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# THE ORIOLE

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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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## WATERFOWL USE OF A REFUGE ON LAKE SEMINOLE, GEORGIA, IN RESPONSE TO HUNTING PRESSURE

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The largest inland concentration of wintering waterfowl in Georgia is at Lake Seminole. The three most common species on the reservoir are the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Canvasback (*A. valisineria*), and Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*). Because of the large number of waterfowl on Lake Seminole, it is one of the most popular destinations in the state for waterfowl hunters and hunting pressure can be intense. Therefore, a portion of the reservoir is designated as a waterfowl refuge within which hunting is prohibited. Refuges have long been considered a necessity for waterfowl management (Salter 1945, Bellrose 1954). Refuges are important because disturbances to post-breeding waterfowl, especially during migration and wintering periods, can affect the birds' energy balance (Frederickson and Drobney 1979).

Discussions with local hunters and Georgia Department of Natural Resources management personnel indicated that they and others perceived that wintering waterfowl do not use the Lake Seminole refuge. It was thought that during the hunting season waterfowl prefer areas in the middle of the lake with dense growth of an introduced aquatic plant (*Hydrilla verticillata*), where hunting was not feasible. However, the distribution of waterfowl on Lake Seminole, particularly use of the designated refuge, has not been quantified. Because the effects of disturbances can be documented by



observing the behavior, distribution, and numbers of waterfowl (Korschgen et al. 1985), we quantified the distribution of waterfowl on Lake Seminole as an indicator of response to hunting. The specific objective of this paper is to compare waterfowl use of the Lake Seminole refuge to its availability both during and outside the hunting season.

### Methods

Lake Seminole, a 15,176-ha reservoir completed in 1957, is located in Seminole and Decatur Counties along the Florida border in extreme southwestern Georgia. It is a relatively shallow, clear, nutrient-rich reservoir that contains a significant amount of *Hydrilla*, as well as areas of open water, pad plants, emergent vegetation, and many small islands. There are few houses and boat docks on the reservoir, and the vast majority of the shoreline is undeveloped. *Hydrilla* was first introduced into the reservoir in 1967, and it now covers approximately 40% of the surface area. *Hydrilla* provides a habitat attractive to wintering waterfowl (Johnson and Montalbano 1987). The waterfowl refuge on the lake contains 223 ha of various wetland types, including open water, *Hydrilla*, pad plants, and emergent vegetation.

We conducted 18 helicopter flights between 1 November 1997 and 15 March 1998 and 14 flights between 1 November 1998 and 15 March 1999. Aerial observation using helicopters is one of the most successful ways to conduct waterfowl population surveys and censuses (Kaminski 1979, Kushlan 1979, Thompson and Baker 1981).

During the flights, we recorded the locations of all flocks of waterfowl on the reservoir on maps, identified the waterfowl species, and estimated the numbers of birds in each flock. Observations were tallied by species as either inside or outside the refuge and during or outside hunting season. Following Johnson and Montalbano (1984), we used two classes for hunting season (open or closed) instead of three classes (before, during, and after). A 2x2 contingency table and a G-tests of independence with William's Correction (Sokal and Rohlf 1981, Zar 1984) were used to test the hypothesis that waterfowl use of the refuge was independent of hunting season. Chi-square tests were used to test to assess whether the refuge was used in proportion to its availability (Neu et al. 1974, Sokal and Rohlf 1981, Zar 1984). For all tests, we set significance levels at 0.05.

### Results

A total of 90,554 ducks was counted on the reservoir during the 32 combined flights, a mean of 2830 ducks per flight (Table 1). There

Table 1. Total numbers of waterfowl observed on Lake Seminole, Georgia, inside and outside a waterfowl refuge and during and outside hunting season during the winters of 1997–1998 and 1998–1999.

Species	Location	During Hunting Season (n = 15)	Outside Hunting Season (n = 17)
Canvasback	Inside Refuge	447	378
	Outside Refuge	21,259	14,538
Ring-necked Duck	Inside Refuge	503	110
	Outside Refuge	18,874	18,173
Lesser Scaup	Inside Refuge	22	85
	Outside Refuge	5444	5986
All Species	Inside Refuge	974	583
	Outside Refuge	48,376	40,630

was no difference in the proportion of waterfowl using the refuge between the two years ( $P = 0.62$ ). Therefore, observations from both field seasons were pooled. Use of the refuge was not independent of hunting season for Canvasbacks ( $P = 0.003$ ), Ring-necked Ducks ( $P < 0.001$ ), Lesser Scaup ( $P < 0.001$ ), and all species combined ( $P < 0.001$ ).

Based on the availability of the refuge (1.47% of the lake's area), more Canvasbacks than expected ( $P < 0.001$ ) were observed in the refuge both inside and outside hunting season. However, use of the refuge was actually slightly higher outside the hunting season (2.53% of the total number of Canvasbacks observed) than during hunting season (2.06%). Fewer Ring-necked Ducks than expected ( $P < 0.001$ ) were observed in the refuge outside of hunting season, but more than expected ( $P < 0.001$ ) were observed in the refuge during hunting season. Lesser Scaup used the refuge in proportion to its availability outside hunting season ( $P = 0.65$ ), but fewer than expected ( $P < 0.001$ ) were observed in the refuge during hunting season. For all species combined, the refuge was used in proportion to its availability outside the hunting season ( $P = 0.35$ ), but more than expected during hunting season ( $P < 0.001$ ).



### Discussion

Aerial observations of waterfowl may be biased because visibility rates are affected by cover type (Neu et al. 1974, Smith et al. 1995) and flock size (Smith et al. 1995). Because cover types within the refuge were representative of the cover types found on the rest of the reservoir, any visibility bias would have been the same in both areas and should not have affected our results. Furthermore, all surveys were conducted at low altitude and low air speed to reduce bias.

Our data suggest that the designated refuge on Lake Seminole is providing a preferred sanctuary for Canvasbacks throughout the winter and for Ring-necked Ducks during the hunting season. While total area of the refuge may be relatively small compared to the size of the reservoir (1.47% of the lake's total area), it is well used by waterfowl. Bellrose (1954) found that even small areas can be important refuges, especially if there is some type of vegetative cover around the refuge. Batten (1977) also states that the presence of screening vegetation around a refuge makes it seem more secluded and may make it more effective. The refuge at Lake Seminole contains islands along the border and within its boundaries that support extensive growths of screening vegetation, including large trees.

Apparently, Lesser Scaup selected other areas of the reservoir during hunting season, potentially using large areas of topped-out *Hydrilla* in the middle of the reservoir to escape hunting. When disturbed, ducks often flush and fly to the center of the pond, lake, or reservoir to escape human activity (Burger 1981). Cronan (1957) found that human activity had a strong impact on Greater Scaup (*A. marila*) feeding behavior, and Greater Scaup did not use areas that were heavily hunted. At Lake Seminole, the *Hydrilla* in the middle of the lake seems to provide a suitable feeding area for Lesser Scaup that is removed from human disturbance. Because Lesser Scaup normally forage in deeper water than other diving ducks (Bellrose 1976), their seeming preference for the open water areas of the lake may not have been affected by hunting pressure.

Future studies should determine the optimum size for an effective refuge on Lake Seminole. While waterfowl may prefer to use the refuge, whether the refuge is large enough to provide any real benefit at the population level is unknown.

### Acknowledgments

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1997–1998 field season. Thanks also to Dr. G. O. Ware of the University of Georgia for his assistance with the statistical analysis, and to J. S. McDonald and C. D. Martin for reviewing earlier versions of this manuscript.

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Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), 30 January 2000, South Beach, Jekyll Island, Georgia. Photo by Pierre Howard.

## STOPOVER SITE FIDELITY OF MIGRANT SONGBIRDS ALONG THE GEORGIA COAST

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Because of the long distances they migrate, and the vagaries of wind and weather, fidelity to stopover sites along migration routes has not been thought to be a common feature of the biology of migrant passerine birds. Reports of site fidelity by "good" transients – individual birds that return to the site of banding in subsequent years and whose regular breeding and wintering grounds are at least 161 km from the banding site (Nisbet 1969) – are uncommon. For example, Winker et al. (1991) reported only 21 individuals from 10 species meeting Nisbet's (1969) criterion that were captured at a banding site between years. Unfortunately, the fact that the Bird Banding Laboratory does not keep records of birds recaptured at the banding site, and the fact that the records for many banding stations are not computerized and/or are in the hands of multiple banders, hampers quantitative analysis of site fidelity in migrant songbirds.

The purpose of this note is to report site fidelity during migration by two species of passerines at a site on the Georgia coast. We also make a preliminary attempt to quantify the frequency of this phenomenon, and we report apparent variation among sites in migratory site fidelity. It is our hope that these data will prompt more detailed analysis of site fidelity by migrant songbirds at other sites.

The data for our analysis come from the Butler Island Auxilliary Station (BIAS) in the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh County, Georgia (31°21' N, 81°26' W). Birds were captured at this banding station, operated by Don and Doris Cohrs, from late August through October, 1995–1999. During this time, the Cohrs operated 12–15 nylon mist nets with 32-mm mesh; birds were banded an average of 57 days (2257 net hours) per fall. Nets were placed along dikes between ponds and marshes managed for waterfowl. The dikes are lined by hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), cherry (*Prunus serotina*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*), and blackberry (*Rubus* spp.). For comparative purposes, we also report data from the Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS), Glynn County, Georgia (31°00' N, 81°25' W). This site, also maintained by Don and Doris Cohrs (Cohrs and Cohrs 1994), operated 9–15 mist nets with 32-mm mesh between mid-September and mid-October, 1978–1999.



Table 1. Individual migrants showing between-year site fidelity at Butler Island Auxiliary Station, Butler Island, McIntosh County, Georgia, 1996–1999 (birds banded 1995–1998).

Species	At Banding			Recapture Date	Years Between Captures
	Age	Sex	Date		
Northern Waterthrush	HY	U	9 Sep 1995	3 Sep 1997	2
Northern Waterthrush	HY	U	10 Sep 1996	6 Sep 1997	1
Northern Waterthrush	AHY	U	14 Sep 1997	4 Sep 1998	1
Northern Waterthrush	HY	U	15 Sep 1996	30 Aug 1999	3
Yellow Warbler	HY	F	16 Sep 1995	27 Sep 1996	1

Birds were banded an average of 28 days (1414 net hours) per fall. The Jekyll Island site is located in early successional habitat between dunes and mature maritime forest at the south end of Jekyll Island. The site is dominated by live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), wax myrtle, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and red bay (*Persea borbonia*).

Five individual migrants of two species showed between-year site fidelity at BIAS during 1996–1999 (Table 1), the years for which recaptures were possible. Four Northern Waterthrushes (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), three of which were hatching-year birds at the time of banding, were recaptured 1–3 years later at the same site. On average, the capture dates differed by only 9 days between years (range 4–16 days). A single female Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*), a hatching-year bird at the time of banding, was recaptured 1 year after banding (within 11 days of the original banding date) (Table 1).

Because 639 Northern Waterthrushes were banded at BIAS between 1995 and 1998, a minimum of 0.63% of individuals showed site fidelity over a 4-year period. A minimum of 0.68% of Yellow Warblers (one out of 148 banded between 1995 and 1998) were site-faithful over the same time period. Unfortunately, it is difficult to assess whether these levels of site fidelity are typical of other species or other sites. Few other "good" transients (as defined by Nisbet 1969) have been captured in sufficient numbers at BIAS from 1995–1998 to quantify site fidelity (e.g., 67 American Redstarts [*Setophaga ruticilla*], 20 Black-throated Blue Warblers [*D. caerulescens*], 29 Veeries [*Catharus fuscescens*]). There are likely to be among-species differences in tendency of songbirds to be faithful

to sites along the migration route. We note that of the 21 site-faithful migrants reviewed by Winker et al. (1991) plus the 5 reported here (a total of 26 birds), 7 were Northern Waterthrushes (27% of the available sample of site-faithful "good" transients). Thus, the available data suggest that Northern Waterthrushes may be particularly prone (relative to other songbirds) to show fidelity to stopover sites.

Interestingly, there have been no cases of site fidelity by good transients at the Jekyll Island banding site, despite the fact that it is located only 37 km south of Butler Island and has been the site of banding for 17 more years (Cohrs and Cohrs 1994). This is probably attributable, at least in part, to the well-known tendency for samples of migrant passerines along the immediate coast to be dominated by young, inexperienced birds (Murray 1966), many of which are probably disoriented and ultimately perish (Ralph 1978). In subsequent years, surviving adult birds presumably migrate along more inland routes and would not show fidelity to a coastal site. Nevertheless, Butler Island is located less than 20 km from coastal beaches, and four of the five site-faithful individuals were captured as young (hatching-year) birds. Thus, differences in the quality of the habitat at the two study sites may also contribute to the observed differences in site fidelity. Our results highlight the need for further study of fidelity to stopover sites by migrant songbirds. In particular, better reporting of this phenomenon should facilitate comparisons among species and sites.

### Acknowledgments

This analysis would not have been possible without the efforts of Don and Doris Cohrs over the last two decades. We also thank the many volunteers who have worked at JIBS and BIAS.

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## GENERAL NOTES

**KING EIDER FROM ST. CATHERINES ISLAND** — This report documents a female King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) observed in Sapelo Sound off of the southern tip of St. Catherines Island, Liberty County, Georgia, on 18 and 19 December 1997, during the St. Catherines Island Christmas Bird Count. First seen by five people through three 15–60X scopes in the morning on a low incoming tide about 100 m off of the beach, the bird was preening and resting intermittently with a small flock of male and female Black Scoters (*Melanitta nigra*). Her robust rounded form, larger size, and more buoyant appearance set her apart from the scoters. Her head and body profile were distinctly eider-like. The forehead appeared to slope more rapidly and lacked the straight-line triangular profile of the female Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) that was seen on the 1988 St. Catherines Island CBC (J. Nichols and B. Winn, 1989, *Oriole* 54:4). There was heavy feathering on the upper portion of the bill, unlike the long exposed upper bill of a Common Eider. The bird's body appeared uniformly brown, including her belly when she rolled to preen. The head showed some gray and was slightly lighter than her back and sides. A thin, light, post-ocular crescent line extended down the side of her head.

A second sighting of a female King Eider occurred the following morning also on an incoming tide. Three additional observers were able to see the bird. She was about 500 m to the southwest of the southern tip of St. Catherines Island in Sapelo Sound, swimming north with a small flock of male and female Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*). After swimming to within 200 m of the observers, she flew past the observers over the sound.

There are few records of King Eiders in Georgia. The first documented occurrence of the species in the state was by W. W. Worthington (1890, *Auk* 7:284), when two were shot at the mouth of the Altamaha River, McIntosh/Glynn County on 25 April and 5 May 1890. Then in early December 1904, King Eiders were seen off of Ossabaw and St. Catherines Islands (A. T. Wayne, 1910, *Birds of South Carolina*, Contrib. Charleston Mus. No. 1). One of the Ossabaw birds was a female shot by W. W. Worthington and its skin is now at the American Museum of Natural History in New York (AMNH #351579). It was not until 1953 when the next King Eider was reported. This bird was shot on the Vernon River in Chatham County (H. W. Coolidge, 1954, *Oriole* 19:18) and eventually was placed in the Natural History Museum at the University of Georgia, (UGA #2067) (W. W. Baker and V. Baker, 1966, *Oriole* 31:34–35). Two King Eiders were reported during the 1980s, one off of Tybee

Island on 1 April 1980 (T. C. Smith, 1980, *Oriole* 45:42) and a second off of Cumberland Island on 1 December 1985 (P. Brisse, 1985, *Oriole* 50:16–20).

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**EASTERN BLUEBIRD BRINGS RING-NECKED SNAKE TO NESTLINGS** — On 25 May 1998, while cleaning the old nest of a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) out of a nest box, I discovered the dried remains of a Southern Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus punctatus*). A pair of bluebirds had recently fledged three young from the box located at my home in Marietta, Georgia. The nest box is a hollow portion of tree trunk with a round metal top placed on 2.54-cm (1-inch) diameter metal conduit. The box is located on the deck of my house, 4.9 m (16 feet) from the back of the house and 1.8 m (6 feet) above the deck. The box is a total of 3 m (10 feet) above the ground.

Because of the location of the box, this small snake was probably delivered to the box by one of the adult bluebirds as food for the nestlings. Ring-necked Snakes are small fossorial snakes that would not be likely to climb the metal pole to gain entry to the nest box. The remains of the snake consisted of approximately 7.5 cm of carcass with the ventral scales intact over a 2.5-cm portion. These ventral scales retained the distinctive single row of black half moon shaped dots that are unique to *D. p. punctatus*. Adult Ring-necked Snakes average 25–35 cm in length, but the remains found in the nest appear to be those of a juvenile snake that did not exceed 15–16 cm in length. It is not clear whether this small snake was offered to the nestlings and not eaten or consumed by the nestlings and only partially digested.

F. E. L. Beal (1915, U. S. Dept. Agr. Bull. 171) did not report snakes in the diet of Eastern Bluebirds, although he did find the bones of tree frogs and lizards among their stomach contents. H. S. Fitch (1967, Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Publ. 62:1–53) lists owls and hawks among the predators of Ring-necked Snakes, but not bluebirds. However, given the foraging behavior of Eastern Bluebirds, it is perhaps not surprising that they occasionally take small snakes as prey.

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**FIRST CLAY-COLORED SPARROW FOR AUGUSTA** — On the morning of 6 November 1999, I was leading an Audubon field trip in Merry Brickyard Ponds in Augusta, Georgia. We were checking through a large group of sparrows in a cut-over corn field along the main road when I spotted a "different" sparrow. I was only about 2 meters away from the bird as he sat on a short stick up in the plowed field. It was a small sparrow with a clear breast and pinkish legs and bill. There was an obvious stripe through the crown and, when the bird turned around, I could see a conspicuous wide gray nape extending to the side of the neck and a brown rump. Based on these field marks, we identified the bird as a Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*). This is the first record of this species for Augusta.

After our observations, the bird flew to the middle of the field and fed with other sparrows, which included Swamp, Savannah, and Song Sparrows. The Clay-colored Sparrow could not be located when I returned the next day.

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**FISH CROW PREDATION ON EGGS BEING LAID BY A FLORIDA SOFTSHELL TURTLE** — Fish Crows (*Corvus ossifragus*) are opportunistic predators, especially of birds' eggs, and they use a variety of foraging behaviors to capture or attempt to capture prey (e.g., W. G. Fargo, 1927, *Auk* 44:566–567; A. C. Bent, 1946, U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 191; D. B. McNair, 1989, *Chat* 53:66–68; R. B. Clapp, 1996, *Raven* 67:25–27). Only Fargo (1927) has documented Fish Crow predation on turtle eggs; he found several eggs of an unidentified species of turtle at a Fish Crow feeding station in spring along the Gulf coast of Wakulla County, Florida. This note documents Fish Crow predation of eggs being laid by a Florida Softshell Turtle (*Apalone ferox*) near the shore of Lake Jackson, Leon County, in the eastern Panhandle of Florida.

On 9 June 1999, a large (carapace length: 47 cm) adult female Florida Softshell Turtle was laying eggs in a shallow (10 cm) chamber on the lakebed of Lake Jackson at 13:30 h. The saturated soil of the lakebed at the nest-site did not contain visible sand and had a high clay content; the top 6 cm was moist, soft, and friable. The nest-site was 12 m from a duck-blind and 35 m from the current shoreline of Lake Jackson, a sinkhole lake that was draining in 1999. The normal shoreline was located about 125 m away, and had dry sandy soils just upslope from it. Florida Softshell Turtles prefer sandy, well-drained soils as nest-sites (R. E. Ashton, Jr. and P. S. Ashton, 1985, *Handbook of reptiles and amphibians in Florida, Part 2*, Windward

Publ. Co.), but the distance from the current shoreline to the normal shoreline of Lake Jackson was possibly too far for the turtle to travel. The turtle was laying eggs at a nest-site that was unusually exposed in an unusual site (lake bottom).

As the turtle was laying eggs, a few Fish Crows that were patrolling in the vicinity quickly descended to the ground at the rear of the turtle. Several crows in turn flew off with one spherical white egg each, while some crows without eggs pursued them. More Fish Crows soon joined the small flock and vigorously jostled for position at the rear of the turtle. Successful crows briefly descended to the ground or hovered without landing, and carried off one egg each to eat at distances over 50 m from the nest-site. I counted 12 eggs taken, but could have missed a few because of all the activity; clutch size of the Florida Softshell Turtle ranges from 4 to 22 eggs (Ashton and Ashton 1985). Flock size eventually reached 31 Fish Crows. Most dispersed soon after egg-laying ceased. I examined the nest-site and confirmed that no eggs remained in the chamber. I also palpated the fleshy abdomen of the turtle but could not detect any eggs within the body.

American Crows (*C. brachyrhynchos*) regularly prey on turtle eggs, including those of the Florida Softshell, which they may follow to nest-sites as far as 100 m from water (about six observations at Tall Timbers Research Station; W. W. Baker, pers. comm.). Thus, it is hardly surprising that Fish Crows also prey on softshell turtle eggs, which I observed on other occasions at Lake Jackson during spring 1999. This behavior, for a species that commonly eats bird eggs, has undoubtedly been overlooked. Nonetheless, this note provides documentation of unusual predatory behavior of Fish Crows on eggs actually being laid by an adult female Florida Softshell, and is an additional example of the opportunistic foraging behavior of Fish Crows.

I thank W. W. Baker and W. Post for their reviews of the manuscript.

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### FROM THE FIELD AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1999

This fall will be remembered by many for the exceptional number of rare sparrow reports. Of course, this may be at least partly attributable to the fact that many birders, armed with high-quality optics, are now prepared to stomp across wet and weedy fields in search of LBJs (little brown jobs). My own personal sparrow highlight for the period was, along with a number of other birders, observing both a Henslow's and a Lincoln's perched on a limb, no more than a foot apart, at the edge of a field in Haralson County. Not knowing which bird to look at was a terrible dilemma! As if that was not enough, we got to see a LeConte's perched out in the open just a few minutes later. A sighting of any one of these three sparrows would usually make for a successful day of birding in the Piedmont. The fields at the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula NWR have in recent years become known as one of the most reliable sites in the state for Le Conte's Sparrow. With this in mind, Giff Beaton conscripted a small army of fifteen birders to march across these fields. The count at the end of the day was an amazing 51. Other sparrow highlights included Clay-colored Sparrows from four different parts of the state, and a Lark Sparrow banded near Darien by Doris Cohrs.

Overall, I think it is fair to say that it was an average fall for warbler migration as some reported better than normal numbers, while others felt numbers were down slightly. Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba, and others are doing an excellent job in compiling migration numbers at Kennesaw Mt., which will allow us to examine long-term trends in the coming years. Thanks also to Georgann Schmaltz for providing a complete tally of the birds seen during spring and fall migration walks at Fernbank Forest.

This fall saw massive movements of both Snow Goose and Sandhill Crane through Georgia. On 14 November several observers reported sizable flocks of Snow Geese moving south. This species is currently undergoing a population explosion, which is not all good news due because of the increasing pressure on the high Arctic tundra on their breeding grounds. Even more exceptional was the movement of Sandhill Cranes reported at the end of November. Chuck Saleeby, by himself, estimated an astounding 7200 flying over Cobb Co. on one day. It would be interesting to know the total population of the migratory race that winters in the Southeast.

The season also produced more than its fair share of rarities, with multiple sightings of Red-necked Grebe, Red-necked Phalarope, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Shiny Cowbird. Vermilion Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Golden Eagle

were also reported, the latter being noteworthy as it was away from the old hack-site at the Crockford-Pigeon Mt. WMA. However, the most intriguing reports to me during the entire period were that of Alder Flycatcher and Cassin's Vireo. There are only three definite records of Alder Flycatcher listed in the ACOGB, though undoubtedly this hard to identify species is a regular transient through the state. Cassin's Vireo was of course, until recently, lumped together with Blue-headed Vireo and Plumbeous Vireo as one species, Solitary Vireo. There are no previous records of Cassin's Vireo for Georgia, though there are a small number of records, including specimens, for other eastern states. An excellent article on the field identification and distribution of the Solitary Vireo complex, published in the December 1996 issue of *Birding*, bears reading again.

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people who have assisted me in my first year as editor of *From The Field*. Thanks to Mim Eisenberg, who has the unenviable task of proofreading my original reports. Jeff Sewell, my predecessor, gave me much helpful advice and was of great assistance with the first couple of reports. Terry Moore continues to compile monthly reports for the Atlanta Audubon Society and forward them to me in a timely manner. Also, thanks to the many individuals who take the time to send reports of their notable sightings. Any additional comments or suggestions as to how to make this report better are always welcome.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh Co.; CRNRA - Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Cobb Co.; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; Kennesaw Mt. - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; MBBP - Merry Bros. Brickyard Ponds, Augusta; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.; SGRBA - South Georgia Rare Bird Alert; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - One was seen at Plant Wansley in Carroll Co. on 28 November for a rare inland sighting (Bob Zaremba).

COMMON LOON - Eighteen was the count at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on both 5 November (Earl Horn) and 8 November (Rusty Trump).

HORNED GREBE - Twenty were seen at Plant Wansley in Carroll/Heard Cos. on 30 October (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott), and 40 were counted at the same location on 6 November (Giff Beaton et al.). Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had good counts of 50 at Lake Hartwell and 24 at Russell Lake on 31 October. Twenty were also counted at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 19 November (Jim Flynn).



- RED-NECKED GREBE - This rare species was reported from two inland locations during the period. One was spotted at Lake Hartwell on 31 October (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and was seen there again the next day (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). Two were seen at Plant Wansley in Carroll Co. on 28 November (Bob Zaremba).
- EARED GREBE - Four were seen at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 5 November (Earl Horn), and three were still at that location on 22 November (Jim Flynn). Another reliable spot for this species is Plant Scherer in Monroe Co.; four were recorded there during an Atlanta Audubon Society field trip on 20 November. Two were also found at Plant Wansley in Carroll Co. on 28 November (Bob Zaremba).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Several were seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 2 October (SGRBA), two were reported from Little St. Simons Island during a GOS field trip on 3 October (Mike Chapman et al.), 10 were seen in the Darien area on 23 October (Doris Cohrs), and one was reported from Melon Bluff, Liberty Co., on 1 November (*vide* Mary Elfner).
- BROWN PELICAN - An estimated 750 were seen at St. Catherines Island on 17 August (Paul Sykes).
- ANHINGA - Numbers of this species have been increasing in middle Georgia in recent years. Eric Beohm found a nest in the Rum Creek WMA in Jones Co. on 20 August, and Ty Ivey reported six nests with young in Bibb Co. on 28 August. Anne Waters reports that this species is also increasing in numbers in the Augusta area, with the high count at the MBBP being 21 on 29 November. Other interesting reports were one seen at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in the Columbus area on 15 September, two at the same location on 19 October (Walt Chambers), and one seen in northern Greene Co. on 9 October (Paul Sykes).
- AMERICAN BITTERN - One at the CRNRA on 13 October was an excellent find (Jack Carusos). Other reports included one during most of October in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. (Michelle Berry, Anne Waters), two to three at the AWMA on 10 October (Larry Ross et al.), one at Onslow Island on 23 October (Diana Churchill et al.), one at Richmond Hill WMA on 21 November (Diana Churchill), and one along the Andrews Island Causeway on both 27 November (Eric Beohm) and 28 November (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- LEAST BITTERN - One was seen at the AWMA on 26 October (Doris Cohrs).
- GREAT EGRET - Good numbers were reported at the MBBP in November, with counts of 46 on 20 November and 56 on 27 November (Anne Waters).
- SNOWY EGRET - The four birds that showed up during the summer at the ELHLAF remained through at least 5 September (many observers). Four were also seen at the Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co. on 3 August (Stephen Stewart), and the high count at the MBBP was five on 5 September (Anne Waters).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - The best counts from the Piedmont were eight at Snake Creek Park in Heard Co. on 14 August (Michael Bell), and 11 at the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery in Meriwether Co. on 21 August (Jim Flynn).

- REDDISH EGRET - This species was reported from several locations along the coast, with the high count being three at Little St. Simons Island on 3 Oct. (Mike Chapman et al.). Two were seen on Cumberland Island on both 5 August (Brad Winn) and 30 September (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba). All other reports were of single birds at Andrews Island Causeway on 2 August (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm), at Little Tybee Island on 31 August (Deb Barriero et al.), at Jekyll Island on 4-6 September (Mary Elfner), again at Jekyll Island on 2 October (SGRBA), and at Goulds Inlet from 3-16 October (Brad Bergstrom, Lydia Thompson).
- CATTLE EGRET - Eric Beohm had a good count of 205 in Upson Co. on 15 August. Unusual for the time of year were three seen in Seminole Co. on 26 November (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton, Oscar Dewberry).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Four were seen at the Eufaula NWR on 24 October (Walt Chambers).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Single immatures were seen at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 1 August (Michael Bell) and at Eufaula NWR on 8 September (Walt Chambers).
- WHITE IBIS - An immature remained at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. from 24 August-10 September (Michael Bell), and two immatures were seen at Snake Creek Park in Heard Co. on both 14 August and 21 September (Michael Bell). Georgann Schmalz had an excellent count of 30 immatures in Gordon Co. on 4 September.
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Good numbers were reported from the usual roost site off of US 17, south of the Jekyll Island Causeway, where Darrell Lee had an impressive 34 on 29 August. Twenty were still there on 25 September (Mike Chapman).
- WOOD STORK - There were a number of inland sightings, with as many as nine at the Rum Creek WMA during most of August (many observers), five in the Macon area on 20 August (Jerry Amerson, Arlene Clark, Ken Clark, Ty Ivey), 14 at Dyar's Pasture in Greene Co. on 25 August (Juana Anderson), an excellent count of 60 at ENWR on 8 September (Walt Chambers), and eight in Baker Co. on 25 October (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - One was seen among a flock of Canada Geese at Lake Hartwell on 14 November (Davis Bullock).
- SNOW GOOSE - A white-phase bird seen at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September was early (Michael Bell). One might expect this species to become more common in Georgia in late fall and winter as its population continues to explode, though I do not think anyone could have foreseen the kind of invasion that occurred on 14 November. On that day, 250 were seen near Woodstock (Helen Ogren), Giff Beaton saw 32 fly over his home in Cobb Co., 60+ were seen in Oglethorpe Co. (Eugenia Thompson), and 120 were reported flying over the Rome area (*vide* Stephen Stewart). There were a number of other reports from around the state during November, mostly of single birds, though 22 were seen at ENWR on 25 November (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm).
- ROSS'S GOOSE - The bird that summered in Madison Co. remained there through the fall (many observers).



- GADWALL - Good counts were 50 at a small pond in Coweta Co. on 14 November (Michael Bell), and 28 at the ELHLAF on 27 November (Paul Raney).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Reports included three at Blanton Creek WMA in Harris Co. on 6 November (Giff Beaton), three at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 9 November (Michael Bell), three in Heard Co. on 16 November (Michael Bell), six at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. on 20 November (Brock Hutchins et al.), two at the MBBP on 20 November (Anne Waters), and a nice count of 10 at Eufaula NWR on 25 November (Eric Beohm).
- MOTTLED DUCK - Fifteen was a good count at the AWMA on 1 August (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - The high counts for the period were 90+ at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September (Michael Bell) and 125 at the Rum Creek WMA on 2 October (Jerry Payne).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER - Paul Raney had a decent count of 36 at the ELHLAF on 27 November.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL - A bird that was reported at the ELHLAF during the summer remained through most of August (many observers), and on 16 October three were seen there (Aubrey Scott et al.). Other reports included one at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 11 October (Giff Beaton), one in Floyd Co. on 15 November (Marion Dobbs), three at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. on both 13 November (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Malcolm Hodges) and 20 November (Brock Hutchins et al.), and one at SCSF on 28 November (Pierre Howard).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL - Early reports included two at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September (Michael Bell), and 18 at the ELHLAF on 19 September (Jeff Sewell et al.).
- CANVASBACK - Two were a nice find at Garden Lakes in the Rome area on 24 October (Marion Dobbs).
- REDHEAD - Eight were seen at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 8 November (Rusty Trump), 12 were at West Point Lake on 25 November (Eric Beohm), one was seen in Heard Co. on 16 November (Michael Bell), and two were at the MBBP on 27 November (Anne Waters).
- SURF SCOTER - Three immatures were spotted at West Point Dam on 9 November for a rare inland sighting (Michael Bell).
- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Four were seen at Jekyll Island on both 5 November (Lydia Thompson) and 8 November (Gene Keferl).
- OLDSQUAW - One was reported at Walter F. George Dam on 8 November (Michael Beohm). Singles were seen at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. on 13 November (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Malcolm Hodges), and again at that location during an Atlanta Audubon Society field trip on 20 November. Another bird seen on the same field trip was originally identified as another Oldsquaw by a number of experts, but on closer inspection it turned out to be a decoy (You know who you are!).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE - Singles were reported from West Point Lake on 25 November (Eric Beohm), and at Plant Wansley in Heard Co. on 30 November (Giff Beaton et al.).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Jim Flynn had a good count of 87 at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 28 November.

- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Two reports were received of sightings away from the more reliable sites for this species. One was seen at the Etowah Indian Mounds in Bartow Co. on 6 August (Peggy Moore et al.), and one was seen in Brooks Co. on 12 August (Brad Bergstrom).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - There were two reports of this species in the Atlanta area. Two were seen along the Chattahoochee River during August by Jack Carusos, and one was seen in Clayton Co. on 3 September (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm). Other unusual sightings included two in Morgan Co. on 18 August (Billy Dunbar), and one at Rum Creek WMA on 26 August (Eric Beohm).
- BALD EAGLE - This species continues to be well reported from around the state, with the high count being four at the AWMA on 16 October (Eric Beohm), and also four at Ossabaw Island on 30 October (Mary Elfner).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - The high count was 33 over Lawrenceville on 1 October (Joel Hitt).
- GOLDEN EAGLE - Jeff Sewell did not have to travel far to see the sub-adult that flew over his yard in Tucker in DeKalb Co. on 30 October.
- AMERICAN KESTREL - Four were seen at Thomas Brothers sod farm on 21 August (Kevin Danchisen, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). This may well have been a family group indicating a rare nesting of this species in the area.
- MERLIN - Two reports came from the western edge of the state. One was seen in the Rome area on 31 October (Marion Dobbs), and one was seen at the Eufaula NWR on 7 November (Walt Chambers).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - The first one reported from the coast was a single bird seen along the St. Simons Island Causeway on 3 September (Lydia Thompson). High counts were 17 at the AWMA on 9 October (Larry Ross et al.), and ten at Jekyll Island on 10 October (Lydia Thompson). Inland reports were all of single birds, with sightings in the Rome area on 7 October (Stephen Stewart), at Kennesaw Mt. on 12 October (Susanna Rinard), in Carroll Co. on 18 October (Michael Bell), in the Columbus area on 21 October (Walt Chambers), and in Stewart Co. on 24 October (Michael Bell).
- BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes reported that none were found at the Greene Co. marsh where he usually finds small numbers through at least September. This may have been due to extremely dry conditions, he notes.
- KING RAIL - The Greene Co. marsh produced one on 18 September, two on 31 October, and one on 14 November (Paul Sykes).
- VIRGINIA RAIL - A single bird was an unusual find in Haralson Co. on 26 and 29 October (Michael Bell et al.). At least three were reported from Floyd College in Floyd Co. during October and November (Marion Dobbs), and the high count for the Greene Co. marsh was 10 on 14 November (Paul Sykes).
- SORA - The high count for the Greene Co. marsh was 28 on 24 October (Paul Sykes).
- PURPLE GALLINULE - Eight was a good count at Harris Neck NWR on 11 September (Darrell Lee).
- SANDHILL CRANE - Two birds, presumably of the nonmigratory Florida race, were noted at Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta on 15 August (Brad Bergstrom). The first southbound birds reported were a flock of 17 over



Liberty Co. on 29 October (Larry Carlile). Many flocks were reported throughout November, with an extraordinary push towards the end of the month. Five separate flocks were observed in Houston Co. on 29 November (Larry Ross), and Chuck Saleeby counted an amazing 7200 over east Cobb Co. on 30 November! For good measure, Vicki and Harry DeLoach estimated 1500 over Sweat Mt. in northeast Cobb Co. on the same day.

**AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER** - Two were reported at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 11 September (Earl Horn), and also the next day (Chris Loudermilk, Rick Waldrop). Giff Beaton saw two at a sod farm in Coweta Co. on 18 September.

**SEMIPALMATED PLOVER** - Inland sightings included two at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 24 August, three at Rum Creek WMA on 4 September (Eric Beohm), and three at the ELHLAF on 5 September (Sherry Anderson et al.).

**PIPING PLOVER** - Twenty was a good count on Cumberland Island, especially considering the early date of 5 August (Brad Winn). Eight were also noted on Cumberland Island on 30 September (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba), and at least 20 were reported from Little St. Simons Island on 3 October (Mike Chapman et al.).

**AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER** - Brad Winn had excellent counts, with 184 on Wolf Island on 3 August, and 264 at Little St. Simons Island on 14 October.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** - The high count was 63 along the Andrews Island Causeway on 27 November (Eric Beohm).

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** - Singles were seen at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 21 August (Kevin Danchisen, Nelson Dobbs, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 11 September (Earl Horn). Another single was seen at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 11 September (Earl Horn) and 12 September (Chris Loudermilk), and two were reported from the Super Sod farm in Peach Co. on 11 September (Dot Freeman).

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** - Singles were reported from Little St. Simons Island on 3 October (Mike Chapman et al.), and from both Egg Island Bar and St. Simons Island on 14 October (Brad Winn).

**MARbled GODWIT** - The high count was 74 from Little St. Simons Island on 3 October (Mike Chapman et al.).

**RUDDY TURNSTONE** - Rare inland sightings were made, with one at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September (Michael Bell), and one at the ELHLAF on 12 September (Gail Casteel et al.).

**SANDERLING** - Continuing a trend of inland sightings during fall in recent years, three were seen at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 12 Sept. (Rick Waldrop), and one was seen at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. on both 13 Nov. (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn, Malcolm Hodges) and 20 Nov. (Brock Hutchins et al.).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER** - Eight was a good count at the Rum Creek WMA on 4 September (Eric Beohm). A late bird was seen at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 3 November (Michael Bell). The late date for the interior in the ACOGB is 31 October.

**LEAST SANDPIPER** - Good numbers were reported from the ELHLAF throughout the period with the high count being 31 counted on an

Atlanta Audubon Society field trip on 29 August. On the same day Marion Dobbs reported about 40 at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. Anne Waters had a count of 40 at the MBBP on 6 November, and Jim Flynn et al. had a good count of 50 at Plant Scherer in Monroe Co. on 13 November.

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** - There was a surprisingly high number of reports for fall. One was seen at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 21 August (Kevin Danchisen, Nelson Dobbs, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), one was at the ELHLAF on 2 September (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell), one again at Thomas Bros. on 11 September (Earl Horn), one was at the Rum Creek WMA on 16 September (Eric Beohm), one was at the Griffin Reservoir in Spalding Co. on 16 September (Eric Beohm), and two were seen at Onslow Island on 1 October (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba) and again on 23 October (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** - This species was also well reported, with two at the ELHLAF on 1 September (Walt Chambers), one at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September (Michael Bell), one at the Rum Creek WMA on 11 September (Eric Beohm), two at Onslow Island on 16 October (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm), and one again at Onslow Island on 23 October (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** - Marion Dobbs had a good count of 75 at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 29 August.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** - Two were reported from the usual Tybee Island site on 26 November (Earl Horn).

**DUNLIN** - One was reported at the ELHLAF during most of October, and three were seen there from 7-14 November (many observers). Walt Chambers reported one at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center near Columbus from 21-28 October.

**STILT SANDPIPER** - The ELHLAF hosted this species for most of September, with a high count of nine on 18 September (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm, Richard Beohm), with the last one being seen there on 17 October (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell). The high count for Onslow Island was 50 on 16 October (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).

**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** - Good numbers were reported from various sod farms, with peaks of 10 at Thomas Bros. in Floyd Co. on 29 August (Marion Dobbs), eight at Super Sod in Peach Co. on 11 September (Eric Beohm), and six at Sod Atlanta on 19 September (Price Webb).

**SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** - At the ELHLAF one was seen on 12 August (Eric Beohm) and 14 August (Jeff Sewell), and two were there on 26 September (Joe Greenberg et al.).

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** - The only report of more than one bird was the five seen along the Andrews Island Causeway on 27 November (Eric Beohm).

**WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - One was reported from the ELHLAF on 5 August by Paul Raney. One was seen at Onslow Island on 16 October (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** - One was first seen at the ELHLAF on 5 August by Eric Beohm and remained until 7 August (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell). Another single was found at Jekyll Island on 23 September (Doris Cohrs,



- Lydia Thompson), and was last seen on 29 September (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba).
- JAEGER - A jaeger, unidentified as to species, was a rare sighting at West Point Lake on 31 October (Lorna West).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - This winter visitor may now be expected to show up by early August, as evidenced by the four seen at Jekyll Island on both 1 August (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm) and 14 August (Bill Blakeslee). The high count for the period was the 11 seen at Gould's Inlet on 3 October (SGRBA).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - The high count for the period was five at Gould's Inlet on 3 October (SGRBA).
- CASPIAN TERN - Two impressive counts were made with 124 on Wolf Island on 3 August (Brad Winn), and about 200 at Gould's Inlet on 3 October (SGRBA). Walt Chambers spotted one inland at Eufaula NWR on 24 October.
- SANDWICH TERN - High counts were 50+ at Blackbeard Island on 19 August (Steve Holzman), and 109 at Wassaw Island on 21 August (Steve Calver). Late birds included two at Jekyll Island on 27 November (Jeff Sewell) and two at Gould's Inlet on 28 November (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- COMMON TERN - No large numbers were reported from the coast, but the two seen at River Bend Park in Chattahoochee Co. on 19 September were a good find (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- FORSTER'S TERN - Inland sightings included one in Pike Co. on 25 November (Michael Beohm), and four at Plant Wansley in Heard Co. on 30 November (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLACK TERN - Steve Holzman reported "hundreds" at Blackbeard Island on 19 August. The only inland reports received were of one at the Lake Oliver dam on 21 August (Jim Flynn), and one at Buchanan Lake in Haralson Co. on 10 September (Michael Bell).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - This species continues to thrive in Thomaston in Upson Co., as evidenced by the 77 counted there on 10 October (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE - One seen in Heard Co. on 7 August was unusual that far north (Jim Flynn).
- SHORT-EARED OWL - At the usual location near Cobb in Sumter Co. five were seen on 20 November (Giff Beaton et al.).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK - Harry Hooper noted 400 to 500 over the Albany area on 8 September. A late bird was still at the Atlanta Airport area in Fulton Co. on 11 November (Aubrey Scott).
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Early reports included one on St. Catherines Island on 9 September (Terry Johnson). At least three were banded in the state during the month of November (fide Jeff Sewell).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - One seen in Tucker in DeKalb Co. on 19 September was quite early (Jeff Sewell).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - This rare transient was well reported, with sightings from three locations, all in DeKalb Co. One was seen in the Tucker area on 1 and 2 September (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell), one was at the South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve on 12 September (Jerry

- Brunner, Chris Loudermilk), and one was in Fernbank Forest on 25 September (Georgann Schmaltz).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - It was another excellent fall for this species, with reports from several locations. All sightings were of single birds and came from SCSP on 4 September (Chris Loudermilk) and 16 September (Michael Bell), Jones Co. on 12 September (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson), the Reynolds Nature Preserve in Clayton Co. on 17 and 19 September (Eric Beohm), Roosevelt State Park on 18 September (Jim Flynn), Taliaferro Co. on 23 September (Giff Beaton), the CRNRA on 5 October (Eric Beohm), and Clinch Co. on 10 October (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard, Bob Zaremba).
- ALDER FLYCATCHER - There are few definite records of this difficult-to-identify flycatcher, but a bird seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 28 August (Giff Beaton et al.) and seen and heard calling the next day (Jeff Sewell et al.) was determined to be this species.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - One was seen at the Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton Co. on the late date of 17 October (Aubrey Scott). The late date listed in the ACOGB is 2 October.
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - One was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 2 September (Giff Beaton et al.), and one was reported at the Reynolds Nature Preserve on 19 September (Eric Beohm).
- EASTERN PHOEBE - Early arrivals for the coast were singles at Paulk's Pasture WMA in Glynn Co. on 19 September (Mike Chapman, Gene Keferl), and at Jekyll Island on 20 September (Gene Keferl) and 24 September (Lydia Thompson).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER - An adult female seen at Jekyll Island on 2 October was one of the highlights of the GOS fall meeting. (fide Brad Bergstrom).
- GRAY KINGBIRD - Eric and Jessica Beohm had an outstanding count of eight on Jekyll Island on 2 August. For good measure they also had two along the Jekyll Island Causeway and one in Brunswick on the same day.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - A flyover was spotted in Roswell on 3 September (Peggy Moore).
- CASSIN'S VIREO - An individual, in the company of two Blue-headed Vireos, was carefully studied in northern Greene Co. on 24 October by Paul Sykes. Details have been sent to the Georgia Checklist and Records Committee of this potential first state record.
- WARBLING VIREO - This rare transient was found at two of the more reliable sites for this species. One was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 7 and 8 September (Bob Zaremba et al.) and again on 22 September (Giff Beaton et al.), and one was reported at the CRNRA on both 21 September (Earl Horn) and 23 September (Eric Beohm).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - This species was well reported across the state from mid-September to mid-October, with the CRNRA being the hot-spot. Several multiple sightings were made there, including a high count of six on 22 September (Eric Beohm).
- HORNED LARK - Dot Freeman had a good count of 25 at Super Sod in Peach Co. on 11 September. One seen at Berry College in Floyd Co. on 9 November was said to be unusual for that location (Marion Dobbs).



- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** - A large count of 400 was seen in the Macon area on 19 September (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn). John Swiderski had a late bird in the Valdosta area on 1 November, beating the late date in the ACOGB by one day.
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - It was a good fall for this irruptive species. The first report was of a single bird seen in northwest Rabun Co. on 6 September (Joel Hitt). By the end of the month, two were reported from Kennesaw Mt. on 22 September (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard), and one was seen in Habersham Co. on 26 September (Jim Flynn). During October and November there were several reports of small numbers from around the state, including three at Kennesaw Mt. on 16 October (Chuck Saleeby et al.) and three at Carters Lake on 27 November (Bob Zaremba). The highest count, however, was the seven seen along Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co., where there is a small resident population, on 11 October (Jim Flynn).
- HOUSE WREN** - An exceptionally high count of 30 was made at Onslow Island on 16 October (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- SEDGE WREN** - Several good counts were made during the period, including five in Greene Co. on 26 September (Paul Sykes), 12 at the CRNRA on both 1 and 5 October (Eric Beohm), four at a marsh in Austell in Cobb Co. on 11 October (Giff Beaton, Chris Loudermilk, Bob Zaremba), eight at the marsh at Kennesaw Mt. on 12 October (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba), and an outstanding 33 at the ENWR on 21 November (Giff Beaton et al.).
- MARSH WREN** - Good counts were the eight seen at the CRNRA on 23 September (Eric Beohm), and 13 seen in Greene Co. on 26 September (Paul Sykes).
- GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** - Several birders reported seeing good numbers of this species across the state during November. Noteworthy was the count of 35 in Seminole Co. on 26 November (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton, Oscar Dewberry).
- THRUSHES** - Thrush numbers from Kennesaw Mt. were felt to be very low, though this may have been partially due to the absence of some of the most dedicated thrush observers, according to Giff Beaton.
- VEERY** - Only two sightings were reported all fall from Kennesaw Mt. Fernbank forest fared little better, with a total of five for the season (*vide* Georgann Schmaltz). Jim Flynn did manage to see four, however, along the Pine Mt. Trail in Meriwether Co. on 18 September.
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** - Numbers of this species were also down at Kennesaw Mt., with a total of nine for the period. Surprisingly, none at all were reported during the fall migration walks at Fernbank Forest (*vide* Georgann Schmaltz).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** - This was the only thrush species reported with near-normal numbers for daytime at Kennesaw Mt., the total for the period being 104. Eighty was a good total on a pre-dawn count at Crooked River State Park on 30 September (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba). Other noteworthy tallies were 14 along the Pine Mt. Trail on 18 September (Jim Flynn), and 15 at Fernbank Forest on 25 September (*vide* Georgann Schmaltz).
- WOOD THRUSH** - Jim Flynn had 36 of this species along Pine Mt. Trail on 18 September. Decent counts at Fernbank Forest were 21 on 25 September

- and 16 on 2 October (*vide* Georgann Schmaltz). Fifteen were tallied on a pre-dawn count at Crooked River State Park on 30 September (Giff Beaton, Bob Zaremba). The total fall count for Kennesaw Mt. was 37, which is the lowest total in five years of record keeping there.
- AMERICAN PIPIT** - Eugenia Thompson had a good count of 100+ in Oglethorpe Co. on 7 November.
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** - A rare sighting was made, with one at Jekyll Island on 29 August (Darrell Lee). Six was the high count at Kennesaw Mt. on 11 September (Bob Zaremba et al.), and three was a good count at Big Lazer Creek WMA in Talbot Co. on 18 September (Jim Flynn).
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER** - This Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid was seen at the State Botanical Gardens in Clarke Co. on 8 September (Marion Dobbs).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** - This species was quite well reported, with a total of seven being seen at Kennesaw Mt. between 1 and 22 September. All other sightings were of single birds in the Macon area on 4 September (Ty Ivey), at the CRNRA on both 4 September (*vide* Earl Horn) and 18 September (Joel Hitt et al.), in Habersham Co. on 26 September (Jim Flynn), again at the CRNRA on 1 October (Eric Beohm), in the Savannah area on 13 October (Dianne Churchill), and a late bird was seen at the CRNRA on 29 October (Russ Wigh).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** - One seen in the Rome area on 31 October was quite late (Marion Dobbs).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** - One seen in the Darien area on 21 August was fairly early (Harriet Langford).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - Three seen in Seminole Co. on 26 November were unusual for the area (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton, Oscar Dewberry).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER** - Late birds were one seen in the Rome area on 27 October (Marion Dobbs) and one seen at the CRNRA on 28 October (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). The one spotted in the Brunswick area on 28 November was possibly a wintering bird (Mike Chapman).
- PALM WARBLER** - At least 100 was a good count at the ELHLAF on 3 October (Malcolm Hodges).
- CERULEAN WARBLER** - During migration 112 were recorded at Kennesaw Mt., where the average reported for the last five falls is 166. The high count was 11 on 27 August (Chris Loudermilk, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - Single birds seen in Mitchell Co. on 25 November (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton) and in Seminole Co. on 26 November (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton, Oscar Dewberry) may have been late migrants or rare wintering birds.
- OVENBIRD** - Single birds seen in Grady Co. on 12 November (Grace Howell *vide* Gail Menk) and in Worth Co. on 28 November (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton) may also have been rare wintering birds.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** - One banded in the Darien area on 12 September by Doris Cohrs was somewhat late.
- MOURNING WARBLER** - An unusually high number of reports of this rare migrant were received this fall. One was seen at the South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 13 September (Eric Beohm,



Michael Beohm), and one was reported at the CRNRA on both 23 September (Eric Beohm) and 25 September (Jack Carusos et al.).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** - It was one of the best falls ever for this species, with reports of one at Kennesaw Mt. on 28 August (Giff Beaton), one at Reynolds Nature Preserve in Clayton Co. on 3 September (Eric Beohm), one again at Kennesaw Mt. on 15 September (Mike Bernard, Susanna Rinard), one at the CRNRA on 20 September (Earl Horn), one near Macon on 25 September (Ty Ivey, Paul Johnson), an incredible three in Meriwether Co. on 26 September (Michael Beohm), and one was seen on the late date of 28 November (Jerry Amerson). There are only a handful of winter records for this species in Georgia.

**CANADA WARBLER** - A rare sighting for the coastal plain was a migrant seen in the Valdosta on 29 August (Barbara Passmore).

**YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** - One seen at the Kennesaw Mt. Marsh on 24 October was late for the Piedmont (Giff Beaton).

**SUMMER TANAGER** - Also fairly late was one of this species in the Valdosta area on 24 October (Brad Bergstrom).

**WESTERN TANAGER** - Presumably the same bird that wintered in Bellville in Evans Co. last year was reported there again between 25 October and 6 November (Maria-Jose Blocker).

**SPARROWS** - What an outstanding fall it was for sparrows, particularly in the Piedmont, where several species that are rarely reported at all were found on a number of occasions.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** - There were four reports from across the state. Doris Cohrs banded one in the Darien area on 11 October. One was seen at the CRNRA on both 13 and 14 October (Kevin Danchisen, Bruce Dralle), one was found in the Augusta area on 6 November (Anne Waters et al.), and one was seen in Decatur Co. on 26 November (Giff Beaton).

**VESPER SPARROW** - Good finds for the Atlanta area were five at the CRNRA on 28 October (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), seven at the same location on 30 October (Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell), and six in Paulding Co. on 11 November (Giff Beaton, Susanna Rinard).

**LARK SPARROW** - A hatching-year female was banded near Darien on 6 September (Doris Cohrs).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** - Almost too many reports to list! At a marsh in the Austell area in Cobb Co. two were found on 11 October (Giff Beaton, Chris Loudermilk, Bob Zaremba) and one was seen on 16 October (Michael Bell, Aubrey Scott). Giff Beaton et al. found one at the Kennesaw Mt. marsh on 24 October, and on the same day one was seen at Onslow Island (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). The species was also reported at the CRNRA, with one on 23 and 26 October (Jack Carusos) and two on 28 October (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). A single bird was found in Haralson Co. on 30 October (Michael Bell et al.). At Paulk's Pasture in Glynn Co., a reliable wintering site for this species, four were found on 28 November (Eric Beohm).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** - Singles were seen at Onslow Island on 24 October (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), the CRNRA on 26 October (Jack Carusos, Peggy Marino) and 28 October (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and in Haralson Co. on 30 October (Michael Bell et al.). This species was found wintering at Eufaula NWR in good numbers last year, and a

systematic search of the fields there on 21 November by an army of fifteen birders, under the command of Giff Beaton, produced an astounding count of 51.

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** - There was also an exceptional number of reports of this usually elusive sparrow. Single birds were seen in Greene Co. from 18 September–31 October (Paul Sykes), in Harris Co. on 27 September (Walt Chambers), at Floyd College on 15 October (Marion Dobbs), in Haralson Co. from 23–30 October (Michael Bell et al.), in west Cobb Co. on 26 October (Bob Zaremba) and 30 October (Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell), in Paulding Co. on 28–29 October (Earl Horn) and 11 November (Giff Beaton, Susanna Rinard), at the CRNRA on 30 October (Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell), in Dawson Forest on 5 November (Earl Horn), at the ELHLAF on 7 November (Jeff Sewell et al.), in Jackson Co. on 12 November (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and in Bacon Co. on 27 November (Earl Horn).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** - The first one reported was a single bird in the Savannah area on 13 October (Diane Churchill). There were many reports from across the state during the remainder of the period, with a high count of four in Greene Co. on 31 October (Paul Sykes).

**DARK-EYED JUNCO** - One seen at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb Co. on 2 October was early (Georgann Schmaltz).

**ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** - Eric Beohm had a good count of 35 at the CRNRA on 23 September. Other good counts, all from Fernbank Forest, were 30 on 25 September, 26 on 2 October, and 31 on 9 October (Georgann Schmaltz).

**DICKCISSEL** - Three were seen at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 28 August (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), and singles were seen on Jekyll Island on 12 September (Gene Keferl) and at Onslow Island on 1 October (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba).

**YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** - Three were seen on Jekyll Island on 11 September by Darrell Lee, and he also saw one bird there the following day. Also good finds were one in Sumter Co. on 21 November (Terry Johnson) and one in Seminole Co. on 25 November (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm).

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** - Giff Beaton had a decent count of 21 in Seminole Co. on 26 November.

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** - Giff Beaton also had 25 of this species on the same day in Seminole Co., and five were seen in Greene Co. on 14 November (Paul Sykes).

**SHINY COWBIRD** - This species was reported twice during the period at the AWMA, with one seen on 1 August (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm) and two seen on 13 November (Billy Dunbar, Brenda Dunbar). Two were also present on St. Simons Island from 26 August–1 September (Lydia Thompson).

**ORCHARD ORIOLE** - A female was seen in the Phinzy Swamp in Richmond Co. on the late date of 16 October (Anne Waters). The late date in the ACOGB is 17 September, with two accidental winter sightings listed.

**PURPLE FINCH** - One seen in the Augusta area on 25 September was very early. The next report of one was a bird seen in Floyd Co. on 1



November (Marion Dobbs). There were several reports of small numbers seen across north Georgia during the month of November.

**RED CROSSBILL** - Three were reported from along Burrell's Ford Rd. at the Georgia/South Carolina State line on 14 September (Dennis Forsyth *fide* Jim Flynn). During October as many as 50 were seen a few miles away at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery in South Carolina (various observers).

**PINE SISKIN** - Many reports were received of this winter irruptive beginning with 10 in the Trenton area on 6 November (Peggy Moore, Terry Moore).

**AMERICAN GOLDFINCH** - A bird seen in Brunswick on 22 August was early for the coast (Mike Chapman).

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## FROM THE FIELD DECEMBER 1999-FEBRUARY 2000

This past winter was the latest in a series of mild ones for Georgia and much of the rest of the country. Undoubtedly, El Nino, La Nina, and any other Ninos waiting to cause trouble may affect bird populations and distribution on a global scale, but I was unable to see how the weather had any effect on the birds described in this report. Certainly there were a few reports of birds lingering into winter, though no more than one might expect in a normal winter. It would appear that the majority of birds pay no attention to long-term weather forecasts, but migrate when they get the physiological cues to do so, given suitable flight conditions. Of course, if present weather patterns persist for several decades, we will undoubtedly see profound changes in the state's avifauna in the future. In the short-term, factors such as urban sprawl, pesticides, large-scale mono-crop agriculture, and the local drought, if it continues, will have an increasingly more dramatic effect on bird populations in Georgia.

It was a good year for irruptive winter visitors. Major movements of these species are apparently triggered by population levels and the availability of food sources in more northerly latitudes. Though there were few reports from feeders, Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at several North Georgia locations. Both Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were seen in good numbers, though Evening Grosbeaks were hard to find, the only fairly reliable location to see this species being at Ann Stewart's feeder in Floyd Co. The big news on the finch front was the discovery of a large flock of Red Crossbills in Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co., where two birds had been found last May. Good numbers were also seen along Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co. Two distinct types may well be involved here, as each group was found in very different habitats. Northern Saw-whet Owls also staged quite an invasion this year, with this normally elusive species being found by most who searched for it along Burrell's Ford Rd., after the initial report in early January.

It was an outstanding season for rare gulls. An Iceland Gull was originally found at West Point Dam by Doug Robinson but was later seen at a landfill near LaGrange. Several Georgia birders in search of this bird were introduced to the pleasures of birding at a garbage dump. The West Point Dam area also hosted both Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls during late January. Not to be outdone, the coast also produced an Iceland Gull, along with two Glaucous Gulls and a Franklin's Gull. The most unusual report of all, however, was of a Black-legged Kittiwake in the Augusta area on 28 January. Hopefully, details will be published in *The Oriole*.



Abbreviations used include: CBC - Christmas Bird Count; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; MBBP - Merry Bros. Brickyard Ponds, Augusta; PNWR/RCWMA - Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge/Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

### SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- RED-THROATED LOON - Two were seen in the vicinity of West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 3 February for a rare inland report (Paul Raney).
- HORNED GREBE - Good numbers wintered at West Point Lake, with the high count being 94 on 3 February (Paul Raney). Plant Wansley in Carroll/Heard Cos. also hosted good numbers, with 70+ being counted on 23 December (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).
- RED-NECKED GREBE - Two of this rare species were found at West Point Dam on 7 January (Pierre Howard), and one to two were subsequently reported from there by a number of observers, with the last report being of one on 5 February (Johnny Parks).
- EARED GREBE - A few wintered on Lake Lanier, with the high count being five on 12 December (Giff Beaton, Adam Byrne, Tom Egan, Earl Horn). The last report was of two there on 9 February (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Two were seen at St. Marys on both 27 December (Bob Zaremba) and 21 February (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). One was also recorded on the Sapelo Island CBC on 30 December (*vide* Anne Waters).
- DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Five hundred was a good count at the Macon brickyard ponds on 5 December (Arlene Clark, Ken Clark, Ty Ivey, Paul Johnson).
- ANHINGA - Five was a good count at the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center near Columbus on 9 December (Walt Chambers).
- AMERICAN BITTERN - Singles were seen at the Macon brickyard ponds on 4 December (Jerry Amerson, Ty Ivey, Paul Johnson), and in the Richmond Hill area in Bryan Co. on both 27 December (Mary Elfner, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 1 January (Ogeechee Audubon Society).
- GREAT BLUE HERON - Six nests were found in the Blanton Creek WMA in Harris Co. on 15 February (Walt Chambers).
- GREAT EGRET - Excellent counts were 107 at the Macon brickyard ponds on 5 December (Arlene Clark, Ken Clark, Ty Ivey, Paul Johnson), 50+ at the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center near Columbus on 9 December (Walt Chambers), and 78 in the Augusta area on 15 January (Anne Waters).
- CATTLE EGRET - Two seen on the Macon CBC on 18 December were an unusual find for winter (Ty Ivey et al.). Four were also seen at MBBP on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters).

- GREEN HERON - One seen in Bibb Co. on 18 December was a rare winter find (Ken Clark et al.), as was the one found at MBBP on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - One was a good find at Lake Varner near Covington on 12 December (Jack Johnson). A high count of 177 was made on the Harris Neck CBC on 17 December (*vide* Steve Calver).
- WHITE IBIS - Evidently, Grand Bay WMA in Lowndes/Lanier Cos. is a good wintering site for this species, as at least 1000 were found there on 17 February (Brad Bergstrom et al.).
- GLOSSY IBIS - Rare for winter was a single bird seen at Onslow Island on both 23 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump) and 13 February (Bob Zaremba).
- WOOD STORK - One was seen in Macon on 19 December for a rare winter record (Cindy Adrien, Dan Adrien *vide* Paul Johnson).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The most reliable spot in the state for this species is ENWR, and 11 were seen there on 30 December (Walt Chambers, Bob Zaremba), and six were reported on 6 February (Jeff Sewell). More unusual were the three seen at St. Catherines Island on 23-24 January (Paul Sykes).
- SNOW GOOSE - The high count for the period was 16 at ENWR on both 30 December (Walt Chambers, Bob Zaremba) and 11 January (Walt Chambers). Other reports included five in the Columbus area on 9 December (Walt Chambers), and eight in Putnam Co. on both 21 December (Billy Dunbar) and 23 December (Jim Flynn).
- TUNDRA SWAN - This species was well reported, with one at the Macon brickyard ponds on both 4 and 5 December (Ty Ivey et al.) and again on 19 and 25 February (Marie Amerson, Arlene Clark, Ken Clark, Ty Ivey), one in Laurens Co. on 11 December (Giff Beaton, Tommy Paterson), one on the Albany CBC on 18 December (*vide* Alan Ashley), and one in the Evans area in Columbia Co. for much of February (Gene Howard).
- GADWALL - Impressive numbers wintered on a small pond in Coweta Co., peaking at 400+ on both 29 December and 18 January (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).
- AMERICAN WIGEON - Good counts were 150 on the Macon CBC on 18 December (Ty Ivey et al.) and 100 at Garden Lakes in the Rome area on 9 February (Ann Stewart).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Sixteen seen in Forsyth Co. on 4 December was a good count (Jim Flynn). Seven were recorded on the Marietta CBC on 19 December (*vide* Bill Blakeslee), and nine were seen at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 28 December (Jim Flynn).
- MOTTLED DUCK - Four were seen at Youman's Pond in Liberty Co. on 13 February (Bob Zaremba).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL - Seven were reported in Forsyth Co. on 4 December (Jim Flynn), 18 were recorded on the Macon CBC on 18 December (Ty Ivey et al.), and six were seen in MBBP on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters). Jeff Sewell had an outstanding count of 125 at ENWR on 6 February.
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL - An excellent count of 700 was made at the Macon brickyard ponds on 4 December (Ty Ivey et al.).
- CANVASBACK - Lake Seminole is the best location in the state for this duck, and 150 were reported from there on 14 December (Kevin Danchisen, Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). Other reports were of two at



the Macon brickyard ponds on both 4 December (Jerry Amerson) and 18 December (Ty Ivey et al.), three on the PNWR/RCWMA on 20 December (*vide* Terry Johnson), two at MBBP on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters), one on the Callaway Gardens CBC on 2 January (*vide* LuAnn Craighton), four at Walter F. George Dam on 5 February (Giff Beaton et al.), three at the DeKalb Reservoir on 8 February (Earl Horn), one at Youman's Pond in Liberty Co. on 20 February (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and one at Cooper Creek Park in the Columbus area on 27 February (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).

**REDHEAD** - The Marietta CBC had an excellent count of 26 on 19 December (*vide* Bill Blakeslee). Other reports included six at DeKalb Reservoir on 12 December (Patrick Brisse), 10 at West Point Dam on 12 December (Walt Chambers), three at Peachtree City Lake on 19 December (David Cree), and two at MBBP on 15 January (Anne Waters).

**GREATER SCAUP** - Two were reported from the ELHLAF on 13 December (Tom Egan), three were recorded on the PNWR/RCWMA CBC on 20 December (*vide* Terry Johnson), one was spotted at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 28 December (Jim Flynn), and two were seen at Cooper Creek Park in the Columbus area on 11 February (Walt Chambers).

**SURF SCOTER** - Two immatures were spotted at Lake Lanier on 11 December (Earl Horn), and two were seen at Lake Wildwood in Bibb Co. on 21 January (Paul Johnson) for rare inland reports. The high count from the coast was nine at Jekyll Island on 2 February (Giff Beaton).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Fifteen was a good count on the Cumberland Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Sheila Willis).

**OLDSQUAW** - Two were seen off the north end of Jekyll Island on 7 January (Gene Keferl).

**BUFFLEHEAD** - Rusty Trump had a good count of 100+ at West Point Dam on 10 January.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** - The West Point Dam area hosted good numbers of this duck throughout the winter, with the best counts being 31 on 22 December (Michael Beohm, Richard Beohm), 26 on 10 January (Rusty Trump), and 25 on 31 January (Bob Zarembo). As many as three were reported from Lake Acworth during December (Chuck Saleeby), two were seen at Walter F. George Dam on 14 December (Bob Zarembo, Deb Zarembo, Kevin Danchisen, Tom Egan), and three were found at Goat Rock Dam near Columbus on 17 December (Michael Bell).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - Inland reports included four at Garden Lakes in the Rome area on 8 December (Stephen Stewart), 10 at Clayton College on 12 December (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm), eight at Peachtree City Lake on 19 December (David Cree), 55 at West Point Lake on 20 December (Walt Chambers), 64 on the PNWR/RCWMA CBC on 20 December (*vide* Terry Johnson), three at Lake Varner in Newton/Walton Cos. on 27 December (Jack Johnson), and one at Lake Blalock on 12 January (Carol Lambert).

**RUDDY DUCK** - Two good counts were 160 at Lake Blalock on 4 December (Eric Beohm), and 318 at Lake Varner in Walton/Newton Cos. on 12 December (Jack Johnson).

**OSPREY** - The PNWR/RCWMA CBC recorded its first one in 29 years of counts on 20 December (*vide* Paul Johnson). One was seen at West Point Dam

on 13 January (Walt Chambers) for another rare winter sighting in the Piedmont.

**BALD EAGLE** - The St. Catherines Island CBC had a good count of eight on 18 December (*vide* Emil Urban). West Point Lake is one of the best inland locations for this species, and six to eight were seen there on 20 January (Walt Chambers).

**NORTHERN HARRIER** - The owl fields along Cobb Cheek Road in Sumter Co. are of course a good area for this species, as evidenced by the 23 counted there on 4 February (Giff Beaton).

**GOLDEN EAGLE** - An adult was seen near the old hack site in Walker Co. on 12 December (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).

**RUFFED GROUSE** - This rarely reported species was found twice during the period in Towns Co. One was seen there on 24 December (Diane Powell), and one was found in the Swallow Creek WMA on 15 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).

**KING RAIL** - Paul Sykes had three at the Greene Co. marsh on 5 December, and one there on 8 January. Six were recorded in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. during the Augusta CBC on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters).

**VIRGINIA RAIL** - At the Greene Co. marsh Paul Sykes had counts of 12 on 5 December, and 15 on 8 January. Five was a good count on the Marietta CBC on 19 December (Jim Flynn, Chris Loudermilk, Karen Theodorou). Singles were also noted at the Macon brickyard ponds on 4 December (Jerry Amerson), in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters), and at Floyd College in Floyd Co. on 25 December (Marion Dobbs).

**SORA** - Totals at the Greene Co. marsh were seven on 5 December and three on 8 January (Paul Sykes). Ten were found in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on the Augusta CBC on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters).

**SANDHILL CRANE** - Following the major movement of cranes at the end of November, several flocks were observed headed south, with the best counts being 150 in Henry Co. on 16 December (Paul Raney), 100 over Senoia on 22 December (*vide* Joel Hitt), and 100 over Cobb Co. on 25 December (Chris Berkely). The 81 seen at ENWR on 18 January may have been wintering locally (*vide* Walt Chambers). Several northbound flocks were observed beginning on 14 February, with a major push noted on 19 and 20 February over the Atlanta area. Several observers reported seeing as many as 1000 cranes during this two-day period, and in Houston Co. Larry Ross estimated several flocks totaling about 5000 birds on 18 February. "Thousands" were still in the Valdosta area on 26 February (Brad Bergstrom).

**WILSON'S PLOVER** - Once again this species was well reported during the winter months. Eight were tallied on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Brad Bergstrom), as many as seven were at Jekyll Island on 22 January (Pierre Howard, Jeff Sewell), one was seen on Sapelo Island on 24 January (Doris Cohrs), a total of 16 were seen along the coast on 3 February (Giff Beaton), and 13 were counted at Little Tybee Island on 15 February (Rene Heidt, Brad Winn).

**KILLDEER** - Pierre Howard and Jeff Sewell had a good count of 800 at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 19 February.



- AMERICAN AVOCET - Good counts were 52 at Ossabaw Island on 4 December (Deb Barriero, Rene Heidt), and 49 at Andrews Island on 4 February (Giff Beaton).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER - A single bird was reported at West Point Dam through the end of January by several observers. Two were also seen on the PNWR/RCWMA CBC on 20 December (*vide* Terry Johnson).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Two were recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Emil Urban), and one was seen on Ossabaw Island on 24 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- MARBLED GODWIT - The 98 tallied on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December was a good count (*vide* Emil Urban).
- LEAST SANDPIPER - Good counts for winter were 15 in Putnam Co. on 23 December (Jim Flynn), and seven seen at the ELHLAF on 17 January (Jeff Sewell).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER - Several reports were received from the usual reliable spot on Tybee Island throughout the winter, with the high count being seven on 3 February (Mary Elfner, Rene Heidt).
- DUNLIN - Three were reported at the ELHLAF on 2 December (Eric Beohm), and two remained there through the end of January (Carol Lambert). Good counts from the coast included 1924 on the Harris Neck CBC on 17 December (*vide* Steve Calver), 3010 on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Emil Urban), and 1220 at Little Tybee Island on 15 February (Rene Heidt, Brad Winn).
- STILT SANDPIPER - This species again wintered at Onslow Island, though only small numbers were reported this year, beginning with three on 19 December (Giff Beaton, Tommy Patterson), four on 6 February (Chuck Prine, Elizabeth Prine), one on 13 February (Bob Zarembo), and finally three on 20 February (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Eight birds were seen and heard for an unusual find on the Macon CBC on 18 December (Michael Bell, Nancy Gobris, Aubrey Scott). The best count from the coastal region was 35 on Onslow Island on 23 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE - One was a very rare find on the Cumberland Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Sheila Willis).
- POMARINE JAEGER - One was seen off St. Catherines Island on 17 December (*vide* Brad Bergstrom).
- PARASITIC JAEGER - Six to seven were seen off St. Catherines Island on 17 December (*vide* Brad Bergstrom), and two were recorded there the following day on the CBC. At Jekyll Island one was seen on 23 December (Bob Zarembo), and one or two were seen on 25 January (Jim Flynn et al.). Singles were also seen off Tybee Island on 24 December (Bob Zarembo) and 22 January (Paul Sykes).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL - One seen at Jekyll Island on 3 December was a nice find (Lydia Thompson).
- ICELAND GULL - This winter there were two reports, from opposite sides of the state, of this accidental winter visitor. Lydia Thompson found a first-year bird at Jekyll Island on 21 January that was seen off and on until last being reported on 28 January (Larry Carlile). Another first-year bird was seen at West Point Dam on 30 January (Doug Robinson) for a first inland record for the state. The bird was found the next day, among

- hundreds of other gulls, by several observers at a landfill near LaGrange. The last report received of this bird was from West Point Dam on 2 February (*vide* Joel Hitt).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - For the second winter in a row one was seen at West Point Dam. Doug Robinson found one there on 30 January.
- GLAUCOUS GULL - A second-winter bird was seen at Sapelo Island on 24 January (Walt Borden, Paul Johnson). Another single was found at Jekyll Island on the same day (Anna Collins, Steve Holzman, Lydia Thompson), where it remained though 30 January (Pierre Howard).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - A first-winter bird was seen at West Point Dam on 22 January (Doug Robinson) for a rare inland report. It was last seen in the area on 31 January (Walt Chambers, Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). On the coast Giff Beaton had a good count of 14 at St. Simons Island on 2 February.
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - This offshore winter visitor was reported from the Augusta area on 28 January (Paul Raney).
- FORSTER'S TERN - Good numbers of this species wintered at West Point Lake, with the high count being 150 on 3 February (Paul Raney).
- BARN OWL - The Marietta CBC had its first ever record when Earl Horn found one on 19 December. Several birders were able to observe this hard-to-find owl in downtown Savannah, after two were reported there on 7 January by Mary Elfner.
- SHORT-EARED OWL - The only report received for the period from Cobb Check Road in Sumter Co., the only reliable site for this species in recent years, was of two birds on 4 February (Giff Beaton).
- NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - Two to three were found along Burrell's Ford Rd. on 8 January (Giff Beaton et al.). Several observers made successful trips to the area in search of the owls through the end of the period, with the high count being four found on 16 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL - One was reported from the Darien area on 20 January (Doris Cohrs). This species is apparently a rare winter resident in the coastal plain, though it is rarely reported.
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Rusty Trump reported that two spent the winter at his yard in Suwanee, one wintered at another yard in Powder Springs, and two birds were banded in Buford at the end of February. A single was reported from Tybee Island on both 25 December and 17 January (Deb Barriero). Buddy Rowe reported that a total of nine was banded in the state during the winter, with about 25 other hummingbirds being reported but not banded.
- VERMILLION FLYCATCHER - A female was found at Carter's Pond in Lanier Co. around 12 February (*vide* Brad Bergstrom) and was subsequently seen by several observers before the last report on 27 February (Giff Beaton, Bob Zarembo).
- WESTERN KINGBIRD - One was reported on the Okefenokee CBC on 30 December. Another single was found at a wastewater treatment plant in the Richmond Hill area on a field trip by the Ogeechee Audubon Society on 1 January.
- COMMON RAVEN - One was seen at Brasstown Bald, one of the two or three fairly reliable spots for this species, on 20 December (Giff Beaton, Tom



Egan, Bob Zaremba). More unusual was one seen in Rabun Co. at a relatively low elevation of 632 meters on 8 January (Giff Beaton et al.).

**HORNED LARK** - Sixty was an excellent count at Thomas Brothers sod farm in Floyd Co. on 12 December (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).

**TREE SWALLOW** - Most unusual were two reports from the Piedmont. Thirty were noted in Fayette Co. on 16 January (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers, Carson Strongfellow), and one was seen at the ELHLAF on 17 February (Russ Wigh).

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - It was a fairly good winter for this irruptive species, with small numbers reported from several areas north of the fall line. The best counts included three at Brasstown Bald on 20 December (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba), six at Tally Mt. in Haralson Co. on 5 January (Michael Bell), six in Rabun Co. on 8 January (Giff Beaton et al.), and three at Sweat Mt. in Cobb Co. on 18 February (Harry DeLoach, Vickie DeLoach). One was also seen at the coast on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December (Giff Beaton).

**MARSH WREN** - Nine was a good count from the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. during the Augusta CBC on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters).

**GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET** - Several observers noted higher than usual numbers of this species throughout the state. Of particular note was the 71 recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December (*vide* Brad Bergstrom).

**BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** - One seen in Heard Co. on 23 December was unusual (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott). Another single seen at MBBP on 12 February was also a good find (Anne Waters).

**AMERICAN PIPIT** - Good counts were about 150 at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center near Columbus on 9 December (Walt Chambers), and about 100 at a sod farm in Carroll Co. on 18 January (Michael Bell).

**NORTHERN PARULA** - Two were recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December for a very rare winter report (*vide* Brad Bergstrom).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER** - Not quite so rare, but still a good find, was one seen at St. Marys on 22 January (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and another, perhaps the same bird, was reported from there on both 13 February (Bob Zaremba) and 21 February (Earl Horn). Another good find was one in Floyd Co. on 9 February (Marion Dobbs).

**OVENBIRD** - Deb Barriero found one in Effingham Co. on 11 December for a rare winter sighting, and the same observer reported one on Tybee Island on 17 January. One was also seen on Sapelo Island on 29 December (Chris Copeland, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters).

**WILSON'S WARBLER** - Another good find was one seen at the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery on both 24 and 26 December (Michael Beohm).

**LARK SPARROW** - One was recorded on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December.

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW** - A team of sparrow researchers from Ohio State University, assisted by Giff Beaton, toured South Georgia from 17-19 January, looking specifically for this species. Impressive counts were 17 at Paulk's Pasture in Glynn Co., and 11 along a powerline in McIntosh Co. Other reports included one on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18

December, two on Sapelo Island on 30 December (Anne Waters), and one at the Horse Creek WMA in Telfair Co. on 9 February (Nathan Klaus).

**LE CONTE'S SPARROW** - Two were found at the Macon brickyard ponds on 11 Dec. (Giff Beaton et al.), and five were counted at the same location on the Macon CBC on 18 Dec. (Ty Ivey et al.). At Paulk's Pasture in Glynn Co., two were seen on 18 Jan. (Giff Beaton et al.), two again were found on 22 Jan. (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and one was seen on 16 Feb. (Gene Keferl et al.). Other reports included one in Chatham Co. on 17 Jan. (Giff Beaton et al.) and "many" at ENWR on 18 January (*vide* Walt Chambers).

**LINCOLN'S SPARROW** - One was recorded on the Albany CBC on 18 December (*vide* Alan Ashley).

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** - Six were recorded on the Athens CBC on 18 December (*vide* Eugenia Thompson), one was seen on the Marietta CBC on 19 December (*vide* Bill Blakeslee), 22 was the count on the Bainbridge/Lake Seminole CBC on 27 December (*vide* Oscar Dewberry), one was found in Jasper Co. on 23 December (Jim Flynn), another single was seen on the Dalton CBC on 1 January (*vide* Harriet DiGioia), one was found at MBBP on both 6 January and 8 February (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters), 20 was a good count in Murray Co. on 5 February (Earl Horn), and three were found in Wilcox Co. on 21 February (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). A report of "hundreds" in White Co. during February (Davis Bullock) is to the best of my knowledge unprecedented in Georgia.

**RUSTY BLACKBIRD** - Decent counts were made of 40 at Callaway Gardens on 26 December (Eric Beohm) and 30 in the Columbus area on 6 January (Walt Chambers). Several observers reported a large flock in the vicinity of Carter's Pond in Lanier Co. during February, with the high count being 400 on 20 February (Brad Bergstrom). About 100 were seen just south of Lake Park in Lowndes Co. on 26 February (Kristi Avera).

**BREWER'S BLACKBIRD** - This species was well reported, with counts of 40 at Jackson's Pasture in Laurens Co. on 11 December (Giff Beaton et al.), 20 at Callaway Gardens on 26 December (Eric Beohm), 20 in the Columbus area on 6 January (Walt Chambers), 45 on a trip through South Georgia on 17 January (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers), 20+ at Carter's Pond in Lanier Co. on 20 February (Brad Bergstrom), and about 30 at the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in the Columbus area on 28 February (Walt Chambers).

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE** - A bird of the Gulf Coast subspecies was found near Moultrie in Colquitt Co. on 19 January (Giff Beaton et al.).

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** - Reports included one at the Macon brickyard ponds on 4 December (Jerry Amerson), two seen in the same area on the Macon CBC on 18 December (Ty Ivey et al.), one on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 18 December, one on the Marietta CBC on 19 December (Jim Flynn, Karen Theodorou), two at MBBP on 27 December (*vide* Anne Waters), one at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co. on 9 January (Michael Beohm), and one in Walton Co. on 21 January (B.B. Sams).

**PURPLE FINCH** - There were many reports of this species across North Georgia, with the best counts being 50 in Upson Co. on 12 January (Michael



Beohm), and about 30 at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 13 February (Gordon McWilliams).

**RED CROSSBILL** - Two birds were discovered in the Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. last spring, but on 12 December Giff Beaton et al. found a flock there consisting of an astounding 64 birds. Several observers reported smaller numbers at this site during the following two weeks, with the last report for the period being of two birds on 1 January (*vide* Joel Hitt). Another excellent count of 35-40 birds was made along Burrell's Ford Rd. in Rabun Co., at the Georgia-South Carolina State line, on 8 January (Giff Beaton et al.). On the same day, Pierre Howard found a single bird along Warwoman Dell Rd., also in Rabun Co. A single bird was also reported on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 19 December (*vide* Harriet DiGioia).

**PINE SISKIN** - It was also an excellent winter for this species, with some of the best counts being about 40 at the Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 17 December (Bruce Hallet, Pierre Howard), 63 in Dawson Forest on 31 December (Jim Flynn), 50 in Rabun Co. on 8 January (Giff Beaton et al.), and 56 in Suwanee on 12 February (Rusty Trump).

**EVENING GROSBEAK** - Though it was overall a good year for winter finches, this species was still hard to find. As many as four frequented a feeder in the Armuchee area in Floyd Co. beginning on 17 December (Ann Stewart). The only other report was of five birds in the Suwanee area on 16 January (Rusty Trump).

Michael Bell, 517 South Lamar Street, Bainbridge, Georgia 31717

## 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.

**Morphological variation among migratory and non-migratory populations of Prairie Warblers.** C. A. Buerkle. 2000. *Wilson Bulletin* 112(1):99-107. — Populations of Prairie Warblers in Georgia (*Dendroica discolor discolor*) are migratory and breed primarily in early successional habitats and in open pine forests. However, southern portions of the state lie close to the northern limit of non-migratory populations in Florida (*D. d. paludicola*). These nonmigratory populations typically occupy mangroves. Thus, Georgia lies close to the boundary separating two populations of Prairie Warblers with distinctly different migratory habits and habitat selection. Genetic analysis of mitochondrial DNA shows little gene flow between these narrowly separated populations. In this study, Buerkle measured 11 morphological traits from specimens of Prairie Warblers collected throughout the eastern United States, including Georgia. Prairie Warblers from Florida are larger than those from Georgia and other eastern states. Furthermore, males, but not females, from Florida have distinctly less white in the tail than birds from other populations. The adaptive significance of this plumage difference is unknown. Despite the fact the *paludicola* can occur within 200 km of Georgia birds, these two populations remain morphologically (and genetically) distinct. Georgia and Florida birds represent two distinct subspecies that appear to have had distinct evolutionary histories for some time.

**Low levels of genetic variability in North American populations of the Wood Stork.** R. A. Van Den Bussche, S. A. Harmon, R. J. Baker, A. L. Bryan, J. A. Rodgers, M. J. Harris, and I. L. Brisbin. 1999. *Auk* 116(4):1083-1092. — The number of Wood Storks in the southeastern United States declined from an estimated 60,000 individuals in the 1930s to approximately 10,000 individuals in the late 1970s. Current estimates place the number of Wood Storks in breeding colonies in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina at about 12,000 birds. Because dramatic population declines like the one experienced by Wood Storks, which create a genetic "bottleneck," can result in a loss of genetic variation, the authors of this paper sought to quantify the amount of genetic variation in southeastern Wood Storks. This study also sought to quantify possible genetic differences among colonies of Wood Storks, a critical question for determining the appropriate management "unit" for Wood Storks in the southeast (i.e., do Wood Storks form one large population or are they separated into genetically distinct colonies?). Using blood samples from nestlings in Florida and Georgia (Jenkins, Brooks, Thomas, Glynn, and Camden Cos.), the authors demonstrate that southeastern populations of Wood Storks are characterized by low levels of genetic variation and allelic diversity (consistent with a genetic bottleneck). Furthermore, there was no detectable genetic differentiation among Wood Stork colonies. This is probably attributable to this species high mobility



and the ephemeral nature of many colonies. Wood Storks in the southeastern United States should be managed as one randomly breeding population.

## THE ORIOLE

Quarterly Journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society

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### Instructions to Authors

*The Oriole* 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. All manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate to the editors.

**COPY** – Manuscripts should be *typed, double-spaced* throughout, on quality paper. Underline scientific names only. Use the same font size and style throughout the manuscript. Manuscripts should include a title page (including names and addresses of all authors), text (beginning on page 2), literature cited, tables, figure legends (on a separate page), and figures. Number all pages through the tables in the upper right-hand corner. Avoid footnotes.

**STYLE** – For questions of style consult the CBE Style Manual, 5th edition. It is available from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

**LITERATURE CITED** – List all references cited in the text alphabetically by the first author's last name in a Literature Cited section. If there are three or fewer citations, they should be incorporated parenthetically in the text. General notes should also incorporate references in the text. Citations should conform to the style of a recent issue of *The Oriole*.

**NOMENCLATURE** – Common names of bird species should be capitalized. Provide the scientific name (underlined) at the first mention of each species. Nomenclature should follow the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (7th edition), 1998.

**TABLES** – Tables should be formatted with the size of *The Oriole* in mind and should be interpretable without reference to the text.

**FIGURES** – Figures should be appropriate for photoreproduction without retouching. Photos should be good-quality color or black-and-white prints.



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