in the area on 26 July (Carol Lambert). Several hundred birds were reported from Dyar's Pasture WMA in Greene Co. (a pond designed by the DNR just for waders) on 19 July (*vide* Terry Johnson).
- GREAT EGRET - At ELHLAF, nine were seen on 5 July (Carol Lambert), thirteen on 28 July (Bill Blakeslee), and from Dyar's Pasture WMA in Greene Co., Terry Johnson reported "hundreds" on 19 July.
- SNOWY EGRET - Two birds at the ELHLAF on 28 July were rather uncommon

for the area (Bruce Hallett, Bill Blakeslee).

LITTLE BLUE HERON - This species was found farther north than usual with one on 30 June in the Dawson Forest, Dawson Co. (Jim Flynn) and three immatures in Whitfield Co. on 3 July (Harriet DiGioia).

REDDISH EGRET - Brad Winn reported one immature on 9 July at Sapelo Is., and 4 immatures on 11 July in the ARE. The one immature seen at East Beach, St. Simons Is. on 15 July (Bill Harbin) was probably the same bird seen there on 20 July (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - This year only one was seen at the CRNRA, Cochran Shoals Unit, on 7 July (Ken Blackshaw). One or two have been seen here for several years now, but I don't think anyone has found a nest. Paul Sykes saw one in Greene Co. on 24 July.

WHITE IBIS - This species appeared in the Georgia piedmont in unusual numbers this summer. At a Greene Co. marsh, they were seen 29 June-16 July (Paul Sykes, Marion Dobbs) with a peak of 24 on 13 July (Jeff Sewell). Farther north, an immature was seen at the Dawson Forest on 30 June and on 7 July (Jim Flynn) and, even farther north, another immature was seen in northern Walker Co. on 7 July (Bill Harbin, Gordon Hight, Jr.).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - A rare inland sighting was reported from Brooks Co. on 4 June (SGRBA). Good numbers were reported from the Brunswick/Jekyll Island area, with nine on 10 June (Brad Winn) and six on 20 July (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

WOOD STORK - About 70 were seen south of Brunswick on 10 July by Steve Holtzman. A few birds were seen at the Greene Co. marsh, with eight on 11 July and two on 23 July (Marion Dobbs). One immature was seen in Houston Co. on 7 July by Dan and Pam Guynn. At Dyar's Pasture WMA in Greene Co., 28 were seen on 19 July (*fide* Terry Johnson) and Eugenia Thompson saw five on 21 July. At the Birdsville heronry near Millen, 189 nests averaging 2.3 young per nest were counted. Nesting started in late April and by early July most young had fledged. At the Chew Mill Pond, Jenkins Co., 96 nests were seen (both *fide* Anne Waters).

MOTTLED DUCK - Seven were reported from the Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area at Darien on 20 July (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - A late or summering bird was seen in Laurens Co. on 16 June (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson, Tommy Patterson).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - A late male was seen at the ELHLAF on 2 June (Jeff Sewell) and again on 9 June (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell).

LESSER SCAUP - A summering male was reported from Lake Juliette, Monroe Co. on 6 July (Terry Johnson).

HOODED MERGANSER - An immature-plumaged bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 9 June by Jeff Sewell.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - The only report came from McIntosh Co. on 27 July by Doris Cohrs.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Sightings from all over the southern two-thirds of the state would seem to indicate that this species is doing well. Hamburg State Park, Washington Co., continued to be reliable. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw five there on 10 June. Here are the other sightings: one on 28 June on the Flint River at the Taylor/Upson Co. line (Pierre Howard);

one on 3 July in Houston Co. (Dan Guynn, Jr.); a pair on 4 July near Bainbridge (Oscar Newberry); one near Folkston on 2 July (Bill Wiggins); one on 12 July in Laurens Co. (Tommy Patterson); one on 17 July in Baldwin Co. (Steven Stewart); two in Sparta over the McDonald's on 20 July (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, and Jeff Sewell); and on 25 July three were seen in Baldwin Co. (Steve Stewart).

OSPREY - On 30 June, one was seen at Fort Gordon, Richmond Co. and one on 2 July at Clark's Hill Lake where they are unusual in summer (Marilyn McLeod *fide* Anne Waters).

BALD EAGLE - The pair at Carter's Lake, Gilmer Co., produced one fledgling, seen on 5 July (Noel Holcomb *fide* Pierre Howard).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - Although there are a few reports of this species nesting in the northern half of the state, seeing one in the summer is quite a rare event, so one seen in July in the Chattahoochee National Forest is noteworthy (Harriet DiGioia).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - One heard on 7 July in Houston Co. (Dan and Pam Guynn) is interesting as the species is usually not found south of the fall line in the summer. Please be aware that Blue Jays can do a passable imitation of a Broad-winged's call and try to confirm by sight their presence.

AMERICAN KESTREL - Giff Beaton observed adults feeding a young bird in the Mableton area on 29 June and Billy Dunbar reported another nesting in Franklin Co., also during June. On 9 July one bird was seen chasing a Peregrine Falcon in a downtown Atlanta park (Chris Geller). The nest box program at Fort Gordon near Augusta had a successful year, producing 76 fledglings (Roy Shuford, John Parrish).

PEREGRINE FALCON - The pair that attempted to nest in downtown Atlanta evidently succeeded because two fledged young were seen during the month of June in downtown (David Kennedy *fide* Pierre Howard). Unfortunately, one may have been the immature bird killed near Hartsfield Airport when it hit a window (*The Atlanta Constitution*).

WILD TURKEY - This species appears to be more adaptable than we thought, as more and more observations are being reported from urban areas. Martha Bargo reported four birds on 14 June and a single bird on 25 June in the KMT area of Cobb Co.

BLACK RAIL - This rare and very local breeder was seen or heard throughout the period at a marsh in Greene Co. (various observers), with high counts of seven on 28 June and five on 12 July (Paul Sykes).

KING RAIL - Paul Sykes reported that on 28 June he had two on territory at a marsh in Greene Co. One of the birds was a hatching-year bird, almost grown, but with much black still in the plumage.

VIRGINIA RAIL - A juvenile seen at the KMT marsh on 27 June confirmed nesting at this location (Giff Beaton). Later, two birds were seen there on 8 July and a single on 18 July (Giff Beaton). This is only the third confirmed nesting in Georgia. Though the species has been seen for several years now at a marsh in Greene Co., nesting has never been documented. Five were tallied there on 12 July for the high count (Paul Sykes).

COMMON MOORHEN - Paul Johnson reported what could possibly be the first nesting of the species for Bibb Co. when he saw two adults and three

young chicks at Lake Wildwood on 26 July.

AMERICAN COOT - One or two always seem to be found north of the fall line in the summer, as were two this summer at ELHLAF (Jeff Sewell), but the seven that Terry Johnson saw on 6 July at Lake Juliette, Monroe Co., may be the all-time high summer count for the piedmont.

WILSON'S PLOVER - The best counts were of 28 on 11 July on an island at the mouth of the Altamaha River (Brad Winn) and 12 on 21 July off the Jekyll Is. Causeway (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - One that spent two days at the ELHLAF starting 27 July was a bit early for the location (Paul Raney, Bill Blakeslee).

PIPING PLOVER - One seen on an island at the mouth of the Altamaha River on 11 July was either a very rare summering bird or a very early transient, breaking the ACOGB early fall arrival date of 18 July.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - A huge 104 was seen at the KBSB on 20 June (Paul Sykes). On 23 June, two were seen from the Jekyll Is. Causeway (Robert and Helen Brackett).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS - Four seen in Laurens Co. on 16 June by Jerry and Marie Amerson were either very early or very late.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - The first arrival at ELHLAF was one on 11 July (Carol Lambert).

WHIMBREL - The Georgia coast is an important migratory stopover site for this species, an early migrant. On 11 July, twelve were seen on a small island at the mouth of the Altamaha River (Brad Winn). Ten were tallied on St. Simons and Jekyll Islands on 20 July (Jim Flynn, Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell).

MARbled GODWIT - A flock of 47 was counted on an island in the mouth of the Altamaha River on 11 July by Brad Winn.

RUDDY TURNSTONE - As the ACOGB describes this species as "common except in summer," one seen on 11 July on an island in the ARE is noteworthy.

RED KNOT - In the same survey on 11 July in the ARE, Brad Winn had a very good count of 1500.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER - Surveys in the mouth of the Altamaha River by the DNR are expanding our knowledge of shorebird migration. On the aforementioned count on 11 July, 25 of this species were tallied. This is six days earlier than the early date in the ACOGB.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - On 11 July, a survey in the ARE tallied 120 (Brad Winn). A few turn up inland in July as shown by one at ELHLAF on 22 July (Jeff Sewell) and at least one in Laurens Co. on 30 July (Tommy Patterson).

LEAST SANDPIPER - Though not early arrival records, the seven at ELHLAF on 11 July (Carol Lambert), the 110 on the same date in the ARE (Brad Winn), and two on 12 July in Greene Co. (Paul Sykes) were nevertheless quite early.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - This rare migrant was spotted on St. Catherines Is. on 23 July by Hunter Patterson.

DUNLIN - Twenty-five on the 11 July survey in the ARE were quite early (Brad Winn).

STILT SANDPIPER - This species, noted as accidental in Brisse's *Birds of the Atlanta Area*, 1981, is now a regular at ELHLAF in July as one on 25

July (Pat Mickelson) and two beginning on 26 July (Carol Lambert) attest.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - On his 11 July survey, Brad Winn saw 24 dowitchers in the ARE. Also an early fall transient was the one on 17 July at ELHLAF (Carol Lambert), which stayed for over a week (28 July, Bill Blakeslee).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - Because they are rarely seen in the summer, three observed on 20 July in the Dawson Forest were interesting (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

LAUGHING GULL - Is this species turning up more often in the interior in recent years? One was seen on 9 June at a lake in a subdivision in Macon (Paul Johnson) and one was seen on 6 July at Lake Juliette, Monroe Co. (Terry Johnson).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - In the 1986 ACOGB, this species was described as accidental in summer, citing one summer record. Thus, two adults seen on 13 July at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Is. (Bill Harbin) were a noteworthy, but not necessarily welcome, sight because this species can be a serious predator of the eggs and chicks of shorebirds and terns.

GULL-BILLED TERN - I hope the fact that I received only one report of this species (13 July, Sapelo Is. by Doris Cohrs) is due not to its scarcity this summer, but to poor reporting.

CASPIAN TERN - I had only two birds of this species reported: one on 11 July in the ARE (Brad Winn) and one on Jekyll Is. on 20 July (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell, Jim Flynn).

COMMON TERN - The three seen on 20 July at Jekyll I. break the ACOGB fall arrival date of 3 August (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

LEAST TERN - A nice sight were the 25 or so seen congregated on the south end of Sea Island at Gould's Inlet (Jim Flynn, Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell).

BLACK TERN - Early migrants included ten seen on 11 July in the ARE (Brad Winn) and two seen on 21 July on Jekyll Is. (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Jeff Sewell).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - Though it is yet to be determined whether this fast-spreading invader is filling a new niche or is taking over that of another species, the 6-8 seen near Americus on 2 June (Mark Oberle) and the seven reported from Fitzgerald, both new sites, indicate that its spread continues apace (Milton Hopkins *vide* Mark Oberle).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - The report of one in the Chattahoochee National Forest from 6-8 June (Harriet DiGioia) was interesting as the species is absent from much of the mountain region.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER - Harriet DiGioia reported that Acadians were below normal numbers in the mountains this summer.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Two singing males were seen at their usual spot in a marsh in Greene Co. on 8 June (Pierre Howard), but only one bird was found there on 13 July (Chuck Saleeby, Jeff Sewell) and 16 July (Marion Dobbs). In a spot where she has had them before, the Dekalb Co. Honor Farm, Georgann Schmalz found two on territory on 5 June and 29 June.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - One was spotted on Hale Ridge Road, Rabun Co., on 2 June (Helena Woods, Bill Blakeslee) where it has been found regularly in recent years, but it was not reported after this date.

- EASTERN PHOEBE** - One bird seen on 7 July on the Macon/Sumter Co. line, well below the fall line (Dan and Pam Guynn) in a part of the state where it has not historically nested, reminds us that this species may be continuing its southward expansion.
- GRAY KINGBIRD** - Once again a pair nested on Jekyll Island in their usual location, being seen on 20 July (Giff Beaton) and 22 July (Doris Cohrs).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** - This accidental visitor was discovered in Douglas Co. on 10 June (Julie Kidd), but it could not be relocated the next day. It was an adult bird and well described.
- HORNED LARK** - This species probably nests at a sod farm in Peach Co., just off I-75, another indication of the southerly expansion of its breeding range in Georgia. One seen on 7 July on Lookout Plateau in Walker Co. was in a more traditional breeding locale (Bill Harbin).
- TREE SWALLOW** - A bird seen at the Piedmont NWR on 15 June raises the possibility of its nesting in that area (Nancy Gobris, Carolyn Rogers). A fairly early bird was seen at Harris Neck NWR on 21 July (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell, Jim Flynn).
- BANK SWALLOW** - An early migrant was seen at a Greene Co. marsh on 13 July by Jeff Sewell and Chuck Saleeby.
- CLIFF SWALLOW** - Approximately 24 birds were seen at the Juliette Bridge over the Ocmulgee River on 15 June (Nancy Gobris, Carolyn Rogers). Twelve others were seen at Lake Oconee on 22 June (Jeff Sewell, Jim Flynn). On 27 June, Giff Beaton found as many as eight, including several fledged juveniles, nesting in a barn in Murray Co., the first time they have been found nesting away from water. Twenty-five, including 13 immatures, were counted at their long-established nesting site on the U.S. Highway 78 bridge over Lake Oconee at the Greene/Morgan Co. line on 10 July (Pierre Howard).
- COMMON RAVEN** - Good counts were received with four at Rabun Bald on 3 June (Pierre Howard) and three at Tray Mt. on 12 June (Mark Oberle).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - This species has never been found nesting in Georgia, so sightings in Rabun Co. on 7 June (Mark Oberle) and 19 June (Pierre Howard, Kevin Danchisen) and in the Cooper Creek WMA, Union Co., on 15 June (Chris Haney, Jon Andrew) are certainly intriguing.
- WINTER WREN** - More observers getting into the mountains in June yielded a number of records of this species. Bill Blakeslee had one at Brasstown Bald on 1 June, which might be termed expected because this has always been the one area to find this species in summer. However, Chris Haney (*vide* Mark Oberle) had one bird on 2 June and two on 11 June in the Cooper Creek WMA, Union Co., and Mark Oberle had another bird on Tray Mt. on 20 June.
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** - This is another species never found nesting in Georgia. Three birds were reported from the Cooper's Creek WMA, Union Co., on 15 June (Chris Haney, Jon Andrew).
- EASTERN BLUEBIRD** - Per Harriet DiGioia this species is increasing in the mountains. I think she refers to Murray Co. and Whitfield Co., specifically.
- VEERY** - Two were seen in June in Fernbank Forest, Dekalb Co., and a female was banded on 2 July. Her brood patch indicated she had eggs nearby (Georgann Schmalz). The southern limit of the nesting range includes a

- few of Georgia's highest mountains such as Brasstown Bald, Tray Mt., and Blood Mt. The Fernbank report will be written up for *The Oriole*.
- LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** - Jerry and Marie Amerson counted 17 birds, including adults and young birds in Laurens Co. on 16 June. The species is rare in the mountains where one was reported on 31 July (Harriet DiGioia).
- SOLITARY VIREO** - The nesting population of this species seen in previous years on their breeding bird survey route is doing well, as evidenced by the five singing males seen along one stretch of road in the Piedmont NWR, Jasper Co., on 9 June (Jerry and Marie Amerson).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** - The Dawson Forest, Dawson Co., is a good place to find this species. On 23 June, Jim Flynn counted six singing males in one area.
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** - On 22 June and on 27 June, Giff Beaton counted eight and twenty, respectively, in Murray Co. at elevations of 320-350 m, well below the 550-m limit mentioned in the ACOGB. On 4 July, a very early bird was seen in Lawrenceville (Joel Hitt). Also, early was one at KMT on 6 July (Jeff Sewell, Jim Flynn, Pierre Howard).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** - The earliest report came from KMT on 14 July (Giff Beaton).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** - The earliest report was on 14 July and the peak count was eight on 26 July, both by Giff Beaton at KMT.
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - The peak count was 10 on 26 July at KMT (Giff Beaton). A female was seen carrying food into a thicket on 15 June near Lincolton (Anne Waters). The species is a very uncommon breeder this far south.
- AMERICAN REDSTART** - Three birds were seen at KMT on 26 July (Giff Beaton) and one was at Darien on 30 July (Doris Cohrs).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER** - Single birds were reported from the State Botanical Garden at Athens on 1 June (Marion Dobbs) and from Randolph Co. on 2 June (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). Two birds were reported from Rabun Co. on 19 June (Pierre Howard, Kevin Danchisen). We get few reports of the mountain population of this species, so this is especially noteworthy.
- OVENBIRD** - As many as three birds were reported from west Bibb Co. from early June to mid-June (Jerry and Rose Payne). Two birds were found in Oglethorpe Co. on 12 June by Marion Dobbs, just south of Clarke Co., where there is a nesting record. The birds in Bibb Co. were considerably south of the bird's usual breeding range in the mountains.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** - One bird seen at Darien on 26 July by Doris Cohrs was probably already on the move south.
- KENTUCKY WARBLER** - On their breeding bird survey, Jerry Amerson and Ty Ivey found one on 2 June, rather unusual for this area in Twiggs Co.
- CANADA WARBLER** - A pair was seen at Sosebee Cove, Union Co., on 15 June at an elevation of about 975 m (Patrick Brisse), well below the 1160-m limit mentioned in the ACOGB.
- SCARLET TANAGER** - Again, more evidence of the southerly expansion of the breeding range of this species: a pair seen on 15 June in the Piedmont NWR, Jasper Co. The male displayed to the female and both were calling as in courtship (Nancy Gobris, Dan Guynn, Jr.).

- PAINTED BUNTING** - Jerry and Marie Amerson found three on Lower Poplar Street in Macon on 2 June where they have nested before. They also saw one male on 16 June and two males on 28 June in Laurens Co., evidence of another colony of this coastal species that seems to be pushing inland.
- DICKCISSEL** - Some areas to our north experienced a major invasion of this western species this summer, some of which reached as far south as our state. In a hayfield in Henry Co., a small flock was found in the spring. Four adults were seen on 1 June (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). Later in the month, Mark Oberle and Joel Volpi found a nest with four young and saw a female. On 10 June one was seen at the Walton/Morgan Co. line (Joel Volpi *vide* Mark Oberle) and Joe Greenberg discovered four pairs in Spalding Co. on 11 June. Perhaps the drought in Texas and Oklahoma pushed them east.
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW** - A new location for this species was found in Oglethorpe Co. where on 12 June one was seen (Marion Dobbs). On the same day, Georgann Schmalz had one in the Pine Log Mountain WMA, Bartow Co., also a new location. This species also seems to be expanding its range, though in some areas where it was once common it is no longer found. I assume this is due to loss of appropriate habitat. Do readers have any comments?
- FIELD SPARROW** - Three birds seen on 4 June in Brooks Co. were rare so far south (SGRBA).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** - This is another western species that is being seen more frequently nowadays, whether due to more birders in the field or changes in its movements, who knows. It is also a species requiring documentation by the GOS Records and Checklist Committee, so the sighting of one 3 July in Dekalb Co. (Carolina Lane) needs to be written up for *The Oriole*, especially as there is only one other summer record.
- SHINY COWBIRD** - Dan Jacobson found this rare invader when he spotted one on Tybee Island on 1 June. This is about the fourth record for the state, but so far we have no documentation on any of the sightings for *The Oriole*.
- RED CROSSBILL** - Mark Oberle has discovered as reliable a place for this species as can be found in Georgia: at Burrell's Ford Bridge over the Chattooga River in northeast Rabun Co. On 6 June he saw four in three locations along Forest Service Road 646 to the bridge. Mark reports that a survey by Chris Haney and Jon Andrew in the Cooper's Creek WMA, Union Co., turned up one on 15 June.

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FROM THE LITERATURE

"From the Literature" provides brief reviews of recent ornithological studies conducted in the state of Georgia. The reviews are designed for a general reader and are meant to make ornithological research in Georgia available to a wider audience. — The Editors.

Habitat associations of birds in the Georgia piedmont during winter. D. H. White, C. B. Kepler, J. S. Hatfield, P. W. Sykes, Jr., and J. T. Seginak. 1996. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 67(1):159–166. — Birders and ornithologists in Georgia are all too familiar with the loss of mature pine and upland hardwood forests and their replacement with, among other things, short-rotation pine plantations. However, surprisingly little research has been done on the effects this might have on winter bird communities. Therefore, this study censused winter birds in five fragments of mature (>60 years) pine forest, five fragments of mature (>60 years) upland hardwoods, and five pine plantations (20–30 years of age) on Georgia's piedmont. More species of birds (44) were found during winter in mature pines than in upland hardwoods (42) or pine plantations (32). Sharp-shinned Hawk, Barred Owl, Cedar Waxwing, and House Finch were found only in upland hardwoods; Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Common Yellowthroat, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, and Evening Grosbeak were found only in mature pines. No species was unique to pine plantations. Overall, species diversity was greatest in the fragments of mature pine forest (second highest in mature upland hardwoods). Even after being fragmented into 30–50-ha tracts, mature forest still supports a richer and more diverse winter bird community than pine plantations.

Social strategy and cover in Savannah Sparrows. B. D. Watts. 1996. *Auk* 113(4):960–963. — Birders searching for sparrows in Georgia's weedy fields and wood edges are well aware of the fact that sparrows often occur in sizable flocks. They may be less aware that a bird's decision to join a flock is a complex one that must balance the benefits of better detection of predators and safety in numbers against the costs of greater competition for food in a group. Working in fallow agricultural fields near Athens, Georgia, this study shows how the risk of predation (primarily from raptors) affects the tendency of Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) to join flocks. The author established four 180 x 120-m study plots in fields overgrown with horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*). Two of the plots were then mowed to a height of 15 cm (about 6 inches); on the other two plots the weeds were left intact. Watts found that on the mowed plots (where birds are more exposed to hawks), Savannah Sparrows formed larger flocks. On the unmowed plots where thick vegetation provided protection from predators, Savannah Sparrows were more than twice as likely to be solitary and, when they did group together, formed smaller flocks. In the risky environment, the benefits of flocking outweighed the costs; in the safer environment, the benefits of foraging with few or no competitors took precedence. Studies such as this provide birders a greater appreciation for the complex interactions among predators, competitors, and habitat that shape flocking behavior in birds.

Factors affecting reproductive success of Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) in east-central Georgia. M. C. Coulter and A. L. Bryan, Jr. 1995. Auk 112(1):237–243. — Wood Storks are one of the most distinctive birds in Georgia's avifauna. Nevertheless, their reproductive success is dependent on the availability of healthy wetlands, as well as a number of environmental factors. Coulter and Bryan studied the factors that affect nesting success of Wood Storks in the Birdsville colony near Millen, Georgia from 1984–1989. They found that the average clutch size was 2.9 eggs per nest and approximately 90% of eggs hatched. However, fledging success varied substantially among years, ranging from 0.33–2.16 fledglings per nest. The number of fledglings produced by successful nests was related to prey density at foraging sites. Forty-three percent of nests suffered complete loss of eggs or chicks. These losses were due to raccoon predation, nest abandonment during cold weather in spring, nest takeovers due to inter-pair aggression, and storms. The authors suggest that Wood Storks have a window of opportunity for breeding – after cold weather in the spring (cold spells cause nest abandonment and subsequent aggression among pairs) and before summer drought (raccoons reach the nest only when late summer heat dries the water beneath the colony). Why don't raccoons swim to the nests when there is water beneath the colony? Alligators that congregate under the Wood Stork nests to feed on fallen chicks keep raccoons from entering the colony.

Recent history and status of the Eastern Brown Pelican. P. M. Wilkinson, S. A. Nesbitt, and J. F. Parnell. 1994. Wildlife Society Bulletin 22(3):420–430. — As a result of pesticide use, populations of the Brown Pelican crashed in the 1960s, resulting in this species being declared endangered. Subsequent controls on organochlorine pesticides allowed this species to make a spectacular comeback in the eastern United States, including Georgia, where it was removed from the endangered species list in March 1985. This paper provides an interesting assessment of the Brown Pelican's recovery along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States. In the southeastern United States, the population of Brown Pelicans has tripled and the number of colony sites has doubled between 1970 and 1989. As part of that recovery, the first post-crash nesting in Georgia (about 200 pairs) was reported in 1988 from a bar off St. Catherine's Island. By 1990, up to 500 pairs were nesting at the mouth of the Satilla River as well. Overall, in 1989 about 0.8% of the Eastern Brown Pelican population was nesting in Georgia. Florida (46.5%) and South Carolina (29.3%) supported the bulk of the nesting population. Remaining threats to the Brown Pelican include loss of nesting, loafing, and feeding areas; entanglement in fishing equipment; and tick infestations (ticks spread disease and can cause nest abandonment). Nevertheless, the outlook for this species in the east, and in Georgia, is good.

Habitat use at night by wintering American Woodcock in coastal Georgia and Virginia. D. G. Krementz, J. T. Seginak, and G. W. Pendleton. 1995. Wilson Bulletin 107(4):686–697. — Substantial numbers of American Woodcock migrate to coastal Georgia for the winter. However, their nocturnal habits make them difficult to find for birders and difficult to study for ornithologists. Using radiotelemetry, Krementz et al. quantified the habitat use of woodcocks on the south side of the Altamaha River near Everett, Georgia. Unlike some other portions of their range, woodcock wintering in Georgia rarely used cropfields, pastures, or recent clearcuts. During the day, woodcock were most

likely to be found in bottomland forests (>80% of the time). At night, when woodcock move to feeding sites, they tended to remain in bottomland forests (about 32% of the time) or move to young pine plantations (about 62% of the time). When they did move to fields at night, young birds tended to move farther than adults. Interestingly, predation on woodcock is high in winter. Approximately 20% of birds arriving during fall migration will not survive until spring migration.

Apparent fatal snakebite in three hawks. J. O. Heckel, D. C. Sisson, and C. F. Quist. 1994. Journal of Wildlife Diseases 30(4):616–619. — Many of Georgia's raptors will prey on snakes, including venomous species. This paper provides evidence that this habit can be fatal to the hawk. Two immature Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were found dead in south Georgia next to the bodies of venomous snakes. An adult Cooper's Hawk in north Florida was found dead next to a den containing a Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) and an Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*). Necropsy of the dead hawks revealed tissue necrosis, muscle degeneration, and hemorrhaging on the hawks' legs that were consistent with bites from venomous snakes. The authors conclude that these raptors died from the bite of their intended prey.

Tree nesting by Wild Turkeys on Ossabaw Island, Georgia. W. O. Fletcher and W. A. Parker. 1994. Wilson Bulletin 106(3):562–563. — Possibly in response to high populations of deer and feral hogs, this paper reports that Wild Turkeys nested for three consecutive years in a large (1.2-m diameter) live oak tree on Ossabaw Island. The nest was located 2.4 m above the ground in a depression created by several large branches. In at least some years, the hen turkey was able to coax poults successfully to the ground. The authors also observed that some poults that were reluctant to leave the nest were abandoned, and other poults were injured in the fall from the tree.

EDITORS' NOTE

With this issue, *The Oriole* is now under new editorship. All manuscripts and other materials to be considered for publication in *The Oriole* should be sent to the new editors: C. Ray Chandler or John W. Parrish, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8042.

Our immediate goal is to eliminate the backlog of manuscripts and bring *The Oriole* up to date. Toward that end, *The Oriole* will be published on an accelerated schedule for the next several months. It is our hope that by sometime in 1999, the journal will be appearing on time. A second goal is to ensure that *The Oriole* publishes interesting and substantive papers on all aspects of ornithology in Georgia. This includes reports of unusual sightings, methods for field identification, interesting behavior, occurrence or status of bird populations, and scientific studies on any aspect of ornithology. We cannot accomplish this second goal unless all individuals with an interest in Georgia ornithology (backyard birders, active listers, state and federal resource managers, university scientists) actively contribute to *The Oriole*. We encourage all readers to make the effort to become contributors to *The Oriole*.

We look forward to serving as editors for *The Oriole* and, with the help of our readers, we hope to re-establish it as one of the premier state bird journals in the southeast.

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CONTENTS

RED-NECKED GREBE AT LAKE LANIER AND A REVIEW OF OTHER GEORGIA SIGHTINGS <i>Jeff Sewell</i>	73
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRDS IN PINE FORESTS OF SOUTH GEORGIA <i>Robert L. Crawford</i>	77
GEORGIA'S SECOND STATE RECORD FOR TOWNSEND'S WARBLER <i>David S. Mizrahi and Steven J. Wagner</i>	81
SNOW BUNTINGS IN CHATHAM COUNTY <i>Shawn Reed</i>	82
EASTERN KINGBIRDS EAT SQUIRREL TREEFROGS <i>C. Ray Chandler</i>	83
FROM THE FIELD: JUNE-JULY 1996	85
FROM THE LITERATURE	93
EDITORS' NOTE	96