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MODELING THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SUMMER DISTRIBUTION OF GEORGIA'S NONGAME BIRDS

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The Earth's climate is changing. According to the World Meteorological Organization (1999), the 1990s were the warmest decade and the 1900s the warmest century of the last 1000 years. Of the more than 100 years for which instrumental records are available, 1998 was the warmest on record and seven of the top ten warmest years all occurred in the 1990s. Even 1999, expected to be cooler than average due to the effects of La Niña, was the fifth warmest year on record, the 21st year in a row where the average global surface temperature was above normal. The annual global mean temperature is now 0.7°C (1.3°F) above that recorded at the beginning of the 20th century. Limited data from other sources indicate that the global mean temperature for the 20th century is at least as warm as any other period since approximately 1400 AD (IPCC 1996).

Water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), and some trace gases in the Earth's atmosphere act much like glass in a greenhouse, helping to retain heat by absorbing infrared radiation. This "greenhouse effect" keeps the Earth's surface temperature warmer than it would otherwise be. Compared with pre-industrial times, there have been significant increases in the amount of CO₂, methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) in the atmosphere (IPCC 1996), enhancing the natural greenhouse effect. Increases in greenhouse gases can largely be attributed to human activities including burning of fossil fuels and land use changes (such as deforestation). This information, in part, led the IPCC (1996) to state that "the balance of evidence suggests that there is a discernable human influence on global climate." Increases in greenhouse gases (past and projected), coupled with the length of time these gases remain in the atmosphere, are expected to cause a continued increase in global

temperatures. Models estimate that the average global temperature, relative to 1990 values, will rise 1.5–6.0°C (2.7–10.8°F) by the year 2100 (IPCC Third Assessment Report, in prep.).

Warming due to increases in greenhouse gases is expected to be even greater in Northern Hemisphere land areas. For the southeastern United States, models project an annual average temperature increase of 2.3–5.5°C (4–10°F; VEMAP 2000). Many climate models also project an overall increase in evaporation leading to increases in precipitation but declines in soil moisture. These climate changes could have an affect on Georgia's wildlife habitats. For example, some models estimate that increased temperature and changing precipitation regimes could allow longleaf and slash pine forests to expand northward. If overall conditions are wetter than currently, expansion of oak and hickory deciduous forests and gum and cypress forests could occur. If conditions became drier, up to 15% of the state's forested areas could be replaced by grasslands (USEPA 1997).

Summer bird ranges are often assumed to be tightly linked to particular habitats. This is only partially true. While certain species are usually only found in certain habitats (e.g., Kirtland's Warblers in jack pines), others are more flexible. Species found in a particular habitat type throughout their summer range may not be found in apparently equivalent habitat north or south of their current distribution. Birds are also limited in their distributions by their physiology and food availability. The link between physiology and the winter distributions of many species is well known (Kendeigh 1934, Root 1988a,b), and research shows that physiology plays a strong role in limiting summer distributions as well (Dawson 1992, T. Martin, pers. comm.). While habitat selection, food availability, and competition may all play a role in influencing the local distribution of a given bird species, analysis of regional distribution often yields different results. Building on earlier research that found many winter bird distributions were associated with climate (Root 1988a,b), this study examined the association between summer bird distributions and climate and how these distributions may be impacted by climate change.

Ultimately, the greatest impact on wildlife and vegetation may not be from climate change itself, but rather from the rate of change. Given enough time, many species would likely be able to adapt to climatic shifts, as they have done in the past. However, the current projected rate of warming is thought to be greater than has occurred at any time in the last 10,000 years (IPCC 1966). This rate of change could ultimately lead to changes in distribution that affect Georgia's non-game avifauna.

Methods

To explore how summer distributions of birds might change, I first quantified whether there was any association between bird distributions and climate. If an association exists, then an examination of projected future climates can be used to assess how the climatic ranges of birds might change. I used logistic regression to model the association

between bird distributions (from Breeding Bird Survey data) and eighteen climate variables. These climate variables included average seasonal temperature and precipitation, temperature and precipitation ranges, extreme values (e.g., temperature in the hottest and coldest months, precipitation in the wettest and driest months) and combinations (e.g., precipitation in the hottest month, temperature in the driest month). The climate variables used in these models act as surrogates for many factors possibly limiting a species' distribution, including physiology, habitat, and food availability, and are similar to those used in other bioclimatic studies. Models developed for this study were evaluated to see how well they predicted species occurrence at an independent location (statistically validated) and checked to see how well the predicted species distribution map (Fig. 1b) matched a map of the actual distribution (Fig. 1a). The results indicated that at least a portion of the summer distributions of many North American birds can be modeled accurately based on climate alone.

The next step was to examine how bird distributions might change in response to a changing climate. For this study I used climate projections from the Canadian Climate Center's General Circulation Model (CCC-GCM2), one of the standard models used in impact analyses. This model projects what average climate conditions may be once CO₂ has doubled from pre-industrial levels, sometime in the next 75–100 years. Differences between modeled current climate and modeled future climate (based on a doubling of CO₂ levels), both derived from CCC-GCM2, were applied to the original climate variables used in developing the bird-climate models. This corrected for some of the potential errors in the climate change model itself and is a standard practice in climate change impact studies (versus simply using the model's projection of future climate). For example, for a given point, the difference in average summer temperature between the "current" and "future" (both model-derived) climate may be +2°C. This value is then added to the actual average summer temperature at that point to estimate what the climate at that point may be with a doubling of carbon dioxide. All bird distribution models were run using the climate variables derived from the doubled-CO₂ model. These combined bird-climate models were then used to create maps of the projected possible future climatic ranges of many North American birds (e.g., Fig. 1c). A more complete explanation of methods used to develop the models and maps has been published elsewhere (Price 1995, in press).

Distributional models and distributional maps have been developed for almost all passerine bird species. These maps show areas projected to have the proper climate for the species, or the climatic range, under conditions derived from CCC-GCM2. While the results of the models cannot predict specific details of how a species' distribution might change, they provide an impression of the possible direction and potential magnitude of the change in the suitable climate for the species. The following list of potential changes to Georgia's avifauna was prepared by comparing the maps of projected summer bird climatic ranges with the information in the *Distributional Checklist of North American Birds* (DeSante and Pyle 1986).

Baltimore Oriole

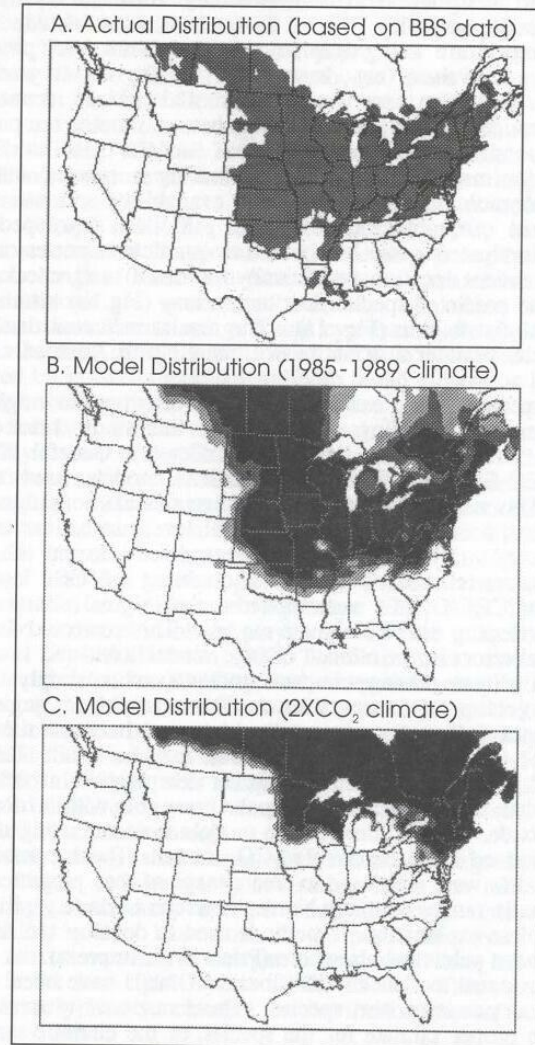


Figure 1. A. Distribution of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) as detected by the Breeding Bird Survey. This map is based on one found in Price et al. (1995). B. Current distribution of the Baltimore Oriole based solely upon the climate of 1985-1989 (areas with suitable climate for the species). C. Possible distribution of the Baltimore Oriole under the doubled CO₂ climate conditions projected by the CCC-GCM. Shading in panel B and C represents increasing probability of occurrence (light gray = 40%, medium gray = 60%, dark = 80%).

Results

Species whose future climatic summer ranges might exclude Georgia (i.e., possibly extirpated as summer residents). —Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Cliff Swallow, House Wren, Winter Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and American Goldfinch.

Species whose future climatic summer ranges in Georgia might contract. — Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Indigo Bunting.

Species whose future climatic summer ranges in Georgia might expand. — Gray Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Bachman's Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and Dickcissel.

Species whose future climatic summer ranges might include Georgia. — Lark Sparrow, Great-tailed Grackle, and Bronzed Cowbird.

Discussion

These lists are not all-inclusive, because results obtained from models of some species were not adequate to assess how their climatic ranges might change. Nor do the lists include species whose climatic ranges may undergo little change. Finally, these lists are based on output from a single, commonly used climate model. There are many different models. While the magnitude of the temperature increase is similar between models, the projected precipitation changes are often different. Different climate models may therefore yield different results. In addition, the geographic scale of these models, like those of the underlying climate change model, is coarse. As such, the models are unable to take into account localized topographic changes and the possible existence of suitable microclimates. Therefore, some of the species whose climatic ranges are projected to shift out of Georgia may be able to persist in suitable microclimates, especially in higher montane areas, on north-facing slopes, or along rivers.

Projected sea level rise could also impact Georgia's avifauna. At Fort Pulaski (Chatham Co.), sea level is already rising at the rate of 33 cm (13 in) per century (USEPA 1977). By 2100, models project the sea level at Fort Pulaski to have risen another 25-102 cm (10-40 in), with a 50% probability of a >50 cm (20 in) rise (USEPA 1977). This could lead to increased erosion of barrier islands and loss of migratory bird breeding and wintering areas. Coastal wetlands could be inundated leading to greater losses of this habitat. In some areas these wetlands

might be able to shift inland, depending upon the rate of sea level rise and what barriers to habitat migration exist.

How quickly these distributional changes might occur is unknown. The rate of change will largely depend on whether limits to a given species' distribution are more closely linked with climate, vegetation, or some other factor. The rate of change will also likely be tied to the rate of change of the climate itself. If climate changes relatively slowly, then species may be able to adapt. However, changes could occur relatively quickly. In a pilot study, I found that the average latitude of occurrence of 43% of the wood warblers has already shifted significantly farther north in the last 20 yr, by an average distance of greater than 70 km (43 mi). In contrast, only three species (6%) were found significantly farther south.

Shifts in individual species' distributions are only part of the story. It is unlikely that ranges of coexisting species will shift in concert. Bird communities, as we currently know them, may look quite different in the future. As species move, they may have to deal with different prey, predators, and competitors. So-called "optimal" habitats may no longer exist, at least in the short term. The potential rates-of-change of birds and the plants that shape their habitats are often quite different. While many birds may be able to respond quickly to a changing climate, some plant ranges may take decades to centuries to move (Davis and Zabinski 1992).

Do changes in bird distributions even matter? Ignoring aesthetic, cultural, and stewardship issues (which are all important), there are still economic and ecological reasons to be concerned about changes in bird distributions. Bird watching contributes to Georgia's economic health. Watching and feeding wildlife (primarily birds) contributed more than \$834 million to Georgia's economy in 1996 (US DOI 1997). Estimating how changes in bird distributions might affect the economics of watching and feeding birds is difficult. Although some birdwatchers might adjust to changes in distributions and diminished species richness, there could also be changes in the amount of money spent watching wildlife in Georgia as people travel elsewhere to see birds.

Birds are critical components of their ecosystems. The ecological services provided by birds include, but are not limited to, seed dispersal, plant pollination, and pest control. Their role in the control of economically important insect pests should not be underestimated. Birds have been known to eat up 98% of the overwintering codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*) larvae in orchards (Kirk et al. 1996), and several species of wood warblers are thought to be largely responsible for holding down numbers of spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) larvae, eating up to 84% of no-outbreak larvae (Crawford and Jennings 1989).

In summary, a high probability exists that climate change could lead to changes in bird distributions. Even a relatively small change in average temperature could impact bird distributions within the state. Some of these changes could occur (and may be occurring) relatively

quickly. While these changes may have some ecological and, possibly, economic effects, the magnitude of these effects is unknown.

Acknowledgments

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Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Photo by Jason Lewis.

STATUS OF THE WHITE-WINGED DOVE IN GEORGIA

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In the United States, the White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) is a resident of the southwestern states (California to Texas) and is introduced and established in southern Florida (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). In Georgia, the species is considered accidental (Burleigh 1958, Haney et al. 1986). It occurs sufficiently infrequently that it was not included in a recent review of the seasonal occurrence of Georgia birds (Beaton 2000). However, an apparent increase in the number of sightings in Georgia over the past few years suggests that the status of the White-winged Dove may have changed. Given reports of population increases in Florida, Texas, and other portions of the species' range (Sauer et al. 2000), it is timely to assess the current status of the White-winged Dove in Georgia. We ask three questions. (1) Has the frequency of sightings of White-winged Doves increased in Georgia? (2) What is the seasonal pattern of occurrence in Georgia? (3) Is there a predictable geographic pattern to the occurrence of White-winged Doves in the state?

Methods

We compiled published records of White-winged Doves observed in Georgia from three principal sources: Burleigh (1958), Haney et al. (1986), and articles and "From the Field" seasonal reports published in *The Oriole* (Volumes 36–65, 1971–2000). We compiled all sightings reported through March 2001, and all records were accepted as published. Thus, we did not exclude a record from Jekyll Island in 1962 that was reported as a personal communication (Moore 1974), although no month was given. This record was not included in Haney et al. (1986).

For each record, we recorded the number of birds, date, and county in which the sighting occurred. We assumed that all sightings were independent (i.e., represented different birds). The only cases where this assumption may not be valid were sightings of a single bird on Sea Island in July and December of 1972 (Teulings 1972, Moore 1974) and sightings from Sapelo Island of four individuals in March 1999 and two individuals in May of 1999 (Bell 1999b).

We used χ^2 tests to assess whether sightings were randomly distributed among months and to determine whether there was an association between season (fall-winter vs. spring-summer) and the era (pre- or post-1990) or the location (inland vs. coastal) of the sightings. All analyses were conducted using JMP statistical software.

Results

Through March 2001, there were 25 records of White-winged Doves in Georgia, involving 31 individual birds (Table 1). The number of birds seen in Georgia has increased through time. Only three White-winged Doves were recorded prior to 1972 (9.7% of the individuals reported). The remaining 28 individuals (90.3%) were recorded since 1972, and 18 of these (58.1%) were recorded since 1996 (Fig. 1).

Sightings of White-winged Doves were not distributed randomly across months ($\chi^2 = 23.9$, $df = 11$, $P = 0.02$). White-winged Doves showed a bimodal pattern of occurrence, with all initial sightings occurring March–July and October–January (Fig. 2). Prior to 1990, most records were from the fall and winter months (78%; seven of nine records for which a month was reported) (Table 1). Since 1990, most records have been from the spring and summer months (57%; 8/14) ($\chi^2 = 2.7$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.09$).

Table 1. Sightings of White-winged Doves in Georgia through March 2001.

Date	Number	County	Source
6 Jan 1917	1	Brantley	Harper 1918
15 Dec 1959	1	Decatur	Crawford 1974
1962	1	Glynn	Moore 1974
Jul 1972	1	Glynn	Teulings 1972
30 Dec 1972	1	Glynn	Moore 1974
11 Apr 1975	1	Thomas	Crawford and Neel 1976
19 Nov 1981	1	Camden	LeGrand 1982
1983	1	Dougherty	Haney et al. 1986
23 Dec 1984	1	Laurens	Patterson 1984
17–18 Nov 1985	1	Glynn	Brisse 1985
1 Jan 1988	1	McIntosh	Waters 1988
?–9 Oct 1993	1	Glynn	Moore 1994
May 1994	1	Liberty	Urban et al. 1995
16 Apr 1996	1	Houston	Moore 1996
Nov 1996	1	Camden	Sewell 1997a
1 Jun 1997	1	Lowndes	Sewell 1997b
19–22 Dec 1998	2	Liberty	Bell 1999a
12 Mar 1999	4	McIntosh	Bell 1999b
26–28 Mar 1999	1	Houston	Bell 1999b
May 1999	2	McIntosh	Bell 1999b
2 May 2000	2	Dooly	Bell 2000
16 Dec 2000	1	Liberty	Bell 2001
7 Jan–18 Feb	1	Baker	Bell 2001
13–20 Jan 2001	1	Chatham	Bell 2001
8 March 2001	1	Muscogee	W. Chambers, unpubl. photo

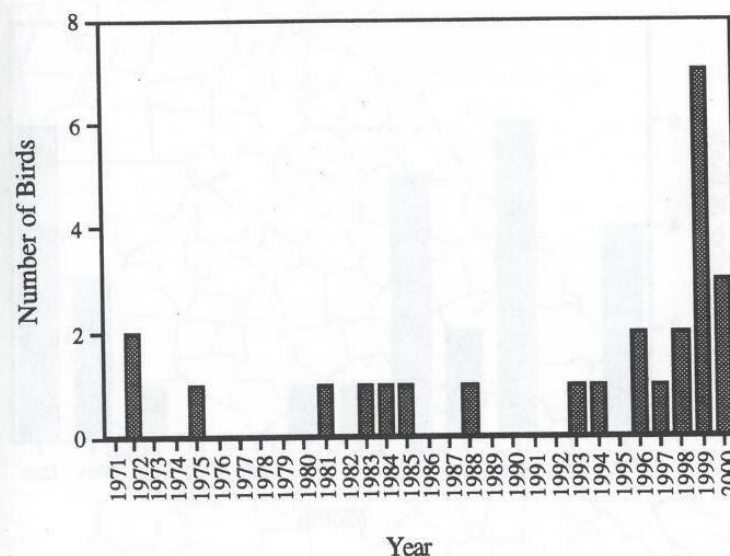


Figure 1. The number of White-winged Doves observed in Georgia has increased between 1971 and 2000. As of March 2001, there were already three individuals observed in 2001.

All Georgia records of White-winged Doves were from the coastal plain, with approximately equal numbers of records from inland and coastal sites (Fig. 3). Most fall–winter records (69%; 9/13) were from the coast, whereas most spring–summer records (60%; 6/10) were inland (Fig. 3). There was no significant association between season and location of sighting ($\chi^2 = 2.0$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.16$). However, if the Brantley County record was considered coastal (the collection site was only 50 km west of Brunswick), then fall–winter records appeared more likely to be coastal than spring–summer records ($\chi^2 = 3.2$, $df = 1$, $P = 0.07$).

Discussion

The White-winged Dove can no longer be considered accidental in Georgia (Burleigh 1958, Haney et al. 1986). Whereas only one record was known to Burleigh (1958), 28 birds have been seen in the state since 1972, with as many as seven individuals in a single year (Fig. 1). Thus, our analysis indicates that the White-winged Dove now occurs regularly in the state. It is likely that more observers in the field in recent years contributes to this increase in sightings. However, we do not believe this is a sufficient explanation for the pattern of occurrence

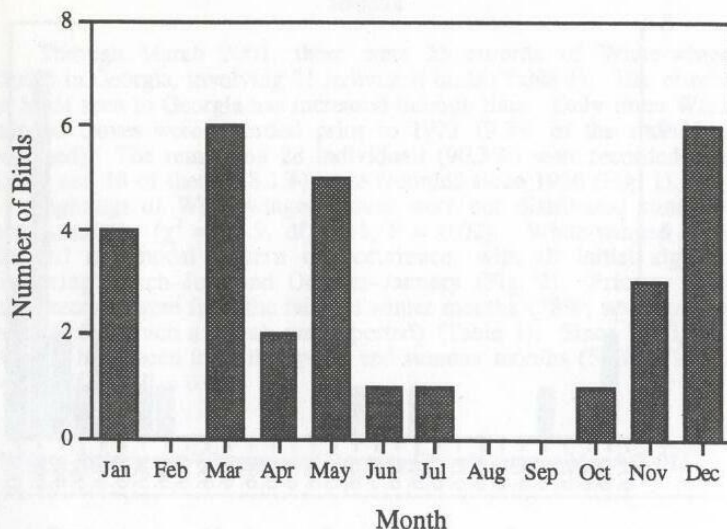


Figure 2. The occurrence of White-winged Doves in Georgia is bimodal. Graph shows month of initial sighting for birds that lingered at a site.

we have shown. The White-winged Dove is a large, conspicuous bird of open country whose regular occurrence in the state is unlikely to have gone unrecorded even with fewer observers. For example, Alabama is a state that had a similar paucity of birders in rural areas, but White-winged Doves were detected regularly over the same time period that Georgia had only a single record (Imhof 1962). Finally, the sharp increase in sightings in the mid-1990s in Georgia (Fig. 1) is not entirely consistent with the steady increase in birders through the 1980s and 1990s. We believe the data support a real increase in the frequency of occurrence of the White-winged Dove in Georgia.

The increased abundance of White-winged Doves in Georgia is almost certainly related to the population increases and range expansion being documented in other parts of its range (e.g., Sauer et al. 2000). Although there are local exceptions (Hayslette et al. 1996), the overall picture for White-winged Doves in the United States is one of steady population increase. As dove populations expand in Florida and the southwest, what was a pattern of casual occurrence in Georgia has become more regular.

More intriguing than the increased frequency of occurrence is the evidence that the pattern of occurrence of White-winged Doves in Georgia may be changing. Historically (before 1990), most White-winged Doves occurred in the fall and early winter along Georgia's coast (Table 1, Fig. 3). This pattern of occurrence in Georgia is

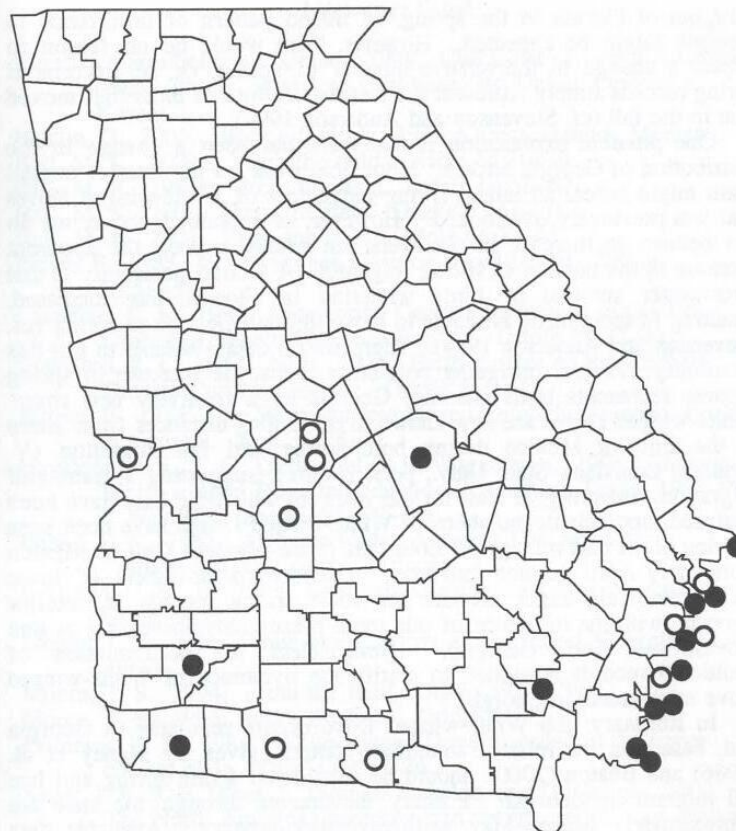


Figure 3. Distribution of White-winged Dove records in Georgia by season. Spring-summer records (March-July; open circles) are more likely to be in the interior coastal plain. Fall-winter records (October-January; filled circles) are more likely to be from the immediate coast. Records for which a month was not reported are not mapped.

consistent with the eastward movement of White-winged Doves along the northern Gulf coast in fall and early winter (e.g., Stevenson and Anderson 1994, American Ornithologists' Union 1998). These eastward movements are likely to bring birds to the Georgia coast, where they would be stopped by a physical barrier in an area where birders are concentrated (Fig. 3). More recently (since 1990), spring records have become more common and these sightings are more likely to be from the interior (Table 1, Fig. 3). As birds move north, then

west, out of Florida in the spring, an inland pattern of occurrence in Georgia might be expected. However, there would be no reason to expect a change in the relative number of spring vs. fall records if spring records simply represent the westward return of birds that moved east in the fall (cf. Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

One possible explanation is that there has been a change in the distribution of Georgia birders. More field work on the interior coastal plain might reveal an inland spring movement of White-winged Doves that was previously overlooked. However, as explained above, we do not believe an increase in observers can wholly explain the apparent increase in the number of spring migrants. A second possibility is that over-winter survival of birds wintering in Florida has increased, resulting in more birds available to move through Georgia in spring (cf. Stevenson and Anderson 1994). There are no data available to test this possibility. A final intriguing possibility is that the increase in spring records represents birds reaching Georgia by a relatively new route. White-winged Doves are now known to occur long distances from shore in the Gulf of Mexico during both spring and fall migration (V. Remsen, Louisiana State Univ., pers. comm.), suggesting a trans-gulf migration. In spring, at least for the years for which the data have been analyzed, appreciable numbers of White-winged Doves have been seen moving north past oil rigs off Louisiana in the northern Gulf of Mexico from early April through late May. A northward movement of doves across the Gulf might account for some spring records in interior Georgia (with the influence of this route presumably increasing as one moves west from Georgia). Nevertheless, the accumulation of additional records is needed to clarify the dynamics of White-winged Dove movements in Georgia.

In summary, the White-winged Dove occurs regularly in Georgia and, based on the relative abundance criteria given by Haney et al. (1986) and Beaton (2000), should be considered a rare spring and late fall migrant in Georgia. Primary movements through the state are approximately March–May and November–January. Available data suggest that spring migrants are more likely to be encountered on the interior coastal plain, and fall migrants are more likely to be observed on the immediate coast. In the future, White-winged Doves will probably be recorded outside Georgia's coastal plain and may over-winter at sites in south Georgia (see the record for Baker County in Bell 2001).

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GENERAL NOTES

LONG-EARED OWL IN FERNBANK FOREST — Approximately 45 people gathered on 28 March 1998 at 0800 SDT for the second of ten spring bird walks in Fernbank Forest, DeKalb County, Georgia. The crowd was viewing Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) eating berries when Marsha Little spotted an owl in the juniper behind us. The tall, 9-m (30-foot) tree was located next to the sidewalk and parking lot on the north side of Fernbank Science Center. A Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) fussing in the tree had caught Marsha's attention. As the crowd swarmed around the juniper for a better look, someone guessed it was an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*). This species has been seen in the trees and bushes in front of the Science Center before, so this was clearly possible. Before I could find the bird, someone else, from a different vantage point identified the bird as a Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*). This caught my attention because of the size disparity. Furthermore, Great Horned Owls have never been seen in front of the Science Center.

Approaching the tree from a different side, Steve Little and I stepped forward together. I saw the bird's side and wing and thought that it was too small for a Great Horned Owl. As Steve and I took one more step forward, the owl looked down at us and allowed to identify it simultaneously as a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). Peering down on us, this bird showed long, close-set ear tufts and a rusty facial disk. The barring on its chest was dark and boldly streaked. The bird became disturbed with all the attention and flew across Heaton Park Drive to a white pine at the corner of Fernbank Elementary School's driveway and the street. It remained there until nightfall, allowing many birders to add it to their life lists.

According to Haney et al. (1986, *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*, GOS Occasional Publ. No. 10) the Long-eared Owl is a rare winter visitor throughout the state. Burleigh (1958, *Georgia birds*, University of Oklahoma Press) records that the first specimen known from Georgia was one taken by Helme on Cumberland Island (Camden County) on 22 December 1904. Greene (1933, *Georgia Soc. Nat.*, Bull. No. 2) reports three birds taken by D.V. Hembree at Roswell, Fulton County, on 25 February 1918, 8 February 1926, and 1 May 1928 (see *Oriole* 46:21). Murphey (1937, *Contr. Charleston Mus.*, No. IX) had in his collection one bird from Richmond County on 26 January 1923 and another from Burke County on 26 November 1930. Two birds were collected at Tifton, Tift County, on 5 March 1945 by Gaulding who saw another there that same day. Leon Neel reported two birds on 1 March 1954 in Thomas County. More recently, one Long-eared Owl was recorded from Augusta, Richmond County, in October 1961 and another bird from Athens, Clarke County, in April 1961 (observer unknown). Jeff Sewell found a dead owl on 1 November 1987 in Smyrna, Cobb County (*Oriole* 53:15). A wounded bird was found in Berrien County and taken to the Department of

Natural Resources on 13 January 1995. A dead Long-eared Owl was found near Pine Mountain, Harris County, and taken to Auburn University on 10 March 1998.

My thanks to Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse for contributing many of the records listed above.

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VARIANT YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — Among the sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus*), juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*S. varius*) are unique in that they retain brown juvenal plumage on the head, breast, and back through fall; over the winter they molt gradually into adult plumage. For several days in December 1998 I observed such a juvenile sapsucker as it foraged in a pecan grove near my house in Paulding County, Georgia. Scattered red feathers of adult plumage had begun to appear on the throat and crown; those on the throat indicated the bird was a male. One morning I noticed some red feathers on the nape. Because Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers normally have a white nape, I was surprised to see red on the nape in addition to the burgeoning red splotches on the bird's throat and crown.

I consulted Kaufman (1990, *Advanced birding*, Alfred A. Knopf) and found that a small percentage (5% or less) of pure *varius*, mostly males, show limited red on the nape. However, *varius* will occasionally hybridize with the closely related Red-naped Sapsucker (*S. nuchalis*). A few of these hybrids show partial red on the nape, similar to that on the bird I observed. These two possibilities could not be distinguished in juvenal plumage. The possibility that the bird was a pure *nuchalis* could be ruled out by the retention of much brown juvenal plumage into winter; juvenile Red-naped Sapsuckers molt into adult plumage early in fall.

Next winter in the same pecan grove, I again found a male sapsucker with a red-tinged nape. This bird, however, was in adult (basic) plumage. According to Kaufman (1990), adult *varius* can be distinguished by (1) a complete malar stripe and (2) a mottled back. The red throat of male *varius* is surrounded by a black "frame" comprised of a complete malar stripe on either side and the dark bib below. However, in male *nuchalis* the malar stripe is partially obscured by red feathers from the throat; thus, the black "frame" is broken and incomplete. In *varius*, the back is mottled black and yellow-tinged white. In *nuchalis*, however, the white is much reduced, largely confined to two stripes on a background of black. (These stripes are not to be confused with the elongated white patches on the wing found in both species.) Armed with this information, I studied the bird's back and malar region. The plumage of the bird I observed was consistent with a male *varius*, showing no suggestion of *nuchalis* characters. One would expect a hybrid to show at least a hint of *nuchalis* characteristics in the malar and back regions. Thus, I concluded that the bird was a pure Yellow-bellied Sapsucker with red-nape variation.

A few weeks later, while birding the Berry College campus in Rome, Georgia, I observed another male sapsucker with a red nape. Again, I checked the malar and back pattern and found them to be consistent with a pure Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Further data are needed on the frequency of these red-naped variants in Georgia.

I thank Giff Beaton and Kenn Kaufman for their helpful comments and information.

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UNPRECEDENTED NUMBERS OF RED CROSSBILLS IN BARTOW COUNTY — On 12 December 1998, Adam Byrne, Tom Egan, Earl Horn and I went into Pine Log Wildlife Management Area in Bartow County, Georgia, to look for Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) that had been seen there a couple of weeks ago by Tom and Bob Zaremba. As we were birding the area where a pair of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) had been seen earlier that spring (*Oriole* 67:64), there were not many birds to be found. We did finally hear and observe a distant flock of birds fly into a large cone-laden conifer. Some of the birds were reddish, and some pale, and we had heard call-notes of Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*). We walked over in that general direction to see what we expected to be a flock of Purple Finches. As we got closer, we could see the birds busily feeding in a large tree, and could easily make out the reddish males and paler females. However, as we got closer we began to notice that the birds looked fairly large, and the males were deep red all over. We walked a little faster when we saw a bird the same size and shape as the others which was a dull yellow, and we realized that this was a flock of that most enigmatic of Georgia birds, the Red Crossbill. We approached the tree and got wonderful looks at adult males, adult females, and a few immatures as well. Realizing that this was a virtually unprecedented sighting for the state, we tried to count the number of birds in the flock. Words do not adequately convey our mounting amazement as we started counting the birds flying out of this tree and off to the next one with good cones. When the last bird had finally flown, the total had reached a phenomenal 64! This is impressive for Georgia, especially this far south of the mountains. Hopefully an effort can be made to see if there are birds actually breeding here, or if this might be an annual wintering area. The habitat here is similar to that in a part of the Talladega National Forest in Alabama where there have been a few crossbills in recent years, with confirmed breeding (Bill Summerour, pers. comm.).

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FROM THE FIELD AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2000

Not one, but two species should be added to the regular species list of Georgia birds as a result of well-documented sightings this fall. Black-headed Gull was considered by many to be overdue for an appearance in the state. This abundant Eurasian gull is becoming a regular winter visitor along the Atlantic coast to our north. A Long-tailed Jaeger photographed on one of two productive pelagic trips out of Savannah during August was also an exciting find.

In addition to the above, there were an exceptional number of reports of extremely rare birds this period. Hopefully, details of sightings of Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Brant, Limpkin, Hudsonian Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-legged Kittiwake, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bicknell's Thrush and Black-headed Grosbeak will be submitted to the GOS Checklist and Records Committee for review and to *The Oriole* for publication. As has been stated numerous times before, inclusion of a sighting in "From The Field" does not necessarily mean that a report has been accepted.

While there were plenty of rarities in the state this fall, the news on the birding front was not all good. At Kennesaw Mt., thrushes and warblers were reported in low numbers for the season. Of course, this may be due to a number of factors, such as weather patterns, observer coverage, or real fluctuation in overall numbers.

During September and October much of Georgia experienced some heavy downpours. While the rain was much appreciated, it only made a slight dent in the rainfall deficit for the last 3-4 years, and by the end of the period dry conditions had once again set in.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; 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 the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; Kennesaw Mt. - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; MBBP - Merry Bros. Brickyard Ponds, Augusta; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON - This species was well reported from West Point Dam in Troup Co. during November, with a peak count of 200 on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn).

HORNED GREBE - About 50 were reported from West Point Dam on 8 Nov (Lorna West).

EARED GREBE - Most unusual was a bird in alternate plumage seen at MBBP from 21 Aug (Clarence Belger, Anne Waters) through 18 Oct (Anne

Waters). Other singles were seen at the ELHLAF on 24 Sep (Bill Elrick, Jim Flynn) and 25 Sep (Aubrey Scott), and at DeKalb Reservoir on 8 Oct (Patrick Brisse).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - One was a good find on a pelagic trip out of Savannah on 27 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Back-to-back pelagic trips out of Savannah turned up six on 27 Aug and four on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - On the same pelagic trips, 41 were counted on 27 Aug, and 12 was the tally on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).

WILSON'S STORM PETREL - One was seen on the pelagic trip on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - A flock of 16 was spotted at Butler Island near Darien on 7 Oct (Doris Cohrs).

BROWN PELICAN - This species continues to be present at Walter F. George Dam in Clay Co., with counts of four on both 9 and 28 Sep (Jim Watson), and three on 11 Nov (Bob Zaremba et al.).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - Good counts were 500+ at Walter F. George Dam on 10 Nov (Michael Bell) and 650 at Lake Oconee also on 10 Nov (Paul Sykes).

ANHINGA - Interesting reports were of one at Oxbow Meadows Learning Center in the Columbus area on 8 Sep (Walt Chambers), and one at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Morgan Co. on 16 Oct (Hayward Chappel). This species is increasing in the Augusta area, according to Anne Waters, who had a peak count of 25 at MBBP on 28 Oct.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - One was a nice find at Jekyll Island on 23 Sep (Gene Keferl).

AMERICAN BITTERN - One was seen at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 7 Oct (Anne Waters) and 4 Nov (Earl Horn).

GREAT BLUE HERON - The white morph of this species was reported from along the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, with at least one, and possibly two, seen by Robbie Harrison from 17-21 Aug, and one seen by Chris Lambrecht at the CRNRA on 19 Aug. The "Great White Heron" is normally restricted to extreme south Florida, though it has occurred in the Atlanta area before. A good count of 58 was made below Walter F. George Dam in Clay Co. on 10 Nov (Michael Bell).

GREAT EGRET - Good numbers were reported from the ELHLAF, including a high count of 95 on 4 Sep (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell). Three late birds were seen at Lake Oconee on 10 Nov (Paul Sykes).

SNOWY EGRET - Good sightings for the Piedmont were two at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 4 Aug (Chris Loudermilk), and one at the ELHLAF on 25 Aug (Carol Lambert).

TRICOLORED HERON - Singles were found at the ENWR on 12 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.) and at MBBP on 22 Aug (Anne Waters). Good inland counts from the Lake Seminole area were four on 10 Sep (Michael Bell) and three on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm).

REDDISH EGRET - This species was reported from several sites along the coast, with high counts of six, including one white morph, at Little St. Simons Island on 10 Aug (Steve Hawk), three at Gould's Inlet on 18 Aug (Brad Winn) and four at Sapelo Island on 27 Oct (Tom Maloney).

CATTLE EGRET - At least 300 were seen at a sod farm in Macon Co. on 26 Aug (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers).

GREEN HERON - One was seen at MBBP on the late date of 28 Oct (Anne Waters).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - One was found at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 1 Aug (Chris Loudermilk).

WHITE IBIS - A few birds lingered into fall in the Piedmont. Five were seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 21 Aug (Chris Loudermilk), an immature was spotted off and on at the ELHLAF through 10 Sep (Joe Greenberg et al.), and another immature was seen in Oconee Co. on 8 Oct (Paul Sykes).

GLOSSY IBIS - An adult was a rare find inland at ENWR on 3 Aug (Walt Chambers).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - One was an unusual find at Albany Airport in Dougherty Co. on 19 Aug (Alan Ashley, Mike Keenan). Good counts from Andrews Island were 39 on 31 Aug (Charlsie Keferl, Gene Keferl) and 40 on 30 Sep (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers). The high count for the period, however, was 45 at Jekyll Island on 8 Oct (Gene Keferl, Jeff Sewell).

WOOD STORK - Two immatures were seen at the ELHLAF on 19 Aug (Jeff Sewell), and possibly the same two birds were spotted at Lake Horton in Fayette Co. the following day (Ted Seckinger). Also farther north than usual was one at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 24 Oct (Marion Dobbs). Good inland counts included 22 at Rum Creek WMA on 19 Aug (Eric Beohm), 45 in Houston Co. on 22 Aug (Larry Ross), 23 in Laurens Co. on 27 Aug (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers) and 122 at Lake Tobesofkee in the Macon area on 2 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm). Along the coast, 275 were counted at Andrews Island on 28 Sep (Gene Keferl).

BLACK VULTURE - A high count of 231 was made in Forsyth Co. on 10 Sep (Pat Sully).

TURKEY VULTURE - Counts of migrating birds were 310 in Forsyth Co. on 10 Sep (Pat Sully), 250 in the Suches area on 29 Oct (Georgann Schmalz) and 248 over DeKalb Co. on 12 Nov (Mike Hoekstra).

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - One was reported from a small pond on Tybee Island during early August by a number of observers. The origin of this bird appears questionable, however, as it seemed to be quite tame according to most reports.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - An outstanding find was the flock of about 50 seen along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 15 Oct (Gene Keferl, Bob Zaremba et al.).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - At Florence Marina State Park two were seen on 17 Nov (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), and five were recorded on 28 Nov (Walt Chambers).

ROSS'S GOOSE - A bird that was first reported in Madison Co. during February 1999 was still there on 6 Aug (Rusty Trump). One was seen at the ELHLAF on 30 Nov (Carol Lambert).

BRANT - One was a great find at Jekyll Island on 17 Nov (Bill Elrick, Rusty Trump). Fortunately, this bird was photographed, though follow-up searches the next day were unsuccessful.

- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** - Five were seen in Forsyth Co. on 20 Nov (Jim Flynn), and one was reported from West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn).
- MOTTLED DUCK** - One was seen on Jekyll Island from 26 Aug (Michael Bell, Jeff Sewell) through 29 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** - Six seen at the ELHLAF on 12 Aug were early (Jeff Sewell).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER** - Early reports included two at the Rum Creek WMA on 19 Aug (Eric Beohm) and five at the ELHLAF on 10 Sep (Joe Greenberg et al.). A count of 120 was made at ENWR on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - Six at Andrews Island on 18 Sep were early (Brad Winn et al.). One was in Forsyth Co. on 20 Nov (Jim Flynn), and three were seen at the MBBP on 28 Nov (Anne Waters).
- GREEN-WINGED TEAL** - Early sightings were one at Lake Tobesofkee in the Macon area on 2 Sep (Eric Beohm) and two in Decatur Co. on 10 Sep (Michael Bell).
- CANVASBACK** - The only reports were of three at Lake Walter F. George on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn), seven at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on the same day (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn), 10 at Lake Seminole on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm), and one again at Lake Walter F. George on 28 Nov (Walt Chambers).
- REDHEAD** - Good counts were 164 at Lake Walter F. George on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn) and 80 at Lake Seminole on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm). Six at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 24 Nov were also noteworthy (Chris Loudermilk).
- RING-NECKED DUCK** - A male that summered at ELHLAF remained through September (Jeff Sewell). Others that summered and remained through fall were one at MBBP and two at Phinizy Swamp (Anne Waters).
- GREATER SCAUP** - Reports from West Point Dam in Troup Co. included three on 9 Nov (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan) and two on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm). Three were found at the Phinizy Swamp WMA in Richmond Co. on 11 Nov (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- SURF SCOTER** - Inland sightings included one at West Point Dam in Troup Co. from 23-25 Nov (Giff Beaton, Walt Chambers, Earl Horn), and three at Walter F. George Dam, Clay Co., on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm).
- BLACK SCOTER** - One was found at West Point Lake on 11 Nov (Bob Zaremba et al.), 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn) and 25 Nov (Eric Beohm, Walt Chambers). This species is rarely reported inland.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE** - The first report from West Point Dam in Troup Co., the best area in the state for this species, was on 27 Nov (Bob Zaremba et al.). One was a good find at Skidaway Island on 25 Nov (Mark Cluett) and 30 Nov (Carol McClelland).
- HOODED MERGANSER** - A good count of 100-125 was made at the ELHLAF on 19 Nov (Jeff Sewell).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - Thirty-two was a good count at West Point Dam on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn); 32 was also the total seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 25 Nov (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett, Chris Loudermilk).

- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** - High counts were four in Habersham Co. on 8 Aug (Scott Somershoe), nine in Banks Co. on 9 Aug (Anne DeAngelis), and 50 were still at the large kite congregation discovered in late July in Tattall Co. on 12 Aug (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump). The 3-4 in the Atlanta area on 5 Sep were a rare find (Libby Howze).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** - As many as 12 were counted in the large kite congregation in Tattall Co. from 6 Aug (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson) through 12 Aug (Rusty Trump). Rare finds in north Georgia were one at the State Botanical Gardens in Athens on 6 Aug (Mark Freeman), one at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. also on 6 Aug (Chris Loudermilk), and one at the ELHLAF on 8 Sep (Bruce Hallett, Nancy Norman).
- BALD EAGLE** - Seven was a good count from St. Simons and Jekyll Islands on 8 Oct (Paul Raney). Eric Beohm also had a good one-day count, with nine seen on 24 Nov, including five at Lake Walter F. George, two at Lake Seminole and two at West Point Dam in Troup Co.
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - High counts from Kennesaw Mt. were 158 on 16 Sep (Mike Hoekstra), 135 on 26 Sep (Deb Zaremba et al.) and 100+ on 27 Sep (Paul Raney). One seen on Jekyll Island on 12 Nov was late (Mary Elfner).
- AMERICAN KESTREL** - Larry Ross found what were probably early migrants in Peach Co. on 21 Aug and in Houston Co. on 22 Aug. Sixteen was a good count at St. Simons Island on 8 Oct (Paul Raney).
- MERLIN** - Inland reports included singles in downtown Atlanta on 6 Sept (Bill Steiner), in Greene Co. on 16 Sep (Paul Sykes), in the Columbus area on 19 Sep (Walt Chambers), at Kennesaw Mt. on 26 Sep (Tom Egan et al.), at the Reynold's Nature Preserve in Clayton Co. on 6 Oct (Eric Beohm), at the Abbott's Bridge portion of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Atlanta on 25 Oct (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), at Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 4 Nov (Earl Horn) and in Rockdale Co. on 11 Nov (Jim Flynn). The best count from the coast was at least nine at St. Simons Island on 8 Oct (Paul Raney).
- PEREGRINE FALCON** - Inland sightings of this species were of singles in Macon Co. on 12 Sep (Walt Chambers); at Kennesaw Mt. on 23, 24, and 29 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba) and 24 Oct (Paul Raney); at East Georgia Turf in Bulloch Co. on 8 Oct (Ray Chandler et al.), and at MBBP on 28 Oct (Anne Waters). Six were seen during an excellent falcon flight at St. Simons Is. on 8 Oct (Paul Raney).
- PLAIN CHACHALACA** - Few reports are usually received of the introduced population on Sapelo Island, but 10-12 were counted there on 13 Oct (Tom Egan, Lex Glover, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- KING RAIL** - Three were reported from the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 11 Nov (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn), and two were found at Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. on 27 Nov (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** - High counts were four at Floyd College Marsh in Floyd Co. on 27 Sep (Marion Dobbs), 10 at the Phinizy Swamp on 4 Nov (Earl Horn), four at the Greene Co. marsh on 10 Nov (Paul Sykes), and four at Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. on 27 Nov (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).
- SORA** - One seen at the Rum Creek WMA on 19 Aug was early (Eric Beohm). One was seen at the ELHLAF on 10 Sep (Joe Greenberg et al.) and 24

Sep (Beth Childs, Jim Flynn et al.), and two were found there on 15 Oct (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell). Five to seven were reported from the Greene Co. marsh between 15 Oct and 10 Nov (Paul Sykes). From the Phinizy Swamp there were reports of 15 on 28 Oct (Tom Egan, Lex Glover, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), 20 on 4 Nov (Earl Horn) and 40+ on 11 Nov (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn). Ten were found at Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. on 27 Nov (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).

LIMP KIN - One seen at the confluence of the Altamaha and Ochopee Rivers in Tattnall Co. on 4 Aug was the first reported in the state in a number of years (Larry Carlile, Ron Owens, Dirk Stevenson, Beth Willis).

SANDHILL CRANE - A flock of 14 was seen in Cartersville on the extremely early date of 16 Sep (Marion Dobbs). Several large migrating flocks were noted during late November, with a peak on 30 Nov, when 1000+ were seen over the ELHLAF (Carol Lambert) and 2000 were reported in the Marietta area (Vickie DeLoach). Unusual for the locations were 19 in Glynn Co. on 22 Nov (Mike Chapman) and 18 in Bulloch Co. on the same day (Ray Chandler).

WHOOPIING CRANE - One, along with a Sandhill Crane, was seen at a marsh on St. Simons Is. 13 Aug (Elaine Young). This bird was undoubtedly one that was released in Florida as part of a captive breeding program.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Rare inland sightings were one at the ELHLAF on 31 Aug (Carol Lambert), one at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle), and one at Walter F. George Dam on 17 Sep (Walt Chambers).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - This species was well reported in Bartow Co., with one on 19 Aug (Bruce Dralle), one on 20 Aug (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), four on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle), and nine on 9 Sep (Bruce Dralle). One was seen at Super Sod in Peach Co. on 8 Sep (Dan Adrien), and one was reported from Cumberland Island on 21 Sep (Tom Maloney).

PIPING PLOVER - Forty-four was an excellent count on Little St. Simons Island on 18 Oct (Tyler Gault, Eric Kellon, Brad Winn).

AMERICAN OYSERCATCHER - The flock consisting of 500-600 of this species at Little St. Simons Island on 18 Oct must have been an impressive sight (Tyler Gault, Eric Kellon, Brad Winn).

AMERICAN AVOCET - Good numbers were reported from Andrews Island during September, with the high count being 350 on 18 Sep (Brad Winn et al.). A rare inland sighting was one seen at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in the Columbus area on 9 Oct (Walt Chambers).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Singles were seen at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. from 15-30 Aug (Marion Dobbs), and at Super Sod in Peach Co. from 25 Aug (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump) through 16 Sep (Brad Bergstrom, Margaret Harper). Walt Chambers and Julie Ballenger had the best counts, with 21 at a sod farm in Macon Co. on 26 Aug, and five at East Georgia Turf in Bulloch Co. on the same day. Three were also seen at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle) and 4 Sep (Jim Pappas, Melissa Pappas).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Four were spotted on Little Tybee Island on 4 and 5 Aug (Deb Barriero, Rene Heidt), two were seen on Little St. Simons

Island on 10 Aug (Steve Hawk), and one was seen again on Little St. Simons Island on 21 Oct (Mike Chapman et al.).

MARbled GODWIT - Good counts from Little St. Simons Island were 50 on 10 Aug (Steve Hawk), 119 on 18 Oct (Tyler Gault, Eric Kellon, Brad Winn) and 117 on 21 Oct (Mike Chapman et al.).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT - One was a rare find at Andrews Island on 18 Sep (Brad Winn et al.). Hopefully this sighting will be well documented, as this species is listed in the Provisional Species List of the ACOGB with only two accepted sight records. A third sight record from 1997 was documented in *The Oriole* (62:6-7).

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Rare inland sightings were of two at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 5 Sep (Marion Dobbs), three at the same location on 9 Sep (Johnny Parks), and two at East Georgia Turf in Bulloch Co. on 2 Sep (Earl Horn).

RED KNOT - High counts from Little St. Simons Island were 1000 on 10 Aug (Steve Hawk) and 2500 on 18 Oct (Tyler Gault, Eric Kellon, Brad Winn).

SANDERLING - Good inland sightings from Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. were one on 5 Sep (Marion Dobbs) and five on 9 Sep (Johnny Parks).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - This species was well reported from late August through mid-September, with some of the peak counts being five at Andrews Island on 29 Aug (Brad Winn et al.), 20 at the ELHLAF on 8 Sep (Bruce Hallett, Carol Lambert), 13 at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 9 Sep (Bruce Dralle), two in Macon Co. on 12 Sep (Walt Chambers), and four at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in Columbus on 13 and 15 Sep (Walt Chambers).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - It was an exceptional fall for this species, with reports of two at ENWR on 12 Aug (Giff Beaton), two in Twiggs Co. on 26 and 29 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.), one at Lake Tobesofkee in the Macon area on 2 Sep (Eric Beohm), three at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 9 Sep (Johnny Parks), at least two at a sod farm in Macon Co. on 12 Sep (Walt Chambers), and four at Andrews Island on 18 Sep (Brad Winn et al.).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - The best count was 100 at the Legacy Sod Farm in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The first report from the usual wintering area on Tybee Island was of three on 24 Oct (Deb Barreiro).

CURLEW SANDPIPER - Amazingly this species was reported for the second time this year when one was found at Andrews Island on 27 Aug (Mike Chapman). The bird was seen by a number of observers through 2 Sep (Earl Horn).

STILT SANDPIPER - Six was a good count at ENWR on 3 Aug (Walt Chambers), one was seen in Twiggs Co. on 26 Aug (Walt Chambers), eight were counted along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 31 Aug (Charlsie Keferl, Gene Keferl), two were present at the ELHLAF from 8 Sep (Bruce Hallett, Carol Lambert) through 10 Sep (Joe Greenberg et al.), one was found at a Macon Co. sod farm on 12 Sep (Walt Chambers), one was recorded at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center on 21 Sep (Walt Chambers), one was seen at the Albany airport in Dougherty Co.

- on 29 Oct (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and one was seen at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 11 Nov (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** - The earliest report was of one at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 5 Aug (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba). This species was once again well reported from various sod farms from around the state, with some of the best counts being 14 at Super Sod in Peach Co. on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton), 22 at Legacy Sod in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle), 29 at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle), and 35 at Thomas Bros. on 9 Sep (Johnny Parks). One was still at Sod Atlanta on 1 Oct (Diane Powell).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** - One was seen at the ELHLAF on 3 and 4 Sep (Carol Lambert, Aubrey Scott, Jeff Sewell), and two were there on 8 Sep (Bruce Hallett, Carol Lambert).
- LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** - Twenty were reported from Andrews Island on 1 Oct (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm, Walt Chambers). A rare inland report was received of one at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center in the Columbus area on 13 Oct (Walt Chambers).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - One was seen at Andrews Island on 29 Aug (Giff Beaton, Brad Winn, Beth Willis), and two were found at the same location on 8 Sep (Gene Keferl) through 1 Oct (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm, Walt Chambers).
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** - The pelagic trips out of Savannah recorded 11 on 27 Aug and six the following day (Giff Beaton et al.).
- POMARINE JAEGER** - One was seen on the pelagic trip on 27 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).
- PARASITIC JAEGER** - This species was well reported from Jekyll Island, beginning with one on 14 Nov (Walt Chambers). The best count was four on 18 Nov (Earl Horn). A single was also reported from Wassaw Island 18 Nov (Steve Calver, Pete Range).
- LONG-TAILED JAEGER** - On the pelagic trip on 28 Aug an immature jaeger, well photographed by Bruce Hallett, was identified as this species. Only one accepted sight record for this species is listed in the ACOGB.
- LAUGHING GULL** - Two were seen at West Point Dam on 7 Nov (Rusty Trump) and 9 Nov (Giff Beaton et al.). Another inland find was a single bird seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 25 Nov (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett, Chris Loudermilk).
- FRANKLIN'S GULL** - A first-winter bird was a good find at Jekyll Island on 7 Oct (Jeff Sewell). This bird remained in the area through at least 18 Nov (Earl Horn). Inland, three were seen at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 9 Nov (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Walt Chambers), and one was seen near Florence Marina State Park on 17 Nov (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- BLACK-HEADED GULL** - A first-winter bird found at Andrews Island causeway on 11 Nov provided a first state record (Mike Chapman, Gene Keferl). The bird, which was later seen by many and was well photographed, was last reported on 22 Nov (Mike Bernard).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - A high count of 44 was made at Wassaw Is. on 24 Sep (Steve Calver).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** - At least six were seen at Jekyll Island on 7 Oct (Jeff Sewell), and eight were counted at Gould's Inlet on 25 Nov (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).

- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE** - A first-winter bird was a great find at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 7 Nov (Walt Chambers). The bird was subsequently seen by many observers through 10 Nov. Another first-winter bird was seen following a shrimp boat at Jekyll Island on 18 Nov (Earl Horn, Gene Keferl) and was also found the following day (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- CASPIAN TERN** - Inland reports were of three at MBBP on 10 Sep (Betsy Ristroph), four at Walter F. George Dam on 17 Sep (Walt Chambers) and one at West Point Dam on 26 Sep (Walt Chambers).
- ROYAL TERN** - A high count of 1773 was made at Wassaw Is. on 24 Sep (Steve Calver).
- SANDWICH TERN** - A high count of 266 was reported from Wassaw Is. on 24 Sep (Steve Calver).
- COMMON TERN** - One was seen in Clayton Co. on 9 Sep (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm).
- FORSTER'S TERN** - One was reported from the ELHLAF on both 31 Aug (Carol Lambert) and 9 Sep (Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott), and one was seen at MBBP on 28 Oct (Judy Gregory).
- BRIDLED TERN** - Totals from the back-to-back pelagic trips out of Savannah were 22 on 27 Aug and 14 on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).
- SOOTY TERN** - The same pelagic trips recorded 84 on 27 Aug and 18 on 28 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLACK TERN** - This species was well reported from the ELHLAF with two on 16 Aug (Carol Lambert), an excellent count of 15 on 31 Aug (Carol Lambert), two on 3 Sep (Earl Horn, Aubrey Scott), one on 4 Sep (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell) and one on 9 Sep (Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott). Other inland reports included two at Walter F. George Dam on 31 Aug (Walt Chambers) and three in Bartow Co. on 2 Sep (Bruce Dralle).
- EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE** - High counts were 98 in the Brunswick area on 5 Sep (Paul Raney) and 94 in Houston Co. on 30 Sep (Earl Horn).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** - Twenty-one was a good count at East Georgia Turf in Bulloch Co. on 7 Oct (Ray Chandler).
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** - Late reports included one in Bibb Co. on 30 Oct (Ken Clark) and one at Oxbow Meadows in the Columbus area on 2 Nov (Walt Chambers).
- COMMON NIGHTHAWK** - Tom Egan had a decent count of 319 over Marietta on 1 Sep.
- BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD** - A male came to a feeder in the Savannah area from 5 Oct through the end of the period (Steve Calver).
- ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** - A third record for Georgia was provided by a bird coming to a feeder at the home of Darlen Huff in Snellville, beginning on 14 Nov (*vide* Karen Theodorou).
- BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** - Also a third state record was a hatch-year male banded at the home Mary Mellom in Acworth in Cherokee Co. on 28 Nov (*vide* Karen Theodorou).
- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** - Rusty Trump reported that an adult female was banded in Franklin in Heard Co. on 19 Aug, and that an adult male was at his feeder in Buford by late August. Several other *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported coming to feeders throughout the state by the end of the period.

- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER** - One seen in Decatur on 17 Sep was early (Gordon McWilliams).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** - Singles were seen at South Peachtree Creek Nature Center in DeKalb Co. on 19 Aug (Jerry Brunner), the CRNRA from 20-25 Aug (Earl Horn, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott, Rusty Trump) and again on 24 Sep (Bruce Dralle, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott), Fernbank Forest in DeKalb Co. on 25 Aug (Georgann Schmalz) and Rum Creek WMA on 2 and 17 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm).
- YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER** - Singles were reported from Dawson Forest on 14 Sep (Theresa Hartz), Kennesaw Mt. on 15 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.) and 16 Sep (Liz Horsey), and the CRNRA on 19 Sep (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba) and 14 Oct (Mark Beebe, Joel Hitt).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** - Singles were reported from Ocmulgee National Monument in Bibb Co. on 12 September (Walt Chambers), Decatur Co. on 24 Sep (Michael Bell) and Seminole Co. on 30 Sep (Michael Bell).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER** - Singles were seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 26 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.), on Wassaw Island on 24 Sep (Steve Calver) and at the ELHLAF on 15 Oct (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** - A male was found in Chesser Prairie in the Okfenokee NWR on 28 Nov (*vide* Sheila Willis). A male was also found in this area two years ago.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** - Singles were found in Macon Co. on both 30 Sep (Walt Chambers) and 1 Oct (Tom Egan, Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), on Tybee Island in Chatham Co. on 7 Oct (Paul Sykes) and in Lee Co. on 27 Oct (Michael Bell).
- EASTERN KINGBIRD** - Several sizable flocks were observed migrating over Jekyll Island on 26 Aug, with 425 being the total counted by Chuck Saleeby and Jeff Sewell.
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER** - One was seen on Jekyll Island on 3 Nov (Marjorie Clark, Gene Keferl, Lydia Thompson).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO** - Following an exceptional fall for this species last year numbers were more typical this year, with singles being reported from several locations during September and early October. The high count was three at the CRNRA on 16 Sep (Earl Horn, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- COMMON RAVEN** - Two were seen at Brasstown Bald on 25 Aug (Chris Loudermilk), two were found north of Helen in White Co. on 4 Sep (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and two were seen near Hogpen Gap also in White Co. on 6 Nov (Dot Freeman).
- HORNED LARK** - Julie Ballenger and Walt Chambers had a good count of 40-50 at a sod farm in Macon Co. on 26 Aug.
- BANK SWALLOW** - The best counts were 40+ in Laurens Co. on 27 Aug (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers), 50+ at the Super Sod farm in Peach Co. on 2 Sep (Eric Beohm, Richard Beohm) and 75+ at Thomas Bros. sod farm in Floyd Co. on 9 Sep (Johnny Parks).
- CLIFF SWALLOW** - About 20 adults, still tending young, were seen at Lula Park in the Gainesville area on 6 Aug (Jim Flynn).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - One was found at Unicoi State Park in White Co. on 24 Nov (Dot Freeman).
- WINTER WREN** - One at the CRNRA on 6 Sep was early (Russ Wigh).

- SEDGE WREN** - Interesting for the location was one found near the top of Kennesaw Mt. on 25 Sep (Bob Zaremba). Ten was a good count at Callaway Gardens on 20 Nov (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers).
- BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER** - One was seen at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 5 Nov (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- VEERY** - Pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt. produced 12 on 16 Sep, 14 on 24 Sep, and 10 on 5 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.). The best daytime count at Kennesaw Mt. was five on 9 Sep (Giff Beaton).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH** - Pre-dawn count totals at Kennesaw Mt. were 19 on 16 Sep, 22 on 24 Sep, 61 on 4 Oct, and nine on 5 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.). Five were seen during daytime at Kennesaw Mt. on 16 Sep (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), one was seen at the CRNRA on 19 Sep (Earl Horn), one was found at Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 30 Sep (Marion Dobbs), one was noted on Sapelo Island on 1 Oct (Brad Bergstrom), three were reported in the Cumming area on 2 Oct (Bill Elrick), one was seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 10 Oct (Chris Loudermilk), and one was recorded in the Darien area on the late date of 2 Nov (Doris Cohrs).
- BICKNELL'S THRUSH** - One was reported to have been banded in Cumming on 31 Sep (Bill Elrick). Hopefully details will be published in *The Oriole*.
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH** - The tallies for the Kennesaw Mt. pre-dawn thrush counts were 109 on 16 Sep, 203 on 24 Sep, 790 on 4 Oct, and 157 on 5 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.). A late bird was noted in the Darien area on 2 Nov (Doris Cohrs).
- WOOD THRUSH** - The best count made on the pre-dawn counts at Kennesaw Mt. was 84 on 4 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** - Four was an excellent count at Chicopee Woods in Hall Co. on 19 Sep (Karen Theodorou).
- BREWSTER'S WARBLER** - Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids of this form were observed at the CRNRA on 24 Aug (Earl Horn) and at Reynolds Nature Park in Clayton Co. on 2 Sep (Michael Beohm).
- LAWRENCE'S WARBLER** - This much rarer form of Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid was found at Kennesaw Mt. on 6 Sep (Tom Egan et al.).
- TENNESSEE WARBLER** - One seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 22 Aug was fairly early (Giff Beaton et al.). Late birds were singles in the Duluth area on 5 Nov (Karen Theodorou) and at West Point WMA also on 5 Nov (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER** - Five was a good count at the Abbot's Bridge portion of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 21 Oct (Tom Egan, Pierre Howard, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- NASHVILLE WARBLER** - This species was well reported from mid-September through the end of October. At least 16 birds were seen, with the reports coming from all parts of the state.
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER** - One seen at the CRNRA on 3 Nov was late (Georgann Schmalz).
- BLACKPOLL WARBLER** - This rare fall migrant was reported from Kennesaw Mt. on 25 Aug (Giff Beaton et al.), Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 13 Sep (Chris Loudermilk) and Sumter Co. on 27 Oct (Michael Bell).

MOURNING WARBLER - There were four reports of this rare warbler this fall. Singles were seen at Wassaw Island on 16 Sep (Steve Calver), at Kennesaw Mt. on 22 Sep (Tom Egan, Deb Zaremba), in Macon on 23 Sep (Arlene Clark, Ken Clark, Ty Ivey), and an immature male was banded at Fernbank Forest on 9 Oct (Trecia Neal, Georgann Schmalz).

WILSON'S WARBLER - This species was also well reported, with singles in Brooks Co. on 16 Sep (Kristi Avera), at the CRNRA on 23 Sep (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), in Glynn Co. on 28 Sep (Gene Keferl), at Kennesaw Mt. on 1 Oct (Giff Beaton et al.) and 7 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.), in the Columbus area on 4 Oct (Walt Chambers), 9 Oct (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers) and 14 Oct (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), in the Macon area on 14 Oct (Ken Clark et al.), in Thomas Co. on 29 Oct (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), in the Darien area on 29 Oct (Doris Cohrs), in Greene Co. on 30 Oct (Paul Sykes), in Candler Park in the Atlanta area on 1 and 5 Nov (Ann Mahoney), and at Buford Fish Hatchery on 28 Nov (Bill Elrick).

CANADA WARBLER - Four was a good count at Kennesaw Mt. on 9 Sep (Giff Beaton et al.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Three was an excellent count at the AWMA on 14 Oct (Bob Zaremba et al.). One was also a good find at the CRNRA on 19 Oct (Tom Egan et al.).

VESPER SPARROW - Good counts for the Atlanta area were eight at the Abbot's Bridge Unit of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 28 Oct (Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell) and four in Forsyth Co. on 20 Nov (Jim Flynn).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - There were several reports from the CRNRA, with one on 20 Oct (Tom Egan, Pierre Howard), three on 30 Oct (Russ Wigh), and two on 1 Nov (Dennis Lacoss, Russ Wigh). Other reports were of one in Brooks Co. on 10 Nov (Debbie Grimes) and 17 Nov (Brad Bergstrom), and four at Paulk's Pasture WMA in Glynn Co. on both 11 Nov (Gene Keferl) and 12 Nov (Diana Churchill et al.). Ray Chandler also reported two on 14 Nov, one on 16 Nov, and four on 20 Nov from three different sites in Bulloch Co.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - A single was seen at the Abbot's Bridge Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 25 Oct (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), and at the CRNRA one was seen on 28 Oct (Mark Davis, Pierre Howard), 29 Oct (Larry Gardella), and 1 Nov (Dennis Lacoss, Russ Wigh). One was seen at Oxbow Meadows in the Columbus area on 2 Nov (Walt Chambers), three were seen in Brooks Co. on both 10 Nov (Debbie Grimes) and 27 Nov (Giff Beaton), two were found in Burke Co. on 11 Nov (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn), three were found at Paulk's Pasture WMA in Glynn Co. on 11 Nov (Gene Keferl et al.), and two were seen at ENWR on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn).

SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - One seen at St. Catherines Island on 17 Sep was early (Giff Beaton).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One seen in the Rome area on 29 Sep was early (Marion Dobbs). During October there were too many reports to list them all, which may be a first ever. There were reports from five locations within the Atlanta area alone, including three at the CRNRA on 14 Oct (Mark Beebe, Joel Hitt) and two at the Abbot's Bridge Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 20 Oct (Rusty Trump).

Marion Dobbs had five singles at various locations in northwest Georgia between 15 and 29 Oct. Singles were also seen at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on both 9 Oct (Anne Waters) and 4 Nov (Earl Horn), and at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 11 Nov (Michael Bell).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - This species was well reported, with the best reports being of five in Greene Co. on 22 Oct (Paul Sykes), four at the J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 24 Oct (Marion Dobbs), 2-4 at the CRNRA on 25 Oct (Russ Wigh), six at the Abbot's Bridge Unit of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area on 28 Oct (Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell), three in Dade Co. on 29 Oct (Marion Dobbs), and at least 25 in White Co. on 6 Nov (Jim Flynn).

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK - One was an excellent find near Cairo in Grady Co. on 26 Nov (Tom Egan, Earl Horn).

PAINTED BUNTING - Two were still at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 28 Oct (Tom Egan, Lex Glover, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - Two males were a great find in Seminole Co. on 25 Nov (Eric Beohm).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - At least 30 were reported from ENWR on both 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn) and 28 Nov (Walt Chambers), and six were seen at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co. on 24 Nov (Chris Loudermilk).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Two were seen at ENWR on 24 Nov (Giff Beaton, Earl Horn), and on the same day the same observers found two in Clay Co. Twenty were at ENWR on 28 Nov (Walt Chambers).

SHINY COWBIRD - This species is becoming more regular along the coast. One to two were seen on St. Simons Is. from 9 Aug (Lydia Thompson) through 13 Aug (Tom Egan).

PURPLE FINCH - The first report was one in north Atlanta on 29 Oct (Bruce Dralle).

PINE SISKIN - The first report was of four at the Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton Co. on 28 Nov (Carol Lambert).

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FROM THE FIELD DECEMBER 2000-FEBRUARY 2001

Two of the species that were on many birders' wish lists made appearances in the state this winter. Lapland Longspur, though a regular winter visitor to Alabama, had not been recorded in Georgia in recent years. In early December, however, this species was found at no fewer than three locations, with several birders getting the chance to observe them at Andrews Island and the ELHLAF. The female Common Merganser that was found at Lake Acworth by Tom Egan and Bob Zaremba was seen by many over the following three-week period. This species, listed as rare in the interior, rare to uncommon transient and winter resident on the coast in the ACOGB, has also been absent most winters of late.

It was an unprecedented year for hummingbirds, with a total of 95 birds and six species reported for the winter. Fifteen people hosted multiple hummingbirds at their feeders, according to Rusty Trump, who did an excellent job in compiling reports from around the state. Gwinnett Co., with 19 individuals reported, led the way among the 35 counties reporting hummingbirds.

Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported twice, with one of the birds being well photographed by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn. Hopefully this will be another overdue species that will be added to the Regular Species List of Georgia birds.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986, J. C. Haney et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh Co.; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application, Clayton Co.; ENWR - Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

RED-THROATED LOON - One was a good find inland at Lake Allatoona on both 31 Dec and 1 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn). Counts from the coast included 11 at Jekyll Island on 12 Jan (Lydia Thompson), 16 off Tybee Island on 28 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.), 20 at St. Catherines Island on 29 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.), 42 at Little St. Simons Island on 29 Jan (Jim Flynn, Lex Glover), and an excellent count of 119 off Ossabaw Island also 29 Jan (Tom Egan, Paul Sykes).

COMMON LOON - Eighteen were noted at SCSP on 10 Dec (Chris Loudermilk). Other notable counts were 40 at West Point Lake on 5 Jan (Doug Robinson), 107 at Lake Hartwell in Hart Co. on 10 Feb (Joan Sykes, Paul Sykes) and 34 on Lake Russell in Elbert Co. on 17 Feb (Cam Kepler, Paul Sykes).

HORNED GREBE - Good counts were 100 at West Point Dam on both 5 Jan (Doug Robinson) and 23 Jan (Tom Egan), 170 at the Richard B. Russell

Dam in Elbert Co. on 14 Jan (Marion Dobbs), 60 at Plant Wansley in Carroll/Heard Cos. on 2 Feb (Marion Dobbs), and 164 at Lake Hartwell in Hart Co. on 10 Feb (Joan Sykes, Paul Sykes).

RED-NECKED GREBE - One was a rare find at Little St. Simons Island on 29 Jan (Jim Flynn).

EARED GREBE - One was seen at West Point Lake on 19 Dec (Walt Chambers).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - A total of 890 was tallied on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (fide Anne Waters).

GREAT CORMORANT - A late report was received of one at Marshwood Golf Club on Skidaway Island on 7 Feb (Joseph Wahl). The bird was described as having a white belly, indicative of juvenile plumage, and white flanks, a feature of an adult in breeding plumage. There are only four records for this species listed in the ACOGB, with the last sighting being in 1983.

ANHINGA - Forty-two were counted on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (fide Anne Waters). One as an unusual find at Lake Lanier on 24 Feb (Ruth Clark).

AMERICAN BITTERN - One was seen through the winter in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co., and two were seen there on 26 Dec (Anne Waters et al.). One was found on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec (fide Marie Amerson), and one was seen at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 15 Feb (Kathleen Brady).

GREAT EGRET - A good count of 214 was made on the Augusta CBC on 16 Dec (fide Anne Waters).

REDDISH EGRET - One was a good find for winter on Cumberland Island on 29 Jan (Jenny Bjork, Ray Chandler, Mark Kanyok).

CATTLE EGRET - Singles were seen in Decatur Co. on 29 Dec (Oscar Dewberry) and in Seminole Co. on 7 Jan (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).

GREEN HERON - Good finds were singles on the Harris Neck CBC on 14 Dec (fide Steve Calver), on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (fide Emil Urban), on the Atlanta CBC on 17 Dec (fide Bill Blakeslee) and on the Callaway Gardens CBC on 30 Dec (fide LuAnn Craighton).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - Twenty were seen at the Merry Bros. Brickyard Ponds in Augusta on 20 Jan (Anne Waters).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON - One was an unusual winter find on the Piedmont NWR/Rum Creek WMA CBC on 18 Dec (fide Terry Johnson).

GLOSSY IBIS - Continuing a trend of winter sightings of this species in recent years were reports of one at the AWMA on 5 Jan (E.J. Williams), and in the Savannah area three were seen on 27 Jan (Earl Horn) and two were found on 28 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.).

WOOD STORK - Two were seen in the Valdosta area on 21 Feb (Kristi Avera).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Earl Horn had a good count of 24 at ENWR on 26 Dec.

SNOW GOOSE - Small numbers were reported from around the state, with the best count being 16 at ENWR on 16 Dec (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba).

ROSS'S GOOSE - The bird that took up residence in Madison Co. two years ago continued through the winter (various observers). One to two were seen at the ELHLAF from 4 Dec (Paul Raney) through 20 Dec (Jim Flynn), one wintered in the Augusta area (Anne Waters et al.), and one was found in Wilkes Co. on 20 Feb (Jim Ozier).

- TUNDRA SWAN** - One was seen in the Evans area in Columbia Co., where one also wintered last year, from mid-December (Gene Howard) through 6 Jan (Jim Flynn).
- GADWALL** - Ninety was a good count from Floyd Co. on 23 Dec (Marion Dobbs). Seventy-five was the high count from the ELHLAF on 1 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- AMERICAN WIGEON** - At least 100 were observed at Lake Seminole in Decatur Co. on 3 Dec (Michael Bell). Seventy were reported from Floyd Co. on 23 Dec (Marion Dobbs).
- AMERICAN BLACK DUCK** - Jim Flynn tallied 31 in Forsyth Co. on 1 Jan. Good numbers were reported at West Point Dam, with the high count being 45 on 22 Jan (Walt Chambers), and 22 were seen in Towns Co. on 25 Jan (Tom Egan, Earl Horn).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL** - Unusual winter reports were of one at the ELHLAF on both 8 Dec (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Rusty Trump) and 29 Dec (Carol Lambert).
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - Twenty-six was a good count at ENWR on 26 Dec (Earl Horn). Other interesting sightings were of three in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 9 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), 17 on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), one at the ELHLAF during most of January (many observers), eight in Walker Co. on 6 Jan (Marion Dobbs), one in Floyd Co. on 6 Jan (Chris Loudermilk, Stephen Stewart) and three at Chicopee Woods Lake in the Gainesville area on 13 Jan (Karen Theodorou).
- CANVASBACK** - There were several reports from around the state this winter, with some of the best counts being 16 on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Marie Amerson), 18 at West Point Dam on 23 Dec (Eric Beohm), 16 at ENWR on 26 Dec (Walt Chambers), 10 at the DeKalb Reservoir on 30 Dec (Chuck Saleeby), 11 at Commerce Waterworks on 31 Dec (Eugenia Thompson), 14 in Clarke Co. on 6 Jan (Jim Flynn), and several hundred at Sealy Point on Lake Seminole in Seminole Co. on 11 Feb (Bard Bergstrom).
- REDHEAD** - This duck was also well reported across the state. The best counts were 26 in Emanuel Co. on 3 Dec (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson), 35 at SCSP on 11 Dec (Tom Egan, Chris Loudermilk, Bob Zaremba), 50+ at Tybee Island on 27 Dec (Deb Barreiro), 10 at Chicopee Woods Lake in the Gainesville area during early January, and 16 at Lake Hartwell in Hart Co. on 10 Feb (Joan Sykes, Paul Sykes).
- GREATER SCAUP** - There were several inland reports of small numbers of this duck from around the state with the best count being 10+ at West Point Dam on 6 Dec (Walt Chambers). Good counts from the coast were 335 at Little St. Simons Island on 29 Jan (Jim Flynn, Lex Glover), and 100 in McIntosh Co. also on 29 Jan (Jim Flynn).
- LESSER SCAUP** - Paul Sykes estimated about 25,000 in one flock off the north end of Ossabaw Island on 29 Jan.
- SURF SCOTER** - The best count from the coast was 12 on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Emil Urban). A female was a good find on a small pond near Lake Blackshear on 2 Feb (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Lex Glover).

- WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Singles were reported inland from Lake Walter F. George on 23 Dec (Eric Beohm), West Point Dam on 28 Dec (Earl Horn), and Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. from 30 Dec (Jim Flynn) through at least 14 Jan (Brad Bergstrom). Two were seen at Plant Wansley in Carroll Co. on 7 Jan (Eric Beohm).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK** - One was seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters). One was also seen at West Point Dam on 25 Dec (Doug Robinson). Unfortunately this bird was found dead the next day, apparently the victim of a collision with a power line (Lorna West, *vide* Walt Chambers). Another bird, however, was seen at the same location from 28 Dec (Earl Horn) through 24 Feb (Giff Beaton et al.). Another single was also seen on the Glynn Co. CBC on 30 Dec (*vide* Mike Chapman).
- COMMON GOLDENEYE** - One was seen at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 27 Dec (Marion Dobbs), and one to two birds were seen at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. from 30 Dec (Jim Flynn) through 1 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn). The best count from West Point Dam was 26 on 5 Jan (Doug Robinson).
- HOODED MERGANSER** - Three hundred was a good count at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 30 Dec (Jim Flynn).
- COMMON MERGANSER** - A female was a great find at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 24 Dec (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba). This bird was subsequently seen by many, with the last report being on 14 Jan (Brad Bergstrom).
- OSPREY** - One was an unusual mid-winter find in Oconee Co. on 22 Jan (Paul Sykes).
- BALD EAGLE** - This species continues to be widely reported, with the best count by far being 11 seen near Lake Seminole in Decatur Co. on 28 Dec (Jean Allen).
- RED-TAILED HAWK** - A dark-morph bird was seen in Baker Co. on 13 Jan (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, Robert Smith).
- ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK** - One was recorded at ENWR during the Eufaula CBC on 15 Dec (Nathan Klaus et al.). Paul and Joan Sykes found another bird near Colbert in Madison Co. on 10 Feb, in the same vicinity where one was seen during February 1992. This bird was seen by several observers during the following week, with the last report being of two birds on 18 Feb (Jim Pappas, Melissa Pappas).
- MERLIN** - One was recorded on both the Dalton CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Harriett DiGioia) and the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), and one was seen in Crisp Co. on 30 Dec (Bill Elrick, Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).
- KING RAIL** - Counts from the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. were 10 on 9 Dec and 7 on 26 Dec (Anne Waters).
- VIRGINIA RAIL** - Singles were reported from Lake Varner on 8 Jan (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan) and near Buford Fish Hatchery on 11 Jan (Pat Sully et al.). Paul Sykes reported that numbers were low all winter at the Greene Co. marsh with only up to three individuals being observed. Anne Waters reported that a few wintered in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co., and five were reported from that location on 6 Jan (Earl Horn).
- SORA** - The best count for the period was 30 at the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 9 Dec (Anne Waters).

SANDHILL CRANE - There were several reports of large flocks moving south, particularly over the Atlanta area, between 4 and 19 Dec. A sample of some of the best counts were 1600 at Sweet Mt. in Cobb Co. on 5 Dec (Harry DeLoach, Vickie DeLoach), 700 over Canton on 7 Dec (Kathleen Pinyan, Parrie Pinyan), 700+ over Acworth on 11 Dec (Helen Ogren) and 500 over Canton on 12 Dec (Kathleen Pinyan, Parrie Pinyan). The first birds reported heading north were a flock of 30 near Peachtree City on 29 Jan (Luci Donaldson), with several flocks reported on a regular basis through 23 Feb (*vide* Terry Moore).

WILSON'S PLOVER - Three seen at Jekyll Island on 12 Jan were rare for winter (Lydia Thompson), as were the three counted on Ossabaw Island on 29 Jan (Tom Egan, Paul Sykes).

AMERICAN AVOCET - Good numbers for winter were 50 at Andrews Island on 3 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), 33 at Jekyll Island on 12 Jan (Lydia Thompson) and 40 also on Jekyll Island on 18 Feb (Lou Brackett).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS - One seen at the ELHLAF on 11 Feb was very early (Jim Wilson).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - At St. Catherines Island one was seen on 15 Dec. (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton) and two were there on 29 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.). One was seen on Ossabaw Island on 29 Jan (Jim Ozier, Rusty Trump).

MARbled GODWIT - Eighty-one were counted on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), and 89 was a nice count on Little St. Simons Island on 29 Jan (Jim Flynn, Lex Glover).

RED KNOT - Two thousand was a good winter count on Ossabaw Island on 29 Jan (Tom Egan, Paul Sykes).

LEAST SANDPIPER - Ten was a good count at the ELHLAF on the late date of 8 Dec (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Carol Lambert). At least one bird remained there through the winter period (Carol Lambert).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Small numbers wintered at the usual spot on Tybee Island (many observers) and one was reported on the Glynn Co. CBC on 30 Dec (*vide* Mike Chapman).

DUNLIN - One to two wintered at the ELHLAF (many observers). Six thousand were tallied on Ossabaw Island on 29 Jan (Tom Egan, Paul Sykes).

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Nine were a nice find on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Marie Amerson).

COMMON SNIFE - A good count of 121 was made at the East Georgia Turf Farm in Bulloch Co. on 21 Dec (Ray Chandler).

RED PHALAROPE - A count of 334 was made on a pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Dec (Giff Beaton et al.).

POMARINE JAEGER - One was reported from Tybee Island on 13 Jan (David Chaffin et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER - Singles were seen at Tybee Island on both 1 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), 13 Jan (David Chaffin et al.) and 24 Jan (Marion Dobbs). One was also seen on the pelagic trip out of Savannah on 2 Dec (Giff Beaton et al.). Two were reported on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters).

LAUGHING GULL - Inland reports were of one at Lake Walter F. George on 23 Dec (Eric Beohm) and one at Galt's Ferry on Lake Allatoona on 1 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

BONAPARTE'S GULL - A high inland count of 220 was made at Lake Russell in Elbert Co. on 17 Feb (Cam Kelper, Paul Sykes).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - An adult was a good find at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 21 Jan (Bill Elrick, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Rusty Trump).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - This species was reported from West Point Dam for the second successive winter. One was seen there on 5 Jan (Doug Robinson).

SANDWICH TERN - A lingering bird was seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (Brad Bergstrom, Ray Chandler).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - One was reported on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec. (Scott Somershoe et al.). A bird found by Robert Smith at his feeder on Baker Co. on 7 Jan. remained in the area through at least 18 Feb. (many observers). Another bird was seen on Tybee Island from 13 through at least 20 Jan. (Deb Barriero).

SHORT-EARED OWL - The best count from the usual wintering site near Cobb in Sumter Co. was eight on 4 Feb (Bob Zaremba). A single bird was also found in Pike Co. on 8 Feb (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).

WHIP-POOR-WILL - Twelve was an excellent winter count on the Cumberland Island CBC on 16 Dec.

HUMMINGBIRDS - What an exceptional winter it was for hummingbirds. Rusty Trump provided the following totals of birds reported for the season: Ruby-throated - 1; Black-chinned - 4; Unknown *Archilochus* - 1; Anna's - 1 (3rd state record)*; Calliope 5 (3rd - 7th state records)*; Broad-tailed (3rd state record)*; Rufous - 59; Unknown *Selasphorus* - 15; Unknown hummingbird - 8 (* = pending acceptance by the GOS Checklist and Records Committee).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - A male continued at a feeder in the Savannah area through January (Steve Calver). An immature, present at a feeder in Valdosta since 16 Dec, was banded on 2 Jan (John Swiderski et al.). Another bird was reported from the Ringold area on 29 Dec (*vide* Joel Hitt).

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD - A female that showed up at a feeder in Snellville during November was banded on 13 Dec and remained through at least 3 Jan (*vide* Rusty Trump). This is the third record for the state.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - There were an amazing five records for winter. A female banded in Alpharetta on 12 Dec provided a third state record (*vide* Karen Theodorou). This bird first appeared on about 9 Dec and was last reported on 6 Jan. Another bird showed up at a feeder in the Eastman area on 17 Dec but was found dead on about 12 Jan (Donny Screws). A hatch-year male was in Augusta from 5 Jan-7 Feb (*vide* Anne Waters), a hatch-year female was at a feeder in Carrollton in Carroll Co. on 14 Jan (Rusty Trump), and one was found at a feeder in the Lilburn area on 14 Jan and was banded on 21 Jan (Rusty Trump).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - One banded in the Acworth area provided a third state record (*vide* Karen Theodorou). This bird, a hatch-year male, was believed to have been present at this location from October through mid-December.

- RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** - There were many reports from across the state, with the best count being three at a feeder in Baker Co. for much of the winter (Robert Smith).
- NORTHERN FLICKER** - A Red-shafted Northern Flicker was a very rare find at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 6 Jan (Michael Bell). The bird was seen sporadically at this location through the end of the period (Michael Bell, Kathleen Brady, Matt Morris). I am unaware of any previous records of this form in the state.
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER** - A female was seen at Carter's Pond in Lanier Co. from 28 Jan (Brad Bergstrom, Margaret Harper) through 19 Feb (Debbie Grimes, Diane Kelsey).
- ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** - One was reported on the St. Catherines CBC on 16 Dec (Gene Keferl et al.). One was seen at the residence of Debbie Grimes in Brooks Co. from 8 Jan (Debbie Kelsey, Duane Kelsey) through 20 Jan (Debbie Grimes, Earl Horn). This bird was well photographed by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn.
- WESTERN KINGBIRD** - Singles were seen on the St. Catherines CBC on 16 Dec (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton), the Cumberland Island CBC also on 16 Dec (Andrew Madison) and in Thomas Co. on 18 Jan (Jim Flynn, Rusty Trump). Two were found in Sumter Co. on 25 Feb (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO** - One seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 26 Dec was a very rare winter sighting (Cam Kelper *vide* Anne Waters). There are only two winter records for this species listed in the ACOGB.
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO** - Twenty-four was a good count on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 26 Dec (Giff Beaton).
- COMMON RAVEN** - One was found in Towns Co. at the fairly low elevation of 2050 feet on 18 Feb (Jim Flynn).
- PURPLE MARTIN** - The first reports for the year came from Brooks Co. on 26 Jan (Debbie Grimes) and Grady Co. on 27 Jan (Kate Bell).
- NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW** - One seen at the ELHLAF on 21 Feb was early (Paul Raney).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - Reports from Rabun Co. included three on 14 Jan (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers) and four on 25 Jan (Tom Egan, Earl Horn).
- MARSH WREN** - Three were found at Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co. on 13 Jan (Ann Stewart, Stephen Stewart).
- GRAY CATBIRD** - Three was a good count on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters). Singles were seen in Polk Co. on 9 Dec (Marion Dobbs) and in Greene Co. on 6 Jan (Paul Sykes).
- AMERICAN PIPIT** - The two best counts for the period were 160 in Laurens Co. on 1 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and 150 at Thomas Brothers sod farm in Floyd Co. on 19 Dec (Marion Dobbs et al.).
- NORTHERN PARULA** - Rare finds were one on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (Becky Beaton, Giff Beaton) and in Baker Co. on 7 Feb (Michael Bell).
- YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** - Singles were found in Early Co. on 13 Jan (Earl Horn, Jim Flynn) and in Seminole Co. also on 13 Jan (Michael Bell, Oscar Dewberry).

- PRAIRIE WARBLER** - One was an unusual find at ENWR on 15 Dec (Nathan Klaus et al.).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - Singles were reported from Soap Creek WMA in Lincoln Co. on 9 Dec (Steve Wagner) and on the Dalton CBC on 16 Dec (*vide* Harriett DiGioia).
- AMERICAN REDSTART** - One reported on the Harris Neck CBC on 14 Dec (*vide* Steve Calver) is certainly worth documenting as there are no winter records listed in the ACOGB.
- OVENBIRD** - One wintered at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. (Michael Bell et al.). Another single was seen regularly from 20 Jan-18 Feb in Decatur in DeKalb Co. (Kate McQueen).
- WILSON'S WARBLER** - It was an exceptional winter for this species with reports of singles at the Macon brickyard ponds on both 2 Dec (Ty Ivey) and 16 Dec (Marie Amerson), Lawrenceville on 4 Dec (Karen Theodorou), near West Point Dam on 9 Dec (Barry Fleming), Buford Fish Hatchery on 11 Dec (Giff Beaton), along the Sumter/Lee Co. line on 19 Feb (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan) and in the Candler area on 20 Feb (Ann Mahoney).
- YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** - One was found at the AWMA on 5 Jan (E.J. Williams).
- SUMMER TANAGER** - One (photographed) was a very rare winter find on St. Catherines Island from 19 Dec-1 Jan (Jeff Spratt, *vide* Ray Chandler). There is only one winter record for this species listed in the ACOGB.
- WESTERN TANAGER** - Singles were found on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec (Anne Waters) and on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (George Reeves et al.). Evidently a bird wintered in Bellville in Evans Co., where one was reported during the winter of 1998/99. Unfortunately this bird was killed by a cat on 18 Feb (*vide* Carol Lambert).
- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** - There were an amazing number of reports, all from Baker Co., for the period. At Elmodel WMA two were seen on 27 Dec (Earl Horn) and singles were reported on 7 Jan (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), 13 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), 4 Feb (Tom Egan) and 9 Feb (Walt Chambers). One was seen off of Cooktown Rd. on 25 Jan. At Ichauway Plantation, Michael Bell saw singles on 30 Jan and 7 Feb. Another single visited Robert Smith's feeder near Crestview on 9 Feb.
- VESPER SPARROW** - A good count of 40 was made at Elmodel WMA in Baker Co. on 10 Jan (Walt Chambers, Jim Flynn, Rusty Trump).
- LARK SPARROW** - One was reported on the Albany CBC on 30 Dec (*vide* Alan Ashley).
- LARK BUNTING** - One was reported from Crisp Co. on 27 Dec (Terry Johnson).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** - This sparrow was well reported, with multiple sightings of four at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 2 Dec, three at Elmodel WMA in Baker Co. on 13 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and three in Brooks Co. on both 18 Jan (Jim Flynn, Rusty Trump) and 20 Jan (Earl Horn).
- HENSLOW'S SPARROW** - Sightings included three on the Callaway Gardens CBC on 30 Dec (LuAnn Craighton), two on the Sapelo Island CBC on 30 Dec (*vide* Anne Waters), one on the Bainbridge CBC on 30 Dec (*vide* Oscar Dewberry), one at AWMA on 5 Jan (E.J. Williams), one in Glynn Co. on 28 Jan (Earl Horn), and two in Lee Co. on 19 Feb (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).

- LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Three was a good count on the Peachtree City CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Brock Hutchins), one was found on the Macon CBC also on 16 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson), two were seen at Elmodel WMA on 7 Jan (Earl Horn, Rusty Trump), 9 Jan (Walt Chambers, Jim Flynn, Rusty Trump) and 9 Feb (Walt Chambers), one was at Laura Walker State Park on 11 Jan (Andy Madison, Sheila Willis), and two were seen in Brooks Co. on 21 Jan (Paul Sykes et al.) and 28 Jan (Giff Beaton et al.).
- NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - Two were a great inland find in the Phinizy Swamp in Richmond Co. on 9 Dec (Anne Waters et al.). Fifty-three was an excellent count on the Harris Neck CBC on 14 Dec (*fide* Steve Calver).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - One was seen at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 27 Jan (Michael Bell).
- WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - The best counts were 16 on the Athens CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Eugenia Thompson), 36 on the Macon CBC also 16 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson), 25 at Elmodel WMA on both 29 Dec (Bill Elrick, Rusty Trump) and 4 Feb (Bob Zaremba), 11 on the Albany CBC on 30 Dec (*fide* Alan Ashley), and 18 in Greene Co. on 27 Jan (Paul Sykes).
- LAPLAND LONGSPUR - This species, which has not been reported in Georgia in recent years, showed up in three locations. Three were seen at Andrews Island from 3 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Brad Winn) through 5 Dec (Paul Sykes). At least two were found at the Elbert Co. Airport on 5 Dec (Billy Dunbar). Two were also found at the ELHLAF on 10 Dec (Eric Beohm, Jessica Beohm) and remained there through 12 Dec (Aubrey Scott).
- PHEUCTICUS SP. - A female Rose-breasted or Black-headed Grosbeak was seen briefly at the Newman's Wetland Center in Clayton Co. on 2 Feb (Carol Lambert).
- INDIGO BUNTING - One was recorded on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - This species continued through the winter in Seminole Co., with the best count being three males seen on 11 Feb (Michael Bell, Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott). Two were also reported from Baker Co. on 18 Feb (Billy Dunbar, Brenda Dunbar).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD - The best counts were 300 in Emanuel Co. on 1 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and 50 at ENWR on 2 Dec (Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Good counts were 11 at Jackson's Pasture in Laurens Co. on 1 Dec (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), 30 on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (Ann Waters), 150 in Baker Co. on 13 Jan (Bruce Dralle, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Jeff Sewell), and 18 in Polk Co. on 4 Feb (Marion Dobbs).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE - This species was well reported. One was seen on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec (*fide* Marie Amerson), two were counted on the Augusta CBC on 26 Dec (Calvin Zippler), one was seen near Roswell on 3 and 4 Dec (Chuck Saleeby), as many as nine were seen in Valdosta from 30 Dec-2 Jan (John Swiderski), one was found in Gwinett Co. on 5 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), four were seen in Brooks Co. on 20 Jan (Earl Horn), and one was found in Glynn Co. on 21 Jan (Gene Keferl).

- PURPLE FINCH - There were only a handful of reports for winter, but singles did make it as far south as Seminole Co. on 13 Jan (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and Glynn Co. on 21 Jan (Gene Keferl).
- PINE SISKIN - This species was also seen in small numbers in north Georgia this winter. Two wintered at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. (Michael Bell et al.), and two were seen in Brunswick in Glynn Co. on 4 Feb (Mike Chapman).

Michael Bell, 517 S. Lamar St., Bainbridge, GA 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.

Tick infestations of birds in coastal Georgia and Alabama. A. A. Kinsey, L. A. Durden, and J. H. Oliver, Jr. 2000. *Journal of Parasitology* 86(2):251–254. — Birds may play an important role in the life cycle of the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the cause of Lyme disease. Birds can act as reservoirs for the bacterium, and migratory birds can transport infected ticks. Thus, parasitologists and public health officials take a keen interest in tick infestations of birds. This paper quantifies the rate of tick infestation of birds captured at the Jekyll Island banding station in Georgia and at Fort Morgan in Alabama. Approximately 14% of birds were infested with ticks. Infested birds carried more ticks at Fort Morgan (mean = 6.3) than Jekyll Island (mean = 2.0), but more species of ticks were involved in Georgia (6) than in Alabama (3). The principal vector of Lyme disease to humans, *Ixodes scapularis*, was among the ticks infesting Georgia birds. Ten species of birds were infested with ticks on Jekyll Island, but 87% of all ticks were recovered from three species (Gray Catbird, Northern Waterthrush, and Common Yellowthroat). Sites such as the Jekyll Island banding station can provide valuable data on the interactions between birds and their parasites, and the possible role of birds in tick-borne diseases. (Institute of Arthropodology & Parasitology, Georgia Southern University, P.O. Box 8056, Statesboro, GA 30460)

Effects of forest management on density, survival, and population growth of Wood Thrushes. L. A. Powell, J. D. Lang, M. J. Conroy, and D. G. Krentz. 2000. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 64(1):11–23. Recovery efforts for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in Georgia typically include intensive forest management. Two common management techniques are prescribed burning and forest thinning. Unfortunately, forest management that benefits the Red-cockaded Woodpecker might harm other species such as Neotropical migrants. To assess this possibility the authors conducted a 4-year study of the effects of burning and thinning on Wood Thrushes at the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge. Density of Wood Thrushes varied annually from 0.15–1.30 pairs/10 ha (approx. 25 acres), but was not affected by forest burning or thinning. Weekly survival during the breeding season was 100% for males and about 98% for females and juveniles; there was again no effect of forest management. Annual survival of adult Wood Thrushes in this population was about 58%. The population of Wood Thrushes is stable (a per generation growth rate of 1.0) despite forest management for red-cockaded Woodpeckers. (Department of Biology, University of Dubuque, 2000 University Ave., Dubuque, IA 52001)

Editorial

Georgia birders are fortunate to have an effective communication network for sightings of rare birds. Rare bird alerts, e-mail, list-serves, and web pages are all avenues for birders to report and learn about rare birds in Georgia. These modern forms of communication do a tremendous job of serving the GOS membership. However, sightings of rare birds also form the basis for the scientific study of the Georgia avifauna. Sight records and their associated documentation (notes, photographs) are the raw data that ornithologists now and in the future will use to understand changing populations and distributions of birds. Unfortunately, the forms of communication that serve the birding community so well, do not effectively serve the scientific community. The content of web pages, list-serves, and taped bird alerts has a shelf life. As the weeks, months, and years go by, older rare bird reports and documentation will be deleted from these sites to make room for new material. The deleted records will no longer be readily available to the broader ornithological community.

To serve the science of Georgia ornithology, it is critical that rare bird records go through two steps. First, they must be peer reviewed. In Georgia, this means submitting the record to the Georgia Records and Checklist Committee. Review by this committee ensures that records have sufficient documentation to support and confirm the sighting. Some birders feel this review calls their identification skills into question, or they believe that the word of a fellow birder is sufficient confirmation. However, the records committee must take the long view. They are ensuring that current bird records have sufficient documentation to be accepted 25, 50, 100, or more years from now. Current reputations will not guarantee that a record will be accepted in the distant future; only sound peer-reviewed documentation will insure that the tremendous effort of Georgia birders will have maximal scientific value for posterity. Second, the documentation supporting accepted records must then be published as an article in *The Oriole*. Only publication in a journal will guarantee that a record will be accessible to birders and scientists in the future. Remember, just because a rare sighting has been mentioned in "From the Field" does not mean that it has received appropriate review or that it can be considered published.

Georgia birders are doing a superior job of locating new and rare bird species in Georgia. Unfortunately, they are doing a less effective job of publishing their valuable work. For example, at least 11 species have been added to the Georgia regular species list over the past 5–6 years (Curlew Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Calliope Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Northern Wheatear, Virginia's Warbler, Spotted Towhee, Bronzed Cowbird). Only three of these records have been submitted to or published in *The Oriole*. The articles by Howard (*Oriole* 64:5–6), Thompson and Gobris (*Oriole* 64:1–4), and Hodges et al. (*Oriole* 60:37–38) are excellent examples of published documentation of new species for the regular Georgia list. Patterson (*Oriole* 60:84–85) and Schlup (*Oriole* 62:45–46) are more general examples of good published documentation of rare birds. We urge all birders in Georgia to make sure that their sightings of rare birds are submitted to the records committee and submitted for publication in *The Oriole*.



Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). Photo by Jason Lewis.

THE ORIOLE

Quarterly Journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Application for membership in the Georgia Ornithological Society may be made to the Treasurer. *The Oriole* is sent without charge to all members not in arrears for dues. Send changes of address, claims for undelivered or defective copies, and requests for information relative to advertising and back numbers to the business manager.

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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