

THE ORIOLE

Quarterly Journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society



Volume 66 September/December 2001 Number 3, 4

THE ORIOLE

(ISSN 0030-5553)

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

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Published December 2001
GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FIRST SPECIMEN AND EVIDENCE OF BREEDING BY THE SHINY COWBIRD IN GEORGIA

Paul W. Sykes, Jr.
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Athens
Warnell School of Forest Resources
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602-2152

William Post
Charleston Museum
360 Meeting Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403

The Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) was first reported from Georgia in 1989, when one or two males were observed 13–16 May near the south end of Cumberland Island (David Sibley *in* LeGrand 1989 and *in* Brisse 1989; Ruckdeschel et al. 1996; David Sibley, pers. comm.). A bird reported at Warner Robins Air Force Base south of Macon on 25 May 1989 (Brisse 1989, LeGrand 1989) was later determined by the observer not to be a Shiny Cowbird, and the report has been retracted (this being the first published correction to the fact). As of the end of August 2000, there have been at least 22 reports of the Shiny Cowbird (Table 1) in Georgia. The Georgia Ornithological Society Checklist and Records Committee has received written documentation for only four of the 22 reports (Table 1; one report included photographs). These four reports have been accepted by the committee (William P. Blakeslee, pers. comm.).

The frequency of sightings has increased since the mid 1990s. Several of the sightings probably refer to the same individual (Table 1, report numbers 1 and 2, 8, and 10). Thus, the number of individuals is around 26 birds, of which only three were females. The maximum number seen at one time has been two. All reports, except for two (Henry and Pulaski counties), have been on or near the coast. Given the similarity in size and plumage of the female Shiny Cowbird to that of the female Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), females of the former may have been overlooked. Some observers may not have been

Table 1. Shiny Cowbird reports in Georgia through August 2000.

Report	Date	Number	County	Locality	Observer	Source
1*	15-16 May 1989	1-2M	Camden	Cumberland Is., Stafford & Sea Camp	David Sibley	Brisse 1989, LeGrand 1989, Ruckdeschel et al. 1996, David Sibley, pers. comm.
2	20 May 1989	1M	Camden	Cumberland Is., south end	Robert & Didi Manns	Brisse 1989, LeGrand 1989
3	26 May 1989	1M, 1F	Camden	Cumberland Is., north end	Carol Ruckdeschel, C. Robert Schoop	LeGrand 1989, Ruckdeschel et al. 1996
4	1 Jun 1996	1M	Chatham	Tybee Is., north end, NW of lighthouse	Daniel & Kelly Jacobson	Sewell 1996, David 1996
5	23 Jun 1996	1M	Camden	Cumberland Is., north end	Carol Ruckdeschel, C. Robert Schoop	Ruckdeschel et al. 1996
6	27 Mar 1998	1M	Pulaski	SE part of county	Ronna Janssen	Sewell 1998a
7	2-3 May 1998	1M	McIntosh	Little St. Simons Is.	Kevin McIntyre, Victor Emanuel	Sewell 1998a
8*	26-27 Jun 1998*	1M	Glynn	NW of Brunswick, East Glynn Ave.	John Fitzpatrick, Eugene P. Keferl	Sewell 1998b
9	Jun 1998	1M	Camden	Cumberland Is.	Carol Ruckdeschel	Sewell 1998b
10*	3-4 Jul 1998	1M	Glynn	NW of Brunswick, East Glynn Ave.	Eugene P. Keferl	GOS Records Committee files

Table 1. Continued.

Report	Date	Number	County	Locality	Observer	Source
11*	24-29 Jan 1999	1M	Glynn	NW of Brunswick, East Glynn Ave.	Eugene P. Keferl photo by Earl Horn, m. ob.	Bell 1999a, Davis 1999a
12	5 Apr 1999	1M	McIntosh	Altamaha State Waterfowl Mgt. Area, observ. tower	Lydia Thompson	Lydia Thompson, pers. comm.
13	23 Apr 1999	1M	Glynn	Jekyll Is., Ski Rixon area	Lydia Thompson	Lydia Thompson, pers. comm.
14	21 May 1999	1M	McIntosh	Altamaha State Waterfowl Mgt. Area	Eric Beohm	Bell 1999b, Davis 1999b
15	26 Jun 1999	1M	Henry	Kittyhawk Airport	Paul Raney	Bell 1999c
16	1 Aug 1999	1M	McIntosh	Altamaha State Waterfowl Mgt. Area, Champney Is.	Eric Beohm	Davis 2000, Eric Beohm, pers. comm.
17	26 & 31 Aug 1999	2M	Glynn	St. Simons Is., south end	Lydia Thompson	Davis 2000
18	13 Nov 1999	2M	McIntosh	Altamaha State Waterfowl Mgt. Area	Billy & Brenda Dunbar	Davis 2000, Billy Dunbar, pers. comm.
19	5 May 2000	2M	Glynn	Jekyll Is., Ski Rixon area	Lydia Thompson	Lydia Thompson, pers. comm.
20	1 July 2000	1M, 1F	Glynn	Jekyll Is., Ski Rixon area	Lydia Thompson	Lydia Thompson, pers. comm.
21	7 July 2000	1F	McIntosh	Blackbeard Is., north end	Paul Sykes	Specimen; this publication
22	14 July 2000	1F	Glynn	Jekyll Is., south end	Lydia Thompson	Lydia Thompson, pers. comm.

* Accepted by GOS Checklist and Records Committee

* Published date of 25 June (Sewell 1998b) is incorrect.

aware of the differences between females of the two species prior to publication of the third edition of the National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* in 1999. We herein report the first Shiny Cowbird specimen and first evidence of breeding in Georgia.

On 7 July 2000, Sykes collected a female Shiny Cowbird at the north end of Blackbeard Island (McIntosh Co.), the first specimen for the state. This individual was captured at 0730 h in a mist net placed next to a feeder provisioned with white proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*). The feeder was on a dike separating a salt marsh from a brackish impoundment (NW corner of Marsh Pond). The dike was covered by low shrubs, mainly wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and groundsel-bush (*Baccharis* spp.), which had been roller-chopped during the previous two to three months. Two Brown-headed Cowbirds were captured during the same period.

The Shiny Cowbird's skull was 50% pneumatized (two elliptical windows, 5.3 X 5.0 and 6.8 X 5.7 mm, had a single layer of bone), and the bird presumably hatched in late 1999. This cowbird was reproductively active. It had three uncalcified eggs in its oviduct, with diameters of 8.1, 6.8, and 5.2 mm. Distally, the oviduct was 4.1 mm in diameter. The ovaries were enlarged (9.5 X 8.2 mm), and included numerous follicles 1.0 to 2.6 mm in diameter. The plumage was worn, but the bird was not molting. It had one pox-like lesion 2 mm in diameter on the proximal third of the outer left tarsometatarsus. It had a slight amount of subcutaneous fat (class 1). The stomach contained two pieces of oyster shell, each 1 X 2 mm, and 5–6 fragments of small black seeds. Measurements were as follows: mass, 35.5 g; total length, 169 mm; tail, 60.6 mm; tarsus, 21.4 mm; middle toe, 24.7 mm; length of culmen from anterior nares, 12.2 mm; depth of culmen at nares, 6.8 mm; width of culmen at nares, 5.6 mm; wing chord, 84.5 mm; wing span, 280 mm; wing area (Pennycuick 1989), 143 cm². The bird (ChM 2000.44.002) was preserved as a standard study skin with detached right wing, partial skeleton and tissue samples saved.

The Shiny Cowbird is distributed through most of South America, and since 1900 has expanded its range northward through the West Indies (Post and Wiley 1977a, Post et al. 1993, Lowther and Post 1998). It first appeared in the Florida Keys in June 1985, and on the Florida mainland in 1987 (Smith and Sprunt 1987). Since 1991, it has been classified as a permanent resident in Florida, south of Tampa (Post et al. 1993). Since 1989, most observations of Shiny Cowbirds in the U.S. have been between March and August along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts (Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Maine); these sightings usually involve one or two birds visiting bird feeders (Post et al. 1993).

The population increase and range expansion of this species is associated with deforestation and establishment of animal husbandry and agriculture (Post and Wiley 1977a, Cavalcanti and Pimentel 1988, Post et al. 1990, 1993). Because of its melodious song and ease of acclimation to captivity (Long 1981), the species was popular as a cage bird in the West Indies, and some populations may have been founded

by escapees (Post and Wiley 1977a, Jaramillo and Burke 1999; J. Bond, in litt.).

Shiny Cowbirds are generalist brood parasites known to parasitize 214 species of passerines (Davies 2000). Their arrival raises concerns about their impact on many potential host species (Lowther and Post 1999). One female may be capable of laying up to 100 eggs per breeding season (Kattan 1997). The eggs differ from those of Brown-headed Cowbirds in being more highly variable. Distinguishing between the eggs of the two species may be difficult. The background colors of shells of Brown-headed Cowbirds are white to grayish white, with brown or gray spots that are usually denser at the larger end. Spotting varies slightly in density and size. The background color of Shiny Cowbird eggs ranges from white to pale blue to pale green or buff. Spotting varies in size (small to large), shape (fine to heavy irregular blotches), color (gray to reddish or brownish), density (pure white to almost solid spotting), and shape (Davies 2000).

In southwest Puerto Rico, Shiny Cowbird populations increased by about 20% between 1974 and 1982, while populations of the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*), their main host, decreased by about 80% (Wiley et al. 1991). Similar declines in Puerto Rican Vireo (*Vireo latimeri*) populations have been attributed to Shiny Cowbird parasitism (Woodworth 1997). Most importantly, in terms of host species survival, rates of parasitism appear to be density-independent: once a species is used as a host, it will continue to be used despite its declining availability (Post and Wiley 1977b, Cruz et al. 1989). Among the scores of potential host species in the southeastern United States, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Polioptila caerulea*), White-eyed Vireos (*V. griseus*), Red-eyed Vireos (*V. olivaceus*), Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and Orchard Orioles (*Icterus spurius*) may be particularly susceptible to brood parasitism by this species as their nests are generally not well concealed in dense cover.

Through 1999 there has not been any definite breeding evidence published for the Shiny Cowbird in the United States (Smith and Sprunt 1987, Post et al. 1993, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Pranty 2000). Observations in Florida suggest the possibility of breeding (e.g. presence of juveniles), but four of the five reports to date fall short of being absolutely positive (Pranty 2000). Only one account provides convincing evidence that this species is now breeding in Florida. An adult male collected near Fort Pierce on 25 July 1991 had testes large enough to suggest local breeding (Post 1992). The female collected at Blackbeard Island, Georgia, on 7 July 2000, which had three eggs in the oviduct, is evidence of breeding on the central coast of Georgia, and the first evidence of breeding by the Shiny Cowbird in the state. Among Shiny Cowbirds removed from breeding areas in Puerto Rico, males were rapidly replaced, whereas females were not, suggesting that females are sedentary during the breeding cycle (Wiley et al. 1991). A female with eggs in the oviduct would probably lay within one to four days in the vicinity if a suitable host's nest could be found. Information on other Shiny Cowbird specimens collected along the southeastern Atlantic coast in 1999 has not yet been published (Sykes

and Post, unpubl. data). Evidence of actual nesting (eggs in a nest or nestlings) will be more difficult to obtain. Because of the similarity between the young and eggs of the Shiny Cowbird and the Brown-headed Cowbird, it will be necessary to collect eggs or nestlings to document adequately where the species is first found nesting in continental North America.

Identification of female Shiny Cowbirds may be difficult when they are not in close association with conspecific males, or they cannot be directly compared with female Brown-headed Cowbirds. Under good viewing conditions, the Shiny Cowbird has a more slender body with a flatter head, longer tail, and longer, thinner, more pointed bill than the Brown-headed. The plumage is darker brown overall with less gray tone, with a darker, less contrasting throat, more prominent supercilium, and darker eye-stripe. The bill in all plumages and in both sexes of the Shiny Cowbird is completely dull black (Jaramillo and Burke 1999), not grayish. Female Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) are also similar in appearance to female Shiny Cowbirds. However, in the female Brewer's, the bill is longer, thinner, and grayish rather than black; tail shape is different; and the body lacks the streaked underparts of female and juvenile cowbirds (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996, Jaramillo and Burke 1999).

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POSSIBLE NEST-SITE COMPETITION BETWEEN EASTERN BLUEBIRDS AND CAROLINA CHICKADEES

Lenny Wells

University of Georgia
Coastal Plain Experiment Station
P.O. Box 748
Tifton, Georgia 31793

The Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) and Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*) are common birds in Georgia. These two species often occur in similar habitats, and both are cavity nesters (Terres 1991). The purpose of this paper is to describe apparent competitive interactions for a nest cavity between these two species.

On the morning of 19 March 1998, I observed a male and female Eastern Bluebird at a nest box in my yard in Athens, Georgia. This was a previously unused nest box, built and placed in the yard over the winter of 1997-1998. The male was perched low in a tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) less than 1 m from the nest box, while the female was taking grass and weed stems into the cavity of the nest box. This behavior is consistent with the nest-building behavior described for the Eastern Bluebird (Ehrlich et al. 1988). Later that day, I noted a pair of Carolina Chickadees at the same nest box. Because Carolina Chickadees are not sexually dimorphic, I could not determine the sexes of these two birds, but I assumed this was a male and female pair. One of the chickadees tended to perch in nearby foliage or in a tulip poplar less than 1 m from the box, while the other chickadee entered the cavity of the box and emerged with nest material in its beak. Occasionally both chickadees would enter the box at the same time and emerge with nest material. After leaving the box, the chickadees flew to a branch in the tulip poplar and dropped the nest material. At one point, the male bluebird returned and perched on the nest box. Both chickadees flew to the nearby tulip poplar and vigorously scolded the bluebird, which immediately flew away. After removing nest material from the nest box for approximately 45 min, the chickadees gathered and carried nest materials into the nest box. The nest material gathered by the chickadees appeared to be moss and grass stems.

The next morning I observed the male bluebird perched in the tulip poplar outside the nest box, while one of the chickadees flew about in the nearby foliage. Approximately 0.5 hr later the male bluebird quickly examined the cavity of the nest box and flew away. In the bluebird's absence, the chickadee quickly examined the cavity and flew back into the foliage. The male and female bluebirds returned to perch in the tulip poplar near the nest box. This appeared to agitate the chickadee, which began scolding the bluebirds. After a few minutes, the chickadee tried to examine the cavity and was driven off by the male bluebird, which then perched on the nest box. At this time,

another chickadee emerged from the cavity of the nest box and flew into the nearby foliage. A few minutes later the male bluebird examined the cavity of the nest box and was scolded by both chickadees. The male and female bluebirds flew away shortly after this, and the chickadees perched in the tulip poplar. I did not examine the contents of the nest box at this time.

Neither species was seen at the nest box for the next few weeks. On 8 April I noticed a male bluebird perched on top of the nest box, occasionally inspecting the cavity. The chickadees and bluebirds were not seen in the area of the nest box again until 27 April. On 27 and 28 April, I observed a female bluebird inside the nest box. She remained in the box for a large portion of each day. On 29 April, I inspected the nest while the female was away and found five small, pale blue eggs (consistent with the description of Eastern Bluebird eggs by Ehrlich et al. 1988). The nest was built mostly from grass stems and moss. These observations may indicate appropriation of the previously built chickadee nest by the bluebirds because only chickadees were observed taking moss into the box, and no bluebirds were observed removing nest material. Carolina Chickadees are known to build nests consisting of moss, grass, plant down, feathers, and hair, whereas Eastern Bluebirds build nests of grass, weed stems, pine needles, twigs, hair, and feathers (Ehrlich et al. 1988).

Competition for nesting cavities between Eastern Bluebirds and European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) as well as between Eastern Bluebirds and House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) has been well documented (Terres 1991). However, little attention has been given to competitive interactions between bluebirds and chickadees in the scientific literature, despite their similar nesting habits. Reed (1989) observed bluebirds removing the nest and eggs of chickadees from a Bluebird house in Texas. Bent (1946, 1949) described a situation in which a bluebird appropriated the finished nest of a Carolina Chickadee. "The nest was in two parts; one constructed by the Chickadee and the other, which was the top story, was made by the Bluebird." Because bluebirds were not seen removing nest material after the chickadees were observed taking material into the house, it appears that the bluebirds I observed may have appropriated the nest built mostly by chickadees. Although no direct interaction was observed between these two species after 20 March, the bluebirds apparently were successful in displacing chickadees from this nest box and were able to produce a clutch of eggs.

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Tower-killed Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), 21 April 2001, Bulloch County, Georgia. Photo by C. Ray Chandler.

GENERAL NOTES

LECONTE'S SPARROWS WINTERING AT EUFAULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — The LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) has always been a difficult bird to find in Georgia, even though the type specimen was taken in Georgia in 1790 by John Latham. Most reports consist of one or two individuals found during migration or while looking for Henslow's Sparrows (*A. henslowii*). During the fall and early winter of 1998 it was determined that at least several LeConte's Sparrows were wintering at the Bradley Unit of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. The highest number found then was 15 on 18 December 1998, which was considered a probable record count for Georgia (*Oriole* 64:38). After finding this many individuals of this secretive species in just a portion of the seemingly appropriate habitat, a plan was formed to check all the appropriate habitat in the winter of 1999-2000 to see how many were actually there.

Because this species is furtive, large numbers of observers are required to get an accurate count. Thus, on 21 November 1999, I gathered with 15 other observers at the Bradley Unit (Michael Bell, Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers, Marion Dobbs, Tom Egan, Bruce Hallett, Earl Horn, Pierre Howard, Chuck and Sylvia Saleeby, Aubrey Scott, Jeff Sewell, Karen Theodorou, and Bob Zaremba). We formed an even line, with all observers moving through the grass at an equal speed, forcing the birds to flush ahead of the advancing line. A bird surrounded quickly where it had landed after a typically brief flight will usually sit tight and allow easy observation. A bird left unattended tends to quickly run off through the thick grass, so speed in surrounding flushed birds is paramount in order to count this secretive sparrow.

Good habitat for LeConte's at the Bradley Unit seems to be large fields of various grasses, mostly the taller fields (up to 1.5 m) with large amounts of broomsedge (*Andropogon* spp.) or *Panicum*, frequently with moist soil. Very dry or very wet fields do not seem to hold these sparrows in Georgia, although other observers often find Le Conte's in other states in wet fields. The fields with bushes and other large non-grass plants also do not seem to hold many Le Conte's. The best examples of the correct habitat at the Bradley Unit are usually north of the main cross dike. Look along this dike for fields of tall standing grass, especially broomsedge, mostly on the right (north) side.

In about four hours of walking through these fields with a line of all 15 observers, we observed the following species (just in the fields or along the immediate edge): 1 Sora (*Porzana carolina*), 2 House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*), 1 Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), 33 Sedge Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*), 1 Marsh Wren (*C. palustris*), 1 Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata*), 4 Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), 9 Field Sparrows (*Spizella pusilla*), ca. 200 Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), 1 Grasshopper Sparrow (*A. savannarum*), 51 LeConte's Sparrows, 30 Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), 80 Swamp Sparrows (*M. georgiana*), 12 White-

throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), and 30 Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*).

This is an unprecedented number of LeConte's Sparrows for Georgia and a high count of Sedge Wrens for an inland location as well. We also observed two adult Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), five Northern Harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), and several other raptors. It might be worthwhile to encourage refuge personnel to create more habitat for these rare sparrows to use during winter.

Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta GA 30068

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWLS IN RABUN COUNTY — The Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) breeds rarely in the southern Appalachians, but its winter habits and locations are largely speculative. Because many sources indicated impressive numbers of these small owls migrating south during the fall and winter of 1999–2000, this seemed like a good year to search for them in north Georgia. Therefore, Tom Egan, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Pierre Howard, Bob and Deb Zaremba, and I arrived in Rabun County around 0500 h on 8 January 2000 to search for this bird in the portion of the state closest to the known winter range. Attempts by others over the years to find this owl in winter have led to several techniques, one of which is playing Saw-whet calls in areas of appropriate habitat and listening for responses or looking for birds to fly into nearby trees.

We first tried playbacks at lower elevations in Rabun County near Clayton, Dillard, and Mountain City. We concentrated on locations with dense cover and nearby open areas, classic winter habitat for this owl, without success. We then moved out toward Burrell's Ford Road and the Chattooga River on the South Carolina border. Having no success at lower elevations in similar habitats, we started moving up in elevation along Burrell's Ford Road (also known as FS 646) toward some of the last remaining old-growth White Pine-Hemlock habitat in Georgia. At 0645 h (still dark) we got our first responses. First one owl responded to our tape with several renditions of the "saw-whet" call from which this species gets its name, and then another responded with several short calls unknown by us for this species, followed by several of what the *Stoke's Eastern Birds* tape calls the "migration" call. This bird also gave one long series of "toots," the classic breeding song of this species. While these two were calling, another bird flew across the road through our flashlight beams, for a total of three owls. We were able to obtain about 30 sec of tape of various calls during this time. The exact location was 3.78 km (2.35 mi) from GA 28, but we suspected there might be more owls farther along this road because dawn broke at this point and we got no more responses. (Observers in the ensuing several weeks did locate more owls all the way to the South Carolina border, for a total of perhaps 6–8 owls.)

We continued to bird along FS 646 until the South Carolina line at the Chattooga River, and were rewarded with a flock of 35–40 Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) that flew back and forth across the river several times. This is probably part of the same flock that was being seen from the nearby Walhalla Fish Hatchery in South Carolina earlier this winter. We also saw several Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) along this stretch of road, which is not surprising since this is the best spot in winter and one of only two spots in summer to find this bird in Georgia, as well as numbers of Pine Siskins (*Carduelis pinus*) and a few Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*). We backtracked to the area where we had heard the owls to check out the habitat in better light and saw a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) fly over. The elevation here is about 625 m (2050 ft), which is low for the raven in Georgia. Our final good bird was yet another Red Crossbill found by Pierre Howard along War Woman Road on the way back to Clayton.

For those interested in finding Northern Saw-whet Owls, watch for reports from owl banders and other migration monitors about numbers of Saw-whets moving during fall. There are probably a few in Georgia every winter, but your chances are better in a large flight year such as this one. They prefer to roost in dense cover and could be anywhere. This includes urban areas, so feel free to check as many areas as you wish. A splash of "whitewash" or pellets at the base of a small tree is a good clue to check closer. These owls are tame and will often allow close approach when found. Conventional wisdom suggests looking for areas of proper roosting sites near open fields to provide hunting areas, but we had no luck with this plan (in only one morning of looking, not a large sample size). The area where we did find the birds was basically cove hardwood forest, mostly deciduous with a few scattered hemlocks and rhododendrons, and no open areas at all.

Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta Georgia 30068

FROM THE FIELD

MARCH-MAY 2001

There were several notable finds this spring, including a Magnificent Frigatebird in Hall Co., a Northern Goshawk in DeKalb Co., a Limpkin in McIntosh Co., and a Black-legged Kittiwake in Troup Co. The frigatebird was observed by a non-birder, but the description of the bird sounded convincing, according to reports. Jerry Brunner and Jeff Sewell provided a detailed report of the goshawk seen at South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve. The bird was probably a sub-adult female, according to the observers. The Limpkin at Harris Neck NWR was well photographed by Mary Ann Teal, but unfortunately, as has been the case with other sightings in Georgia in recent years, the bird could not be found on follow-up searches. It was old hat for Walt Chambers, who found his second Black-legged Kittiwake at West Point Dam, less than six months after the first sighting.

Kennesaw Mountain is often full of surprises during migration, though completely out of the blue were sightings of Common Merganser and Purple Gallinule. The total number of migrants reported for Kennesaw was much lower than normal, but this was largely due to a poor year for Yellow-rumped Warbler. Giff Beaton noted that several warbler species, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Blackpoll and American Redstart, had unusually late peaks, with good numbers being seen from roughly 5 to 15 May. Thrush numbers were once again disappointing, though there was a good flight of Swainson's recorded on a nocturnal count. Summer and Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were found at the Mountain this spring in higher than normal numbers.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; 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.; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; Oxbow Meadows - Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, Columbus; S.P. - State Park; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- RED-THROATED LOON** - Eighteen were counted at St. Catherines Island on 7 Mar (Paul Sykes). Singles were found inland at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 6 Apr (Earl Horn) and at Tribble Mill Park in Gwinnett Co. on 4 May (Russell Judd).
- COMMON LOON** - One was an unusual sighting at the ELHLAF on 4 Apr (Carol Lambert).
- BLACK-CAPPED PETREL** - One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Savannah on 28 May (Giff Beaton et al.).

- CORY'S SHEARWATER** - Two were reported on the same pelagic trip on 28 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER** - Ten were counted on the pelagic trip on 28 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- WILSON'S STORM-PETREL** - The pelagic trip on 28 May turned up three of this species (Giff Beaton et al.).
- NORTHERN GANNET** - The five birds recorded on the pelagic trip on 28 May were late (Giff Beaton).
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - One was seen at Sapelo Island on 19 May (Carol McClelland).
- MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD** - A bird was well described by Bob Zumwalt, a self-confessed non-birder, at Lake Lanier in Hall Co. on 22 Mar. I am aware of only four previous records for the interior of the state.
- AMERICAN BITTERN** - Singles were seen at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 5 Apr (Kathleen Brady), at ENWR on 8 Apr (Walt Chambers), and at the Big Creek Greenway in Fulton Co. from 14 Apr (Stacy Zarpentine et al.) through 19 Apr (Jim Flynn).
- LEAST BITTERN** - Three birds were found at three separate locations on Lake Seminole in Decatur and Seminole Cos. on 26 May (Michael Bell).
- GREAT EGRET** - A single at a marsh in Austell in Cobb Co. on 24 Mar (Chris Loudermilk) and two birds seen in the north Atlanta area on 3 Apr (Wally Drefoos) were unusual for so early in the season.
- SNOWY EGRET** - One found in Seminole Co. on 11 Mar was somewhat unusual for the time of year (Michael Bell).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON** - An adult was observed at Warm Springs Fish Hatchery on 18 Mar (Jim Flynn). Also noteworthy was a single at McIntosh Reserve in Carroll Co. on 6 Apr (Chris Loudermilk).
- TRICOLORED HERON** - Inland reports were of two in Muscogee Co. on 6 Apr. (Walt Chambers) and one at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 14 Apr. (Michael Bell).
- REDDISH EGRET** - A white-phase bird was seen at Sapelo Island on 10 Apr (Doris Cohrs), and a more common dark phase bird was at Gould's Inlet in Glynn Co. on 19 Apr (Brad Winn).
- CATTLE EGRET** - Two were found in Forsyth Co. on 13 Apr (Jim Flynn).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** - One was seen at Eagles Landing Parkway in Henry Co. on 6 May (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell). A pair at a nest were reported from the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the Atlanta area on 12 May (Malcolm Hodges et al.). Two adults were seen at Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co. also on 12 May (Stephen Stewart et al.).
- WHITE IBIS** - Good counts were 500 at Jekyll Island on 13 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell) and 250 in Atkinson Co. on 1 Apr (Dot Freeman). An excellent count of 3000-10,000 came from Cypress Lake in Dodge Co. during May (Ty Ivey).
- SCARLET IBIS** - One, presumably an escapee, was present in Coffee Co. during early March (Milton Hopkins Jr., *vide* Bob Humphries). Possibly the same bird was sighted about 48 km (30 mi) away at Cypress Lake in Dodge Co. on 20 May (*vide* Ty Ivey).
- GLOSSY IBIS** - The best count from the coast was five at Jekyll Island on 14 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell). Two adults were observed in Houston

- Co. on 11 Apr (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn), and 1-2 adults were present in Baker Co. from 18 Apr through 18 May (Michael Bell).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The best count was nine at Andrews Island on 13 May (Mike Chapman). This species is usually only reported from Glynn Co., so noteworthy was one seen near the Satilla River in Camden Co. on 27 May (Robert Smith).
- WOOD STORK - About 50 birds were observed tending nests at Skidaway Island on 15 May (Carol McClelland).
- GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - One was seen near Eatonton in Putnam Co. on 9 Apr (Jim Flynn) and 10 Apr (Mark Freeman).
- ROSS'S GOOSE - The bird that has been in Madison Co. for the last two years was still present on 10 Mar (Michael Bender).
- GADWALL - One hundred was the high count for the ELHLAF on 4 Mar (Tom Striker).
- NORTHERN SHOVELER - Also a high count for the season at the ELHLAF was 55 on 18 Mar (Jeff Sewell).
- CANVASBACK - Eleven were at Fairchilds Park in Seminole Co. on 11 Mar (Michael Bell).
- REDHEAD - Notable counts were 65 at Commerce Waterworks on 4 Mar (Eugenia Thompson) and 33 at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 5 Mar (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).
- RING-NECKED DUCK - A pair was still present at the ELHLAF at the end of May (Carol Lambert et al.).
- GREATER SCAUP - A staggering count for an inland location was 40-50 at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 3 Mar (Chuck Saleeby). The only other inland report was of a single bird at Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. on 4 Mar (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- SURF SCOTER - A female was found at Fairchilds Park on Lake Seminole in Seminole Co. on 11 Mar (Michael Bell). Four was an excellent count at Sweetwater Creek S.P. on 31 Mar (Chris Loudermilk).
- LONG-TAILED DUCK - One was seen at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on the late date of 11 Apr (Earl Horn). This ties the late date listed in the ACOGB.
- COMMON GOLDENEYE - Singles were seen at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 3 Mar (Chuck Saleeby), at Paradise Public Fishing Area in Berrien Co. on 4 Mar (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and at Reed Bingham S.P. in Colquitt Co. on 9 Mar (Brad Bergstrom).
- COMMON MERGANSER - A first record for Kennesaw Mt. was a flyover seen on 4 May (Tim Keyes).
- OSPREY - A good count of 42 was made at Sealy Point on Lake Seminole in Seminole Co. on 11 Mar (Michael Bell). A pair was observed tending a nest at Lake Blalock in Henry Co. during the month of May (Carol Lambert).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - One seen near Eulonia on 6 Mar was early (Brad Winn).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - The first report was of a single bird at Oxbow Meadows on 22 Apr (Walt Chambers). Unusual for the Atlanta area were two seen in Henry Co. on 6 May (Dale Hardy).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Two seen in Montgomery Co. on 14 Mar were early (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).

- NORTHERN GOSHAWK - This accidental visitor was reported from the South Peachtree Creek Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 25 Mar (Jerry Brunner, David Butler, Jeff Sewell). Details of this sighting have been submitted to the GOS Checklist and Records Committee.
- MERLIN - One was a nice find in the Rome area on 11 Mar (Stephen Stewart).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - Inland reports were of singles in Polk Co. on 9 Apr (Marion Dobbs), in Bartow Co. on 23 Apr (David Brown), and at Kennesaw Mt. on both 29 Apr (Giff Beaton et al.) and 5 May (Mike Chapman). Two fledglings were banded in downtown Atlanta on 3 May (Jim Ozier).
- BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes reported hearing one on 6 May and two on 13 May in northern Greene Co. None of these birds was in the main large marsh that has been reliable for this and other rail species for many years. Unfortunately, due to land management practices, the marsh has been degraded, making it much less suitable for the four species of rail that have regularly occurred there. Some species are absent or greatly reduced in number.
- KING RAIL - One was reported in Wheeler Co. on 13 Mar (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan), and three were counted at ENWR on 8 Apr (Walt Chambers).
- VIRGINIA RAIL - One was found at ENWR on 8 Apr (Walt Chambers).
- SORA - One was observed near the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Atlanta on 3 and 4 May (Chuck Saleeby).
- PURPLE GALLINULE - One was an amazing sighting at Kennesaw Mt. on 20 Apr (Roy Hester). Needless to say, this was a first record for the mountain. One was also reported from Dawson Forest WMA on 3 May (*vide* Joel Hitt).
- LIMP KIN - One was seen and well photographed at Harris Neck NWR in McIntosh Co. on 29 Apr (Ann Phillips, Mary Ann Teal, Sam Teal).
- SANDHILL CRANE - Several flocks were still being seen headed north during March, with the last report from the Atlanta area being of a single bird on 5 Apr (Jim Pappas, Eran Tomer).
- AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - Five was a good count in Stewart Co. on 20 Mar (Walt Chambers).
- SEMPALMATED PLOVER - About 150 were reported from Sapelo Island on 24 Apr (Doris Cohrs). The best count from the ELHLAF was seven on 14 May (Carol Lambert).
- SOLITARY SANDPIPER - Nineteen was a good count at a reservoir in Forsyth Co. on 7 May (Jim Flynn).
- WILLET - Rare inland reports were of eight at Lake Lanier on 27 Apr (Jeff Petit) and seven at Garden Lakes in the Rome area on 1 May (Gladys Edmondson, *vide* Stephen Stewart).
- SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Two seen at McIntosh Reserve in Carroll Co. on 17 Mar were early, or perhaps even wintering, birds (Chris Loudermilk).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The only reports were from St. Catherines Island, with two on 7 Mar (Paul Sykes) and one on 22 Mar (Clay George, Brad Winn).
- MARbled GODWIT - Sixty were observed at St. Catherines Island on 7 Mar (Paul Sykes).
- RED KNOT - The high count received was 300+ from Sapelo Island on 24 Apr (Doris Cohrs).

- SANDERLING - One was found inland at Oxbow Meadows on 6 Apr (Walt Chambers).
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Seven was a good count in Houston Co. on 13 May (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn). This species was well reported from the ELHLAF, beginning with six on 24 May (Bruce Hallett) and peaking at 22 on 27 May (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER - One was seen at Gould's Inlet in Glynn Co. on 15 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- DUNLIN - High counts were 730 at St. Catherines Island on 7 Mar (Paul Sykes) and about 200 at Sapelo Island on 24 Apr (Doris Cohrs).
- STILT SANDPIPER - The only inland report was of one in Miller Co. on 23 Apr (Michael Bell).
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - One was found at the ELHLAF from 24 May (Bruce Hallett) through 28 May (Carol Lambert).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - One was a nice find in Houston Co. on 13 May (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn).
- COMMON SNIPES - A count of 108 was made in Greene Co. on 17 Mar (Cam Kepler, Paul Sykes).
- LAUGHING GULL - Two adults were found inland at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 12 Apr (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- BONAPARTE'S GULL - Good inland counts were 50+ at Lake Lanier on 21 Mar (Bill Elrick) and 50 at West Point Dam on 22 Mar (Walt Chambers).
- BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - Amazingly this species was found once again at West Point Dam in Troup Co. on 11 Apr (Walt Chambers). The same observer found one at this location the previous November. The bird, an immature, was last reported on 15 Apr (Shelley Ducharme).
- CASPIAN TERN - One was seen at West Point Dam on 11 Apr (Walt Chambers, Earl Horn), and an excellent count of six was made the following day at the same location (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- SANDWICH TERN - An early bird was seen at St. Simons Island on 15 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- FORSTER'S TERN - One was seen at Buford Dam on Lake Lanier on 28 Apr (Jim Flynn).
- BRIDLED TERN - The pelagic trip out of Savannah on 28 May recorded 48 (Giff Beaton et al.).
- SOOTY TERN - Six were seen on the pelagic trip on 28 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- BLACK TERN - Sixty-six was a good count on the pelagic trip on 28 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE - One was a rare find at Oxbow Meadows on 8 and 10 Mar (Walt Chambers).
- BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - This increasingly hard to find species was seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 14 Apr (Bob Zaremba et al.).
- RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Early reports were of singles at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 4 Mar (Lynn Desautal) and in Coffee Co. on the same day (Annette Bittaker).
- YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER - Good counts from Kennesaw Mt. were 16 on 2 Apr and 12 on 6 Apr (Giff Beaton et al.).
- NORTHERN FLICKER - The "Red-shafted" bird that wintered at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. was last reported on 23 Mar (Kathleen Brady).

- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Two birds had returned to the breeding site at the Ingles parking lot in Blairsville in Union Co. by 5 May (Dot Freeman). Two were found in Forsyth Co. on 16 May (Fred Casteel), one was seen in DeKalb Co. from 22 through 26 May (Georgann Schmalz), and one was reported from Ft. Oglethorpe in Catoosa Co. beginning on 28 May (Johnny Parks).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - At least two birds were present in the Suches area in Union Co. from 9 May (Betty Belanger, Dot Freeman) through the end of the period (various observers).
- VERMILION FLYCATCHER - A male was seen at Reed Bingham S.P. on 4 Mar (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and 6 Mar (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan).
- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - One was seen at the site near McDonough in Henry Co., where a pair nested successfully last year, on 29 Apr (Bob Zaremba). By the end of May a pair were building a nest on the same power pole that was used last summer (many observers).
- YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - One reported from Reed Bingham S.P. on 9 Mar was very early (Brad Bergstrom).
- PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Singles were found at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Catoosa Co. on 27 Apr (Johnny Parks) and at Kennesaw Mt. on 11 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- RED-EYED VIREO - One seen at ENWR on 20 Mar was early (Walt Chambers).
- COMMON RAVEN - This species is extremely rare away from the mountains, so one seen in northern Greene Co. on 17 Mar was most unusual (Cam Kepler, Paul Sykes). Singles were also reported from near Stonepile Gap in Lumpkin Co. on 16 May (Jim Flynn), near Woody Gap also in Lumpkin Co. on 24 May (Betty Belanger, Dot Freeman), and at Hogpen Gap on the Union/White Cos. line on 26 May (Jerry Amerson, Marie Amerson, Dot Freeman).
- HORNED LARK - A fledgling was observed in Wilcox Co. on 24 Apr (Dan Guynn).
- TREE SWALLOW - A pair was observed building a nest in an old woodpecker cavity in northern Greene Co. on 13 May (Paul Sykes).
- CLIFF SWALLOW - One seen at Oxbow Meadows on 26 Mar was early (Walt Chambers). This species was again found nesting in Sumter Co. during May (Dan Guynn). This is the southernmost nesting site in the state to date.
- BARN SWALLOW - One seen at Lake Acworth in Cobb Co. on 6 Mar was early for the Atlanta area (Jim Flynn).
- MARSH WREN - Singles were seen in Clayton Co. on 4 Apr (Carol Lambert), at Kennesaw Marsh on 18 Apr (Giff Beaton, Chuck Saleeby), and at Big Creek Greenway in Fulton Co. on 7 May (Jim Flynn).
- VEERY - Eleven were counted on a pre-dawn thrush count at Kennesaw Mt. on 10 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Singles were seen at Fernbank Forest in DeKalb Co. on 21 Apr (*fide* Georgann Schmalz) and at Kennesaw Mt. on 5 May (Giff Beaton et al.). Seven were recorded on the pre-dawn thrush count at Kennesaw Mt. on 10 May (Giff Beaton et al.).
- SWAINSON'S THRUSH - An excellent count of 375 was made on the pre-dawn thrush count at Kennesaw Mt. on 10 May (Giff Beaton et al.).

- BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid of this form was reported from ENWR on 8 Apr (Walt Chambers).
- ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - One was seen at Brasstown Bald on 5 May (Barbara Brigham, Dot Freeman, Anne Mursch). This ties the late date listed in the ACOGB.
- NASHVILLE WARBLER - A total of 17 was seen at Kennesaw Mt. for the season, including a late bird on 15 May (*vide* Giff Beaton). Singles were also observed in Gainesville on 1 May (Karen Theodorou) and along Ivy Gap Road on 6 May (Barbara Brigham, Dot Freeman, Anne Mursch).
- MAGNOLIA WARBLER - A rare spring sighting from the coast was one seen at Tybee Island on 16 May (Diana Churchill).
- CAPE MAY WARBLER - Seventy was a good total for the season at Kennesaw Mt. (*vide* Giff Beaton).
- BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - This species was also well reported from Kennesaw Mt., with a total of 94 for the period (*vide* Giff Beaton). Twenty-nine was a good one-day count from along Corbin Creek Rd. in Towns Co. on 29 Apr (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Two seen at Kennesaw Mt. on 24 Mar were fairly early (Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba).
- BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - This species is rare along the coast in spring, so noteworthy were singles seen at Tybee Island on both 16 and 24 May (Diana Churchill).
- PRAIRIE WARBLER - One was singing at Jekyll Island on the early date on 13 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- CERULEAN WARBLER - A total of 56 was seen at Kennesaw Mt. during April, which is a considerably below the five year average of 94 (*vide* Giff Beaton). One seen near Woody Gap in Lumpkin Co. on 18 May (Dot Freeman) and two birds found along Ivy Gap Rd. in Union Co. on 27 May (Dot Freeman et al.) are further evidence of possible breeding in the state.
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Encouraging was the report of 75 territories found in the Bond Swamp by wildlife biologists during May (*vide* Nathan Klaus).
- OVENBIRD - Early, or perhaps wintering, birds were reported from Cook Co. on 4 Mar (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and Camden Co. on 13 Mar (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - One found in Tift Co. on 4 Mar was very early (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Singles were reported from Reynolds Nature Preserve in Clayton Co. on 7 May (Paul Raney) and Kennesaw Mt. from 26 through 29 May (Tom Egan, Bob Zaremba).
- HOODED WARBLER - Amazing counts of 66 on 18 Apr (Giff Beaton et al.), 53 on 19 Apr (Deb Zaremba et al.), and 41 on 20 Apr (Giff Beaton et al.) were recorded at Kennesaw Mt.
- WILSON'S WARBLER - A single was noted at Kennesaw Mt. from 14 Apr (Vicki DeLoach) through 16 Apr (Bob Zaremba et al.).
- CANADA WARBLER - Early reports were of one at Kennesaw Mt. beginning on 15 Apr (Walt Chambers) and one at Callaway Gardens on 19 Apr (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW - One found in Elbert Co. on 6 May was apparently unusual for that area (Marion Dobbs).

- CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Following an incredible winter for this species in southwest Georgia, two were seen in Worth Co. 4 Mar (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and one was found at Ichauway Plantation in Baker Co. on 30 Mar (Michael Bell). One was also observed in Greene Co. on 6 May (Paul Sykes).
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Good counts were 25 in Walker Co. on 11 Apr (Marion Dobbs) and 25 in Dade Co. on 6 May (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Two were observed at Ichauway Plantation in Baker Co. on 1 Apr (Michael Bell).
- LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Singles were reported from Wheeler Co. on 13 Mar (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan), Ichauway Plantation in Baker Co. on 1 Apr (Michael Bell), Oxbow Meadows on 17 Apr (Walt Chambers), and the Macon area on 3 May (Nathan Klaus et al.).
- DARK-EYED JUNCO - One found at Bullard Creek WMA on 26 Apr was quite late for the Coastal Plain (Jim Flynn).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - Twenty-eight was a good count at Kennesaw Mt. on 27 Apr (Giff Beaton et al.).
- PAINTED BUNTING - A male that was reported at a residence in Damascus in Early Co. during March, had apparently been visiting a feeder there since 22 Feb (Robert Smith). Another inland sighting was of an adult male at a feeder in Houston Co. on 13 Apr (Dan Guynn, Pam Guynn). An early migrant was seen at Sapelo Island 13 Mar (Doris Cohrs).
- DICKCISSEL - One was found in Henry Co. on 7 May (Jim Flynn), and two were seen in Bartow Co. on 19 and 24 May (Bruce Dralle).
- BOBOLINK - The best counts were about 130 seen in Decatur Co. on 22 Apr (Michael Bell, Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), about 50 in Monroe Co. on 3 May (Nathan Klaus), and a flock of several hundred observed in Cook Co. on 13 May (Brad Bergstrom).
- RUSTY BLACKBIRD - A good count of 100 was made at Oxbow Meadows on 20 Mar (Walt Chambers).
- BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - A large flock containing at least 500 birds was seen in Decatur Co. on 23 Mar (Michael Bell).
- BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE - One was seen in Brooks Co. on 6 Mar (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan). Several were also noted at Reed Bingham S.P. on 9 Mar (Brad Bergstrom).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Two were seen in the Conyers area on the early date of 29 Mar (Georgann Schmalz).
- RED CROSSBILL - A pair were observed coming to a feeder in Blue Ridge from early April through the end of the period (Jan Douglas).
- PINE SISKIN - The only report received was of two birds at Kennesaw Mt. on 24 Mar (Roy Harper).

Michael Bell, 517 S. Lamar St., Bainbridge, GA 31717

FROM THE FIELD JUNE-JULY 2001

A number of interesting observations were reported this summer pertaining to the breeding status of several species in the state. Both Black-throated Green Warbler and Red Crossbill were confirmed breeding at Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested successfully near McDonough in Henry Co. for the second straight year, and both Willow and Least Flycatcher once again summered in Union Co. Two species of special concern, Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler, were observed in north Georgia during June. In *Georgia Birds*, Burleigh notes that the Golden-winged Warbler was a fairly common summer resident in the extreme northern part of the state. However, in recent decades populations of this species have declined sharply, especially in the southern part of its range. The Cerulean Warbler has long been suspected of breeding in Georgia, though nesting has not been confirmed to date.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986, Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

- PIED-BILLED GREBE - Two were an unusual find in the mountains at Dillard water treatment ponds in Rabun Co. on 11 Jul (Dot Freeman, Anne Mursch).
- AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - An adult, unable to fly, was found on the beach at Blackbeard Island NWR on 17 Jul (Matt Ryan). Unfortunately, the bird died the next day.
- AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - A flock of six was seen overhead in Bartow Co. on 9 Jun (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- BROWN PELICAN - One was seen circling over Francis Lake in Lowndes Co. on 3 Jun for a rare inland sighting (Kristi Avera). One was reported from Walter F. George Dam in Clay Co. on 7 Jul (*fide* Steve McConnell).
- LEAST BITTERN - Singles were reported from northern Greene Co. on 24 Jun (Paul Sykes) and at Grand Bay WMA in Lowndes Co., also on 24 Jun (Marion Dobbs). Three were found at ENWR on 26 Jun (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers).
- LITTLE BLUE HERON - Twenty-one was a good count for the piedmont in Bartow Co. on 28 Jul (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- REDDISH EGRET - The best counts were three at Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul (Deb Barriero) and also three at Blackbeard NWR on 27 Jul (Matt Ryan).
- CATTLE EGRET - Reports from north Georgia were of 14 in Floyd Co. on 7 Jun (Marion Dobbs), nine in Clayton Co. on 11 Jul (Carol Lambert), and

- two at Sod Atlanta in Bartow Co. on 29 Jul (Theresa Hartz, Art Hurt, Lisa Hurt, Georgann Schmalz).
- BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Three were seen at ENWR on 26 Jun (Julie Ballenger, Walt Chambers).
- YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Singles were seen at McIntosh Reserve in Carroll Co. on 9 Jun (Chris Loudermilk, Aubrey Scott), at AWEC on 12 Jun (Stephen Stewart), and in Henry Co. on 24 Jul (Jim Flynn).
- WHITE IBIS - Two immatures were seen at the ELHLAF beginning on 21 Jul (Jeff Sewell).
- ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The best count from the Brunswick area in Glynn Co. was 26 on 15 Jun (Lydia Thompson). Singles were seen at Skidaway Island on both 14 and 19 Jul (Beth Roth).
- WOOD STORK - A single seen soaring was a rare find in Fannin Co. on 26 Jul (Giff Beaton, Dot Freeman).
- SNOW GOOSE - A bird seen in Morgan Co. on 3 Jun had apparently been present in the area since last year (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- AMERICAN WIGEON - A male found at the Lullwater Estate in Atlanta on 14 Jul (Jerry Brunner) remained in the area through the end of the period (various observers).
- BLUE-WINGED TEAL - A female was reported from Bartow Co. on 9 Jun (*fide* Jeff Sewell).
- RING-NECKED DUCK - Two summered at the ELHLAF (many observers).
- HOODED MERGANSER - A female was noted in Floyd Co. on 2 Jun (Ann Stewart).
- OSPREY - A pair were reported nesting at the ELHLAF during Jun (Carol Lambert).
- SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - One seen along the Ochlocknee River in Grady Co. on 24 Jun may have been a local breeder (Michael Bell). As many as 20 were congregating in Tattnall Co. by 28 Jul (E.J. Williams).
- MISSISSIPPI KITE - One was a good find in Pike Co. on 27 Jun (Paul Raney). The best count from the coastal plain was 19 along the Ocmulgee River in Telfair/Coffee Cos. on 27 Jul (Annette Bittaker, Joe Bittaker).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - One was noted at the ELHLAF on 28 Jul (Carol Lambert).
- AMERICAN KESTREL - A single was found in Bartow Co. on 9 Jun (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell), and two were observed in Floyd Co. on 28 Jul (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- PEREGRINE FALCON - A bird seen near Turner Field in Atlanta on 21 Jul was in all likelihood one of the downtown birds (Jeff Sewell).
- BLACK RAIL - One was heard calling on territory in Greene Co. on 24 Jun, at the same spot where one was reported during May (Paul Sykes).
- BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Two were observed at Turfgrass America (formerly known as Thomas Bros. Grass) in Floyd Co. on 28 Jul (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- WILSON'S PLOVER - Forty-seven was a good count at Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul (Deb Barriero).
- AMERICAN AVOCET - At least twelve were reported at Andrews Island on 15 Jul (Gene Keferl).
- WILLET - Two were a good find at a sod farm in Mitchell Co. on 13 Jul (Oscar Dewberry).

- MARbled GODWIT - One was reported from Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul (Deb Barriero), and 20+ were seen at Andrews Island on 15 Jul (Gene Keferl).
- RED KNOT - At Sapelo Island, Doris Cohrs had counts of 311 on 24 Jul and 375 on 31 Jul.
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Six were still in Laurens Co. on 5 Jun (Giff Beaton, Tommy Patterson).
- STILT SANDPIPER - The best count from the ELHLAF was 29 on 25 Jul (Carol Lambert). Other reports included eight at J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 25 Jul (Marion Dobbs), and seven in Bartow Co. on 28 Jul (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Inland reports included four at the ELHLAF on 28 Jul (Carol Lambert, Bob Zaremba, Deb Zaremba), two at ENWR on 29 Jul (Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers), and one at Turfgrass America in Floyd Co. on 31 Jul (Marion Dobbs).
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Two were seen at Gould's Inlet on 6 Jul (David Davis, Gene Keferl), and a single was reported on Sapelo Island on 24 Jul (Doris Cohrs).
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - One was seen at Jekyll Island on 22 Jun (Lydia Thompson), and the same observer saw one at Gould's Inlet on 24 Jun.
- COMMON TERN - Five were seen at Wolf Island Bar on 14 Jun (Brian Smithers, Brad Winn), and thirteen were counted at Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul (Deb Barriero).
- LEAST TERN - One was a rare find at the ELHLAF on 16 Jun (Jeff Sewell et al.). Deb Barriero had a nice count of 180 at Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul.
- SOOTY TERN - A recently dead bird was found washed up on St. Simons Island on 2 Jul (David Davis).
- BLACK TERN - An excellent count for early summer was 250-300 at Wolf Island Bar on 14 Jun (Brian Smithers, Brad Winn). Four to five were seen at Tybee Island on 26 Jun (Diana Churchill), and 87 were counted at Little Tybee Island on 8 Jul (Deb Barriero). The only inland report was of a single at the J.L. Lester WMA in Polk Co. on 29 Jul (Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).
- WHITE-WINGED DOVE - A single was reported from Coffee Co. on 5 Jul (Annette Bittaker).
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE - One was an unusual find in Pike Co. on 10 Jun (Jim Flynn).
- OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - One seen along Ivy Log Rd. in Union Co. on 9 Jun was late (Marion Dobbs), while the one seen at Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 29 Jul was very early (Theresa Hartz, Art Hurt, Lisa Hurt, Georgann Schmalz).
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER - A bird continued at Ft. Oglethorpe in Catoosa Co. through 2 Jun (Johnny Parks), three were found at the Ingles parking lot in Blairsville in Union Co. on 6 Jun (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Pierre Howard), and one was reported from Forsyth Co. on 15 Jun (Jim Flynn).
- LEAST FLYCATCHER - The high count from Union Co. was four, from three sites along GA 180 between Suches and Vogel State Park, on 9 Jun (Marion Dobbs).

- SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - The pair that returned in the spring to the nesting site near McDonough in Henry Co. fledged at least three young (many observers).
- BLUE-HEADED VIREO - Singles found in southern Elbert Co. on 3 Jun (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn) and in Paulding Co. on 8 Jul (Chris Loudermilk) may have been local breeders. Breeding was confirmed at Lula Lake Land Trust on Lookout Mountain during July (David Aborn).
- COMMON RAVEN - Four was a good count from along Warwoman Rd. in Rabun Co. on 4 Jun (Bill Elrick, Jim Flynn).
- HORNED LARK - Small numbers were reported from several sites, mostly sod farms, around the piedmont and upper coastal plain (various observers).
- TREE SWALLOW - Nesting was again confirmed at AWEC during June (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell, Stephen Stewart). A bird seen in Bartow Co. on 2 Jun may have been a local breeder (Georgann Schmalz).
- BANK SWALLOW - Two seen at ENWR on 14 Jul were fairly early (Walt Chambers).
- CLIFF SWALLOW - This species is continuing to do well, as evidenced by a total of 350+ counted at seven colonies in Wilkes, Elbert and Lincoln Cos. on 3 Jun (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and 90+ nests found over the Etowah River in Bartow Co. on 20 Jun (Giff Beaton).
- RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn were able to find six at five separate sites in northeast Rabun Co. on 4 Jun.
- WINTER WREN - Two to three were reported from Brasstown Bald, the only reliable breeding site in the state, on 21 Jul (John Jenchard).
- AMERICAN ROBIN - One seen at Blackbeard NWR in McIntosh Co. on 5 Jun was unusual (Paul Sykes). One was found in Bainbridge in Decatur Co. beginning on 21 Jul (Oscar Dewberry). This species is rare in the southwest corner of the state in summer.
- CEDAR WAXWING - An adult and a juvenile were seen in the Suches area on 6 Jun (Chris Loudermilk). Two birds seen in Dade Co. on 30 Jun may have been local breeders (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - A singing male found in Union Co. on 6 Jun is noteworthy, as this species is now difficult to find in the state during the breeding season (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Pierre Howard).
- BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Breeding was confirmed at Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 20 Jun, when at least 12 adults and two fledglings were observed (Giff Beaton). Two were seen at John's Mountain WMA in Gordon Co. on 30 Jun (Marion Dobbs), and one was an interesting find in northwest Atlanta on 7 Jul (Liz Horsey).
- CERULEAN WARBLER - One to two were found near Woody Gap in Lumpkin Co. on 6 Jun (Giff Beaton, Tom Egan, Pierre Howard).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - Early migrants were singles seen at Howfyll Plantation on 6 Jul (David Davis), in Baker Co. on 7 Jul (Kathy Aleric, Michael Bell, Margaret Kearns), and in the Darien area on 15 Jul (Doris Cohrs).
- AMERICAN REDSTART - A female seen at Sweat Mountain in Cobb Co. on 17 Jul was an unusual find (Harry DeLoach, Vicki DeLoach).
- PROTHONOTARY WARBLER - Five was a good count at McIntosh Reserve in Carroll Co. on 4 Jun (Chris Loudermilk).

- WORM-EATING WARBLER - One was found in Pike Co. on 10 Jun (Jim Flynn), and two were banded at Buford Fish Hatchery on 27 Jun (Bill Elrick).
- SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Seven was a good count for the mountains in Rabun Co. on 4 Jun (Bill Elrick, Jim Flynn). Singles were also noted in Pike Co. on 10 Jun (Jim Flynn), Carroll Co. on 16 Jun (Chris Loudermilk), Grady Co. on 24 Jun (Michael Bell), and Coweta Co. on 15 Jul (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - One seen on St. Simons Island on 13 Jul was probably an early migrant, as this species does not breed along the coast (Tom Beal).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW - Three birds were found in Elbert Co. on 3 Jun (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn).
- ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - A singing male was an interesting find in Bartow Co. on 23 Jun (Bill Lotz et al.).
- DICKCISSEL - Two were seen in Bartow Co. on 9 Jun (Bruce Dralle, Jeff Sewell).
- YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - One seen on St. Simons Island from 7-9 Jul was a most unexpected find in summer (Chris Lambrecht, Elaine Young). There is only one summer record listed in the ACOGB.
- RED CROSSBILL - One continued visiting a feeder in Blue Ridge through at least 17 Jun (Jan Douglas). Seven were found in Pine Log WMA in Bartow Co. on 20 Jun (Giff Beaton). Breeding was confirmed at this site, where the species was first discovered during May 1999, as one of the birds seen was a recently fledged juvenile.

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.

The effects of drought on foraging habitat selection of breeding Wood Storks in coastal Georgia. K. F. Gaines, A. L. Bryan, Jr., and P. M. Dixon. 2000. *Waterbirds* 23(1):64-73. — Prolonged drought in Georgia has resulted in low river flows, dry farm ponds, and shrinking wetlands. While most birders see evidence that drought is affecting bird populations, quantitative studies of these effects are rare. The study by Gaines et al. is interesting because it does quantify the effects of drought and because it involves a species that is critically dependent on Georgia's wetlands. The authors studied three colonies of breeding Wood Storks (*Mycteria americana*) from coastal Georgia, and they compared foraging habitat used during a drought year to habitat used during normal rainfall years. Data were gathered by radio-tracking foraging adults from the air and comparing the observed foraging locations to the distribution of wetland types using a Geographic Information System. The effects of drought were substantial. In a dry year (1997), freshwater wetlands had less water and, as a result, lower prey availability. Furthermore, breeding success (fledged young/nest) in 1997 was less than half the success of the wetter years. Freshwater wetlands appear to be vitally important to coastal Wood Storks. During dry years, estuarine wetlands, by themselves, were unable to support the breeding population of storks in this region. Why do Georgia's enormously productive estuaries provide insufficient resources for successful breeding by Wood Storks? The authors suggest that the reasons could include a tidal cycle that limits storks to two foraging periods during each 24-hr tidal cycle. Keith Bildstein's interesting book *White Ibis* reports a similar important role for freshwater wetlands in the life cycle of White Ibis colonies along the South Carolina coast. (Savannah River Ecology Lab, Drawer E, Aiken, South Carolina 29802)

Isotopic delineation of North American wildlife populations: Loggerhead Shrikes. K. A. Hobson and L. I. Wassenaar. 2001. *Ecological Applications* 11(5):1545-1553. — Despite decades of banding, for many species of migratory birds ornithologists are unable to link a specific breeding population to a specific wintering site. Establishing this link is vital for effective conservation efforts. Therefore, ornithologists are increasingly relying on a new method to track the movements of migratory birds. By carefully measuring the amounts of certain radioisotopes in feathers, scientists can often determine where these feathers were grown because the abundance of radioisotopes in the environment varies regionally. This paper illustrates this approach by assessing the geographic origin of Loggerhead Shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) in the southeast. The Loggerhead Shrike is declining throughout much of its range, particularly the northern migratory populations. The authors measured stable-carbon (delta C-13) and hydrogen (delta D) isotope values in the outer tail feather of Loggerhead Shrikes wintering in Texas ($n = 70$), Florida ($n = 121$), and Georgia ($n = 24$) in 1997-1998, and northern Mexico ($n = 72$) in 1999, in order to

ascertain the minimum percentage of wintering birds in the south that were northern migrants. For comparative purposes, they also measured stable isotopic composition of feathers from nestling shrikes from Manitoba ($n = 6$) and from known resident shrikes from Texas ($n = 16$). For shrikes wintering in Florida, 10% were determined to be northern migrants, compared with 8% for the Mexican sample and only 4% for the Texas population. No northern migrants were detected in the Georgia population. Shrikes wintering in northern Mexico had the most variable delta D values, suggesting the broadest range of geographic origins. Shrikes wintering in Mexico may be composed largely of individuals originating from the eastern Rockies and central regions of the breeding range. This study indicates that the stable-isotope approach answers a number of longstanding and fundamental questions concerning the breeding or natal origins of wintering populations of Loggerhead Shrikes. This technique will undoubtedly be applied in ecological investigations of other migratory species. (Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4, Canada)



Nest and eggs of Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), 8 March 2001, Bulloch County, Georgia. Photo by C. Ray Chandler.

THE ORIOLE

Quarterly Journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society

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Instructions to Authors

The Oriole publishes original articles that advance the study of birds in the state of Georgia and adjoining regions. *The Oriole* welcomes submission of articles describing the occurrence, distribution, behavior, or identification of birds in Georgia, as well as scientific studies from all fields of ornithology. All manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate to the editors.

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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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September/December 2001

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