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

EDITORS

Sara H. Schweitzer
Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources,
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152
(e-mail: schweitz@warnell.uga.edu)

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TWO CAVE SWALLOWS AND ONE NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW ON THE DECEMBER 2002 MACON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Paul Johnson

901 Santa Fe Trail, Macon, GA 31220
Email: glenpauljohnson@gmail.com

On 14 December 2002, during the annual Macon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Walt Bowman, Nancy Gobris, Ty Ivey, Larry Ross, and I observed two Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) at the Macon Dump in Bibb County, Georgia, between 1500 and 1530 hours. Our team also noted one Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) at the same location. Around 0800 hours, Ty Ivey, Walt Bowman, and Nancy Gobris found a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at the Macon Water Treatment Site, about 2.5 km (1.5 miles) from the Macon Dump. Because it was possible that our team saw the same individual swallow twice, we reported just one Northern Rough-winged Swallow within our CBC data.

We entered the Macon Dump shortly after 1500 hours. The weather was overcast, with a strong westerly wind and cold temperatures. The CBC low temperature on 14 December was 4 C (40 F) and the high was 8 C (46 F). I first noticed a swallow over the lake from our moving vehicle. I saw the light rump and believed it was a Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). As we watched the swallow with our binoculars, we began to consider the possibility of a Cave Swallow. At this point we noticed two other swallows, a second *Petrochelidon* and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow. We observed the swallows flying over a 12-ha (30-ac) man-made lake, at the base of the dump, at a distance of 15-30 m (50-100 ft). Nancy Gobris mentioned that one way to differentiate a Cave from a Cliff Swallow was the forehead. So

at first I concentrated on seeing the contrast between the crown and the forehead, and I watched the birds for 3-5 min. When I retrieved my notebook from our vehicle, Nancy Gobris had *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2000) opened to the genus *Petrochelidon*. When I saw the picture of the Cliff Swallow with the dark throat, I immediately realized that the birds had light throats, meaning the two *Petrochelidon* sp. were Cave Swallows. I went back to my telescope, but I could not find the birds again. I began sketching and taking notes of what I had seen (Figure 1).

I recorded a "light forehead" and a "dark nape and cap" (my sketches reveal that I actually meant "crown" when I wrote "nape"). In addition, I saw "light between back and crown patch." I also noted the "buff throat and rump." My notes included "white speckles (molting?) on mantle." I did not know if white on the mantle was an identification clue or not at the time. The two *Petrochelidon* sp. seemed "fatter or wider than the Rough-winged Swallow," when seen flying away. The overcast sky conditions kept me from noticing much additional color. I followed the swallows at first through my Leica 10 x 42 BA binoculars, then with my Leica Televid 77-mm spotting scope as the birds flew over the lake, rapidly changing positions.

Before making my final determination, I wanted to eliminate the possibility of the potential Cave Swallows being immature Cliff Swallows with light throats. When I looked at Sibley's (2000) illustrations, I noticed that juvenile Cliff Swallows have a dull brown or partially white throat, not a buff throat. Later, I also realized that the "white speckles" I observed on the birds' mantles are found only on adult Cave Swallows and Cliff Swallows. The white feathers were not a sign of molting as I had thought. Immature *Petrochelidon* spp. have uniform brownish backs. Thus, the white speckles (actually stripes) on the birds eliminated the possibility of immature Cliff Swallows and the buff throats of the birds eliminated the possibility of adult Cliff Swallows. In conclusion, the key features identifying the two Cave Swallows were the buff throat and rump, and the distinctive contrast between the dark crown and light throat (absent on a Cliff Swallow). After the sighting, Ty Ivey described his impression of the birds to me by e-mail. He noted that the "black mask through the eye" was the "only exhibited darkness in the face and throat."

One Cave Swallow was also reported from Augusta on 14 December 2002 (Beaton et al. 2003). Documented sightings also occurred on 14 December 2002, at Wassau Island (Bill Blakeslee, personal communication). Our 14 December 2002 sighting was accepted by the Georgia Checklist and Records Committee in 2003 (Bill Blakeslee, personal communication) as Georgia's second state record. On 15 December 2002, this species was found at the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area (WMA; Beaton et al. 2003).

A major influx of Cave Swallows occurred on the East Coast during the late fall-winter period, 2002. In November and December they were found as far north as Connecticut (ABA 2003a). Reports continued into January 2003, in North Carolina.

Brinkley and Lehman (2003) noted that a "powerful storm system" and a "cold front" brought the Cave Swallows from Texas into the Northeast. More cold fronts later pushed the birds to the Atlantic Coast, where over 200 were tallied in Connecticut alone. Cave Swallows were reported in November from Ontario to Virginia. The swallows gradually moved south, as evidenced by the November 2002–January 2003 sightings in North and South Carolina.

All of these sightings were of the southwestern subspecies of Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva pelodoma*; ABA 2003b). It is interesting that only four Cave Swallow reports came from inland areas (Great Lakes region not considered). Two of these reports were from Pennsylvania, one from Augusta, Georgia (previously mentioned), and the last from Macon, Georgia (our sighting). While the birds we sighted were not identified to subspecies at the location, my sketch and notes of the "buff throat and rump" and "light between back and crown patch" suggest the lighter colored subspecies, *P. f. pelodoma*, not the Caribbean, *P. f. fulva*.

At the Macon Dump we observed a Northern Rough-winged Swallow with the Cave Swallows. We assumed the Northern Rough-winged Swallow was the same bird seen by three of our team members earlier in the day at the Macon Water Treatment Site, because the dump and the treatment site are close to one another. The Northern Rough-winged Swallow is a common summer resident and an accidental winter visitor in middle Georgia – four birds were recorded on the Rum Creek WMA and Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

CBC in Monroe County, 20 December 1993 (Johnson 1998, Beaton et al. 2003). Because the Northern Rough-winged Swallow is common in Macon during the summer, I identified it quickly, eliminating Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) because there was no hint of green in the plumage. My original notes record it as "warm brown over entire bird" (Fig. 1). Northern Rough-winged Swallows are whitish underneath. However, taken as a description of my sketch that shows the bird from above, the bird had warm brown upperparts. Interestingly, I observed that the Rough-winged Swallow flew closer to the water than the two Cave Swallows.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows apparently lingered longer than usual in the East during Fall 2002, for an unprecedented "flock of about one hundred" was found at Niagara Falls in mid-November (ABA 2003a). This sighting was about one month later than other records of such flocks. A Cave Swallow also was observed at Niagara Falls with the Northern Rough-winged Swallows (ABA 2003a).

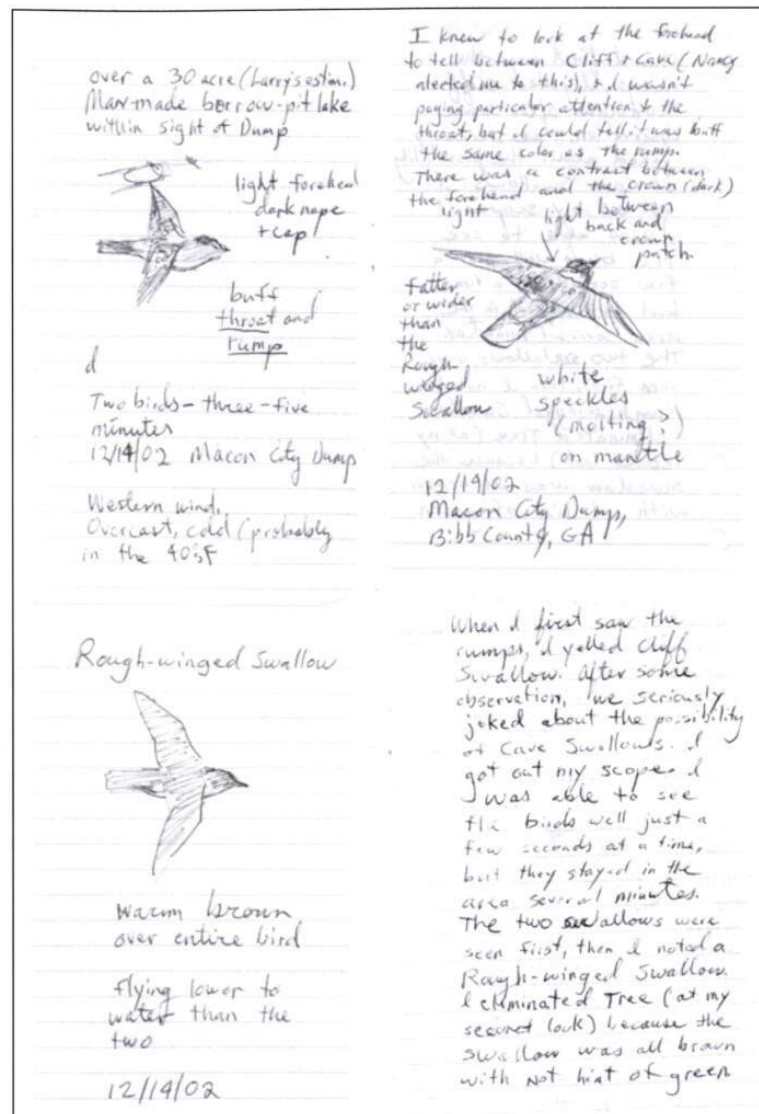
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Figure 1. Author's sketches and field notes of Cave Swallow and Northern Rough-winged Swallow observed in Bibb County, Georgia, 14 December 2002.



SCARLET IBIS SIGHTING IN COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Frankie Snow

South Georgia College, Douglas, GA 31533

Email: fsnow@sga.edu

On 13 March 2001, I was informed of a large red bird seen in a permanent pasture for the previous 10 days. It was described as a Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) among egrets that had gathered around a pond located in the middle of the pasture. This was the third instance of people reporting large, red wading birds to me in recent years. I was determined to confirm this report.

When I arrived at the home of Freddie Lott, 1.7 km west of Huffer, Coffee County, Georgia, from approximately 250 m away I could see a Scarlet Ibis feeding in shallow water in the upper end of the pond with White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). I counted 354 White Ibis, including two juveniles, and one Scarlet Ibis; most were feeding in the pasture. The Scarlet Ibis was seen raising its black-tipped wings as if to threaten birds that got too close to its feeding area.

I contacted Milton Hopkins of Osierfield, Georgia, to corroborate this rare bird. At mid-afternoon, Hopkins and I returned to the location where the Ibis had been feeding and saw the Scarlet Ibis in the pasture resting among the White Ibis. When we left the location by late afternoon, after taking several photographs from a distance of approximately 115 m, the birds flushed and the Scarlet Ibis exited the pasture toward Big Branch Creek in a westerly direction. A follow-up telephone call to Lott on 16 March revealed that the Scarlet Ibis and most of the White Ibis had not been seen since our 13 March sighting.

A search for previous reports of Scarlet Ibis sightings in Georgia produced a very limited history for this species. John Abbot (Rogers-Price 1997) included a painting of a Scarlet Ibis in his book on the birds of Georgia (1800-1810). Will and Maurice Thompson (Thompson 1915) recorded a Scarlet Ibis near the Okefenokee Swamp in July 1866. Will Thompson recorded this brief note as they exited the

swamp: "Thousands of wood ibis and snowy egrets rose ahead of us and many were the adventures we had with them, and twice we saw, standing on mud banks of the river, groups of scarlet ibis that looked like clumps of giant blossoms against the green background of the shore." Burleigh (1958) included the Scarlet Ibis on a hypothetical list of the birds of Georgia, based on Abbot's painting. Palmer (1962) recorded the bird as a straggler in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, but failed to note records from Georgia in the distribution. Cypert (1971) noted that several Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge employees reported a Scarlet Ibis, and took color photographs of the bird in April 1971, in Chase Prairie. Haney et al. (1986) listed the Scarlet Ibis' wild status as questionable, but noted Cypert's article reporting Ed Yaw's and others' sighting of a single bird in the Okefenokee Swamp in April 1971. Revisions to the Regular Georgia Species List (1998) did not change the status of the bird. The comprehensive report by Hancock et al. (1992) dealt with the Scarlet Ibis' distribution and brought into clearer focus, the taxonomic difficulties between the White and Scarlet Ibis. While Nineteenth Century records of the Scarlet Ibis in Georgia may represent indigenous populations, the origin of the current sighting is not clear. Some South American birds were introduced into southern Florida during the early 1950s (Greene 1966). A possible explanation for this bird's presence in Georgia is that it may have escaped from a zoo. It is also possible that it is a natural, wild migrant. No band was seen on either of its legs, and the bird was a bright red color, not pink or faded as is often observed in captive birds. Hancock et al. (1992) noted its wide ranging dispersal and that fully scarlet birds nest in Florida. Hence, it is possible that this sighting of a Scarlet Ibis was of a wild bird.

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HISTORICAL BIRD RECORDS FROM THOMAS COUNTY, GEORGIA

Robert L. Crawford

208 Junius St., Thomasville, GA 31792

Email: rlcrawfd@rose.net

While researching the Florida hermitage of Charles J. Pennock (see Kastner 1986:91-96), I found that he had sojourned parts of two winters during the late 1880s in Thomas County, Georgia, and had collected bird specimens there. The specimens were deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When a list of the specimens was provided to me by the Academy, they were intermixed with other Thomas County specimens collected by the "Rehn Expedition" of 1904. As neither of these activities was mentioned in Griffin's "History of Ornithology in Georgia" (Griffin 1958), a brief account of them is provided here.

Pennock's Georgia experiences were described by him in correspondence with Robert W. Williams. Williams' family lived in Tallahassee, Florida, while he worked in Washington, DC (Allen 1941); the letters are archived at Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida.

Charles John Pennock was a native of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, a businessman who worked primarily in Pennsylvania and adjacent Delaware, and a widely-known and respected ornithologist (Stone 1935). The latest ornithological treatment of Delaware credits Pennock with "groundbreaking work" and judges him as having done "more than any other to place Delaware Ornithology on a firm footing" (Hess et al. 2000:23-24). Thus, his observations in Thomas County, backed by some specimen evidence, are credible.

Pennock wrote to Williams on 4 October 1904: "I spent two winters at Thomasville, Ga. some years ago—'87-'88 and '88-'89." On 13 October 1904, he elaborated, and included a list of species he observed "from Nov. 20—1887 to about March 8 1888," and said "I have mislaid my notes for the following winter..." On 19 October 1904, he repeated this: "I do not seem able to find my full notes on my last winter at Thomasville..." However, he did find some records of

"arrivals at Thomasville 1889."

Most unfortunately there is little new information in his notes or the specimen list. In his winter list of 1887-1888, he noted "a few" Kentucky Warblers (*Oporornis formosus*); these records fall outside the presently known dates for this species (26 March—10 October, Crawford 1998), but he did not give any specific winter dates.

He listed an undated Black-throated Bunting (Dickcissel [*Spiza americana*]; Banks 1988); this winter record would be outside the presently known migration dates and would be the second [i.e., first by date, but second recorded account] winter record. In his letter dated 19 October 1904, he commented on this species: "Regarding the Black-thr Bunting I took one specimen at Thomasville it was in poor plumage & wet with an accident & so damaged that I did not keep it..."

He listed, with no date, "one" Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*); this may be the only credible report of this taxon from the State, so the lack of a specific date is most regrettable.

His subjective appraisals of abundance for the 79 species on which he comments (e.g., "numerous," "a few seen") would be similar if such subjective comments were given in 2004. He noted, however, only one Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), a species considered common now (Crawford 1998). Stoddard (1978:69), writing about the Grady County environs that would include adjacent Thomas County, stated that the species had "...staged a spectacular comeback in all parts of the range with which I am acquainted, possibly because woodsmen and trappers no longer eat them as a regular fare."

Pennock's "Arrivals at Thomasville 1889" list of 19 October 1904, includes some dated records of interest:

- Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), 21 March 1889; the second (i.e., the first) spring record for that species.
- Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), 22 March 1889; the "new" late spring record (the previous was 19 March 1960).
- Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), 22 March 1889; the "new" early spring record (the previous was 24 March 1959).

James Abram Garfield Rehn (of the Rehn Expedition, 1904) was, apparently, primarily an entomologist. He and perhaps others were in

Thomas County at least between 10 March and 1 April 1904, where he collected several bird specimens that are now in the Academy collection. One specimen of American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Academy # 48472, collected on 1 April 1904, is a "new" early spring migration date for this species in Thomas County.

These accounts of Pennock's and Rehn's observations of birds provide new insight into the presence of species during winter and spring, respectively. It is unfortunate that their notes were not more thorough, and that they did not provide comments on species that have since become extinct.

Acknowledgments

Gail Menk alerted me to the Pennock correspondence in the Robert W. Williams files at Tall Timbers Research Station. Richard L. West and Gene K. Hess provided information on specimens in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Librarian Ann Bruce at Tall Timbers Research Station was very helpful regarding the Williams correspondence.

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A HISTORICAL VIEW OF THE LE CONTE'S SPARROW

Johnny T. Parks

164 McDonald Drive

Ringgold, GA 30736-7213

Email: Ringgold_birdchaser@juno.com

One of the more secretive winter residents of Georgia is the Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*). Perhaps more common than realized, it resides in damp grassy fields and sedge marshes. The Le Conte's Sparrow is a widespread summer resident of Canada, breeding in every province and territory except the Yukon and Maritime provinces (Rising 1996:160). It is found in extreme eastern British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, near Fort Simpson and Yellowknife, but its range covers virtually the entire geographic area of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as the southern two-thirds of Ontario and central Quebec. In the United States, breeding Le Conte's Sparrows are found in northern and eastern North Dakota, northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This species migrates through the Midwest to its wintering range – southern Missouri to the Gulf Coast, east to coastal South Carolina, and south to Gainesville, Florida.

The original type specimen of the Le Conte's Sparrow was collected in the "interior of Georgia" (AOU 1957:592) by John Abbot (Rogers-Price 1997:xxxiv-xxxv). "Interior of Georgia" was likely in Burke County, east of Waynesboro, and just north of Brier Creek (Rogers-Price 1997:xxix-xxx). The specimens Abbot collected were sent to Europe, and in 1790, British Ornithologist John Latham described them as the Sharp-tailed Finch (*Fringilla caudacuta*) in *Index Ornithologicus*. Two years earlier, Johann Friedrich Gmelin, Jr. described the Sharp-tailed Oriole (*Oriolus caudacuta*) based on Latham's notes (AOU 1983:709), and it is known today as the Saltmarsh

Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*) (AOU 1957:594).

The Le Conte's Sparrow is so secretive in its habits that for many years after Abbot's drawing, the mere existence of this bird was in doubt. In 1833, Maximilian Alexander Philip, Prince zu Wied-Neuwied, collected a specimen along the Missouri River, but he did not write a description of it until 1858 (Faxon 1896:208). In his description of the sparrow he stated:

"I obtained a single specimen of this northern species near the middle course of the Missouri. The way in which the little bird crept about, just like a mouse, in the grass and under the bushes was remarkable. In fact, several of our party mistook it for a mouse. It was surrounded; yet, though unable to escape, it could not be forced to fly. It slipped quickly from one cover to another, while we all strove to catch it. When this was finally accomplished, I found that the supposed mouse was a little bird unknown to me."

In 1844, John James Audubon wrote a description of a specimen taken by John Graham Bell from the Missouri River, near Fort Union, North Dakota (AOU 1983:708). Audubon named that specimen Le Conte's Sharp-tailed Bunting (*Emberiza le conteii*) (Terres 1980:588, Mearns and Mearns 1992:273, Rising 1996:161). It was 25 years before this secretive bird was heard from again. Abbot's and Audubon's specimens had been lost, and Maximilian's specimen was in Europe and overlooked. Maximilian's specimen is now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York and may be the only type specimen intact. Finally, in 1869, in Texas, another specimen was collected, by American ornithologist Elliott B. Coues (Faxon 1896). He collected several more specimens in 1873. It was 1878, 90 years after Abbot collected his specimen in Burke County, Georgia, when the bird was recorded again in the South, this time in Alabama.

For 183 years, the type specimen for Le Conte's Sparrow was the one collected by John Abbot in Burke County, Georgia. A type specimen is a specimen from which the original description is made, which, in this case, was written by John Latham in 1790. In

1968, Bertram G. Murray, Jr. published a study of sparrow genera, *Ammodramus*, *Passerherbulus*, and *Ammospiza*. This study included the following sparrow species with their scientific names at that time: Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowii*), Le Conte's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus caudacutus*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*), and Seaside Sparrow (*Ammospiza maritime*). Harrison B. Tordoff and Robert M. Mengel (1951) published a study on spring molts of Le Conte's Sparrows, then Murray's study (Murray 1968) extended the scope to include molt, plumage, and voice. Tordoff and Mengel (1951) and then Murray (1968) came to the same conclusion: "The Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows [are] more closely related to each other than either is to any other species" (Murray 1968). Adding even more to the discussion was the discovery in the National Museum of Canada of a specimen collected near James Bay that appeared to be a hybrid Le Conte's X Sharp-tailed Sparrow, bearing a general appearance of a Le Conte's Sparrow but bearing several characters of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Byers et al. 1995:258). Murray (1968) gave a detailed description of the specimen, and the conclusion was that it was indeed a hybrid.

Because Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows belong to the same genus, they present a challenge to taxonomists. However, when original descriptions were written, each species was placed in different genera but given the same species name. No two species with the same specific epithet can belong to the same genus, and the rules of taxonomy and priority indicate that in situations like this, the specific epithet of the earliest described species will take priority. Therefore, the scientific name of the Le Conte's Sparrow had to be changed. The next available description was the one Audubon wrote in 1844. Therefore, the description of the type specimen collected in Georgia was retired in favor of the description of the specimen collected in North Dakota (Murray 1968, AOU 1973, Choate 1985).

The Le Conte's Sparrow prefers wet grassland habitat, thus, drought conditions may negatively affect its population. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the sparrow to be a Bird of Conservation Concern, based on Christmas Bird Count data that suggest a decline in wintering populations (National Audubon Society 2008). In Georgia,

the current status of the wintering population is not well known. Although its secretive nature makes its detection difficult, the Le Conte's Sparrow merits additional attention during winter bird counts so its status in Georgia will be known with greater certainty.

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FISH AS FOOD FOR INDIGO BUNTING NESTLINGS

Jessica C. Rutledge¹ and L. Mike Conner

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Rt. 2 Box 2324,
Newton, Georgia 39870

¹Email: jessica.rutledge@jonesctr.org

The Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) is a common songbird that breeds in eastern North America (Payne 1992). They typically nest in fields, edges of woods, roadsides, and railways. Nests are constructed using a variety of plant species and consist of an open cup of soft leaves, coarse grasses, stems, and strips of bark.

Females are the primary food provider to nestlings, but males have been observed feeding nearly fledged young (Sutton 1959; Morgan 1976; Carey and Nolan 1979; Westneat 1988; Payne 1989, 1992). There have not been any detailed studies of nestling food habits. However, a study in Michigan documented females bringing the following items to nestlings: grasshoppers from the ground, smooth green caterpillars from the woodland canopy, dragonflies, spiders, spider egg cases, and berries (Payne 1992).

We used videography as well as researchers' observations to determine nest fates of numerous bird species. During the three years of our study, 17 Indigo Bunting nests were monitored. Of these nests, 13 were monitored with videography. One especially interesting nest with two eggs was found in a cherry tree (*Prunus serotina*) on 27 July 2005. We estimated that incubation began on 29 July, based on recorded hatching and fledging dates. Both eggs hatched on 4 August, at which time the adult female began a regular feeding regime.

This nest was located in a hardwood depression area close to Ichauway Notchaway Creek, which had flooded in March 2005. The flood waters extended into the depression area where the nest was located. Spring and summer 2005 were extremely wet; thus, water remained in depression areas that had been dry during previous years.

Uniquely, at this nest, the adult female was observed feeding a small fish to a nestling. The adult arrived at the nest at 15:51:01 hours on 17 August 2005. The nestling made an attempt to eat the fish at 15:51:09 hours. The adult female made several additional attempts to feed the fish to the same nestling. After the nestling tried unsuccessfully to swallow the fish, the adult took the fish back into her bill. She held the fish for 1 min 20 sec before giving it back to the same nestling. This time, the nestling successfully consumed the fish in 5 sec. The adult female removed the fecal sac from that nestling and flew away from the nest. Both nestlings fledged during the afternoon, 20 August 2005.

This account is the only recorded observation we have of an Indigo Bunting feeding a fish to a nestling. Based on the video of this event, we are not certain if the fish was alive when consumed by the nestling, but it appeared to exhibit movement. However, that movement might be attributed to movement by the adult bird. We believe that during the spring flooding, fish were trapped in isolated depressions, providing an easy to capture food source for the Indigo Bunting and other species.

Acknowledgments

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GENERAL NOTES

LEAST TERNS NEST IN THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA – On 28 April 2004, at about 0915 hours, I walked out of the Winn-Dixie supermarket in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia, and heard bird cries overhead. I looked up and was surprised to see two Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum*) fluttering together and calling about 9 m above me.

Previously, the only Thomas County record of Least Terns was that of two birds on 16 August 1994, associated with Tropical Storm Beryl (Crawford 1998). There had been no tropical or other strong storms just prior to 28 April 2004, the weather generally having been clear and dry. Moreover, the Winn-Dixie and contiguous buildings in the shopping center (2830 E. Pinetree Blvd.) have flat, graveled roofs, well known as artificial nesting habitat for terns and other species (Fisk 1978, Krogh and Schweitzer 1999). For example, there is a Least Tern nesting colony on the roof of a Winn-Dixie north of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, about 40 km south of the Thomasville Winn-Dixie (R. Todd Engstrom, Florida State University, personal communication).

In Georgia, observations of nesting Least Terns have been restricted to coastal counties, although nesting is considered “highly probable” farther inland at Vidalia, Toombs County, about 145 km from the Atlantic Coast (Beaton et al. 2003:61). The Winn-Dixie roof-nesting site in Leon County, Florida is about 45 km north of the Gulf of Mexico.

For the next several days, I observed the birds and attempted to photograph them. The façade of the storefront and the angle from the rear of the store prevented any observations of behavior on the surface of the roof. On 2, 3, and 8 May 2004, I saw a tern arrive at the roof with a food item held in its bill. Before landing, the bird gave a loud four-note call; these actions correspond to “fish flights” and “fish flight calls” described for this species (Thompson et al. 1997).

On 4 May 2004, R. Todd Engstrom and Leon Neel both visited the site and saw the birds. Leon and Julie Neel saw a tern harassing a crow (*Corvus* spp.) on 9 May 2004. American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Fish Crows (*C. ossifragus*) frequented the area, sometimes calling, but often not. Both are known predators of Least Tern eggs and chicks

(Thompson et al. 1997). I saw another instance of a tern pursuing a low-flying crow on 21 May 2004. Thompson et al. (1997) stated this behavior occurred "only when eggs and chicks are vulnerable." If this is true, then the action the Neels saw suggests that an egg(s) may have been present on 9 May 2004. Given this possibility, and using known incubation and fledging periods, I expected the egg or eggs to hatch on or about 29 May 2004, and fledging to occur on or about 20 June 2004.

I noted that a bird often departed from the roof in a southeasterly direction. There is a large, ca. 8.5-ha impoundment called Timber Lake (formerly, Wheelin' and Dealin') just 1 km southeast of the shopping center. Twice, on 10 May and 2 June 2004, I drove to this lake after a tern departed in that direction, and both times I saw a Least Tern flying about the lake. On 2 June 2004, I saw a Least Tern make a typical shallow plunge (Tomkins 1959).

On 21 June 2004, I arrived at the shopping center at 0820 hrs and heard a tern calling, seemingly close, but I could not spot it in the air. It called again, and I saw it, an adult, sitting on top of a telephone pole. It called again from there, and another adult tern flew over and down onto the roof. Then, there were three terns (two adults, one juvenile) in the air, flying about the shopping center; the juvenile had fledged safely on schedule.

Least Terns were seen at the same site in 2005. I saw one tern on 26 April 2005, and Jack Dozier and I saw two the next day. Whereas I had seen a maximum of three terns in 2004, Wilson Baker counted 13 individuals (12 in flight and one perched) at one time on 12 May 2005, and I saw 11 in the air at one time on 19 May 2005. The use of this site for nesting by Least Terns may increase over time, thus future surveys will be conducted.

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Robert L. Crawford, 208 Junius Street, Thomasville, Georgia 31792

RECOVERING BIRD BANDS: THE JOY OF DISCOVERY –

One afternoon in early May 2005, I walked across my yard to see what kind of carcass my old dog had pulled from the waters of Lake Sinclair, Putnam County, Georgia. Actually, what I found was more of a chewed partial-skeleton than a carcass, but a few remaining feathers let me know that it was the remains of a large bird. Being a student of natural history (more specifically a mammalian paleontologist), I was obligated to pick up the remains and attempt a species identification.

As a novice-to-intermediate birder, I have had the pleasure of using my Peterson's field guide to identify species from Alaska to Trinidad. However, Peterson's (or any other field guide that I am aware of) does not show you a picture of what a particular species looks like following decomposition and scavenging by the family dog. From the bones that remained, I convinced myself that the carcass was the remains of a "hawk." As I scoured the area to make sure I had retrieved all of the fragments, I noticed a metal bird band attached to a scrap of bone. This was the first bird band that I had ever found and I began to feel the "thrill of discovery." I picked up the band and looked for names and numbers. My thoughts jumped from "what species is this" to "where and when was it banded" to "who is studying this species and what are they hoping to learn?"

The following day I showed the band to Dr. Bob Chandler, the

ornithologist at Georgia College and State University. I think he was as excited as I about the find. He suggested that I report the find on the U.S. Geological Survey website. The site was easy to navigate and took only a few minutes to complete.

A few weeks later I received a letter from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. I honestly had no idea what the letter contained as I opened it. Much to my surprise it was a Certificate of Appreciation for turning in the bird band information. Upon reading the certificate, I really got excited. "My" bird was an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) (which actually is my favorite). It had been banded by GOS member Dr. Joe Meyers near Hollywood, Alabama, in June 1988. "My" bird hatched 17 years earlier approximately 402 km (250 miles) away from its final resting place.

I display my certificate proudly in my office. As a research scientist, I am generally focused only on my own projects. It is exciting to know that I have participated in a long running study of such a magnificent species. If you have found a bird band and have yet to report it, I encourage you to do so. You may be surprised to find out whose research you are contributing to and where "your" bird has been.

Alfred J. Mead, *Associate Professor of Geology, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061*

A BULLOCK'S ORIOLE AND A RECORD NUMBER OF BALTIMORE ORIOLES IN WINTER 2005-2006, IN BULLOCH COUNTY, GA – On the afternoon of 27 December 2005, while conducting my annual winter survey of Baltimore Orioles (*Icterus galbula*) in different pecan orchards in Bulloch County, Georgia, I observed an immature male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii*). I was able to photograph the bird from about 8 m (25 ft), and the photograph confirmed my visual identification, via 10 x 40 binoculars, of the Bullock's Oriole (Figure 1). The presence of a black bib on the orange throat, the black lores, the black spot on the culmen, the overall orange body coloring, and the deep, dark teeth in the upper wingbar substantiate the identification of the bird as an immature male. Apparently, this report represents the second photographed Bullock's

Oriole in Georgia. An adult male was seen a week earlier in Smyrna (Cobb County) on 20-21 December, where it was photographed by Georgann Schmalz, Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard, and Earl Horn.

In addition to the sighting of the Bullock's Oriole, there was a record number of Baltimore Orioles sighted in Bulloch County this winter. An astounding total of 55 Baltimore Orioles was observed on eight days between 26 December 2005 and 3 January 2006; this exceeds the highest previous count of 32 Baltimore Orioles in Winter 2001 (Parrish, J. W., Jr., 2002, Oriole 67:52-53). In Winter 2001, nearly one-half of the Baltimore Orioles were adult males; in this winter's sighting, only about one-third were adult males. The exceptionally high number of Baltimore Orioles in Georgia this winter may have been due to the moderate winter temperatures, or increased food supplies, and this may also have contributed to the occurrence of the two Bullock's Orioles. This co-occurrence of Bullock's Orioles with abundant sightings of Baltimore Orioles implies that a more careful look for Bullock's Orioles should occur during winters with abundant sightings of Baltimore Orioles. Certainly, the proclivity of Baltimore Orioles for pecan orchards, and my finding of an immature Bullock's Oriole in an orchard that also had an adult Baltimore Oriole, would suggest that pecan orchards would be a good place to look for both oriole species in future winters.

John W. Parrish, Jr., *Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia 30460-8042*

Figure 1. Immature male Bullock's Oriole in a pecan orchard in Bulloch County, GA, December 2005.



**GOS FALL MEETING WITH THE
FOURTH COLONIAL COAST BIRDING AND NATURE
FESTIVAL
POSTER ABSTRACT
13-15 October 2006
Jekyll Island, GA**

IMPORTANT USE AREAS OF MIGRATORY SUB-ADULT FLORIDA BALD EAGLES IN GEORGIA. Elizabeth K. Mojica^{1,5}, J. Michael Meyers², Brian A. Millsap³, Katherin Haley⁴

¹ Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602

² USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602

³ USFWS, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, VA 22203

⁴ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

⁵ Current address: Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23185 (ekmojica@wm.edu)

Abstract: During migrations and summers of 1998-2003, we tracked Florida sub-adult Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) using satellite telemetry to determine important use areas (IUAs) of eagles. We defined IUAs as locations used by two or more eagles or one eagle in multiple years within a 25-km radius. We mapped and described IUAs in Georgia for 14 of 69 migratory Florida sub-adult eagles. When they were nestlings, each of the 14 sub-adult eagles had been fitted with a 5-yr satellite transmitter. Nearest-neighbor clustering (CrimeStat III) analysis identified five IUAs in Georgia from daytime satellite locations (≤ 1 -km accuracy). These areas were located in eastern Georgia on the Ogeechee River, Sapelo River, J. Strom Thurmond (Clark Hill) Lake, Turnpike Creek, and Alabama

River. Size of IUAs ranged from 126 km² to 1,340 km² (\bar{x} = 759 km², 95% CI: 371-1,146 km²). We believe that repeated use of these five IUAs indicated that they may be important for recruitment of the 14 sub-adult eagles (to breeding eagles). Conservation of IUAs in Georgia may benefit the future Florida breeding population as well as resident adult and sub-adult eagles of Georgia.

FROM THE FIELD

JUNE–JULY 2004

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This summer's season provided some exciting news of rare birds and broadened our knowledge concerning breeding birds in the state. The highlight this season was the unlikely discovery of a Limpkin in the Atlanta area. Many area birders saw the bird, and excellent photographs were obtained of this rare species in Georgia. Some interesting reports of breeding birds were received this season as well. Species like Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Song Sparrow, Pine Siskin and House Finch are beginning to show signs of possible expansion south. A summer report of Brown Creeper from Rabun Co. may be another indicator that this species does indeed breed in the Georgia mountain region. Throw in a few very late or very early migrating species like Surf Scoter, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, Bank and Cliff Swallows, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, and we had the makings of a very intriguing summer season.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; v.ob. - various observers; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co.; and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

MOTTLED DUCK - Several breeding pairs were found at the AWMA and on LSSI during the period. (Brandon Noel, Pierre Howard).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - There were several reports of two birds seen at ELHLAF throughout the period. The latest report was on 17 July (m.ob.).

RING-NECKED DUCK - The ACOGB lists this species as being absent from the coast during the summer. A report from Effingham Co. of a bird seen 15-23 June was a rare occurrence for this region. (Tim Miller, Russ Wigh).

SURF SCOTER - A very good report of two birds seen on the north end of Wassaw Island on 12 June was received from Paul Sykes. This is a very late date for this species to be lingering in Georgia. The previous late date is 6 May.

RUDDY DUCK - Several reports of lingering birds from ELHLAF during the

month of June were received (m.ob.).

RUFFED GROUSE - The best count was on 5 July at Ivy Log Gap Road, where Ian Stephenson reported finding eight birds in three separate groups along the road.

COMMON LOON - Anne Waters saw two birds at the MBBP near Augusta on the late date of 12 June. Tim Miller reported finding a bird in Effingham Co. on 15 June.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - This species is an uncommon resident that breeds locally throughout the state, but it is rarely reported during the summer. Several reports were received from around the state this season. Marion Dobbs reported a single bird from Bartow Co. on 5 June. From the coastal region, Russ Wigh reported one bird on Skidaway Island on 8 July. At ELHLAF, Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found one bird on 17 July.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - A pelagic trip out of Savannah on 25 June turned up one bird about 88 km from shore (Russ Wigh et al.).

CORY'S SHEARWATER - On the same 25 June pelagic trip 15 birds were observed. The highest count was of more than 90 birds reported by Russ Wigh on a pelagic trip out of Savannah 9-10 July. The majority of birds were seen only 40 km offshore.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - Two birds were seen on the 25 June pelagic trip out of Savannah (Russ Wigh et al.).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Pierre and Christopher Howard reported finding three birds at Walter F. George Lake on 4 June. The highest count was of 22 birds seen on Lake Carroll in Carroll Co. on 8 June (Bill Lotz et al.). Lydia Thompson reported a bird at the visitor center on the Jekyll Island Causeway on 25 June.

LEAST BITTERN - Marion Dobbs had a single bird at a marsh in Bartow Co. on 5 June. Ian Stephenson had seven birds at AWMA on 11 June.

GREAT EGRET - Steve Barlow had a good count of 44 birds in Bartow Co. on 18 July.

TRICOLORED HERON - Walt Chambers found two birds at ENWR on 13 June. These birds are rarely encountered away from the coast during the summer.

REDDISH EGRET - This species continues to make a good showing on the coast in Georgia. The number of birds observed continues to grow, with several reports from LSSI and Gould's Inlet during the period. The highest count was from LSSI, where Brandon Noel reported finding 15 birds (including four white morphs) on 18 July.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - A bird seen on 25 July at Blackrock Mountain State Park was unusual for the mountain region (Giff Beaton).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - The numbers of reports for this species in the Piedmont Region during the summer continues to grow. The ACOGB lists this species as a rare and local nester in the Piedmont. Several reports during this period from Bartow, Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb and Henry Co. may indicate an expansion of its range (v.ob.).

WHITE IBIS - The highest count away from the coast was of more than 200 birds seen at the MBBP by Lois Stacey on 30 July.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The highest count for the season was of 27 birds reported by Gene Keferl from the Brunswick area on 19 June. Russ Wigh had a good report of three birds away from the normal locations. He reported that Regi Sonnen found three birds on Skidaway Island on 26 July, one of which remained until 27 July.

WOOD STORK - Many reports were received from throughout the southeastern counties, suggesting that this species continues to thrive in the state. One of the more northerly reports came from Lynn Schlup, who reported seeing a bird in Oconee on 25 July.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Single birds were reported from various southeastern counties (m.ob.). The highest count was of five birds reported by Bill Lotz and Dan Vickers from the overlook at the Heritage Park near Doctortown on 25 June.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - A number of reports were received from around the southeast part of the state. The most interesting report was from Jeff Madsen, who located a bird in Rockdale Co. on 20 June. The highest count was of 30 birds reported by Walt Chambers from Oxbow Meadows near Columbus on 30 June.

BALD EAGLE - Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse found a bird at the J.W. Smith Reservoir on 17 July. Also in Clayton Co., Carol Lambert reported seeing two young birds at ELHLAF on 22 July. This could indicate successful nesting in the area.

NORTHERN HARRIER - The ACOGB lists this species as accidental in summer, so the bird that Brandon Noel reported from LSSI on 19 July was a very interesting sighting.

PEREGRINE FALCON - The downtown Atlanta birds made several appearances during the period. Jeff Madsen reported seeing a single bird on 5 June. In Macon, Ty Ivey and Ken and Arlene Clark reported seeing a single bird on 3 July for an unusual report from that area of the state.

BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes and Steve Holzman reported finding five birds on 18 July and six birds on 25 July in the northern Greene Co. marsh that they monitor.

PURPLE GALLINULE - Very few reports were received this period for this species. Phil Hardy located a single bird in Crisp Co. on 22 July. Other reports were of single birds seen at AWMA throughout the period (v.ob.).

COMMON MOORHEN - A very unusual sighting from the Piedmont was a bird that spent almost a month at ELHLAF during this period. Carol Lambert reported seeing a bird on 2 June, which was last seen on 24 June.

LIMP KIN - Patrick Brisse found a bird at Lake Blalock on 6 June for an amazing sighting in the Atlanta area. The bird remained long enough for many area birders to see and photograph it, before departing on 8 June. It is possible that the bird was present at this location as early as 1 June, but not positively identified until 6 June. CRC record number 2004-11.

WILSON'S PLOVER - The highest count was from LLSI, where Brandon Noel saw 50 birds on 4 July.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - The five birds seen in Bartow Co. on 1 June were probably late migrants (Bob Zaremba).

PIPING PLOVER - Brandon Noel reported excellent plover counts from LSSI. On

13 July he counted 19 birds, building to a high count of more than 90 birds by 31 July.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Four birds were seen on LSSI on 13 June by Brandon Noel.

WHIMBREL - Russ Wigh found two birds on Skidaway Island on 12 July.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Brandon Noel reported finding one bird on LSSI on 18 July, and three birds on 31 July.

MARBLED GODWIT - The highest count for the period was of more than 50 birds on LSSI on 13 July (Brandon Noel).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Pierre Howard had a good count of 20 birds at the Bartow Co. sod farm on 1 June.

STILT SANDPIPER - The only report was a single bird seen on 26 July at the Bartow Co. sod farm (Bob Zaremba).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - Steve Barlow and Jeff Sewell found a bird in Bartow Co. on 5 June, for the only report this season.

GULL-BILLED TERN - The high count for the period was of 20 birds seen on LSSI by Brandon Noel on 4 July.

CASPIAN TERN - Lois Stacey reported seeing two birds at the MBBP on 30 July.

LEAST TERN - Brandon Noel had an excellent count of more than 250 birds on LSSI on 31 July.

BRIDLED TERN - Two birds were seen on the 25 June pelagic trip out of Savannah (Russ Wigh et al.).

SOOTY TERN - A single bird was seen on the 25 June pelagic trip out of Savannah (Russ Wigh et al.).

BLACK TERN - Several interesting reports of birds seen in June were either early returning migrants or late migrating birds. Brandon Noel reported seeing four birds on LSSI on 5 June. Paul Sykes saw two birds in alternate plumage at Cape Charlotte, Wassaw Island, on 12 June. Patrick Leary also had a bird on 18 June on Cumberland Island. More in line with the normal migration date, Steve Barlow reported seeing five birds in Bartow Co. on 31 July.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - There were two reports this period. Paul Sykes reported seeing a bird in Oconee Co. on 7 June. The second report was from Skidaway Island, where Andy Ward reported seeing a single bird on 24 July (fide Russ Wigh).

GRAY KINGBIRD - Several birds were reported from the Jekyll Island Convention Center during this period (v.ob.).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - A male was seen throughout the period at the McDonough location, where nesting has occurred for the past several years (m.ob.).

TREE SWALLOW - Michael Beohm reported finding breeding activity at Big Lazar WMA in Talbot Co. on 14 June. Later in the period, Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported four birds, two adults and two juveniles, at the same location on 17 July.

BANK SWALLOW - Giff Beaton had an excellent count of 12 birds at Jekyll Island on 8 July. According to ACOGB, this will be a new early date for the coastal

region.

CLIFF SWALLOW - Lois Stacey reported finding 11 active nests at MBBP on 4 June. Giff Beaton reported finding one bird at Jekyll Island on 8 July, which is a new early date for the coastal region.

BROWN CREEPER - According to the ACOGB, there are no confirmed nests of this species in Georgia, but a summer record from 27 June 1981 in Rabun Co. suggests the possibility of nesting. A report from Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz of one or possibly two birds on 19 June in Rabun Co. is significant, and may lend additional support to the possibility of breeding activity.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Several reports from the mountain region indicated sporadic breeding this season. Birds were reported from Towns, Union and Dawson Co. (v.ob.).

NORTHERN PARULA - Terry Moore reported a singing male in Roswell on 11 July, unusual for that area.

YELLOW WARBLER - The only report this period was a single bird seen near Ivy Log Gap Road in Towns Co. on 1 June (Karen Theodorou et al.).

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Rusty Trump observed a very late migrating bird in his Forsyth Co. yard on 14 June. Rusty was able to photograph the bird, which was last seen on 16 June.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The earliest report of dispersing birds was from KMT on 10 July, when eight were seen by Deb Zaremba et al. The highest count for the period was of 16 at KMT on 18 July (Deb Zaremba et al.).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - The earliest report away from the breeding area was from KMT on 15 July, where Giff Beaton saw a single bird.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a good count of six birds at KMT on 29 July.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - Two reports of late migrating birds were submitted this period. Near Augusta, Fletcher Bingham observed a male bird, which may have been injured, on 13 June (fide Anne Waters). David Hedeon found a male bird singing in Atlanta on 17 June.

CERULEAN WARBLER - There were several reports by various observers of birds seen along Ivy Log Gap Road during this period. The highest count away from the breeding area was of 11 birds seen at KMT on 21 July (Giff Beaton et al.). Jim Flynn and Earl Horn set an early date record for the Coastal Plain when they discovered an immature female in Lanier Co. on 25 July.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - The highest counts away from known breeding areas came from KMT. Ten birds were seen on 21 July and on 31 July (Giff Beaton et al.).

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a bird in Randolph Co. on 19 June, which could possibly indicate breeding activity. Jim and Earl also found a bird in Taliaferro Co. on 11 July, which was probably an early migrant.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - David Hedeon found a single bird still singing on 21 July at Bond Swamp near Macon.

OVENBIRD - Terry and Peggy Moore reported a bird singing through the end of

June in the Roswell area. This is close to the southern edge of this species' known breeding range in the Piedmont. Giff Beaton reported finding a single bird singing in the Ohoopsee Dunes Natural Area in Emmanuel Co. on 3 June. In previous years, multiple birds have been reported singing throughout the summer in Yuchi WMA in Burke Co. And finally, Paul Champlin has reported finding nests near Augusta. These observations suggest that this species is expanding its known breeding range southward. This will be well-worth monitoring over the coming years.

CANADA WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported finding a single bird at KMT on 28 July.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - David Hedeon reported finding four singing birds at Piedmont NWR on 21 July.

LARK SPARROW - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a single bird in Turner Co. on 31 July.

SONG SPARROW - Two interesting reports of this species were received this period. Walt Chambers found a bird in the Columbus area on 12 June. Paul Sykes and Steve Holzman found three birds in northern Greene Co. on 18 July. Two of the birds that Paul found appeared to be hatch-year birds, indicating a probable southern expansion of the breeding range.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW - Doris Cohrs reported two birds in McIntosh Co. One bird remained through 12 June, providing a new late date for the area.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Peter Range and Paul Sykes caught a very late bird in their bunting nets on 11 June on Wassaw Island. This is the only June record ever recorded for this species in Georgia. The previous late date, 28 May 1977, was also from the coast.

DARK-EYED JUNCO - Mike Jones reported a bird at his Atlanta feeder on 15 June. This is a very late date for this species to be migrating through the area.

DICKCISSEL - Several reports from Brandon Farm Road in Bartow Co. were received from various observers during the period. Joshua Spence reported finding this species on 29 June. Dot Freeman and Betty Belanger relocated the birds on 9 July at the same location. Phil Hardy saw one bird at the Cobb owl fields in Sumter Co. on 22 July.

HOUSE FINCH - Paul Sykes saw a male and female together on Wassaw Island on 10 June. This species is normally absent from Georgia's barrier islands, and this is one of the first sightings of this species in that region, indicating a possible range expansion.

RED CROSSBILL - Betty Belanger had a very interesting report of two birds at her feeder in Union Co. on 26 June.

PINE SISKIN - Betty Belanger provided a report of a single bird at her feeder in Suches on 16 June. Even more interesting were the reports from Tom Striker in Fannin Co., whom had birds visiting his feeders in late June and July. The latest date he reported seeing a bird on his feeder was 29 July.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD

AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2004

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This season was highlighted by intense storms that moved through the state in September. Hurricane Frances tore through Georgia on 7 September, depositing storm-swept birds all over the area. Many birders braved the bad weather and were rewarded with some very interesting sightings. Later in September, Hurricane Ivan blasted through with similar results. The first state record for Thayer's Gull was accepted. A McGillivray's Warbler observed in Duluth produced the second state record for that species. Multiple reports of Cave Swallow added to the excitement this fall. Most observers commented that this season's migration was good over all, with some very nice high counts of neotropical migrants at the usual locations.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, Beaton et al. 2003, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center, Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.; ENWR - Bradley Unit of Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; and WPD - West Point Dam, Troup Co.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - This species is starting to show up sporadically around the state. Chris Borg found two birds in the Lake Seminole area on 5 September (fide Michael Bell). Michael Bell observed the birds again on 12 September at Spring Creek (CRC record 2004-15).

BRANT - Two birds were found on JI on 27 November. Sterling Blanchard and Earl Horn located the birds near the soccer complex, where they remained until 30 November. The birds were seen and photographed by many birders from around the state during that period (CRC records 2004-20A and 2004-20B).

SURF SCOTER - There were scattered reports of this species away from the coast this period. The earliest report was from Rum Creek WMA, where Michael Beohm found three birds on 5 November. Jim Flynn had two good sightings, the first of a single bird at Carter's Lake on 13 November, and the second from Walker Co. of three birds later the same day.

BLACK SCOTER - Many observers commented on the large number of Black

Scoters present offshore of JI this period. This species is rarely reported from inland lakes, so a report of a female at Lake Horton on 21 November was very good (Patrick Brisse).

HOODED MERGANSER - Patrick Brisse had an excellent count of more than 325 birds at ELHLAF, Clayton Co., on 13 November.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - This species is not usually seen in large numbers on inland lakes, so a count of 84 at Carter's Lake on 13 November was very good (Jim Flynn).

COMMON LOON - Terry Moore noted the importance of inland lakes for this species during migration, as evidenced by the large number of birds seen at Lake Blue Ridge and Carter's Lake this period. Jim Flynn counted 166 birds on Lake Blue Ridge, Fannin Co., on 13 November. The highest count was from Carter's Lake, where Leo Virant counted more than 300 birds on 14 November.

EARED GREBE - The highest count of the period was from Rum Creek WMA, where Eric Beohm counted more than 15 birds on 28 September.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Two pelagic trips from Tybee Island during this period resulted in very good numbers of this species. The first trip, on 19 August, produced 75 birds; the second trip, on 21 August, produced 127 birds (Russ Wigh et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - The high count was on a 10 August pelagic trip when Russ Wigh observed 25 birds. Russ reported that there was only one bird seen on the 19 August pelagic trip, and two birds seen on the 21 August trip.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - A single bird was seen on the 19 August pelagic trip (Russ Wigh et al.). Geoff Hill and Lorna West found a single bird on the Georgia side of Lake Walter F. George on 17 September, shortly after Hurricane Ivan passed through the area.

MASKED BOOBY - Russ Wigh reported finding one bird on a pelagic trip on 10 August, 43 km from shore (CRC record 2004-13).

BROWN BOOBY - Amazingly, three birds were seen on the 19 August pelagic trip. All the birds were seen perched on towers approximately 75 km offshore (CRC record 2004-09).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - There were numerous inland reports of this species throughout the period. Malcolm Hodges found three birds at Lake Walter F. George on 12 August. Amazingly, five birds were seen flying over Bartow County following the passage of Hurricane Ivan on 8 September (Ian Stephenson). Walt Chambers found a single bird at West Point Dam on 29 October. At MBBP, Lois Stacey found a single bird on 6 November, and again on 13 November. Back at Lake Walter F. George, Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds on 21 November.

BROWN PELICAN - Inland reports of this species are rare, so a bird seen in the Valdosta area on 28 September was interesting (Greg Lee).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - Russ Wigh reported finding a single bird on the 19 August pelagic trip.

TRICOLORED HERON - There are very few reports of this species away from the coast, so a bird observed at ELHLAF from 8-10 August was a good find (Patrick Brisse). Dan Demko found two birds at Lake Horton, Fayette Co., on 15 August.

REDDISH EGRET - The highest count was from LSSI, where Brandon Noel counted 15 birds on 3 October, including six white morphs.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The Clayton Co. Water Authority property produced another rarity this season. A single bird was present at Lake Blalock from 26 August until 13 October, affording area birders ample opportunity to view and photograph this unusual inland visitor. John Swiderski reported that Brad Burner observed a single bird at Carter's Lake in Lanier Co. on 9 September, following the passage of Hurricane Frances.

WOOD STORK - There were several occurrences in the Atlanta area. Two birds were seen at Lake Horton, and one bird was found at ELHLAF during the period. Jeff Sewell saw the bird at ELHLAF on 14 August, and Dan Demko and Mary Provost saw the Lake Horton birds on 15 August. Tim Keyes observed one bird near Covington on 28 September, also a good find.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Unusual for the area, there were several reports from Bartow Co. this period, including Grant McCreary's observation of a single bird on 14 August. Sharon Winston also saw a single bird in the Newnan area on 23 August. Chuck Saleeby reported finding two birds over the Cartersville Airport on 29 August. Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz located two birds at the same location on 5 September.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - There were many sightings by various observers during this period. Mark Davis found a single bird at ELHLAF Wetland Center on 20 August, distant from the usual areas. The highest count was 23 birds seen by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz at Fort Oglethorpe on 11 September. Sandy Pangle sighted a bird in Bartow Co. on 17 September, much more northerly than expected. Two birds seen by Chuck Saleeby near Midway on 7 October were fairly late for the area.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK - Marion Dobbs had the highest count for the season, observing 106 birds in Rome on 20 September. The latest report was from KMT, where Deb Zaremba found four birds on 27 October.

GOLDEN EAGLE - This species has been reported more frequently lately. Away from the hacking-site in northwest Georgia, the species is believed to be a winter resident, but it is rarely seen. Ian Stephenson reported finding an adult bird at Harris Neck NWR on 22 October. Jim Flynn discovered an immature bird at Carter's Lake in Murray Co. on 13 November, and Eric Beohm reported a single bird near Griffin on 16 November.

PEREGRINE FALCON - Two pairs of falcons nested successfully in downtown Atlanta this season, fledging at least three chicks (fide Pierre Howard).

PURPLE GALLINULE - This species is rarely reported away from the coast, so a bird in the Macon area on 4 September was interesting (Ty Ivey et al.).

COMMON MOORHEN - Some unusual sightings away from the expected range of this species were received. Carol Lambert observed an adult with two chicks at ELHLAF on 12 August. Farther north, an immature bird was found in a Bartow Co. marsh on 4 September (Pierre Howard, Bob and Deb Zaremba).

SANDHILL CRANE - The earliest report of birds returning from the north was on 14 October, when Karen Osborne observed 16 birds in the Roswell area. The

peak passage of birds over the Atlanta area was on 28 November, when Noah Kahn reported between 3,000 and 4,000 birds passing over.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Three birds were a good find at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17 September (Ken Blankenship, Sandy Pangle).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - The highest count was three birds observed at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 8 September by Ian Stephenson. The only other reports were all from Bartow Co. as well. Jeff Sewell found a single bird on 11 September; Jeff, Patrick Brisse, and Hugh Garrett observed two birds on 18 September; and Jim Flynn and Earl Horn observed one bird on 3 October.

WILSON'S PLOVER - The highest count for the period was more than 60 birds seen on LSSI by Brandon Noel on 5 November. Sterling Blanchard had a good count of 22 birds at JI on 26 November.

PIPING PLOVER - Brandon Noel has been monitoring the wintering population of this species on LSSI for several seasons. This fall, he reported excellent counts of 123 on 26 August and 130 on 3 October. This species is rarely found away from the coast, so a bird observed at a sod farm in Floyd Co. by Marion Dobbs on 11 September was an excellent find.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - This species was widely reported from many locations around the state, especially following storm activity. The ELHLAF property was host to a single bird, first discovered by Carol Lambert on 17 September. The same, or possibly a different, bird was seen intermittently through 18 October. Two birds found at the same location on 15 November were intriguing as well (Carol Lambert). Away from that location, Steve Barlow found one bird at a Bartow Co. sod farm following Hurricane Ivan on 18 September, and it remained in the area until 20 September. Joshua Spence discovered one bird in Murray County on 19 September. This species is not known to winter in the state, so four birds found at AWMA near Darien on 29 November were very unusual (Lex Glover, Earl Horn, and Bob Zaremba).

AMERICAN AVOCET - Inland reports of this species are rare, so 18 birds found in Bartow Co. on 8 September was a very good report (Ian Stephenson).

UPLAND SANDPIPER - There were few reports of this species this fall. The highest count was three birds found at a Marshallville sod farm by Walt Chambers on 15 August. Single birds were found in Bartow Co. on 13 August (Jim Flynn and Earl Horn), again on 15 August (Steve Barlow and Ian Stephenson), and finally on both 2 and 7 September by Sandy Pangle.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The beach at LSSI has been the best location to find this species. Brandon Noel observed three birds on 26 August and two birds on 3 October.

MARBLED GODWIT - The highest coastal count was 150 birds observed by Brandon Noel at LSSI on 3 October. Storm-driven birds showed up in multiple locations on 17 September following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Following the passage of Hurricane Frances, one bird was observed by Sandy Pangle at Lake Allatoona on 9 September. Marion Dobbs located another bird in Floyd Co. on 17 September.

RED KNOT - Away from the coast, there was a great inland record of a bird found by Joshua Spence at Carter's Lake on 8 September. The highest count from the coast was more than 7,000 birds on Wolf Island on 13 September (Brad Winn.)

SANDERLING - There were several inland reports of this species this season. Stephen Stewart observed one bird in Floyd Co. on 12 August. At ELHLAF, Carol Lambert and Walt Chambers observed a bird on 7 September, and Marion Dobbs found a single bird at a sod farm in Floyd Co. on 11 September.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - One bird was a good find at ELHLAF on 3 September by Ian Stephenson. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn located another bird in Lanier Co. on 12 September. Finally, Jeff Sewell observed two birds in Bulloch Co. on 11 October.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - This species migrates through our area in the fall, but we never see large numbers. A single bird observed at ELHLAF by Carol Lambert on 2 September remained until 4 September. Jim Flynn found another bird in Forsyth Co. on 2 September. The only report from Bartow Co. was a single bird seen on 3 September (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Marion Dobbs observed one bird in Floyd Co. on 17 September. Unusual for the coast, a single bird was found at LSSI on 12 September, which remained until 18 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The most reliable location for seeing this species is Tybee Island. Steve Alver and Diana Churchill found seven birds there on 12 November, and four birds were found there on 26 November (Earl Horn et al.). A bird found by Steve Barlow at JI on 25 November was an unusual find for that location.

DUNLIN - Mark Davis and Sid Breibart observed 14 birds at ELHLAF on 15 November, for a very good inland count.

STILT SANDPIPER - There were several reports of this species following this season's storms. The highest count was 11 birds observed in Bartow Co. on 7 September (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Other reports were six birds at ELHLAF on 18 September by Tim Rose, and nine at the same location on 23 October by Georgann Schmalz.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - A very early report from the coast was a juvenile bird observed on Cumberland Island by Patrick Leary on 27 August. Many observers noted the presence of between two and four birds at the Bartow Co. sod farm from 3-18 September. The highest count was from Floyd Co., where Marion Dobbs had five birds on 11 and 17 September.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Sandy Pangle observed three birds at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17 September.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE - There was an amazing number of inland reports following the passage of Hurricane Frances on 7 September. Most of the birds seen right after that date were in Bartow Co., but birds were also found in Cobb Co. and Murray Co. The highest count was at an Industrial Park in Bartow Co., where Bob and Deb Zaremba observed 11 birds. They also found four birds at a Bartow Co. sod farm and one bird in a farm pond elsewhere in Bartow Co. David Heeden located a single bird at RNP earlier in the day, for a very good Cobb Co. record. Later in the month, Ken Blankenship found a single bird at a Bartow Co. sod farm on 17

September, following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

RED PHALAROPE - The only report was from Lake Walter F. George, where Geoff Hill and Mark Liu located a single bird on 17 September following the passage of Hurricane Ivan.

POMARINE JAEGER - There were two reports following the storms this season. Walt Chambers discovered one bird at West Point Lake on 17 September. At Lake Walter F. George, Geoff Hill and Mark Liu also located a dark- morph bird on 17 September.

LAUGHING GULL - Geoff Hill and Mark Liu had a very high inland count of this species following Hurricane Ivan, counting more than 150 birds at Lake Walter F. George on 17 September.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - The earliest report was of a bird observed at Skidaway Island on 5 August by Peter Range (fide Russ Wigh). This species is a rare migrant below the Fall Line, so four reports this season is a pretty good showing. Michael Beohm found one bird at JI on 21 October. The highest count of the season was from WPD, where Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found three birds on 31 October, one of which remained for at least another day (v.ob.). Paul Sykes observed an adult bird on Tybee Island on 13 November. Back at WPD, Michael Beohm located another bird in late November (fide Eric Beohm).

THAYER'S GULL - The CRC accepted the first state record of this species this season. Michael and Eric Beohm first discovered the bird at WPD on 12 November, but it was not relocated until later in the month. The bird became fairly reliable below the dam for several days, and became one of the most photographed birds this year. The bird was last seen on 30 November (m.ob.; CRC record 2004-18).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Steve Calver and Peter Range had an excellent count of 27 birds on Wassaw Island on 17 September.

GULL-BILLED TERN - There were two storm-driven birds at WPD on 17 September (Walt Chambers). One bird was still present the following day (Malcolm Hodges).

CASPIAN TERN - The 22 birds seen at Carter's Lake by Joshua Spence on 8 September were likely another result of Hurricane Frances passing through the area.

COMMON TERN - Joshua Spence observed 16 birds at Carter's Lake on 8 September following the storm.

LEAST TERN - This species rarely turns up at inland locations, so a bird found at ELHLAF on 1 August by Steve Barlow was a good find.

BRIDLED TERN - The two birds seen on Tybee Island by Deb Barriero on 6 September were probably influenced by the recent passage of Hurricane Frances. The two pelagic trips on 19 and 21 August produced 14 and five birds, respectively (Russ Wigh et al.).

SOOTY TERN - The most interesting result of the passage of Hurricanes Frances and Ivan on 7 and 17 September, respectively, was the large number of this species that was deposited on area lakes. Many reports were received across the state of birds found inland. On 7 September, Carol Lambert found one bird on Lake Blalock;

Tim Keyes found three birds at Lake Jackson; Jim Flynn found seven birds at Lake Lanier; and Earl Horn found four birds at Lake Oconee. The following day, 8 September, Joshua Spence found one bird at Carter's Lake; Chuck Saleeby found one bird at Lake Allatoona; Earl Horn found two birds still at Lake Lanier; and Bob Zaremba and Lorna West found five birds at WPD. On 9 September, Paul Johnson and Jerry and Marie Amerson found four birds on Lake Tobesofkee. Finally, on 10 September, Terry Johnson et al. found two birds at the Plant Scherer ash ponds. Once Hurricane Ivan passed through on 17 September, Walt Chambers found six birds at WPD and Earl Horn found two birds at Lake Lanier. The following day, one bird was still at WPD (Malcolm Hodges). What an incredible number of reports!

BLACK TERN - Brandon Noel had a very good count of more than 500 birds at LSSI on 26 August.

BLACK SKIMMER - There were several inland reports during the week following the passage of Hurricane Ivan on 17 September. The bird found by Carol Lambert at ELHLAF remained in that area until 24 September. Geoff Hill and Mark Liu found five birds at Lake Walter F. George. Joshua Spence found one bird on Carter's Lake. Michael and Richard Beohm found one bird at WPD. Perhaps the most unexpected location was a bird found at the Bostwick sod farm in Morgan Co. by David Galewski (fide Mark Freeman).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - This species is being reported more frequently, but has not yet become established in the state, to our knowledge. There were several reports of one or two birds that were visiting a feeder on JI between 20 October and 29 November (Marjorie Clark). Several birds were found on Tybee Island on 6 November (Earl Horn, Jim Flynn, Bob and Deb Zaremba). Betty Belanger reported that another bird was seen briefly at a feeder in Brunswick on 29 November. A Merlin took the bird while the homeowner watched. Away from the coast, the only report was of a bird found by Clive Rainey near Americus on 7 November.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - This species seems to be spreading north, but a bird found by Karen Theodorou in Duluth on 6 November was highly unusual for that location.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - This species is infrequently reported, so three reports this season was very good. Pierre Howard found a bird at the CRNRA on 19 September, and Ian Stephenson located a bird at the same location on 25 September. Noah Kahn found one bird at KMT on 28 September.

LONG-EARED OWL - A very unexpected discovery was a bird found on Tybee Island on 5 November by Steve Wagner. Steve was able to photograph the bird before it flushed, but was unable to relocate it after it flushed (CRC record 2005-05).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - The latest report was from Connie Madia, who had a bird at her feeder on 9 November in Woodbine, Camden Co.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Steve Calver reported that a male arrived at his feeder again this fall on 5 October.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - An adult male, probably the same bird that spent the winter last year, arrived at Pat White's Decatur feeder on 6 November and remained through the end of the period (CRC record 2004-21).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - Russ Wigh provided a rare report of a single bird from Skidaway Island on 12 October, tying the late date for that region. Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz observed a bird at CRNRA fairly late in the season on 17 October.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Russ Wigh provided two reports from Skidaway Island. The first was a bird seen and heard from 11-13 October. Another bird reported on 28 October in the same location would be a new late date for the region.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - An adult male was found near Albany in Lee Co. on 15 November (Alan Ashley).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER - A bird seen on Skidaway Island on 31 October would be a new late date for this species (fide Russ Wigh).

WESTERN KINGBIRD - Several reports were received of single birds, mostly from the coastal region. The first report was from Lake Pamona near Midway, where Earl Horn and Jim Flynn discovered a bird in a pasture on 6 November. Bryan Wyatt observed a bird on the JI causeway on 19 November. Michael Beohm reported finding a bird at JI on 30 November.

EASTERN KINGBIRD - This species is usually gone by the end of October, so two reports from the Coastal Plain may be new late dates for that region. Wendy Ealding observed a bird at Birdsong Plantation Nature Center on 12 November. Even later in the month, Annette Bittaker found one bird in Coffee Co. on 19 November.

GRAY KINGBIRD - Any report of this species away from JI is unusual, so a report of two birds seen in Savannah on 10 September was very interesting. The highest count was eight birds seen on LSSI by Brandon Noel from 12-19 September.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - Debbie Grimes reported finding a single bird in Brooks Co. on 5 November, for the only report of the season.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - There were numerous reports from around the state during this period. The highest counts were from Chamblee, where Walt Chambers found three birds on 24 September, and from Carter's Lake, where Joshua Spence found three birds on 2 October. The species is rarely seen on the coast, so a report from Skidaway Island on 15 October is very good (Russ Wigh).

RED-EYED VIREO - Michael Bell reported a late migrating bird at Birdsong Nature Center, Grady Co., on 31 October, seen by Fran Rutovsky, but the latest report was from Cumberland Island, where Russ Wigh observed one bird on 3 November.

HORNED LARK - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported a high count of 100 birds from Macon Co. on 12 September.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - There were several reports of late sightings around the state. Stacy Zarpentine and Zeile Lebeau observed one bird at Chattahoochee Nature Center on 13 and 14 November. Eric Beohm observed one bird at ELHLAF on 24 November, and he and Michael Beohm saw three birds at MBBP on 27 November. Steve Barlow observed one bird at AWMA on 29 November.

CAVE SWALLOW - There were several reports of this species during the period. The earliest report was 24-26 October at Phinizy Nature Park near Augusta by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz (CRC record 2004-12A through 2004-12E). Jim Flynn and Earl Horn observed one bird at Lake Pamona on 6 November (CRC record 2004-17), but

it was not seen again. The third report was from JI, where Paul Sykes found two birds on 14 November (CRC record 2004-16).

BARN SWALLOW - Steve Barlow set a new late date record for the coastal region when he observed a bird at AWMA on 26 November.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Marion Dobbs, Giff Beaton, and Noah Kahn observed a bird in Rabun Co. on 18 August that could be a part of the breeding population in that area. There were numerous reports of birds seen later in the season. Steve Calver observed a bird on Tybee Island on 12 November, which was unusual for the coast.

SEDGE WREN - Michael Bell had a very good count of nine birds at Birdsong Nature Center on 30 October.

VEERY - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn counted 125 birds on a pre-dawn count on 12 September.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - There was a very good count of 16 birds at KMT on 29 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 46 birds seen at KMT on 30 September.

WOOD THRUSH - A new high count of 27 birds was set at KMT on 29 September (Giff Beaton et al.). Rich Krause reported finding a late migrating bird in the Lilburn area on 1 November. The latest report was a bird observed in Atlanta on 3 November by Pierre Howard.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - A high count was six birds, reported from KMT on 19 and 29 September (Pierre Howard and Giff Beaton). Pierre Howard and Noah Kahn also reported seeing six birds at CRNRA on 1 October.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported the high count of 51 birds at KMT on 15 October. Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, and Dan Vickers found a late migrating bird at CRNRA on 13 November.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - There were numerous reports of this species from all around the state. The earliest report was from Ian Stephenson on 12 September from the Robinson Nature Preserve.

YELLOW WARBLER - Eric and Michael Beohm reported finding a late migrating bird at Phinizy Swamp on 27 November.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported a high count of 12 birds at KMT on 20 September.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - The highest count came from KMT on 5 October where Giff Beaton reported seeing 14 birds. The latest report was from Carol Lambert, who found a single bird at the ELHLAF Wetland Center on 10 November.

CAPE MAY WARBLER - Lingering birds were found by Russ Wigh at Cumberland Island on 1 November, and by Anne Waters at MBBP on 13 November.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER - Michael and Eric Beohm reported a bird from the Lake Seminole area on 14 November.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The highest count was from KMT on 6 October, where 27 birds were reported (Giff Beaton et al.). Marion Dobbs found a late migrating bird on 30 October at Berry College, Floyd Co. The latest

report was from Emily Koumans, who found a single bird in DeKalb Co. on 4 November. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - The high count was on 12 September from KMT, where birders found 11 birds (Bob Zaremba et al.). Leslie Curan found a late migrating bird on 1 November at the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - The only report of this species was from KMT on 14 October, where a single bird was discovered (Giff Beaton et al.).

CERULEAN WARBLER - This species migrates through our area early, so a high count of nine birds seen at KMT on 5 September was a very good late-season count (Pierre Howard et al.).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - There was a large movement of birds on 5 September, as was evidenced by the high count of migrants at KMT that morning. Birders at this location found 20 species of warblers, including a high count of 16 Black-and-White Warblers (Pierre Howard et al.).

AMERICAN REDSTART - The highest count was 14 birds seen at KMT on 13 September (Deb Zaremba et al.). Russ Wigh reported finding a late migrating bird on Cumberland Island on 3 November.

OVENBIRD - A very late migrating bird, found by Pat Michaelson in midtown Atlanta, was last seen on 18 November.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - Ian Stephenson reported finding a bird at KMT on 22 August. This species is rarely seen in the fall in the state, and this would be an extremely early date.

MOURNING WARBLER - This species is difficult to find in the state, so three reports this season are very good. Giff Beaton reported finding two individual birds at KMT this season. The first report was on 16 September and the second was on 6 October. Ian Stephenson found a bird at CRNRA on 25 September.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER - Karen Theodorou established only the second accepted record for the state by finding a bird in Duluth. The bird was present for two days, 28-29 September. The bird was photographed by Earl Horn and seen by several observers during its brief visit (CRC record 2004-08).

WILSON'S WARBLER - There were multiple reports of this species in September. The earliest report was on 4 September by Earl Horn from Suwanee Creek. Russ Wigh reported finding a late migrating bird on Skidaway Island on 15 October. The highest count was on 5 September from KMT, where two birds were found (Pierre Howard et al.).

CANADA WARBLER - The highest count was five birds from KMT on 31 August (Deb Zaremba et al.).

SUMMER TANAGER - The highest count of the season was 10 birds seen at KMT on 5 September (Pierre Howard et al.).

SCARLET TANAGER - The highest count was 24 birds seen at KMT on 22 September (Giff Beaton et al.).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - There was a very high number of reports of this species. The earliest report, a very good one of an early migrant for that region, was on 18 September from Carter's Lake, where Steve Barlow found a single bird. Later in the month, on 28 September, Joshua Spence found two birds at Carter's

Lake. There were several reports of birds seen along the dikes at the AWMA during October. At Carter's Lake, Joshua Spence found another bird on 9 November. Eric and Michael Beohm reported an incredible count of eight birds seen near Lake Seminole on 14 November.

LARK SPARROW - Bill Blakeslee found three birds in the coastal region on 20 August. The first was at Harris Neck NWR, and the other two birds were on JI. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a single bird in Clinch Co. on 12 September. Giff Beaton found a bird on LSSI on 12 September, which was last seen on 18 September.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Michael Bell reported a very good count of five birds late in the season. He located the birds at the Birdsong Nature Preserve in Grady Co. on 30 October.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - Pierre Howard found a single bird at the CRNRA on 26 October. At Birdsong Nature Preserve, Michael Bell saw a single bird on 30 October.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - There were widespread reports of this species this season. The earliest report was a bird found by Grant McCreary on 30 September in Cumming. There were several reports from CRNRA between 5-26 October (Pierre Howard et al.). Marion Dobbs found a single bird in Floyd Co. on 22 October. Walt Chambers found a single bird at the Bradley Unit of ENWR on 6 November, and Noah Kahn found a bird at the ELHLAF Wetlands Center on 9 November.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Giff Beaton located only the fourth state record of the *gambellii* subspecies on LSSI on 10 October. Pierre Howard was able to document the record with photographs.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - The highest count was on 30 September at KMT, where Giff Beaton saw 49 birds. The latest report came from Coffee Co., where Annette Bittaker saw a late migrating bird on 8 November.

BLUE GROSBEAK - Walt Chambers found a late migrating bird at Sandy Creek Campground south of Columbus on 6 November.

INDIGO BUNTING - There were two reports of late migrating birds. On 1 November, Leslie Curran found a bird at the Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta. Karen Theodorou found another bird on 4 November in Gwinnett Co.

DICKCISSEL - There were several reports from around the Atlanta area. Mark Davis found a single bird in Bartow Co. on 1 August. Giff Beaton found a single bird flying over KMT on 30 September for a rare report from that location. The latest report was from Georgann Schmalz, who had a single bird at the ELHLAF on 23 October.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - Several reports from around the state were received. The earliest report was a bird seen on St. Simons Island on 23 August by Lydia Thompson. Eric and Michael Beohm found a male bird near Lake Seminole on 14 November. The last report was from JI, where Ellery McClintock found a bird on the causeway on 26 November.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Joshua Spence found a large flock in Gordon Co. on 15 November.

PURPLE FINCH - Rarely reported from the coast, this species was documented on

Skidaway Island for the first time since the 1931 CBC. Russ Wigh documented the sighting with photographs on 26 October. Steve Calver observed one bird at a feeder in Savannah on 11 November, for another unusual coastal report.

PINE SISKIN - Fannin Co. hosted birds on and off during the summer, so a bird noted on 29 August was likely one of the birds that had been seen by Tom Striker. The highest count was 20 birds seen on 29 November by Lynn Schlup in Oconee. Beth Roth observed two birds on Skidaway Island on 14 November, for an early date in the coastal region (fide Russ Wigh).

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD

DECEMBER 2004-FEBRUARY 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

It was a very good season for rarities, as the mild weather and several offshore excursions combined to provide some very interesting sightings. It was probably a slightly better than average year for the winter eruptive species. The finches showed up in fairly good numbers during the early part of the winter, as did the nuthatches. A Snowy Owl was discovered in the state, but was injured and the Raptor Center in Auburn could not rehabilitate the bird. There were numerous reports of rare birds this season, including Brown Booby, Manx Shearwater, Razorbill, and Glaucous Gull. It was also a good season for some western species, including hummingbirds, as the hummingbird banders reported a slightly higher than average number of birds this winter. A total of 115 hummingbirds was reported representing five species. There were several sightings reported of Western Tanager, Vermilion Flycatcher, and a single Harris's Sparrow to round out the western winter vagrants. The ducks made a good showing as well, with high counts for many species, and several reports of some of the less common ducks like Long-tailed Duck. The other water birds of note were the Pacific Loon and Brant, and both species remained in the area long enough for birders to relocate them. It seems like we have also been experiencing an increase in the number of Snow Goose and White-fronted Goose reports over the past few winters. This could be partly due to the excellent winter birding coverage we are now experiencing all over the state. Please keep taking good field notes and submitting your reports.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF -

E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; v.ob. - various observers; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas Co.; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WPD - West Point Dam.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - There were numerous reports throughout the period. The earliest report was on 5 December, when Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found four birds in Burke Co. The highest count was 16 at ENWR on 13 February, as reported by Geoff Hill.

SNOW GOOSE - There were multiple reports from around the state. The earliest report was from Lake Acworth in Cobb Co., where Sandy Pangle found four birds on 1 December. Most reports submitted were of individual birds, so six birds seen in the Hawkinsville area on 13 February (fide Jeff Sewell) and seven seen in Gordon Co. on 12 January (Joshua Spence) were good high counts for those areas.

BRANT - Two birds reported in the previous season on JI remained until 3 December (Mike Chapman). Had it not been for that report, Michael Beohm's discovery of a single bird on Cumberland Island on 18 December would have caused a rush to that location to see this rare winter visitor. The latter bird remained until at least 19 December. CRC records 2004-20A and 2004-20B.

TUNDRA SWAN - The only birds reported this period were two found at MBBP in Augusta on 9 January (Lois Stacy), and two on LSSI reported by Brandon Noel on 9 February.

GADWALL - The highest count was from the Macon area, where Jerry Amerson reported finding 116 birds on the Macon Christmas Bird Count on 30 December.

AMERICAN WIGEON - The highest count was 130 seen at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 28 December. This small lake has become a traditional wintering spot for this species, and Marion Dobbs has been monitoring the population.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - The highest count reported was 16 birds from Carters Lake by Joshua Spence on 21 December.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - The highest count reported was 81 birds from Kings Bay Submarine base by Sheila Willis on 11 December.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - The highest count reported was 93 birds from Clayton Co. by Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell on 26 December.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - The highest count reported was 200 birds from ENWR by Michael Beohm on 2 February.

CANVASBACK - The highest count reported was more than 600 birds viewed from the dam at Lake Seminole by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn on 1 January.

REDHEAD - The highest counts were from Garden Lakes in Floyd Co., where Marion Dobbs observed 163 birds on 22 February, and from the J.W. Smith

Reservoir on 26 February, when 152 birds were counted (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Jeff Sewell).

RING-NECKED DUCK - The highest count reported was 600 birds observed in southwest Burke Co. by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn on 5 December. Jim and Earl also reported 1,150 birds, scattered across middle and eastern Georgia, on 6 February.

GREATER SCAUP - Ken Blankenship found a female bird in a Cobb Co. subdivision pond on 1 February, which was unusual for that location.

LESSER SCAUP - Paul Sykes reported a high count of 2,863 birds observed at Cumberland Island on 14 January.

SURF SCOTER - The highest count, by far, was between 150 to 200 birds reported along the coast on 3 December (Michael Beohm). Chris Loudermilk found a single bird at Sweetwater Creek State Park on 4 December. Further north, Joshua Spence counted six birds at Salacoa Creek Park, also on 4 December.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - The highest count from the coast was on 3 December, when Michael and Eric Beohm found seven birds. Michael and Eric also found a single bird at Lake Horton on 4 December that remained there at least until 19 December. The most interesting sighting this season was from Brad Bergstrom, who observed a flock of more than 50 birds flying past Ft. Clinch, Florida, into Georgia waters on 18 February. Unusual for the Atlanta area, Walt Chambers found a single bird on the DeKalb Reservoir on 21 February, which remained until 22 February (fide Larry Russell).

BLACK SCOTER - Michael and Eric Beohm reported finding more than 5,000 birds on 3 December off Sapelo Island.

LONG-TAILED DUCK - It was a very good season for this species, with numerous reports from all around the state. The earliest report was from Sapelo Island, where Michael and Eric Beohm observed three birds on 3 December. Marion Dobbs had a very unusual sighting of three birds found in the Rome area on 28 December. Steve Parrish observed several birds near Milledgeville on 9 January, for a very rare sighting from that location. This species is also rare around Atlanta, so a bird found at ELHLAF in Clayton Co. on 26 January was a very good find by Carol Lambert. The latter bird remained in the area until 10 February. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a single bird at the MBBP in Augusta on 6 February, which remained until 12 February. Back at the coast, three birds were observed at Gould's Inlet on 11 February (Gene Keferel).

BUFFLEHEAD - The highest count reported was 75 birds from Kings Bay Submarine base by Sheila Willis on 11 December.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - The highest count came from WPD, where Steve Barlow observed 16 birds on 31 January.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Paul Sykes had an excellent count of 1,807 birds at Cumberland Island on 14 January.

PLAIN CHACHALACA - Information about the population on Sapelo Island is not often received, so a count of 10 birds on 3 December was an excellent report from Michael and Eric Beohm.

WILD TURKEY - A count of 52 birds seen by Joshua Spence on the Carters

Lake Christmas Bird Count trial run was an excellent tally for this species on 21 December.

RED-THROATED LOON - There are very few inland reports of this species, so a bird found by Michael Beohm at Plant Wansley on 9 December was a very good find.

PACIFIC LOON - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn discovered a bird at Lake Hartwell on 26 February. This is only the third bird reported for the state and only the second documented occurrence (CRC record 2005-08A and 2005-08B).

COMMON LOON - The highest count reported was 45 birds seen on 26 February by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn at Lake Hartwell.

HORNED GREBE - The highest count reported was 300 birds observed near Little Tybee Island on 15 January by Malcolm Hodges, Rene Heidt, and Deb Barreiro.

RED-NECKED GREBE - This species has been very difficult to find in recent winters, so a bird found by Carol Lambert in Clayton Co. on 2 January was an excellent sighting. The bird remained at the location until 9 January.

EARED GREBE - The only report was a single bird observed at Lake Hartwell on 26 February by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn.

MANX SHEARWATER - Russ Wigh observed three birds on a pelagic trip out of Savannah on 11 January (CRC record 2005-03). Two birds were observed on a subsequent trip out of Savannah on 12 February (Pierre Howard, Steve Barlow; CRC record 2005-13).

BROWN BOOBY - Perhaps the most amazing find of the season was the bird found by Russ Wigh off the coast near Savannah on 2 December (CRC record 2004-19). This species is rarely seen in the state during the summer, and this is the first winter record for the species. Russ also reported finding the remains of another bird on a naval tower offshore from Savannah on 11 January (CRC record 2005-02).

NORTHERN GANNET - Eric and Michael Beohm had a great count of more than 500 birds observed off Sapelo Island on 4 December.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Phil Hardy and Clive Rainey had a good count of six birds found on Lake Blackshear on 18 December.

AMERICAN BITTERN - Several reports, from the AWMA on the coast and Phinizy Swamp near Augusta, were received of single birds (v. ob.).

LEAST BITTERN - There are very few winter records for this species, so a report of a bird at the AWMA on 6 February by Noah Kahn was an excellent find.

REDDISH EGRET - Michael Beohm reported finding two birds on Cumberland Island on 11 December.

GLOSSY IBIS - The highest count reported was 28 birds observed by Earl Horn at the AWMA near Darien on 16 January.

BALD EAGLE - Brandon Noel reported a high count of six birds from LSSI on 18 December.

NORTHERN HARRIER - The highest count reported was 10 birds seen at the Cobb owl fields in Sumter Co. on 12 December by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn.

GOLDEN EAGLE - There were two reports of this species. Eric Beohm reported seeing a single bird in Henry Co. on 1 February, and Michael Bell reported observing

a bird at the Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 26 February.

PURPLE GALLINULE - A single bird was observed by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn in Lee Co. on 1 January.

SANDHILL CRANE - At least 2,000 birds were reported statewide during migration on 19 December.

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - Paul Sykes had a high count of 1,273 birds observed on Cumberland Island on 14 January.

PIPING PLOVER - Brandon Noel reported a high count of 60 birds from LSSI on 17 December. Paul Sykes also reported a very good count of 56 birds on Cumberland Island on 14 January.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - The highest count reported was more than 300 birds at LSSI on 17 December (Brandon Noel).

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Several observers noted the late presence of two birds at AWMA near Darien. The latest dates reported were 29 December (Joshua Spence) and 15 January (Earl Horn). There are very few winter records for this species.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The barrier islands are the most reliable location for this species during the winter. Michael and Eric Beohm reported a single bird from Sapelo Island on 5 December. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert reported two birds from St. Catherine's Island, and Brandon Noel reported two birds on LSSI, both on 17 December. Anne Waters reported a single bird seen on Sapelo Island on 1 January. The only report away from one of the barrier islands was of a single bird found behind the JI Visitors Center on 15 January by Earl Horn.

MARbled GODWIT - The highest count reported was 26 birds observed on Sapelo Island by Eric and Michael Beohm on 5 December.

RED KNOT - The highest count reported was more than 250 birds on LSSI observed by Brandon Noel on 18 December. Paul Sykes also had an excellent count of 214 birds observed on Cumberland Island on 14 January.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The highest count reported, from the usual location at the north end of Tybee Island, was four birds seen on 2 December by Paul Raney.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Eric and Michael Beohm reported a good count of four birds seen on Sapelo Island on 5 December.

RED PHALAROPE - Russ Wigh had a good count of more than 200 birds seen on a pelagic trip off Savannah on 2 December. During a similar pelagic trip on 12 February, 315 birds were observed (Russ Wigh, et al.).

POMARINE JAEGER - Michael Beohm reported finding two birds on Cumberland Island on 18 December.

PARASITIC JAEGER - Michael Beohm had an excellent count of 16 birds on Cumberland Island on 18 December.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Rare away from the large inland reservoirs, Paul Sykes observed six birds over the sandpit in northern Greene Co. on 11 December. Paul also had a high count of 487 birds observed on Cumberland Island on 14 January. The pelagic trip out of Savannah on 12 February reported 183 birds, a high count for the season (fide Russ Wigh).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - There were scattered reports of this species,

usually seen singly, on the coast (m.ob.).

GLAUCOUS GULL - There were several reported sightings of this rare winter visitor. Earl Horn and Owen Kinney reported a bird found at the south beach of JI on 15 January. Eric, Michael, and Richard Beohm observed a first winter bird at Lake Tobesofkee near Macon on 19 January, which was last reported on 26 January by Jerry Amerson.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - The 12 February pelagic trip from Savannah reported finding four adult birds offshore (fide Russ Wigh).

RAZORBILL - The 12 February pelagic trip aboard the Scat II reported a record 106 birds seen off Savannah (fide Russ Wigh; CRC record 2005-12). Interestingly, the previous high count was also on 12 February in 1977, when more than 50 birds were observed.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - The bird frequenting the JI feeder earlier in the fall was last reported on 14 December (Marjorie Clark).

SNOWY OWL - A bird found in Jones Co. and transported to the raptor rehabilitation center in Auburn, Alabama, eventually died (fide Geoff Hill and Michel Beohm). This is only the fifth documented record for the state (CRC record 2006-06).

SHORT-EARED OWL - On 7 December, Phil Hardy reported that the birds had returned to the Cobb owl fields in Sumter Co. There were very few reports of birds seen at this location this season, and it appears that habitat changes may be having an adverse affect on the birds at this reliable location.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Nine wintering birds were banded this season (fide Rusty Trump).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - The season total of birds banded for this species was eight, according to Rusty Trump. Barbara Passmore reported that a female bird was banded in her Valdosta yard on 18 December.

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD - In Decatur, Patricia White reported that the previous year's male bird returned to her feeder in November, and remained until 31 January. This was the only report of this species this season (CRC record 2004-21).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - Rusty Trump reported that 50 birds were banded this winter season, slightly higher than the average for the past five years. An adult male bird was present in Lilburn in January (Rick and Sandy Krause). Johnny Parks hosted a female bird in Ringgold in January, as well. Further south, Jim Yarbrough's yard hosted a female bird that was reported in February, along with a second year Allen's Hummingbird (fide Rusty Trump).

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - Fred Bassett reported that he banded a second-year male bird in Jim Yarbrough's yard, located in Ashburn, on 3 February. The bird had been present since late November, and was present in the yard as late as 15 February (CRC record 2005-07).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - There were three birds in southwest Georgia this winter. On 13 December, two birds were reported from Burke Co., and another bird was present in Lee Co. (Christine Gibson)

WESTERN KINGBIRD - There were two birds observed on the Bainbridge CBC

on 27 December (fide Giff Beaton).

HORNED LARK - Joshua Spence had a high count of 25 birds seen in Gordon Co. on 7 December.

PURPLE MARTIN - The earliest report of returning birds was a sighting on 13 February in Brooks Co. by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn.

BARN SWALLOW - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn found a single bird on 5 December in Burke Co., for a rare winter record for this species in the coastal plain.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - The number of birds reported dropped off from the fall season, but there were birds present in several locations throughout the winter. Eric and Michael Beohm reported finding a bird on Sapelo Island on 3 December, a very good coastal record.

SEDGE WREN - Joshua Spence reported finding one bird near Carters Lake on 21 December, which was an unusual find for that location in winter.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - A single bird was found on the Marietta/Atlanta Christmas Bird Count on 19 December. This was only the second record for the count circle in the past 26 years (Bob Zarembo).

GRAY CATBIRD - The mild weather most of the winter may have contributed to a high number of reports in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Joshua Spence had two sightings in the northern part of the state. The first was a bird seen in Gordon Co. on 4 December, and the second was a bird at Carters Lake on 5 February. The highest count came from the coast, where Joshua reported finding six birds on 29 December.

AMERICAN PIPIT - The highest count was a flock of about 250 birds reported from Brooks Co. on 13 February by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn observed a late migrating, or possibly wintering bird, in Randolph Co. on 12 December.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER - There were widespread reports of this species throughout the state this season by many observers. The highest number reported was three birds seen near Augusta by Lois Stacey on 1 January.

WESTERN Tanager - A male bird made a very brief appearance at a Cobb Co. feeder on 21 December. This was the same yard that hosted a bird last year for a few weeks in November and December (Laura Brown; CRC record 2006-05).

Russ Wigh reported a female bird coming to a feeder on Skidaway Island, first discovered on 21 January, and last seen on 13 February (CRC record 2005-09). Jerry Amerson reported a male bird coming to a feeder in his mother's yard in Macon on 31 January. The bird was last seen on 13 February (CRC record 2005-06).

LARK SPARROW - Georgann Schmalz reported finding five birds in Gordon Co. on 10 December.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Michael Bell had a good count of five birds at Birdsong Plantation on 18 December.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - A single bird was found at Birdsong on 18 December (Michael Bell).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - A single bird was found at Birdsong on 18 December (Michael Bell).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Johnny Parks reported finding a single bird on the Amicalola Falls Christmas Bird Count on 27 December. Paul Sykes located a bird in northern Greene Co. on 16 January.

HARRIS'S SPARROW - A bird was frequenting a feeder at a Clarke Co. retirement home, first seen by the homeowner in late February, and remaining through the end of the month (fide Marianne Happek; CRC record 2006-04).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - There were numerous reports from around the state. The highest count reported was nine birds in Franklin Co. on 27 February by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR - Gordon Co. provided the best habitat for this species this winter. Pierre Howard and Bob Zaremba discovered three birds there on 12 December (CRC record 2006-03). The highest count was 15 birds seen on 18 December by Steve Barlow, from the same location on Fite Bend Road. Walt Chambers found at least four of these birds on 28 January at Oxbow Meadows, Muscogee Co. His report (with photos) was accepted by the CRC, record 2005-11.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - Eric Beohm reported finding a late female bird in his yard on 10 December.

PAINTED BUNTING - This species is rarely seen in the winter, so a bird at a feeder in Glenville on 16 December was a very good report from Gene Wilkinson. Paul Sykes reported banding an adult male bird coming to a feeder at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nelms at Colbert, Madison Co., from 15 February to the end of the period.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - A good count was submitted by Eric Beohm, who reported more than 150 birds in a flock in his yard on 26 December in Spalding Co. The highest count of this species was by Paul Sykes, who observed a flock of 225 birds in northern Greene Co. on 13 February.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - The highest count reported was from Floyd Co., where Marion Dobbs reported a flock containing about 50 birds on 23 February.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Two birds were observed at Oxbow Meadows on 19 December (Walt Chambers, Bill Birkhead). A male bird in Piedmont Park on 24 December was an excellent find by Linda Craiger. From the Atlanta area, Phillip Northman reported finding a male bird in Grant Park on 9 January, and Diane James found a female bird in Gwinnett Co. on 23 January. More in keeping with their typical winter range, there were several reports from the southern part of the state.

PURPLE FINCH - It was a pretty good winter for this species, as there were widespread reports across the state. No one reported any large flocks, and most reports were of between two and 10 birds.

RED CROSSBILL - A bird observed in Cherokee Co. on 5 January by Parrie Pinyan was very unusual for that area. Brian and Lisa Finnicum reported a single bird at their feeder in Fannin Co. on 29 January (fide Tom Striker).

PINE SISKIN - Lynn Schlup had a high count of 56 birds in her Oconee yard on 28 December.

EVENING GROSBEAK - Tom Striker reported that Dave Tickner observed two

birds coming to his Fannin Co. feeder, for one day only, on 22 January. This was the only report of the season.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD MARCH-MAY 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

Once again, the spring season was highlighted by lingering rare birds discovered during the winter, and by some unexpected rare migrants. In general, sightings reported from the migration of neotropical songbirds were about average. I received few reports outside of the normal migration hot spots, and nothing out of the ordinary was reported from those spots. The highlight of the season was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird, which visited a feeder in the southern part of the state for several days in April. Luckily, the property owner was able to take photographs so that the record could be submitted and documented, making it the first state record for this species. Late departing birds in March included the Pacific Loon, Harris's Sparrow and Western Tanager. There was a higher than average number of reports of Black-billed Cuckoo and Connecticut Warbler, two birds that are notoriously difficult to find some years. A fortuitous fishing trip offshore turned up a rarely reported Sooty Shearwater, along with expected species. Several birders noted that breeding ranges seem to be extending for some species like Song Sparrow and Dickcissel, as evidenced by territorial birds being seen.

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - Four birds were observed in Camilla, Mitchell Co., on 29 May by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn. The birds had been present

for several weeks and were first noticed by the property owner.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Four birds were still present on a farm pond near the town of Magruder on 5 March (Bob and Deb Zaremba). The seven birds that were wintering on a small pond in Coal Mountain, Forsyth Co., were still present at that location through 19 March (Jim Flynn). Eric Beohm reported a late sighting of a bird in Spalding Co. on 1 May.

MOTTLED DUCK - Mark Freeman reported a high count of seven birds from the AWMA near Darien on 21 May.

NORTHERN PINTAIL - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported finding a drake at the AWMA on 17 April, for a fairly late date for that location.

REDHEAD - Marion Dobbs had a high count of 59 birds at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 8 March.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Carole Lambert reported a male bird present through the end of May at ELHLAF.

GREATER SCAUP - Ken Blankenship reported finding a bird on the coast on 5 April. This would be a new late date for the coastal region, according to the ACOGB.

SURF SCOTER - Chuck Saleeby observed a drake at Lake Acworth on 14 March.

BUFFLEHEAD - Doris Cohrs reported finding a late migrating bird in Doboy Sound on 3 May.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Marion Dobbs observed a female bird at Garden Lakes in Floyd Co. on 18 March, for a rare sighting from that location.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Doris Cohrs reported a bird in Doboy Sound on 3 May. Steve Calver and Peter Range found a bird on 27 May on Wassaw Island.

RUDDY DUCK - Jim Flynn had a high count of 325 birds seen in Wilkinson Co. on 26 March.

RUFFED GROUSE - Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard had a close encounter with an adult female bird and a dozen of her young on Ivy Log Gap Rd on 23 May. The female charged, and they wisely backed away. Bill and Karla O'Grady and Jim Hanna also encountered a female bird with eight young on 22 May on the same road. Their encounter sounded like it was much less threatening.

RED-THROATED LOON - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding six birds still at Tybee Island on 20 March. Offshore from Tybee Island, Russ Wigh counted 10 birds on a pelagic trip commencing 21 March.

PACIFIC LOON - The bird located in February by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn was still present at Lake Hartwell on 6 March (Dan Vickers; CRC records 2005-08A and 2005-08B).

COMMON LOON - Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz had a high count of more than 120 birds observed on Lake Lanier on 2 April. Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garret observed a bird at Henderson Park in DeKalb Co. on 8 May, and Sam Pate reported a bird in the Columbus area on 16 May.

EARED GREBE - One bird continued to be seen at Lake Hartwell through 6 March (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Jackie Heyda and Leslie Curran had a single bird at the JI causeway on 10 March, for an unusual occurrence at that location. Jim Flynn found

a bird in alternate plumage on a pond in Wilkinson Co. on 26 March. Patrick Brisse discovered a bird at ELHLAF on 9 April, which remained until 24 April.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Steve Calver reported finding one bird approximately 64 km offshore from the Savannah area on 22 May.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Steve Calver reported finding one bird on 22 May, approximately 64 km offshore.

NORTHERN GANNET - Steve reported a high count of 111 birds at Wassaw Island on 23 April. The latest report of this species was on 14 May, when Steve Calver observed two birds, also at Wassaw Island.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - There were widespread reports of this species during this season. From the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert observed nine birds from the JI causeway on 11 March. One bird was present at Crooked River State Park on 11 March (Dot Freeman), and again on 17 April (Jim Flynn and Earl Horn), and another was seen near the Sea Camp dock on Cumberland Island on 15 March (Chris Skelton). Brandon Noel found 13 birds on LSSI on 16 March, six of which remained through 3 May. Away from the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had an excellent count of 81 birds observed in Quitman Co. flying over the Chattahoochee River on 28 May.

AMERICAN BITTERN - The highest count reported was three birds seen at the ENWR on 23 April by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert. Dan Roper had a good report of a bird seen at Arrowhead in northern Floyd Co. on 29 April.

LEAST BITTERN - The earliest report this season was a bird observed on 6 April on LSSI by Brandon Noel.

GREAT BLUE HERON - Mike Ivie reported finding 23 nests in Spalding Co. on 20 March. Also noteworthy were several nests found in the Atlanta area. This species rarely nests in suburban areas, so three nests found at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area on 21 April was unusual (Mark Davis). Patrick Brisse reported finding five nests in the Lawrenceville Highway area on 24 April. **GREAT EGRET** - Chuck Saleeby observed a single bird on the early date of 14 March at Lake Acworth.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Joshua Spence found a bird in Murray Co. on 7 April, which was unusual for that part of the state.

TRICOLORED HERON - Paul Sykes reported an early migrating bird in Greene Co. on 3 April.

CATTLE EGRET - Paul Sykes was surprised to find two birds in northern Greene Co. on 31 March.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Although this species is becoming more common in the Piedmont during the spring, Joshua Spence's observation of two birds in Whitfield Co. in the Mountains region on 5 May was very interesting. Chris Loudermilk reported finding a bird in the McIntosh Reserve, Carroll Co., on 8 May.

GLOSSY IBIS - Walt Chambers discovered a bird near Columbus on 1 April, which is a rare sighting in the western part of the state.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The earliest report submitted was a bird returning

to LSSI on 30 March (Brandon Noel). Brandon reported finding two breeding plumaged birds at the same location on 12 April.

WOOD STORK - Unusual for the Columbus area, several birds were seen during the GOS spring meeting at Oxbow Meadows on 26 April (fide Walt Chambers).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - Betty Belanger reported the earliest arriving birds on 11 March near Woodbine. John Cole reported a bird from the ENWR on 1 May, which was very unusual for that location.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Johnny McMahan had a very good count of more than 500 birds at Oxbow Meadows near Columbus on 28 April.

BALD EAGLE - Brandon Noel had a high count of six birds at LSSI on 5 March.

NORTHERN HARRIER - Terry Miller and Patrick Brisse reported a bird from Spalding Co. on the late date of 21 May.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Richard and Rose Beohm observed a bird in Upson Co. on 13 May (fide Eric Beohm). Eric also reported that he and Jessica observed a bird in Spalding Co. on 31 May.

MERLIN - A bird reported from the U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center in Blairsville on 21 May was a good find (fide Lisa Hurt).

PEREGRINE FALCON - Michael Bender reported observing a bird in Greene Co. on 30 April.

BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes reported hearing birds calling in a northern Greene County marsh on 1 May. He also heard two calling in the same area on 22 May.

COMMON MOORHEN - Carol Lambert reported finding a bird at ELHLAF in Clayton Co. on 18 April, and she had a high count of five birds at the same site on 1 May. This is the same area where the birds nested last year, which is rare for the Piedmont.

SANDHILL CRANE - There were very few reports this period. Ken Blankenship reported seeing 10 birds at KMT on 5 March. Anna Threadgill reported a large group of 100 birds flying north over Lake Lanier on 7 March. Three birds were seen flying north over Greene County on 13 March by Paul Sykes. Very late in the season, Kristen Street reported a bird in the Sagamore Hills neighborhood on 24 May, which remained through the end of the month (Wendy West).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER - Chris Skelton had a high count of more than 300 birds on Cumberland Island on 14 March. Also from the coast, Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a good high count of 200 birds on the JI causeway on 12 March. The highest inland count was from ELHLAF on 1 May, where Carol Lambert observed 18 birds.

PIPING PLOVER - Chris Skelton reported finding 12 birds on Cumberland Island on 17 March. The highest count of the season was 40 birds reported by Brandon Noel from LSSI on 24 April.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Brandon Noel reported an early bird at LSSI on 5 March.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had a high count of 40 birds on the JI causeway on 13 March.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a good high count of 52 birds at

ELHLAF on 1 May.

WILLET - Joshua Spence had an excellent discovery of four birds in Murray Co. on 8 April. Walt Chambers found seven birds at West Point Dam on 22 April. The bird found at ELHLAF on 29 April was a good find by Carol Lambert, as the species is rarely reported inland.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Very unusual were the 12 birds found on Cumberland Island on 12 March by Dot Freeman, Betty Belanger, and Susan Blackwell. Also unusual were the four birds found in Gordon Co. on 4 April by Jim Eager. Mark Welford reported two birds from the sod farm in Bulloch Co. on 18 April. Jack Caruso reported finding several birds at Dobbins Air Force Base in Cobb Co. around 6 May, which is a very unusual sighting for that area.

WHIMBREL - Paul Sykes reported a good count of 80 birds on St. Catherine's Island on 16 May. Lydia Thompson had a high count of 558 birds at Gould's Inlet on St. Simons Island on 23 May.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Brandon Noel had a good count of three birds on LSSI on 5 March. Three birds were still present on Sapelo Island on 24 May (Sheila Willis).

RED KNOT - Steve Calver reported a high count of 662 birds seen on Wassaw Island on 15 April.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 180 birds seen at ELHLAF on 1 May.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Jeff Martin found a bird at Fort Yargo State Park on 16 May. Several reports from Bartow Co. include a single bird on 20 May and three birds on 31 May (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 26 birds at ELHLAF on 21 March.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - The five birds reported by Tim Rose from Tybee Island were a good find on 25 March.

STILT SANDPIPER - Deb and Bob Zaremba found one bird in Bartow Co. on 20 May.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Mark Freeman had a high count of 33 birds in Jackson Co. on 12 March, for a good inland count of this species. Chuck Saleeby and Marion Dobbs had a good count of 50 birds in Floyd Co. on 30 April.

WILSON'S SNIPE - Paul Sykes flushed a late migrating bird in northern Greene Co. on 1 May.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE - There are very few reports of this species each year, so a bird found at ELHLAF on 28 April was an excellent find by Carol Lambert. The bird remained through 1 May.

RED PHALAROPE - Steve Calver reported finding one bird on 22 May, approximately 64 km offshore.

PARASITIC JAEGER - Russ Wigh observed a bird in the shipping channel off JI on 22 March.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had an excellent report of a bird seen at Walter F. George Dam on 3 April. This species is rare in the state, and most

records are in the fall.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Unusual away from the large inland lakes, five birds seen at Lake Shamrock on 15 March (Carol Lambert) and four birds seen at ELHLAF on 22 March (Patrick Brisse). Paul Sykes found a flock of 45 birds in a field beside a sandpit in northern Greene Co. following a severe rainstorm on 31 March. The flock of 200 birds seen at Lake Lanier on 2 April by Jeff Sewell and Bill Lotz was also a very good report.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Jim Flynn found a bird at Lake Lanier on 29 March, for a very rare inland sighting.

GULL-BILLED TERN - Brandon Noel had a high count of 12 birds on LSSI on 8 April.

LEAST TERN - A bird found at ELHLAF on 31 May by Carol Lambert was an excellent find, as the species is very rarely seen inland. Bobby Crawford submitted a very interesting report of a dozen birds nesting on building rooftops in the Thomasville area in May (fide Terry Moore).

BLACK TERN - Steve Barlow reported finding a bird at ELHLAF on 30 May.

BLACK SKIMMER - A report of one bird seen at Walter F. George Dam by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn on 29 May was a good find. This species is very rarely found inland.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Brandon Noel reported finding a bird on LSSI on 6 April. Helena Wood and Richard Hester reported hearing one or possibly two birds in Brooks Co. on 14 May. One bird returned to Marjorie Clark's yard on JI on 16 May, but did not remain long.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - John Jensen and Ken Van Hoy discovered a nest that contained two chicks in Telfair Co. at Horse Creek WMA on 18 May.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - There were three reports of birds seen this season. The first was on 4 May at the ELHLAF Wetlands Center by Carol Lambert. Georgann Schmalz reported finding a bird at Pine Log WMA on 7 May. The last report was a bird found at KMT, also on 7 May, by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO - Paul Sykes had a good count of 12 birds in northern Greene Co. on 22 May.

BARN OWL - A bird was found nesting on Sapelo Island on 3 May (Doris Cohrs), which was unusual for the barrier islands.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - An early bird was reported from Monroe Co. on 25 March by Nathan Klaus.

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD - The most exciting report this season was the bird visiting a feeder in southwest Georgia. The homeowner photographed the bird, which was visiting a feeder from 1-4 April, in Pavo, Brooks Co. (fide Brad Bergstrom). This is the first accepted record for this rare hummingbird in the state (CRC record 2005-10).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - The earliest reported bird was on 13 March by Kate Swiderski in Valdosta.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Steve Calver reported that the male bird wintering in his yard was last seen on 1 April. Amazingly, Steve also reported that

a female arrived in his yard on 3 April and departed on 4 April.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - A male was still present at a feeder in Houston Co. on 6 March (Jerry and Marie Amerson, Virginia Flatau).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds at the historical nesting location in Dillard near the Little Tennessee River on 21 May. Also on that date, Lisa Hurt reported finding a bird behind a Subway store in Blairsville. Also at the traditional nesting site in Blairsville, Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard found a bird on territory in the Ingles Shopping Center parking lot on 23 May.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding two birds at Sky Valley, Rabun Co., on 21 May. Also from the mountains, Betty Belanger reported finding a bird in Suches, Union Co., on 26 May.

EASTERN KINGBIRD - The earliest report was on 13 March from Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta, where Brad Bergstrom found one bird.

GRAY KINGBIRD - John Galvani reported that the birds were back at the Convention Center on JI on 3 May.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - David Heyden found a bird at the Robinson Nature Preserve in Cobb Co. on 7 May, which remained until 8 May. Mark Davis found a bird in Bartow Co. on 19 May. Michael and Eric Beohm found one bird in Spalding County on 21 May. There were two birds back at the nesting site in Henry Co. on 21 May (v. ob.).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - This species is very rarely reported in the spring, so a report of three birds in the Cohutta Wilderness area in Murray Co. on 6 May was an excellent find by Joshua Spence and Max Medley.

RED-EYED VIREO - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 57 birds seen at KMT on 5 May.

COMMON RAVEN - Mary Ellen Myers reported a bird from Ivy Log Gap Road on 20 April. At the more usual location of Brasstown Bald, Dot Freeman and Betty Belanger heard a bird calling on 7 May. Chris Hughes and James Hobbs found a bird along Warwoman Road in Rabun Co. on 22 May.

TREE SWALLOW - John Jensen reported that he and Ken Fahey discovered nesting birds on private property in Suches, Union Co., on 14 May. This species nests occasionally in the state, and it seems that the number of nesting reports is increasing.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - The earliest reports were from Paul Johnson in Bibb Co. (5 March) and Terry Moore in Smyrna (7 March).

BARN SWALLOW - A bird found at Lake Hartwell on 5 March was the earliest reported for the Piedmont (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Giff Beaton reported a high count of five birds at KMT on 19 April. At least one bird was still present at KMT on 12 May. In the mountains, birds were reported from Rabun County on 21 and 22 May (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, Chris Hughes and James Hobbs).

BROWN CREEPER - There were two rather late reports of this species. Giff Beaton reported a bird on 7 May from KMT, and Vickie DeLoach reported two birds on 30 May from Sweat Mountain, Cobb Co. Both of these dates are later than the current

extreme date for the Piedmont, according to the ACOGB.

WINTER WREN - Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard heard two birds singing at Brasstown Bald on 23 May.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn found one bird in Rabun Co. on 21 May, which was either a very late migrant or a possible breeding bird.

VEERY - The earliest report was from the coast, where Doris Cohrs found a bird near Darien on 25 April.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Giff Beaton, Deb Zaremba, and Mark Oberle had a high count of 17 birds heard during a nocturnal count at KMT on 11 May. Michael Bell had an interesting report of a late migrating bird in Decatur Co. on 25 May.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - Giff Beaton, Deb Zaremba, and Mark Oberle had a high count of 412 birds heard during a nocturnal count at KMT on 11 May.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Ken Blankenship had an exceptionally early sighting of a bird on the coast on 5 April. This would be a new early date for the Coastal Region, according to the ACOGB. Debbie Zaremba reported a high count of six birds from KMT on 27 April.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - There were multiple reports of one to two birds seen at KMT between 22 April and 10 May (fide Giff Beaton).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 15 birds at KMT on 28 April.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The earliest report was from KMT on 26 March, where two birds were observed (Bob and Deb Zaremba). Giff Beaton had a high count of 28 birds from the same location on 29 April.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Giff Beaton and Deb Zaremba reported a high count of 14 birds at KMT on 27 April. David Heyden observed a late migrating bird at the Robinson Nature Preserve in Cobb Co. on 28 May, which tied the late date for the Piedmont.

CERULEAN WARBLER - The earliest reported bird was on 5 April at KMT, a new early date for that location (fide Giff Beaton). Giff Beaton and Deb Zaremba had a high count of 10 birds at KMT on 13, 14 and 27 April.

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 10 birds at KMT on 19 April.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - The State Botanical Garden in Athens was a reliable location to see and hear this species this spring. Bill and Karla O'Grady and Charles Scarborough discovered a bird there on 17 April, which remained and was seen by many observers throughout the period.

OVENBIRD - Brad Bergstrom found a bird at Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta on 13 March.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Doris Cohrs found a very early bird near Darien on 22 March.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH - The earliest reported bird was from Taylor Co., where Giff Beaton found a bird on 14 March.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - It was a good season for this often overlooked

species. The first report was from Clyde Shepard Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co., where Jeff Madsen found a bird on 1 May. Eric Beohm found one bird in Spalding Co. on 4 May, and another bird in the same area on 23 May. Giff Beaton reported finding a bird at KMT on 11 May. Pierre Howard, Stan Chapman, and Al Mercer found another bird at the same location on 16 May.

HOODED WARBLER - Giff Beaton had a high count of 28 birds at KMT on 25 April.

WILSON'S WARBLER - The only report was from Jim Flynn and Earl Horn, who found a male bird on 21 May in Rabun Co.

CANADA WARBLER - Several people reported finding birds on Brasstown Bald in late May, one of the few easily accessible areas in which this species breeds in the state (v.ob.).

SCARLET TANAGER - Deb Zaremba and Giff Beaton had high counts of 21 birds at KMT on 19 and 22 April.

WESTERN TANAGER - The bird visiting a yard in Macon was last seen on 24 March (fide Jerry Amerson; CRC record 2005-06).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - This species is rarely found away from its typical habitat of piney woods, so two reports this season were excellent. Theresa Hartz had a very rare report for the Mountain region, observing a bird in the Big Canoe area on 29 April. Giff Beaton found one bird at KMT on 6 May.

VESPER SPARROW - Chris Loudermilk had a high count of four birds at SCSP on 25 March.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Michael Bell had a high count of seven birds at Birdsong Nature Center in Grady Co. on 9 April.

SONG SPARROW - Paul Sykes reported a singing male in northern Greene Co. on 22 May. This site is about 25 miles south of the known breeding range for this species in that part of the state.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Jim Hanna reported finding a bird at the State Botanical Garden in Athens on 5 May.

HARRIS'S SPARROW - The bird visiting a retirement community in Athens remained until 24 March (fide Jeff Sewell; CRC record 2006-04).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Bryan Fobbus reported finding a bird in Houston Co. on 14 March.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK - Giff Beaton reported a high count of 15 birds at KMT on 22 and 23 April. Rose and Jerry Payne reported last seeing a bird in their yard in western Bibb Co. on 7 May.

BLUE GROSBEAK - Paul Sykes had a high count of 25 birds in northern Greene Co. on 24 April.

INDIGO BUNTING - Russ Wigh had an early arriving male bird on 1 March at Tybee Island. Rose and Jerry Payne reported a high count of 17 male birds in their yard in the Macon area on 21 April. Deb Zaremba and Giff Beaton reported a high count of 13 at KMT on 11 May.

PAINTED BUNTING - Russ Wigh had an early arriving female bird on 1 March at Tybee Island. Karen Theodorou discovered a male bird behind the bird store in

Duluth, Gwinnett Co., on 24 May. This was a very rare sighting for the Atlanta area, and adds to the string of interesting birds seen at that location over the past several years.

DICKCISSEL - Eric and Michael Beohm had a good count of 10 birds in Spalding Co. on 8 May. Paul Sykes reported a singing male in the edge of a pasture in northern Greene Co. on 22 May, which was an unusual sighting for that location.

BOBOLINK - Eric Beohm had a high count of more than 300 birds in Spalding Co. on 4 May.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - Several birds were still lingering at the Oxbow Meadows site near Columbus as late as 26 April.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had a high count of 15 birds in Grady Co. on 13 March.

PURPLE FINCH - Mike Chapman reported having 12 birds at his feeder in Glynn Co. as late as 6 March, which is uncommon for the coast. Giff Beaton reported a high count of 27 birds at KMT on 5 April.

RED CROSSBILL - Tom Striker reported a group of six birds observed in Fannin Co. on 16 March.

PINE SISKIN - Mike Chapman reported four birds at his feeder in Glynn Co. through 6 March, which was a rare sighting in the Coastal Region. Rick and Sandy Krause had a good count of 25 birds in Lilburn on 9 March. Giff Beaton reported a high count of 19 birds at KMT on 5 April. The latest date reported was 11 May from KMT (fide Giff Beaton).

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD JUNE-JULY 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This summer's sightings were certainly influenced by the early hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico. On 10 July, a category three hurricane made landfall on the Florida Panhandle. Hurricane Dennis moved quickly across Florida and skirted the western part of Georgia, producing high winds and rain. As is sometimes the case with fast moving storms, several species from the sea were pushed inland to the larger lakes prior to and following the passage of Hurricane Dennis. Along with the unusual occurrence of pelagic species inland that resulted from the hurricane, our knowledge of offshore pelagic species was expanded by boat trips several birders undertook. Typically, we have very few rarities reported during the breeding season, but a Curlew Sandpiper on Little St. Simons Island in

July was a very good find. This species breeds in Europe and wanders widely in the summer. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in two locations this summer, no doubt post-breeding dispersal from the Florida population. The number of reports of this duck species in Georgia has been increasing over the past few years, perhaps due to range expansion. The observations of breeding species were very good this season, especially in northern Georgia. Typically a slow period, this summer turned out to be pretty interesting.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - On the coast, David Bridge observed two birds at the Savannah Airport ponds on 4 June. Hill Harper and Susan Aaron found two birds just south of Quitman on 27 July.

SNOW GOOSE - Phil Hardy found a bird in Sumter Co. on 16 June, for a very rare summer sighting.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Two late migrating birds were observed at ELHLAF on 4 June (Carol Lambert, et al.).

RING-NECKED DUCK - A male bird spent the summer at ELHLAF (fide Carol Lambert). Another bird was present at Plant Scherer on 20 June (fide Terry Johnson).

HOODED MERGANSER - This species is an uncommon breeder in our state. So, the report of a female with three young at Big Creek Greenway in Alpharetta on June 9 was a good find (fide Terry Moore). A female bird spent the summer at ELHLAF (fide Carol Lambert).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Lydia Thompson reported a bird from JI on 2 June. Rene Heidt observed a bird lingering off Little Tybee Island on 3 June.

PLAIN CHACHALACA - Ken Blankenship reported finding five birds at the dump on Sapelo Island on 16 June.

RUFFED GROUSE - Grant McCreary reported hearing one bird drumming at Brasstown Bald on 4 July.

COMMON LOON - Tom Striker reported a very rare sighting of a bird at Lake Blue Ridge on 19 July.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Several reports of breeding birds were received. Marion

Dobbs noted two birds present at Berry College in Rome, which could be an indication of breeding, on 10 July. Juvenile birds were observed on 24 July at the AWMA, and on 30 July in Brooks Co., south of Quitman (Deb and Bob Zaremba). HORNED GREBE - Michael Beohm observed a breeding plumaged bird at Lake Juliette on 12 July.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - Nathan Diaz had a good count of three birds on a pelagic trip about 145 km east of Tybee Island on 10 June.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - The 10 June pelagic trip tallied 14 birds (Nathan Diaz). Russ Wigh reported 12 birds on a trip out to Gray's Reef on 30 June, and four more on a similar trip on 23 July (Russ Wigh, et al.).

GREATER SHEARWATER - Nathan Diaz reported a very good count of 25 birds on the 10 June pelagic trip. Russ Wigh reported 12 birds on a trip out to Gray's Reef on 30 June, and a single bird in the same area on the 23 July pelagic trip (Russ Wigh, et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - The 10 June pelagic trip reported three birds (Nathan Diaz), and the 23 July pelagic trip found four birds (Russ Wigh, et al.).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Nathan Diaz had a good count of more than 30 birds on the 10 June pelagic trip. Russ Wigh reported one bird on a trip out to Gray's Reef on 30 June.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - A large group of birds was present at Andrew's Island, Glynn Co., in July. The highest count reported was more than 95 birds on 23 July (Deb and Bob Zaremba).

BROWN PELICAN - Sandy Pangle reported a bird on 12 July at Lake Allatoona, probably blown inland by Hurricane Dennis, which came through the area at that time.

ANHINGA - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported a high count of 74 birds at the AWMA on 16 July.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - There were many reports of this species, probably due to the hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane Dennis ushered in five birds seen near Colquitt on 9 July by David Varnado (fide Michael Bell). Michael and Eric Beohm observed six birds on Lake Seminole on 11 July. Also on 11 July, Michael and Eric observed two birds at Walter F. George Dam. One bird was still present at Lake Seminole on 12 July (Michael Bell). Birders on the 23 July pelagic trip to Gray's Reef observed a bird offshore (Russ Wigh, et al.).

GREAT EGRET - Mike Ivie reported a high count of 39 birds in Spalding Co. on 23 July.

SNOWY EGRET - Dan Roper reported finding a bird at Arrowhead in Floyd Co. on 11 June, for an unusual sighting in the northern part of the state.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Carol Lambert had monthly high counts of 19 birds on 30 June, and 31 birds on 21 July at ELHLAF.

TRICOLORED HERON - Michael Bell reported finding a bird in Seminole Co. on 26 June, which is unusual for that area.

REDDISH EGRET - Brandon Noel reported a high count of 10 birds at LSSI on

14 July.

WHITE IBIS - This species was present in good numbers at ELHLAF, with 16 birds on 29 June and 15 on 28 July (fide Carol Lambert).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Several birders reported high counts of this species in the summer. Four birds reported from Harris Neck WMA in McIntosh Co. on 8 June by Pete Pattavina were a good find (fide Steve Holzman). Gene Keferl reported 26 birds at Andrews Island on 2 July, and Brandon Noel had a high count of 35 birds at LSSI on 27 July.

WOOD STORK - This species is rare in the Piedmont Region, so a bird seen in Henry Co. by Joe Schlemmer on 12 July was a good find. Also on 12 July, Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee observed two birds in Washington Co. Mike Ivie reported seven birds in Spalding Co. on 23 July for another good sighting.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - The highest count reported was from Screven Co., where more than 20 birds were reported in early June (fide Ken Blankenship). Gene Wilkinson had a high count of 13 at Big Hammock WMA on 9 July.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Paul Sykes observed a bird flying over Watkinsville in Oconee Co. on 7 July, and observed another bird in northern Greene Co. on 17 July, which was very unusual for that location. Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee reported a high count of 13 birds over a pasture north of Sandersville in Washington Co. on 22 July.

BLACK RAIL - Two birds were heard calling in a northern Greene Co. marsh on 17 July (Paul Sykes).

KING RAIL - Two birds were seen at ELHLAF on 4 June, which is a rare occurrence for that site (Carol Lambert).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Bill Lotz and Dan Vickers reported finding a bird in the marsh near Floyd College on 29 June.

COMMON MOORHEN - Carol Lambert had a high count of five birds at ELHLAF on 4 June, which was unusual for that location.

SANDHILL CRANE - Amazingly, the bird that was present this past spring in a DeKalb Co. neighborhood was still present through the end of July (fide Jeff Sewell).

WILSON'S PLOVER - Brandon Noel had a very high count of 70 birds at LSSI on 27 July.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Brandon Noel reported a high count of more than 500 birds on LSSI on 27 July.

PIPING PLOVER - Once again, LSSI was the location with the highest number of birds this summer. This species is endangered, so a count of 31 birds on LSSI on 27 July was excellent (Brandon Noel).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A report of a bird in Lamar Co. on 16 July provided by Jim Ozier was very good, as this species is rarely discovered inland during the summer.

WILLET - Lorna West reported a bird at West Point Dam on 10 July, for an unusual report from that location.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Two birds were seen at the sod farm in Macon Co. on 30

July (Bob Zaremba). Three birds were present at the same location the next day, 31 July (Dan Vickers).

WHIMBREL - Russ Wigh reported a bird from Skidaway Island on 17 July.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - Brandon Noel reported that three birds had returned to LSSI on 14 July.

MARBLED GODWIT - From LSSI, a high count of 75 birds was reported by Brandon Noel on 27 July.

RED KNOT - An excellent count of 1,000 birds was reported by Brandon Noel on LSSI on 27 July.

SANDERLING - Brandon Noel had a high count of more than 500 birds on LSSI on 27 July.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Brandon Noel had a very good count of more than 500 birds on LSSI on 27 July.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Brandon Noel had a very good count of more than 500 birds on LSSI on 27 July.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 12 birds at ELHLAF on 4 June.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Bob Zaremba had a high count of 42 birds at a sod farm in Dougherty Co. following an intense rainstorm on 30 July.

CURLEW SANDPIPER - Brad Winn discovered a bird on LSSI on 12 July. This sighting was accepted by the CRC, making it only the fifth verified report of this species in the state (CRC record 2006-12).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Brandon Noel had a very good count of more than 1,000 birds on LSSI on 27 July.

PARASITIC JAEGER - Michael and Eric Boehm had a very good inland sighting of a single bird at Lake Seminole on 11 July, following the passage of Hurricane Dennis.

GULL-BILLED TERN - Brandon Noel reported that three pairs of birds were confirmed nesting on LSSI this summer. This is exciting news, since this species is not a common breeding species in Georgia.

CASPIAN TERN - Chris Loudermilk had a good count of five birds at SCSP on 1 June.

ROYAL TERN - Eric and Michael Boehm reported finding four birds at Lake Seminole and one at Walter F. George Dam on 11 July, following the passage of Hurricane Dennis.

LEAST TERN - Terry and Peggy Moore had a good record of a single bird at ELHLAF on 19 June. The highest count of the summer was from LSSI, where Brandon Noel reported finding 500 birds on 14 and 27 July.

BRIDLED TERN - Nathan Diaz reported finding four birds on a pelagic trip 145 km off Little Tybee Island on 10 June.

SOOTY TERN - Inland birds were reported widely around the state following the passage of Hurricane Dennis. Barry Fleming reported 10 birds at West Point Dam (fide Lorna West) on 11 July. On the same day, Eric and Michael Boehm reported an amazing count of 26 birds on Lake Seminole and 17 at Walter F. George Dam.

Michael Bell reported finding four birds still present at Lake Seminole on 12 July. The same day, Earl Horn reported finding 12 birds still present at West Point Dam. Walt Chambers found three birds at Oliver Dam in the Columbus area on 13 July. BLACK TERN - Brandon Noel reported a high count of more than 100 birds on LSSI on 12 July.

BLACK SKIMMER - Brandon Noel reported more than 35 nests on LSSI during the summer.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Several observers reported the continued presence of a pair of birds in Blairsville at the Ingles Shopping Center through the summer.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - The birds present in Suches earlier in the spring were last seen on 5 June by Ken Blankenship.

GRAY KINGBIRD - Steve Wagner had a good report of two birds in Savannah on 6 July, which remained in the area for the remainder of the month (v.ob.). Paul Raney had an interesting report of an inland bird from Mitchell Co. on 7 July.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - The McDonough pair that has nested in the same pasture for the past four seasons was reported many times during June actively tending a nest (v.ob.). Another pair of birds nested in Madison Co., as Michael Freeman found two birds tending a nest on 29 June.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - This species has become very difficult to find around the Atlanta vicinity, so a bird seen in Henry Co. by Peggy and Terry Moore on 19 June was very interesting.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - Three birds were a good find at Mistletree State Park in Columbia Co. on 23 July, away from the known breeding area for this bird (Gene Zielinski).

WARBLING VIREO - Pierre Howard had a very interesting sighting of a bird in Fannin Co. on 10 June. A subsequent search of the area failed to find any birds, but it is possible this species could be nesting in the area.

HORNED LARK - Bob Zaremba had a high count of 25 birds in Macon Co. on 30 July.

CLIFF SWALLOW - This species is definitely expanding its range in the state. New nesting colonies were discovered in the Coastal Plain and along the coast this summer. Michael Bell and Mal Hodges reported finding a nesting colony with at least two nests at Lake Seminole on 26 June. From the coast, a nest was discovered in June under the US 17 bridge at Richmond Hill (fide Terry Moore). Paul Sykes reported a good high count of 385 birds migrating in northern Greene Co. on 17 July.

BARN SWALLOW - Paul Sykes reported a good high count of 425 birds migrating in northern Greene Co. on 17 July.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn had a good count of four birds in Rabun Co. on 11 June.

WINTER WREN - Grant McCreary reported one bird from Brasstown Bald on 4 July.

VEERY - Several observers reported birds from Brasstown Bald during the summer.

CEDAR WAXWING - This species is a rare nester in the state, so two widely separated reports were interesting this summer. Sandy Pangle observed adults with young still in the nest in Whitfield Co. on 7 June. Deb and Bob Zaremba observed an adult carrying nesting material on 19 June in Rabun Co. Patrick Brisse reported finding two birds in Dawson Forest on 23 July, for another good summer report.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Grant McCreary reported two birds at the beginning of Ivy Log Gap Road on 4 July.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - The breeding status of this species in Georgia is not clearly understood, so a report of breeding adults in Fannin Co. on 10 June was excellent news (Pierre Howard). Later in the month, Deb and Bob Zaremba observed four adult birds with five young in the same location.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Bob and Deb Zaremba had a high count of 22 birds at Ivy Log Gap Road on 19 June.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Bob and Deb Zaremba had a high count of 38 birds at Ivy Log Gap Road on 19 June.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Deb and Bob Zaremba reported a high count of nine birds in Rabun Co. on 19 June.

CERULEAN WARBLER - This species migrates early in the fall, so Earl Horn's report of a bird in north Fulton County on the very early date of 4 July was unusual. Later in the month, Leslie Curran reported finding a bird in the Roswell area on 25 July. The 11 birds reported at KMT on 31 July was an excellent count (fide Deb Zaremba). **BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - Deb Zaremba reported a high count of nine birds on 31 July at KMT.

AMERICAN REDSTART - Deb Zaremba reported a high count of seven birds at KMT on 31 July for a very good late summer report. These birds were likely post-breeding dispersers from the population that breeds in the northern part of the state.

WORM-EATING WARBLER - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported a high count of 16 birds in Rabun Co. on 11 June.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Bob Zaremba reported a high count of five birds at Bond Swamp, near Macon, on 18 June.

OVENBIRD - This species seems to be expanding its range in the state. Eugene Zielinski found three birds in Columbia Co. on 18 June, and Deb and Bob Zaremba had a high count of 31 birds at Ivy Log Gap Road on 19 June.

CANADA WARBLER - Several observers reported finding birds at Brasstown Bald during the summer.

SCARLET TANAGER - Deb and Bob Zaremba had a high count of 21 birds at Ivy Log Gap Road on 19 June.

A single bird observed in Columbia Co. on 26 June by Eugene Zielinski was unusual for that location. **BACHMAN'S SPARROW** - Bob Zaremba reported finding three males singing in Quitman, Brooks Co., on 30 July.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - David Brown reported many singing birds in Chattooga Co. in June.

PAINTED BUNTING - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn had a very good high count of 22

birds in Screven Co. on 19 June.

DICKCISSEL - There were scattered reports from around the state. Pierre Howard reported finding two birds in Bartow Co. on 2 June. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found one bird in Carroll Co. on 4 June, and Mark Freeman found two birds in Clarke Co. on 5 June. Dale Hardy found six birds in two locations in Henry Co. on 6 June. Michael Beohm found two birds in Monroe Co. on 24 June, and Nita Wynn reported a bird in Newton Co. on 4 July. Eric Beohm reported a bird in Spalding Co. on 14 July. Finally, Paul Sykes reported finding two birds, a male and a female, in northern Greene Co. on 17 July.

RED CROSSBILL - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported finding one bird in Rabun Co. on 11 June. Betty Belanger reported a feeder in Suches that was hosting as many as eight birds through 11 July.

PINE SISKIN - Tom Striker reported that at least one bird continued at his Fannin Co. feeder through June. A single bird was present in Suches on 6 July, coming to the same feeder that hosted the Red Crossbills (fide Bob Zaremba).

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH - Jayne Reichert reported finding a bird on 5 June at Richmond Hill, which was unusual on the coast in the summer.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2005

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

Reports submitted from this fall's migration were notably scarcer than many of the past seasons, probably due to the absence of any weather disturbances in the area to bring down the birds in any great number. Many of the typical migrant trap locations reported lower than average numbers for most neotropical migrants. With the obvious exception of the passage of Hurricane Katrina, the state experienced drier than normal conditions and clear weather for most of the season. There were several exceptional reports, mostly from the western lakes following the passage of the hurricane, and from the coast. Several observers made trips offshore this season, which enhanced our knowledge of the distribution of several pelagic species. Over all, it was a lackluster season for the state.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit

of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NMP - National Military Park; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area; WPD - West Point Dam.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The only sighting for the period was a single bird seen by Lois Stacey at MBBP on 19 November.

SNOW GOOSE - A single bird found by Russ Wigh on 30 October on Skidaway Island, Chatham Co., was unusual for that location. Chris Loudermilk observed five birds at SCSP on 25 November.

GADWALL - Carol Lambert had a good count of 150 birds at ELHLAF on 30 November.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Paul Sykes saw more than 100 birds at AWMA on 9 October for an incredibly high count for that location. Four birds observed at Lake Acworth on 10 October were early for the area (Chuck Saleeby).

MOTTLED DUCK - Nick Van Lanen reported finding 10 birds on LSSI on 7 November.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - The earliest report was four birds at ELHLAF on 2 September (Carol Lambert).

CANVASBACK - Thirty birds seen at Walter F. George Dam on 25 November was a good count for that location (Eric and Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders). Four birds were seen at Lake Acworth on 29 November (Chuck Saleeby, Sandy Pangle), and six at ELHLAF on 30 November (Carol Lambert).

RING-NECKED DUCK - Carol Lambert had a high count of 260 birds at ELHLAF on 10 November. Terry Johnson had a very good count of 331 birds at Rum Creek WMA on 22 November.

SURF SCOTER - Michael and Eric Beohm had a good count of 11 birds on Tybee Island on 20 November.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Walt Chambers saw an immature female bird at WPD on 22 November.

BLACK SCOTER - Michael and Eric Beohm reported more than 500 birds in a flock off Tybee Island on 20 November.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Sandy Pangle found a male bird on Lake Kathy in Whitfield Co. on 24 November.

HOODED MERGANSER - Carol Lambert reported a high count of 250 birds at ELHLAF on 28 November.

RUFFED GROUSE - Earl Horn reported two birds seen at Swallow Creek WMA on 2 November.

RED-THROATED LOON - Michael and Eric Beohm reported finding 11 birds off Tybee Island on 20 November.

COMMON LOON - Walt Chambers observed more than 70 birds at WPD on 5 November. Tom Striker reported finding more than 35 birds on Lake Blue Ridge on 22 November, which was unusual for that region.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Terry Johnson had a high count of 37 birds at Rum Creek WMA on 22 November.

EARED GREBE - Eight birds seen at Rum Creek WMA on 17 September by Terry Johnson were a good early count. Terry had an excellent count of 28 birds on 15 November at the same location. This location has become the most reliable place to find this species in the state.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - Nathan Diaz reported three birds seen on a pelagic trip into Georgia waters on 20 August, and a very good count of 20 birds on a 17 September trip.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Nine birds were seen on a pelagic trip on 6 August (Russ Wigh). Nathan Diaz reported two birds on the 20 August pelagic trip, and 14 birds on the 17 September trip offshore.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - The pelagic trip on 6 August found 13 birds offshore (Russ Wigh). Nathan Diaz reported finding 9 birds on a 17 September pelagic trip.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL - Two birds were seen on the 6 August boat trip (Russ Wigh). Nathan Diaz reported finding five birds on the 20 August boat trip, and three birds on the 17 September trip.

NORTHERN GANNET - Michael and Eric Beohm reported seeing more than 100 birds off Tybee Island on 20 November.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - There were many reports during the season, primarily from Andrew's Island and western lakes. Steve Barlow found six birds on JI and five birds at Andrew's Island on 7 August. Steve also reported a flock of 21 birds seen at the Andrew's Island causeway on 15 October. A flock of 70 birds seen at WPD on 23 October was unusual for that location (Eric and Michael Beohm). Michael Beohm observed another flock of 76 birds at WPD on 17 November. Michael and Eric also observed a flock of more than 50 birds at Andrew's Island on 20 November. Finally, five birds were observed on 25 November at Lake Walter F. George (Eric and Michael Beohm, Paul Sanders).

BROWN PELICAN - A single bird seen at Lake Walter F. George on 25 November was a very good find by Paul Sanders, and Michael and Eric Beohm.

ANHINGA - Diane Reed saw a high count of more than 50 birds along I-95 at exit 26 on 13 August.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - Michael Beohm found one bird at Lake Walter F. George on 30 August. Eric Beohm found one bird at Lake Seminole on 31 August. A bird seen by Nick Van Lanen on LSSI on 2 November was late for the area.

GREAT EGRET - Carol Lambert reported a high count of more than 50 birds on 12 August at ELHLAF. James Brooks noted a late bird in Henry Co. on 21 November.

LITTLE BLUE HERON - Carol Lambert recorded a high count of 51 birds at ELHLAF on 25 August.

WHITE IBIS - Paul and Joan Sykes had a good high count of 450 birds at AWMA on 9 October.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Alan Ashley had a rare inland sighting of a single bird in Albany on 17 and 18 August. The highest count was 32 at JI on 27 August (Jeff Sewell, Dan Vickers, Bill Lotz). Three birds were seen on Andrew's Island on 25 November (Eric and Michael Beohm).

WOOD STORK - Ruth Mead and Lois Stacey had a good count of 17 birds at Phinizy Swamp on 3 October.

TURKEY VULTURE - Lois Stacey had a nice flight of 288 birds in Augusta on 19 October.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - There were several reports away from the usual locations. Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee observed a bird north of Sandersville in Washington Co. on 5 August. Carole Ludwig found a bird in Watkinsville on 10 August. Mark Freeman found a bird in Greene Co. on 27 August. Paul Sykes passed on a report from Alex Curtis of a bird seen soaring over a marsh in northern Greene Co. on 27 August, possibly a first record for that county. One bird was seen in Fayette Co. on 31 August (Beth Parker).

MISSISSIPPI KITE - Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee counted 38 birds north of Sandersville in Washington Co. on 5 August. Paul and Joan Sykes observed two birds east of Watkinsville in Oconee Co. on 7 August, and he suspects possible breeding in that area. Tim Keyes found 11 birds near Forsyth on 17 August, for a good report away from the usual locations.

BALD EAGLE - One bird seen at the Fulton Co. Airport on 22 November was unusual for that area (David Heeden).

MERLIN - Paul Sykes observed a single bird in northern Greene Co. on 10 October, a very noteworthy sighting away from the coast.

PEREGRINE FALCON - A field trip to Sapelo Island resulted in a very high count of 39 birds migrating over the island on 7 October (fide Marion Dobbs).

BLACK RAIL - The only report was a single bird calling in a northern Greene Co. marsh on 3 September (Paul Sykes).

CLAPPER RAIL - Marion Dobbs found one bird in the Rome area in a strip-mall parking lot on 19 October. We hardly ever find this species away from the coast, so this is an amazing find in an extremely unusual location.

VIRGINIA RAIL - Paul Sykes had some excellent counts in a northern Greene Co. marsh. He reported finding one bird on 10 October, two birds on 15 October, five birds on 22 October, two birds on 29 October, 10 birds on 13 November, and five birds on 20 November.

SORA - Paul and Joan Sykes made a very good count of 86 birds at AWMA on 9 October.

COMMON MOORHEN - Paul and Joan Sykes had a very high count of 82 birds observed at AWMA on 9 October.

LIMP KIN - Charles Erwin found one bird at the Chickasawhatchee WMA near Albany on 30 August, for a very good sighting from that location.

SANDHILL CRANE - The highest count was 2,000 over Fort McPherson on 30

November (Howard Ory).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - The two birds found on Cumberland Island by Patrick Leary on 11 September were unusual for that location. Steve Barlow found one bird in Bartow Co. on 18 September.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Marion Dobbs saw 20 birds in Sumter Co. on 5 August.

PIPING PLOVER - The earliest report was of two birds seen on the beach on JI on 13 August by Michael Bender.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - Eric and Michael Beohm had a good count of 42 birds on Tybee Island on 20 November.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - One bird was seen in Bartow Co. on 30 August by Chris Loudermilk. Another good sighting was the one bird seen in Columbus on 31 August by Walt Chambers, and again on 5 September at Oxbow Meadows by Walt. Chris Loudermilk found another bird at J. L. Lester WMA on 8 September.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Michael Beohm reported finding seven birds at Walter F. George Dam on 30 August.

WILLET - There were a few reports away from the coast this period. Carol Lambert found one bird at ELHLAF on 11 August, and Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found another bird in Worth Co. on 28 August.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - The high count was 28 birds seen in Macon Co. on 13 August by Walt Chambers. Jim Throckmorton found one bird in the Roswell area on 17 August.

WHIMBREL - Jeff Sewell and Michael Beohm had a high count of 21 birds at Bloody Marsh on St. Simons Island on 7 August.

MARBLED GODWIT - Tommy Patterson reported finding a single bird in a pasture in Laurens Co. on 21 September for a very rare inland record.

RED KNOT - The earliest report of returning birds was on 7 August, when Steve Barlow reported finding five birds in Bloody Marsh on St Simons Island.

SANDERLING - One bird seen in Bartow Co. on 13 August was a good find (Jeff Sewell, Bill Lotz).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Gene Wilkinson found one bird in Tattnall Co. on 20 September.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - There were several good reports concerning this species. Two birds were found in Macon Co. on 26 August (Jeff Sewell, Dan Vickers, Bill Lotz). Single birds were found in Worth Co. on 28 August (Jim Flynn, Earl Horn), and in Baker Co. on 31 August (Eric and Michael Beohm).

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Eric and Michael Beohm observed five birds on Tybee Island on 20 November.

DUNLIN - Nine birds seen at ELHLAF by Carol Lambert on 17 August were good for that area.

STILT SANDPIPER - Two birds were found in Bartow Co. on 13 August (Jeff Sewell, Bill Lotz), and Steve Barlow reported one bird, also in Bartow County, on 14 August. Pierre Howard relocated the latter bird on 26 August.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER - One bird was found in Bartow Co. on 19 August

by Walt Chambers, and was seen again by Ken Blankenship on 20 August. Marion Dobbs had a high count of 16 birds in Floyd Co. on 30 August. Steve Wagner and Russ Wigh observed a single bird in Statesboro on 1 September, and Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had a good count of four birds observed in Peach Co. on 17 September. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - A single bird was found at the AWMA on 25 August (Bob Zaremba).

WILSON'S SNIPE - The earliest returning birds were observed in Bulloch Co. on 6 August (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett).

PARASITIC JAEGER - Earl Horn, Dan Vickers, and Jeff Sewell saw two birds on JI on 26 November.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER - A bird found by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn at Lake Hartwell on 4 September remained in the area until 12 September. This was an excellent inland record, and only the third accepted record of the species in the state (CRC record 2005-16).

FRANKLIN'S GULL - Eric and Michael Beohm discovered a first winter bird on Tybee Island on 20 November, which was relocated by Steve Wagner and Tim Miller on 26 November.

BLACK-HEADED GULL - Steve and Will Calver found an adult bird on Tybee Island on 13 August, which remained there until 16 October. This sighting has not been submitted to the CRC, but the bird was very well documented via photographs. This is the third record for the state.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Steve Barlow had a high count of 11 birds on Tybee Island on 6 August. Still on Tybee, Eric and Michael Beohm had a good count of 11 birds on 20 November.

SANDWICH TERN - Pierre Howard had a high count of 85 birds on Tybee Island on 5 August. Three birds observed on Lake Seminole by Eric Beohm on 31 August were a very good find.

LEAST TERN - Pierre Howard had a high count of 175 birds on Tybee Island on 5 August.

BRIDLED TERN - Two birds were seen on the 6 August pelagic trip (Russ Wigh). Nathan Diaz saw five birds on the 20 August boat trip, and nine birds were seen on his 17 September trip. Eric Beohm found one bird at Lake Seminole on 31 August, shortly after Hurricane Katrina's passage.

SOOTY TERN - Nathan Diaz had one bird on his 20 August pelagic trip, and five birds were seen on the pelagic trip on 17 September. Shortly after the passage of Hurricane Katrina, Eric and Michael Beohm saw four birds at WPD on 29 August, Michael Beohm saw two birds at Walter F. George on 30 August, and Eric Beohm found one bird at Lake Seminole on 31 August. One bird, evidently storm driven, was observed on Lake Hartwell by Jim Flynn and Earl Horn on 4 September.

BLACK TERN - One or two birds were seen at ELHLAF between 15 August (David Chartier) and 19 August (Carol Lambert), and three were seen there on 1 September. Eric and Michael Beohm had a high count of 70 birds observed at WPD on 29 August. Another good count of 50 birds was made at Walter F. George Dam on 30 August (Michael Beohm), and 150 birds were observed at Lake Seminole on

31 August (Eric Beohm). Earl Horn and Jim Flynn had a good count of 22 birds observed on Lake Hartwell on 4 September.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - This species is continuing its range expansion across the state. Paul Sykes noted a high count of 26 birds near Oconee Co. High School on 11 September. He also reported two birds seen at Hartwell on the same day, three birds seen on 10 October in northern Greene Co. away from their usual suburban haunts, and another high count of 34 birds in Oconee Co. on 15 November.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Marjorie Clark observed a single bird in her JI yard on 24 October.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - This species is rarely reported in the state. There were two reports from KMT, one on 11 September, and one on 18 September (Bob Zaremba). Marion Dobbs observed a bird at Chickamauga NMP on 30 September. BARN OWL - A bird seen on Sapelo Island on 7 October was unusual for that location (fide Marion Dobbs).

CHIMNEY SWIFT - Paul Sykes observed a migratory flock of more than 300 birds foraging in the early evening over fields in Watkinsville, Oconee Co., on 11 September.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - A bird was banded in Bibb Co. on 8 November (fide Jerry Amerson).

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - An immature bird was banded in Big Canoe on November 20 at the home of Theresa Harts, and remained there until the end of the month (CRC record 2005-17).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - There were many reports of individual birds, but one bird at a feeder in Lilburn on 30 September was the earliest returning bird (Rick and Sandy Krause). Other reports included a bird in Valdosta on 25 October (Margaret Harper), and a bird in Decatur on 18 November (Pat White).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - One bird was seen at CRNRA on 29 August (Al Mercer), and again on 31 August (Dan Vickers and Bill Lotz). Steve Wagner found a bird at Fort Pulaski on 18 September, for an unusual report from that location.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - Reports of this scarce migrant have been increasing over the years. A single bird at KMT on 6 September (Giff Beaton) and another in Spaulding Co. on 7 September (Eric Beohm) were the earliest reports. Later in the month, a bird was observed in Marietta on 18 September (Bob Zaremba). Also in Cobb Co., Pierre Howard observed a bird at CRNRA on 29 September. The latest reports were one bird at ELHLAF on 1 October (Carol Lambert), and a single bird in Columbus on 2 October (Walt Chambers).

LEAST FLYCATCHER - One bird seen at Chickamauga NMP by Kevin Calhoun on 12 September was a good find. Unusual for the coast, one bird was seen on Skidaway Island by Russ Wigh on 28 September.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - A female bird was found at the ENWR by Bill Lotz on 20 November, and remained through the end of the month.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - The only report for the period was a single bird seen on JI by Lydia Thompson on 18 August.

GRAY KINGBIRD - Gene Keferl found three birds near Savannah on 11 August, two of which remained through 11 October (Steve Wagner). Russ Wigh saw one bird on Cockspur Island at Fort Pulaski on 30 August. Two birds observed on Andrew's Island by Gene Wilkinson on 13 September were unusual for that location.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - Chris Loudermilk had an unusual sighting of a bird at SCSP in Douglas Co. on 12 November. This species has been missing from that part of the state for the past 15 years, as the migratory sub-species has apparently declined.

WARBLING VIREO - One bird seen at KMT on 22 September (Sterling Blanchard) and again on 24 September (Giff Beaton) were the only reports for this season.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - Eran Tomer reported three birds from CRNRA on 30 September for the highest count of the season. Two birds were observed at KMT on 1 October (Giff Beaton), three birds were observed at CRNRA on 3 October (Pierre Howard), and one bird was seen again at KMT on 14 October (Deb Zaremba). Three birds were also seen in Columbus on 2 October (Walt Chambers), and Theresa Hartz saw one bird in Big Canoe on that day.

COMMON RAVEN - Stan Chapman reported finding one bird at Blood Mountain on 2 October.

PURPLE MARTIN - Jerry and Marie Amerson discovered a huge roost of more than 100,000 birds at the Macon Mall parking lot on 6 August.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn had a high count of 500 birds in Macon Co. on 28 August, and Terry Johnson saw a late departing bird at Rum Creek on 19 November.

BANK SWALLOW - A high count of more than 50 birds was made in Burke Co. on 20 August (Patrick Brisse, Bob and Deb Zaremba). Pierre Howard had a good count of more than 25 birds in Bartow Co. on 26 August.

CAVE SWALLOW - Bob Zaremba saw three birds (CRC record 2005-18) on Tybee Island on 24 November.

BROWN CREEPER - The earliest reports were from the Georgia Tech campus on 21 October (Steve Barlow) and at KMT on 23 October (Giff Beaton).

SEDGE WREN - Chris Loudermilk had a very good count of nine birds at SCSP on 12 November. Paul Sykes had very high counts of 10 birds on 13 and 20 November in northern Greene Co.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET - The earliest report was a bird seen in Forsyth Co. on 14 October (Grant McCreary).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET - Deb Zaremba had an early high count of 31 birds at KMT on 14 October.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - Five birds were observed at KMT on 29 September (Deb Zaremba).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH - The peak count was 30 birds from KMT on 28 September (fide Giff Beaton). Paul Sykes observed a migrating bird in Clarke Co. on 22 October, and Doris Cohrs observed a late migrating bird in Darien on 2 November.

WOOD THRUSH - The highest count was 15 birds at KMT on 14 October (Deb

Zaremba).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Mark Davis had the earliest sighting of a migrating bird at KMT on 9 August.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER - The earliest report was a single bird at KMT on 3 September (fide Giff Beaton).

TENNESSEE WARBLER - The highest count was 60 birds at KMT on 30 September (Giff Beaton). Two birds were migrating late in the season in Dade Co. on 5 November (Earl Horn, Jim Flynn).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - There were several reports scattered throughout the state this period. The earliest report was two birds seen at KMT on 10 September (Giff Beaton). Single birds were seen in Athens on 3 October (Mark Freeman) and on Skidaway Island on 17 October (Russ Wigh), and Deb Zaremba reported a single bird in her Marietta backyard from 19 through 22 October. Finally, three birds were observed at KMT on 23 October (fide Giff Beaton).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - Deb Zaremba had a high count early in the migration season of 13 birds at KMT on 31 August. The peak count during migration was also from KMT with 21 birds observed on 9 September (fide Giff Beaton).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn observed a late migrating bird in Meriwether Co. on 20 November.

CAPE MAY WARBLER - The only report was that of a single bird seen at the State Botanical Garden in Athens on 2 October (Michael Bender).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - There were two reports of lingering birds. One bird was observed at Clyde Sheppard Nature Preserve on 28 October (Darlene Moore), and another bird was observed near Augusta on 29 October (Lois Stacey).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - The earliest report was a single bird observed by Michael Beohm at Pine Mountain Trail in Meriwether Co. on 4 October. Giff Beaton saw a rare Audubon's type at KMT on 16 October.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The peak count during migration was a total of 37 birds observed at KMT on 14 October (fide Giff Beaton).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER - The earliest reported bird was one seen at KMT on 1 September (fide Deb Zaremba).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - There were multiple reports of this rare fall migrant. The first was a single bird seen at Chickamauga NMP in Catoosa Co. by Marion Dobbs on 30 September, and Michael Beohm found a single bird at Pine Mountain Trail in Meriwether Co. on 4 October.

CERULEAN WARBLER - Bob Zaremba had an interesting sighting of a male bird feeding two juveniles at KMT on 26 August.

AMERICAN REDSTART - Pierre Howard reported a high count of 30 birds at CRNRA on 3 October.

OVENBIRD - A late migrating bird, which was found in Darien by Doris Cohrs on 31 October, was still present on 2 November.

MOURNING WARBLER - Amazingly, while observing the MacGillivray's Warbler at KMT, Giff Beaton discovered a female Mourning Warbler in the same

area on 4 September. Also from KMT, another bird was observed on 13 September (fide Giff Beaton).

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER - A single bird was found and documented at KMT by Giff Beaton on 4 September. This is only the third documented record for the state! Luckily, the bird remained in the same area for most of the day, allowing many observers to relocate it (CRC record 2005-15).

WILSON'S WARBLER - The earliest report was a single female bird seen at KMT on 29 August (Bob Zaremba). There were numerous reports between 4 September and 11 September, highlighted by two birds seen in Gwinnett Co. The first Gwinnett Co. bird was a female found at Suwanee Creek Park on 4 September, and the second bird was an adult male found in a backyard (Karen Theodorou). Russ Wigh found a late migrating bird on Skidaway Island on 28 October, and a male bird was seen at Reed Creek Park near Martinez on 25 November, probably a late migrant, or possibly a wintering bird (Gene Zielinski).

SUMMER TANAGER - KMT was the site of the highest tally reported during migration, with a peak count of 15 birds observed on 17 September (fide Deb Zaremba).

SCARLET TANAGER - The highest count reported during migration was 32 at KMT on 21 September (fide Deb Zaremba).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - The earliest report was from Darien, where Doris Cohrs found a single bird on 22 September. Earl Horn found another bird at AWMA on 7 October, probably the most reliable site in the state for this elusive species. Pierre Howard and Earl Horn found a single bird at Andrew's Island causeway, also on 7 October.

LARK SPARROW - It was a very good season for this species, which is seldom seen in the state, as eight different birds observed. The earliest reports were single birds seen at ELHLAF (Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell) and in Spaulding Co. (Michael and Eric Beohm), both on 20 August. Liz Garret found a single bird in Clarke Co. on 23 August, and Russ Wigh found a bird at Skidaway Island on 27 August. Michael Beohm located another single bird in Talbot Co. on 8 September. On that same day, Lydia Thompson found a bird near the soccer complex on JI. Another coastal bird was located at Fort Pulaski by Steve Wagner on 16 October, and the latest report was of a single bird found near Macon on 12 November (Ty Ivey and Paul Johnson).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - The earliest report was of a single bird at CRNRA on 29 through 31 October (Al Mercer, Tim Rose, Bill Groce). A high count of nine birds was found at Paulk's Pasture in Glynn Co. on 25 November (fide Earl Horn).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - ENWR has become the most reliable location to see this species during this period, as two birds were present at that location on 30 October (fide Dan Vickers). Also on 30 October, two birds were found at CRNRA in separate areas, and were relocated on 31 October (Jerry Brunner, Tim Rose, Bill Groce). Later in the season, several birds were observed at ENWR on 20 November (fide Bill Lotz).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - Russ Wigh and Steve Wagner reported

finding a single bird at Fort Pulaski on 13 November, for the earliest report of the season.

SALTMARSH SHARP-TAILED SPARROW - Steve Barlow reported the first bird of the season from Fort Pulaski on 16 October.

FOX SPARROW - The first report for the season was a single bird found at Oxbow Meadows near Columbus on 12 November (Walt Chambers).

SONG SPARROW - Paul Sykes reported a very high count of 310 birds in a small area in northern Greene Co. on 29 October.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - The earliest report was a single bird observed at CRNRA on 22 October by Steve Barlow. David Hedeon found a single bird at the Robinson Nature Preserve on 26 October, and Jeff Sewell and Dan Vickers found two birds at CRNRA on 19 November.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - The earliest report was a single bird seen at ENWR by Bill Lotz and Dan Vickers on 29 October.

ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK - The peak counts during the migration period both occurred on 30 September. Theresa Hartz reported 16 birds at Big Canoe, and Giff Beaton reported 20 birds at KMT.

INDIGO BUNTING - Paul and Joan Sykes had a very good count of 310 birds at AWMA on 9 October.

PAINTED BUNTING - A late bird was found on Cumberland Island, from 13 through 16 November, by Ann Mahoney.

DICKCISSEL - The only report this period was a single bird from Spaulding Co. on 7 September (Eric Beohm).

BOBOLINK - Lydia Thompson reported a nice count of 10 birds still on JI at the soccer complex on 8 September.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - This species probably occurs annually in the state, but is hardly ever found. Thom Smith and Karen Arms found one adult male bird on Wilmington Island on 16 October for a good coastal sighting. The two birds observed at Lover's Lane in Augusta by Lois Stacey on 29 October were an excellent find.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - The earliest reports of this species both came on 19 November. Joshua Spence observed seven birds on Fite Bend Road near Resaca in the northern part of the state, and Jeff Sewell and Dan Vickers found two birds at Cochran Shoals in Cobb Co. By 26 November, six birds had made it as far south as Valdosta, where Brad Bergstrom observed them at Grand Bay WMA.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - The highest count reported during migration was a total of 10 birds at KMT on 1 September (fide Deb Zaremba).

PURPLE FINCH - The earliest report was of a single female bird seen on a Cobb Co. feeder by Vicki and Harry DeLoach on 30 October. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding five birds in Cloudland Canyon State Park on 5 November, for the highest count of the period.

PINE SISKIN - There were scattered reports during the period. The earliest sighting was of a single bird in Lilburn by Rick and Sandy Krause on 31 October, and the highest count was three birds observed in Dawson Forest on 30 November (Sterling

Blanchard and Mark Davis).

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD

DECEMBER 2005–FEBRUARY 2006

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

This season was marked with several new state records and some occurrences of rarely seen western species, making for an exciting winter. Highlights included first state records for California Gull and Cackling Goose. Both of these species were well documented and accepted by the records committee and added to the regular list of Georgia Birds. Also exciting was the discovery of two wintering Bullock's Orioles in the state, both within the same week in December. It seems we always are finding good wintering western hummingbirds as more people tend feeders during the winter, but the occurrence of three Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in the state is unprecedented. These hummingbirds represented the fourth through sixth records for the state. Some of the other rare sightings for the season included a Common Merganser in the northwest, a Northern Saw-Whet Owl in the northeast, and several scattered reports of Short-eared Owls. It was a very exciting winter season for Georgia birders.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E. L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Paul Lehman found six birds at AWMA on 16 December, an unusual sighting for the coast. Earl Horn observed 11 birds on 19 December at ENWR for the highest count of the season, and he saw two more

birds in Newton Co. on 5 January. Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, and Terry Moore found two birds on a small farm pond in Bartow Co. on 16 January, and the birds remained in the area until 27 January. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds in Irwin Co. on 29 January.

SNOW GOOSE - The five birds flying over a field in Bartow Co. were a good find by Dan Vickers on 4 December. Earl Horn located 12 birds at ENWR during the CBC on 19 December.

ROSS'S GOOSE - Amazingly, the bird originally discovered by Earl Horn in 1999 is still present at the small farm pond in Madison Co. Ken Blankenship reported finding the bird on the same pond on 15 January.

CACKLING GOOSE - This species was recently split from Canada Goose. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn were the first to discover five birds on a small farm pond in Twiggs Co. on 19 February. These birds stayed on the lake long enough for many observers to relocate them and document the sighting. This was the first state record for the species (CRC record 2006-07).

TUNDRA SWAN - Lois Stacey found a wintering bird at MBBP on 7 January that remained at the location until 28 January.

GADWALL - Carol Lambert had a high count of 176 birds at ELHLAF on 7 January, and Hugh Garrett and Patrick Brisse counted more than 215 ducks on a small lake in Coweta Co. on 5 February.

AMERICAN WIGEON - Garden Lakes appears to be the best location in the beginning of the season for this species, and Marion Dobbs reported finding a high count of 165 ducks there in January.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Carol Lambert had a high count of 151 birds at ELHLAF on 7 January.

NORTHERN PINTAIL - We rarely get large congregations of this species in the state, so Michael and Eric Beohm's report of 28 ducks at Lake Seminole on 3 December is very noteworthy.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - Lois Stacey and Ruth Mead had a very good count of more than 600 ducks at Phinizy Nature Park on 17 December.

CANVASBACK - Chuck Saleeby reported finding two birds on Lake Acworth on 2 December, which was an unusual sighting for that location. Carol Lambert had a good count of 14 birds at ELHLAF on 7 January.

REDHEAD - Eric and Michael Beohm had a good early count of 12 birds at Lake Horton on 10 December. Ted Gustin had a very good count of 30 birds at ELHLAF on 17 January, and Marion Dobbs had the highest count with 150 birds seen at Garden Lakes near Rome on 23 February.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn reported a very high count of 2,000 birds at ENWR on 3 December. That report was topped by a count of 2,188 birds at ELHLAF on 7 January by Carol Lambert.

GREATER SCAUP - Michael and Eric Beohm had a good count of 22 birds at WPD on 7 December. Paul Lehman reported finding one on a farm pond in Bartow Co. on 11 December, 12 at Walter F. George Dam on 12 December, and more than 300 birds at JI and St. Simons Island on 16 December.

SURF SCOTER - The only reported birds were from JI this period. Pierre Howard and Chuck Saleeby observed a single bird on 18 December, and Russ Wigh also found a single bird on 12 January.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Inland records of this species are always noteworthy. Eric and Michael Beohm observed a bird at WPD on 7 December. Bob and Deb Zaremba saw two birds off JI on 3 February, a more typical sighting.

BLACK SCOTER - This species is unusual away from the coast during the winter, so a report of a flock of 33 birds at Carter's Lake on 3 December was very interesting (Bob and Deb Zaremba). The peak count was from Paul Lehman, who counted 3,000 birds off JI on 16 December. Bob and Deb also reported a high count of more than 700 birds off JI on 3 February.

LONG-TAILED DUCK - There were very few reports this season, so a bird found by Walt Chambers off JI on 30 December was very good.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - The highest count was at WPD, where Ken Blankenship observed 19 birds on 26 December. Four birds found at Peachtree City Lake were an excellent find by Donna Jackson on 27 December. A single bird at Lake Acworth was a good find by Sandy Pangle on 24 January.

COMMON MERGANSER - Joshua Spence had an excellent report of a female bird found at Carter's Lake on 28 February. The bird remained in the area and was seen and photographed by many observers, though documentation has not been submitted to the CRC.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Chris Loudermilk had a good count of 21 birds at SCSP on 8 December, and Michael and Eric Beohm had a very good inland count of 29 ducks at WPD on 14 December.

RED-THROATED LOON - Eric and Michael Beohm found an adult and an immature bird at WPD on 14 December. Paul Sykes reported finding three birds off Cumberland Island on 3 February, and the highest count reported was seven off Tybee Island on 4 February (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Giff Beaton reported counting more than 100 grebes on a farm pond in Burke Co. on 7 December. Earl Horn and Bob Zaremba had a high count of 84 birds at the same location on 7 January.

HORNED GREBE - Chris Loudermilk reported a good count of 16 birds at SCSP on 15 December.

RED-NECKED GREBE - There have been very few reports of this species over the past few years, so a bird seen and photographed at Lake Walter F. George on 19 February was a great find by Eric and Michael Beohm.

EARED GREBE - The ash ponds at Plant Scherer seem to be the best location in the state for this species. Terry Johnson reported finding 21 birds there on 2 December. Away from that location, Paul Lehman found a single bird on Andrew's Island on 16 December, and Julius Ariail found a single bird at Long Pond near Valdosta on 20 December.

NORTHERN GANNET - The highest count reported this season was 49 birds off Cumberland Island on 3 February by Paul Sykes.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - There were several reports from around the state

this season. Michael and Eric Beohm reported finding several groups of birds at WPD during the period, with the highest count being 15 on 3 December. The most reliable location for seeing this species was Andrew's Island, where the highest count was 49 birds seen on 23 December (Gene Keferl). Nine birds were observed at ENWR on 8 January (fide Jim Flynn), and Paul Sykes reported finding 80 birds resting on a shell bank near St. Marys in Camden Co. on 3 February.

AMERICAN BITTERN - Carol Lambert had an unusual sighting of a bird flying over I-675 near Atlanta on 12 January. Three birds seen at Grand Bay WMA on 4 February by Todd Womack were a good find.

GREAT EGRET - There were several sightings from the northern part of the state, which is a rarity. Sandy Pangle reported finding a bird in Gordon Co., for an unusual winter report for that region, and Joshua Spence found single birds in Gordon Co. on 5 January and in Murray Co. on 10 January.

REDDISH EGRET - Paul Sykes reported finding a dark-phase bird on Cumberland Island on 3 February.

CATTLE EGRET - Two birds spent most of the winter at Pinizy Swamp Nature Park (Lois Stacey).

GREEN HERON - There are very few wintering birds in the Piedmont Region, so a bird found at Lake Acworth by Sandy Pangle on 10 January was a very good sighting for the area.

GLOSSY IBIS - Bob and Deb Zaremba had a nice count of 52 birds at AWMA on 4 February.

GOLDEN EAGLE - Joshua Spence had a very good find of an adult bird in Walker Co. on 3 January.

KING RAIL - The three birds found at ELHLAF on 5 January by Carol Lambert were a good find.

VIRGINIA RAIL - Joshua Spence found a single bird in Murray Co. on 18 January, which was unusual for the Mountain Region. Paul Sykes discovered a bird still calling in a northern Greene Co. marsh on 28 January.

SORA - Lois Stacey and Ruth Mead had an excellent count of 259 birds at Pinizy Swamp Nature Park on 17 December. Joshua Spence found a bird in Murray Co. on 12 February, which was unusual for that region during the winter.

SANDHILL CRANE - The peak passage of birds southward appeared to take place between 9 and 23 December, with more than 20 individual reports totaling more than 6,900 birds. The peak count was on 18 December, when Terry and Peggy Moore counted 3,500 birds over Marietta during the CBC, and Chris Loudermilk observed approximately 2,000 birds in Austell. Another great sighting was the 2,500 birds on the ground in Floyd Co. on 28 January by Marion Dobbs. Todd Womack reported finding another 2,500 on the wintering ground at Grand Bay WMA on 4 February. There were several smaller groups of birds seen in the northern part of the state during February as well. Joshua Spence reported finding 475 on Fite Bend Road in Gordon Co. on 14 February, and as many as 800 birds in Murray Co. on 16 February.

WILSON'S PLOVER - Russ Wigh had an excellent high count of 71 birds on the

beach at JI on 12 January.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Paul Sykes had a good count of 3,266 birds on Cumberland Island on 3 February.

PIPING PLOVER - Paul Sykes reported a good count of 26 birds on Cumberland Island on 3 February.

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER - Bob and Deb Zaremba had a nice count of 94 birds on LSSI on 5 February.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Tim Miller reported a wintering bird in Effingham Co., last seen on 21 December.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Paul Lehman had a nice count of 65 birds on Andrew's Island on 16 December.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - There were several birds reported from the coast. Gene Keferl found a single bird on Doboy Sound on 2 December, and several birders reported as many as three birds on LSSI between 31 December (Ken Blankenship) and 15 February (Grant McCreary).

MARbled GODWIT - Bob and Deb Zaremba counted 31 birds on LSSI on 4 February.

RED KNOT - Thirty-two birds were seen on the beach at the north end of Cumberland Island on 3 February by Paul Sykes, Diana Swan, and John Fry.

WESTERN SANDPIPER - Paul Sykes had a good count of 431 birds on Cumberland Island on 3 February.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - Diana Churchill had a good count of 12 birds on Tybee Island on 31 December. At least 10 birds were still present on 19 February when Steve Barlow visited the site.

POMARINE JAEGER - Paul Lehman had a very good inland report of a juvenile bird at Lake Walter F. George on 12 December, and Chuck Saleeby and Pierre Howard reported finding a single bird off Tybee Island on 16 December.

PARASITIC JAEGER - On Tybee Island, Chuck Saleeby and Pierre Howard reported finding a single bird on 16 December.

FRANKLIN'S GULL - An immature bird was found on Tybee Island by Chuck Saleeby and Pierre Howard on 16 December. Russ Wigh relocated the bird on 17 December in the same location. This is likely the same bird found by Eric and Michael Boehm in November in the same location.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - A very high count of 511 birds was reported from the first Lake Oconee CBC on 22 December (fide Paul Sykes). This is a new high count for the state during the winter.

CALIFORNIA GULL - Steve Barlow discovered a first winter bird on the beach on Tybee Island on 19 February, which was re-sighted in the same location on 20 February by Jeff Sewell, Bill Lotz, Dan Vickers, and Pierre Howard. This is a long overdue sighting of this species in Georgia, and became the first fully documented record for the state (CRC 2006-09A through 2006-09D).

GLAUCOUS GULL - Anne Waters found a first-winter bird at MBBP on 17 December, which remained in the area until 1 January.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, and Terry Moore had an

interesting sighting of a bird in Bartow Co. that was last seen on 23 January by Rick Waldrop. Susan Richmond reported finding as many as three birds frequenting her feeder in Cadwell during the months of January and February.

SHORT-EARED OWL - We rarely hear of birds away from their regular wintering locations in Sumter Co., so several reports this period were very interesting. Walt Chambers found a bird near Omaha on 13 December, and Chris Feeny and Mark Komoroski flushed a bird from the fields at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park on 17 December during the CBC. Richard Boehm observed a bird flying over his yard in Upson Co. around 1 February (fide Eric Boehm).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL - An extremely rare sighting of a bird along Burrell Ford Road was an excellent find by Rachel Cass and Ken Blankenship on 15 January. One or possibly two birds were relocated in the same area on 22 January (Jeff Sewell, Dan Vickers, Bill Lotz) and on 24 January (Rick Waldrop). CRC record 2006-02.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD - Rusty Trump banded a wintering female bird in Cohutta on 22 January, and banded a total of four birds this winter.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - Rusty Trump reported banding a total of four birds this winter.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD - This was an amazing season for this species in the state, as three birds were found and banded by Rusty Trump. He banded an immature male bird in Forsyth Co. on 2 December (CRC record 2005-19). The bird wintering in Big Canoe at the home of Theresa Hartz was last seen on 13 December (CRC record 2005-17). Another bird showed up at Lake Rabun, which Rusty banded on 7 January, and was last seen on 16 January by the homeowner (CRC record 2006-01). Collectively, these make the fourth through the sixth state records for the species.

RUFous HUMMINGBIRD - Rusty Trump reported an average number of birds this season, with a total of 56 birds banded during the winter.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - Rick Waldrop reported seeing the bird wintering at ENWR on 10 February. This was the last report of the bird.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - David Hedeon had a good find of a bird at the Fulton Co. Airport on 20 December, and the bird stayed in the area through the end of the February. Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found two birds near Fitzgerald on 22 January, and again on 29 January. Gene Keferl found two more birds on JI on 2 February, which remained in the area until 18 February.

PURPLE MARTIN - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn saw the earliest returning bird in Irwin Co. on 29 January.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - This species is accidental in the state during winter, so two reports from different parts of the state were very intriguing. Michael and Eric Boehm found a single bird in the Augusta area on 1 December, and found another bird near Lake Seminole on 3 December. Walt Chambers reported a bird from Oxbow Meadows on 7 January that had been in the area for several weeks.

CAVE SWALLOW - This species is starting to turn up almost every fall and winter

in small numbers. Jim Flynn, Earl Horn, and Gene Keferl discovered a single bird at AWMA on 4 February, and it remained in the same area until 18 February (Steve Barlow; CRC record 2006-08).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Two birds were found on Burrell's Ford Road in Rabun Co. on 22 January (Jeff Sewell, et al.), and again on 18 February (Ken Blankenship, Rachel Cass).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER - Paul Sykes found a bird in northern Greene Co. on 3 December for a rare report from that location. The one or possibly two birds seen near Lake Horton on 15 January were unusual (Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett). Neal Cronin found a bird at Oxbow Meadows on 15 January for another good winter report.

GRAY CATBIRD - This species is rare in the winter in the Piedmont Region, so a bird seen at SCSP on 24 February was notable (Chris Loudermilk).

AMERICAN PIPIT - Max Medley and Joshua Spence had a very good count of between 400 and 500 birds at Fite Brend Road in Gordon Co. on 22 February.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - Earl Horn found a wintering bird in Gwinnett Co. on 5 January.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - Don Youngblood and Marjorie Clark had a very rare wintering bird at the JI campground on 1 February.

PRAIRIE WARBLER - Records of this species are scarce in the winter, so two reports of the species were very good. Eric and Michael Beohm found a bird at MBBP on 1 December, and Gene Keferl found a bird near Savannah on 18 December.

OVENBIRD - Paul Sykes discovered a bird calling in northern Greene Co. on the very late date of 3 December. Bob and Deb Zaremba found a single bird at the JI campground on 4 February, for another unusual winter sighting.

WILSON'S WARBLER - Pierre Howard had a good find of a wintering female bird at ENWR on 13 December.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - Reports from the Piedmont Region in the winter are scarce, so a bird found by Jerry Brunner at Clyde Sheppard Nature Preserve on 29 January was very good. Lisa Hurt relocated the bird on 9 February.

WESTERN TANAGER - Laura Brown reported that a male bird made a very brief return on 26 December to a feeder in Marietta that it had been frequenting the past several winters. The bird made several visits to the feeder during the period, but was never reliable. Laura last saw it on 27 February.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn had a good count of seven birds at the Moody Forest Natural Area in Appling Co. on 29 January.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW - Michael and Eric Beohm found a single bird at MBBP on 1 December.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Paul Sykes observed a bird in northern Greene Co. on 28 January for an unusual report from that area. Earl Horn and Jim Flynn found one bird at the Moody Forest Natural Area in Appling Co. on 29 January.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW - The highest count for the winter was six from Paulk's Pasture on 12 February (Ken Blankenship).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW - Chris Feeney found a bird at the Phinizy Swamp Nature Park on 4 January.

SEASIDE SPARROW - Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell had an impressive count of 81 birds on the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 16 December.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Joshua Spence had a very good count of more than 25 birds along Fite Bend Road in Gordon Co. on 8 February.

PAINTED BUNTING - Susan Richmond reported seeing a bird at her feeder in Cadwell from 4 until 31 December, and a wintering bird was seen visiting a feeder in Glennville on 15 January (Gene Wilkinson).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - Walt Chambers had the high count of more than 200 birds at Oxbow Meadows on 7 January. Chris Loudermilk observed 75 birds on 10 February and 40 birds on 25 February in Lithia Springs.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Chris Loudermilk reported finding five birds in Lithia Springs, for an unusual sighting from that area.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE - An immature male bird seen visiting a feeder in Smyrna on 15 December delighted area birders when the bird returned on 20 and 21 December to be seen and photographed by many observers (fide Georgann Schmalz). Amazingly, John Parrish discovered another immature male bird, this time in Bulloch Co., on 27 December for the seventh state record (CRC record 2005-20).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE - Reports of birds wintering around the state have been increasing and widespread this season. Erica and Michael Beohm found a single bird near Augusta on 1 December, and saw another bird near Lake Seminole on 3 December. Page Luttrell observed a bird near Athens on 17 December, and Carol Lambert observed a female bird at the ELHLAF Wetlands Center on 22 December. Chris Feeney located a bird at Phinizy Swamp Nature Park on 7 January, and a bird was seen visiting John Tiernan's feeder in Douglas Co. from 14 through 26 January. Jennifer Griffith reported a female bird at a feeder in Stone Mountain from 18 through 23 February. Finally, John McMahan and Pete Followill reported single birds in Columbus on 12 and 19 February.

PURPLE FINCH - There were very few reports this winter. Paul Sykes reported up to 10 birds visiting a feeder in Oconee Co. most of the winter period.

RED CROSSBILL - A bird photographed by Pam Moore at a Cobb Co. feeder on 12 January was definitely out of its normal range. The only other report was from the Carter's Lake area, where as many as two birds may have spent the winter and were last reported on 24 February by Joshua Spence.

PINE SISKIN - The highest counts were received from Fannin Co., where Tom Striker counted more than 50 birds on 27 December, and Nedra Sekera counted 75 birds on 24 January.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD

MARCH–MAY 2006

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

The passage of winter into spring brought with it a few interesting new sightings and some lingering winter rarities. Several of the winter's water birds remained in the area, including the state's first record of Cackling Goose. The Common Merganser found during the winter in north Georgia was present at the same location in March. Many observers noted the increasing numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks along the coast, perhaps signaling an expansion of the species' breeding range. Another species whose numbers seem to be increasing throughout the state is American White Pelican. Several observers reported finding a larger than normal number of these birds, a trend which has been continuing for several years. The overall passage of neotropical migrants appeared to be somewhat down compared to previous years, perhaps due to the lack of rain, and possibly because the high pressure systems in place over much of the state during April provided excellent flying conditions for migrants, speeding their passage northward. One of the most exciting discoveries this spring was the Roseate Tern seen on the coast by a visiting birder. Unfortunately, local birders could not relocate the bird, but it is still a great record for the state.

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SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - Bob Cheek reported finding 20 birds at the AWMA on 28 May, and five birds at the same location on 30 May. Many birders photographed these birds. This species seems to be expanding its range in the coastal areas, so these sighting may signal an increased population in the Southeast.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The two birds found on a small farm

pond in Bartow Co. in the winter remained in the same location through at least 2 April (Ken Blankenship).

SNOW GOOSE - Jim Flynn found two birds on a small pond in Forsyth Co. on 3 March. Three birds were a good find at ELHLAF on 1 April (Joshua Spence). Eric Beohm and Paul Sanders observed two birds in Spaulding Co., the first on 2 April, and the second on 22 April. Cindy Tobin observed a single bird in Floyd Co. on 8 April. Joshua Spence also saw a late departing bird over Whitfield Co. on 5 May.

CAKCLING GOOSE - The five birds discovered this past winter in Twiggs Co. by Earl Horn and Jim Flynn were still present at least until 26 March (m.ob.). CRC record 2006-07.

GADWALL - Earl Horn and Jim Flynn had a high count of more than 200 birds on a pond in Coweta Co. on 5 March. Eight birds observed at Carter's Lake on 22 April were a new late date for that region (Joshua Spence).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Eric Beohm had a good count of 30 birds at AWMA on 12 March.

MOTTLED DUCK - Eric Beohm found nine birds at AWMA on 12 March.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - A high count of 97 birds seen in Gordon Co. on Pine Chapel Rd. on 23 March was a good report (Joshua Spence).

NORTHERN SHOVELER - A single bird seen at Carter's Lake on 11 May was a new late date for the region (Joshua Spence).

NORTHERN PINTAIL - Joshua Spence had a good count of 28 birds in Gordon Co. on 1 March. Eric Beohm tallied another good count of 26 birds at West Point Lake on 6 March. One bird was still present at ELHLAF on 18 May (Eric Beohm).

GREATER SCAUP - Joshua Spence had a high count of 64 birds on Carter's Lake on 21 March.

SURF SCOTER - Eric Beohm saw two birds at JI on 12 March.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Eric Beohm saw a single bird at JI on 12 March.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Eric and Michael Beohm observed 10 birds at West Point Lake on 6 March.

COMMON MERGANSER - The bird found at Carter's Lake by Joshua Spence and Max Medley during the winter was still present at least until 7 March. This bird was photographed by observers, though documentation has not been submitted to the CRC.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER - Eric and Michael Beohm recorded the high count at West Point Lake on 6 March when more than 30 birds were counted. Chris Loudermilk had a good count of 12 birds at SCSP on 28 March. Joshua Spence reported finding a bird still on Carter's Lake on 1 May, which is a new late date for the region.

RUFFED GROUSE - Two birds were observed at Flat Top Mountain in Fanin Co. on 12 April (Joshua Spence).

COMMON LOON - Joshua Spence reported a very good count of 51 birds at Carter's Lake in Gilmer Co. on 21 March, and an additional 13 birds on the re-regulation lake in Murray Co. on the same day.

HORNED GREBE - Joshua Spence tallied a high count of 11 birds at Carter's Lake

on 15 March, but the highest count reported was 19 birds at SCSP on 28 March (Chris Loudermilk).

EARED GREBE - Three birds seen at ELHLAF on 11 March were a good find (Steve Slayton, Carol Lambert), and at least two birds remained on the ponds until 5 April (fide Carol Lambert).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - The six birds seen at ENWR on 5 March were a good find (Pete Followill). The number of sightings near the coast has been increasing. Doris Cohrs had a good report of five birds seen from the Sapelo Island ferry in Doboy Sound on 11 March, and Brad Bergstrom and Margaret Harper had a high count of 55 birds at Andrew's Island on 27 April.

ANHINGA - Joshua Spence reported a good count of 54 birds from AWMA on 6 April.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - David Chartier had an excellent sighting of a juvenile bird off the south beach at JI on 24 May.

AMERICAN BITTERN - Jerry Brunner found a single bird at the Clyde Sheppard Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 11 March, which remained in that location until 30 March.

GREAT BLUE HERON - Joshua Spence reported finding at least 20 active nests in Whitfield Co. on 10 March, and Paige Harvey discovered another nesting site in Habersham Co. on 15 March. Chuck Saleeby found eight active nests in a rookery in Cobb Co. on 23 April.

GREAT EGRET - Two birds were a good find at Salacoa Creek Park in northern Gordon Co. on 25 May (Joshua Spence).

CATTLE EGRET - This species is continuing its expansion northward, as evidenced by three birds found in Cherokee Co. (Vickie DeLoach) and one bird found in Bartow Co. (Patrick Brisse), all on 22 April.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell, and Steve Barlow observed an adult bird at ELHLAF on 9 April, which was unusual for that location.

GLOSSY IBIS - The highest count reported was from AWMA, where Eric Beohm observed 50 birds on 12 March, and Joshua Spence observed 46 birds on 6 April. A bird seen in Bartow Co. by Dan Vickers on 28 April was far away from its normal range.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - Eric Beohm saw a single bird at Andrew's Island causeway on 12 March, and Nick Van Lanen reported that the first bird returned to LSSI on 9 May.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - This species can sometimes be found in good numbers in spring, as evidenced by John McMahan's report of 32 birds seen in Columbus on 28 April.

NORTHERN HARRIER - A bird observed by Eric Beohm in Spaulding Co. on 15 May was a good late date for that region.

RED-TAILED HAWK - Joshua Spence and Max Medley observed a dark morph western adult in Gordon Co. on 1 March.

PEREGRINE FALCON - Ben Moore saw a bird north of Macon on 17 April for a

good report for that region.

BLACK RAIL - Paul Sykes reported finding one bird in a northern Greene Co. marsh on 16 April, and a high count of three birds during the month of May.

KING RAIL - Two birds were a good find at ELHLAF on 9 April (Carol Lambert).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Paul Sykes had a good count of 10 birds in a northern Greene Co. marsh on 12 March, and again on 9 April. Eric Beohm found a single bird at the GIHP on 8 May for an interesting sighting from that location.

SORA - Carol Lambert had a good count of eight birds at ELHLAF on 2 and 27 April.

PURPLE GALLINULE - Max Medley and Joshua Spence found a bird at Spring Creek Preserve in Whitfield Co. on 24 April, which was very rare for that part of the state.

COMMON MOORHEN - Five birds were a nice find at ELHLAF on 9 April (Carol Lambert).

SANDHILL CRANE - The highest count was 200 birds observed in Ringgold on 5 March (David Hollie).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER - Joshua Spence's report of a bird at Bouckaerts Sod Farm in Murray Co. on 11 May was noteworthy, as inland reports of this species are uncommon.

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER - Carol Lambert observed a single bird at ELHLAF on 22 March, and Ken Blankenship found five birds in Bartow Co. on 26 March. Ken found another bird in Bartow Co. on 8 April.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER - Chris Loudermilk had a good count of 20 birds at SCSP on 21 May.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Ken Blankenship had a good count of 105 birds at Andrew's Island on 3 April.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER - A report of 16 birds at SCSP on 20 April was a good high count for that location (Chris Loudermilk).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Paul Sykes had a good count of 20 birds on St. Catherine's Island on 16 May.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - There are very few reports in the spring, so the bird seen near Glennville on 3 April was a very good find (Gene Wilkinson). Another bird was seen in Murray Co. on 22 April (Joshua Spence).

MARbled GODWIT - Nine birds were a good count at JI on 12 March (Eric Beohm).

LEAST SANDPIPER - Chris Loudermilk had a high count of 158 birds at SCSP on 14 May.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Four birds at SCSP on 19 May were a very good find (Chris Loudermilk).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Chris Loudermilk found a single bird at SCSP on 27 May, for a rare spring record for this species.

STILT SANDPIPER - Joshua Spence had a good report of a single bird in Murray Co. on 21 April.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - The only inland report was a single bird in Bartow Co. on 26 April (Ken Blankenship).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK - Joshua Spence reported finding one adult and three fledgling birds at Little Bald Mountain in Murray Co. on 28 April, for a very rare report of breeding birds in that region of the state.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Carol Lambert found seven birds at the ELHLAF ponds on 21 March, which was an unusual sighting for that location. A flock of more than 50 birds on Carter's Lake was a good find on 29 March (Joshua Spence). Tim Miller found a late migrating bird in Effingham Co. on 19 May, for a good late date for that region.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - This species is being seen regularly on the coast, but is rare inland, so Eric and Michael Beohm's report of a bird found at West Point Dam on 6 March was unusual.

CASPIAN TERN - Chris Loudermilk found six birds at SCSP on 20 April for an unusual sighting at that location. Two birds seen at MBBP on 30 April were another unusual occurrence (Lois Stacy).

ROSEATE TERN - A very interesting report of this rarely seen tern was accepted by the CRC. Alan Knue observed the bird on JI on 10 May. This was only the second record of this species in the state (CRC record 2006-11).

LEAST TERN - Bobby Crawford reported that at least 15 terns were nesting in Thomasville on 12 May, for an excellent inland nesting report for this species.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE - Tom Striker's report of a bird in Blue Ridge on 27 April was a very rare sighting for the northern part of the state. In Monroe Co., a bird was visiting a feeder on 5 and 6 May (fide Giff Beaton).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - This species is not normally reported in large numbers, so a count of 21 birds in Upson Co. by Michael Beohm on 4 March was very good.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - It was a good season for this sometimes difficult to find migrant, as numerous sightings were reported. Lydia Thompson's discovery of a bird on St Simons Island on 22 April was a very unusual coastal report. A bird heard calling at Lake Seed in Rabun Co. by Ken Blankenship on 5 May was also a good find. A bird was present at Cochran Shoals in Cobb Co. from 15-22 May (Steve Holzman). Finally, Eric and Jessica Beohm found a bird in their Griffin yard on 17 May.

BARN OWL - Although this is a common species in the state, we rarely see reports. Joshua Spence found a bird on Fite Bend Road in Gordon Co. on 6 March, and two birds in Murray Co. along Fagala Road on 14 May.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW - Travis Barlow reported a very early returning bird in Pooler on 16 March, and Joshua Spence had a high count of 26 birds at Coosawattee WMA in Murray Co. on 14 May.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - A bird was found at Cochran Shoals in Cobb Co. by Pierre Howard on 16 and 17 May. Kevin Calhoun discovered a bird at the Chickamauga Battlefield Park in Walker Co. on 22 May, which was a very good report from that part of the state.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - Eric Beohm found a bird at the GIHP on 8 May, and again on 15 May.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - The bird wintering at ENWR was last seen on 5 March by Pete Followill.

GRAY KINGBIRD - The earliest report of the birds at the convention center on JI was on 13 April, when Lydia Thompson reported finding one bird.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - Joan Thompson discovered a bird near Cornelia on 25 April (fide Jeff Sewell). The pair that has successfully nested in the recent past in McDonough returned for the fifth season, and was first observed on 27 April by Larry Russell. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert observed a bird in south Quitman Co. on 28 May, and a pair was seen noted in Habersham Co. on 26 May by Bruce Hallett.

BELL'S VIREO - Eric Beohm photographed this very rare species at the GIHP on 6 May, though documentation has not been submitted to the CRC.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO - The highest count reported was 32 birds from the Cohutta Wilderness Area on 12 April (Joshua Spence).

WARBLING VIREO - Joshua Spence had a good find of a bird on the Hidden Pond Trail at Carter's Lake on 24 April. This species is rarely found in the spring, so four reports from different parts of the state in May were unusual. David Heeden found two birds in Cedartown, Polk Co., on 3 May. Two days later, Trey McCuen found a bird in Freedom Park in Macon, Bibb Co. Continuing the string of sightings that week, Leslie Curan, Jackie Heyda, and Jane Shero found a bird at the East Georgia Turf Farm near Statesboro on 6 May. The following week, Eric Beohm found a bird at the GIHP on 13 May.

RED-EYED VIREO - The highest count reported this season was 24 birds at KMT on 13 May (fide Giff Beaton).

COMMON RAVEN - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported finding three birds in Towns Co. on 9 April.

PURPLE MARTIN - A bird seen on Pine Chapel Road in Gordon Co. by Joshua Spence on 1 March was a new early date for the region.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW - The earliest report was a single bird seen along the Chattahoochee River in Cobb Co. on 2 March (David Heeden).

BANK SWALLOW - Two birds in Gordon Co. were a good find on 12 May (Joshua Spence), and a high count of 20 birds in Spalding Co. on 19 May was very good (Eric Beohm).

CLIFF SWALLOW - The earliest report was on 15 March when Joshua Spence had a bird in Murray Co., for a new early date for the region. Josh also reported a very high count of 200 birds on 11 May in the same area.

BARN SWALLOW - Joshua Spence had an early returning bird in Gordon Co. on 1 March, for a new early date for the region.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Two birds were seen sporadically at KMT in March (fide Giff Beaton). Teresa Hartz found a single bird at Dawson Forest on 18 March.

SEDGE WREN - A single bird in Murray Co. on 1 May was a good find (Joshua

Spence). Eric Beohm found as many as two birds at the GIHP as late as 17 May. MARSH WREN - Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell had a good count of six birds at ELHLAF on 2 April, and Eric Beohm found a single bird at the GIHP on 10 May. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Joshua Spence had an excellent count of eight male birds, seemingly on territories, at Coosawattee WMA on 19 April. He also reported finding 13 individual male birds on territories at this location throughout the period.

NASHVILLE WARBLER - A bird found in Columbia Co. on 17 March by Earl Horn and Rusty Trump was probably wintering at that location.

YELLOW WARBLER - Joshua Spence had a good count of eight birds at Carter's Lake in Murray Co. on 11 May.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER - The highest count reported was 18 birds on 27 April from KMT (fide Giff Beaton).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER - The highest count reported was 11 birds at KMT on 14 May (fide Giff Beaton).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - Joshua Spence had a high count of 48 birds in the Cohutta Wilderness on 12 April.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER - Deb Zaremba reported the first bird from KMT on 6 April.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER - The first report was from KMT on 21 April (Deb Zaremba, Walt Chambers, Ken Blankenship).

CERULEAN WARBLER - The earliest arriving bird was at KMT on 11 April (fide Giff Beaton).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - Chris Loudermilk reported finding a bird at SCSP in Douglas Co. on 28 April, for a rare sighting of this species for that location. Eric Beohm had a very good count of seven birds at Indian Springs State Park on 3 May.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn found a single bird in Atkinson Co. on 12 March. It is very possible that this bird was wintering in that location.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - This species was practically non-existent this season, so a bird seen in Walker Co. on 22 May by Kevin Calhoon was an excellent find for the area (fide Jim Eager).

MOURNING WARBLER - Joshua Spence found a singing male bird at Carter's Lake on 11 May, and again on 13 May.

WILSON'S WARBLER - Eric Beohm found a bird at the GIHP on 6 May and at Indian Springs State Park on 21 May. Eric's sighting of a bird in his Spalding Co. yard on 24 May was very good for that location.

CANADA WARBLER - The first bird of the season was reported from KMT on 15 April (fide Deb Zaremba).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT - A bird found on Skidaway Island on 7 March was a rare wintering bird for that location (Beth Roth), and a single bird found at the Clyde Sheppard Nature Preserve in DeKalb Co. on 18 March may also have been a wintering bird (Lisa Hurt). The highest count reported was 18 in Greene Co. on

14 May (Paul Sykes).

SCARLET TANAGER - The highest count reported was 26 on 22 April at KMT (fide Giff Beaton).

WESTERN TANAGER - The male bird frequenting a Powder Springs feeder in Cobb Co. was last seen on 4 March (Steve Slayton).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - Jim Flynn and Earl Horn reported at least nine birds singing in Berrien Co. on 12 March.

VESPER SPARROW - A flock of more than 25 birds in the Glennville area was a very good find by Gene Wilkinson on 5 April.

LARK SPARROW - A bird found at Sweetwater Creek State Park on 8 April was unusual for that location (Chris Loudermilk).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - The earliest reported birds, which were away from their wintering locations on the coast, were two discovered in Cobb Co. on 1 April (David Hedeon).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - Eric Beohm found a single bird in Spalding County on 24 April for a rare spring record in his yard, and another bird at the GIHP on 30 April.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - Paul Sykes reported finding a late departing bird in Greene Co. on 23 April.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBILL - The highest counts were from KMT, where 27 birds were observed on 21 April (fide Giff Beaton).

PAINTED BUNTING - A female bird joined the male that had been wintering at a backyard in Glennville on 8 March (Gene Wilkinson).

DICKCISSEL - Carol Lambert found a single bird at the ELHLAF on 6 May, unusual for that location. Joshua Spence located a new breeding area along Fagala Road in Murray Co. with six birds on territories on 8 May.

BOBOLINK - Carol Lambert had a good count of 19 birds at the ponds at the ELHLAF on 8 May, and another 30 birds on the wetlands treatment area on 12 May.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - A male bird seen in Spalding County on 22 March was very unusual for the area (fide Eric Beohm).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD - Joshua Spence had a good report of a flock of 200 birds in Murray Co. on 6 March.

PURPLE FINCH - A bird seen on 25 April at Annette Bittaker's feeder in Coffee Co. was very late for that region.

RED CROSSBILL - Joshua Spence had a single bird at Carter's Lake on 21 March, and two birds were observed in White Co. on 17 April (Eugene Kelley). Brian and Lisa Finnicum found four birds in Fannin Co. on 27 April.

PINE SISKIN - The highest count was from Fannin Co., where Tom Striker saw 35 birds on 17 April.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

FROM THE FIELD

JUNE-JULY 2006

Note: The appearance of observations in this section does not suggest verification of acceptance of a record. Records need to be documented and submitted to the Checklist and Records Committee for consideration.

It was an average breeding season with a few sightings to report. The highlight of the season was the apparent breeding attempts of the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien. Several observers noted that the birds were frequently seen in pairs and were acting in a territorial manner. This area is one of the most critical coastal habitats for birds, and has been known to support nesting pairs of Least Bittern, Mottled Duck, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, and Gull-billed Tern. Away from the coast, we had several interesting sightings of possible breeding birds in the mountains and Piedmont Region. We still have a lot to learn about the distribution of breeding birds in our state.

Abbreviations used include: ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 2003, Beaton, Giff et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 14; AWEC - Arrowhead Wildlife Education Center in Floyd Co.; AWMA - Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area in McIntosh Co.; CRC - Checklist and Records Committee; CRNRA - the Cochran Shoals Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton Co.; ENWR - the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge in Stewart Co.; JI - Jekyll Island; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb Co.; LSSI - Little St. Simons Island; m.ob. - many observers; MBBP - Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; SCSP - Sweetwater Creek State Park; v.ob. - various observers; WMA - Wildlife Management Area

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK - Steve Barlow reported finding 38 birds at AWMA on 4 June. The peak count was more than 40 birds on 1 July when Paul Sykes reported seeing many birds paired off, perhaps an indication of breeding in the area (CRC records 2006-14 and 2006-22). Greg Balkcom of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources banded two of the birds on 26 July.

SNOW GOOSE - A bird found earlier in the year was still present in Spalding Co. on 24 July (Eric Beohm).

GADWALL - A female bird found at Lake Seminole by Eric Beohm on 14 June was a very good late date for the Coastal Plain Region.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Two birds observed at AWMA on 14 June were unusual (Jim Flynn).

MOTTLED DUCK - Several reports were received of birds observed at AWMA throughout the season, indicating that the local population is still doing well at this

site.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett spotted two birds at ELHLAF on 22 July.

NORTHERN PINTAIL - A female bird was seen sporadically at ELHLAF during June (Eric Beohm).

LESSER SCAUP - Tim Miller had an unusual report of a summer bird in Effingham Co. on 17 July.

HOODED MERGANSER - Eric Beohm reported finding a bird in Clayton Co. on 3 June, and two birds in Spalding Co. 25 July.

RUDDY DUCK - Eric Beohm had a great sighting of two birds with young on Lake Seminole on 14 June, for an extremely rare breeding record of this species in the state.

COMMON LOON - Marion Dobbs reported a very late record of a bird at Garden Lakes near Rome. She and Gladys Edmondson observed a bird on 2 June.

PIED-BILLED GREBE - Carol Lambert found an adult bird with six juveniles at ELHLAF on 22 June. This was a rare record of breeding in that region of the state.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL - Two birds were a very good find by Nathan Diaz on a fishing trip offshore on 19 June.

CORY'S SHEARWATER - Russ Wigh had a single bird on an offshore trip to the R2 Navy tower on 20 July.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - Russ Wigh reported finding four birds on the 19 June boat trip.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - The flock of birds at Andrew's Island continues to grow in numbers, as Joshua Spence reported finding more than 100 birds at the location on 16 June.

ANHINGA - Mike Ivie reported finding three birds in a Spalding Co. swamp on 23 June, and he and Eric Beohm observed two adults with chicks in the same area on 1 July. Michael Beohm found a female bird in Big Lazar WMA on 7 July, and Eric Beohm found another bird in Rockdale Co. on 19 July, for a good sighting in the Piedmont Region. Ty Ivey and Paul Hoinowski had a good count of 23 birds in the Macon area on 22 July.

AMERICAN BITTERN - There are very few summer reports of this species, so a bird at AWMA on 7 June was a very good find (Gene Keferl).

LEAST BITTERN - Jim Flynn reported a high count of 15 birds at AWMA on 10 June.

TRICOLORED HERON - A bird seen at Lake Horton on 28 July was an unusual find (Eric Beohm).

REDDISH EGRET - Ken Blankenship had a good count of three birds at JI on 9 July.

CATTLE EGRET - Michael and Eric Beohm had a very high count of approximately 800 birds in Upson Co. on 30 July.

WHITE IBIS - Mike Ivie observed 20 birds in a Spalding Co. swamp on 23 June, for an unusual sighting for that region of the state. Eric Beohm reported a high

count of 33 birds from Lake Horton on 27 July.

GLOSSY IBIS - Eric Beohm had a good report of four birds found near Lake Seminole on 14 June, and Michael and Eric Beohm found three birds at the ENWR on 29 July.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The highest count for the season was seven birds at the JI Causeway on 1 June (Lydia Thompson). Bob Sargent had a good inland sighting of a bird in Warner Robins on 26 June.

WOOD STORK - Mike Ivie saw an early dispersing bird in Spalding Co. on 23 June, for a rare report from that location. Todd Womack had a good count of 89 birds near Douglas on 20 July.

OSPREY - Carol Lambert reported a nest with two chicks at ELHLAF on 4 July.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - The peak count was near Glennville, where Gene Wilkinson reported finding 10 birds on 26 July.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - The peak count was more than 60 birds at Oxbow Meadows near Columbus on 10 June (Walt Chambers).

BALD EAGLE - Tom Striker reported two adult birds on Lake Blue Ridge on 28 June.

AMERICAN KESTREL - Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert had an unusual sighting of two birds in Rabun Co. on 2 July.

PEREGRINE FALCON - At least two pairs of birds successfully raised young in downtown Atlanta (fide Terry Moore).

VIRGINIA RAIL - Carol McClelland had a very good sighting of breeding birds on Skidaway Island in Chatham Co., when she observed an adult bird with a chick on 24 July.

SORA - A single bird was still present at Harris Neck WMA in McIntosh Co. on 10 June (Bob and Deb Zaremba).

COMMON MOORHEN - Carol Lambert reported a peak count of 25 birds, comprised of nine adult birds and 16 young birds, at ELHLAF on 15 July. A single bird seen in Spalding Co. on 1 July was unusual for the area (Eric Beohm).

AMERICAN COOT - Two birds were seen at Lake Horton on 1 July (Eric Beohm).

LIMPKIN - A very exciting report of one or possibly two birds at Reed Bingham State Park from 9 June throughout the season was a good find (Chet Powell; CRC record 2006-21). Another bird was found at AWMA on 23 June (Steve Davis, Hugh Willoughby). Incredibly, a third bird was found and photographed at Lake Blalock on 6 July in the same location where one was seen two years ago, and remained there until 11 July (Carol Lambert). Finally, Wayne Schaffner reported finding an amazing count of four birds at Chickasawhatchee WMA on 2 July, and three birds at the same location on 22 July, one of which was photographed.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER - Eric Beohm had an interesting sighting of a bird at Lake Horton on 1 July.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - The earliest report was from Ken Blankenship, who found three birds at the Macon Co. sod farms on 24 July. The peak count came one week later, when Eric and Michael Beohm counted 24 birds at the same location.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - Several birds lingered at ELHLAF, where Eric Beohm observed two birds on 9 June and three birds on 13 June.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - Jack Carusos and John Paget found a late migrating bird in Hall Co. on 3 June, which remained in the same location through 5 June (Darlene Moore).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER - Ken Blankenship reported the first returning birds from Bartow Co. on 23 July.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Eric and Michael Beohm found a very early migrating bird at Lake Seminole on 29 July.

LAUGHING GULL - A bird observed at Lake Walter F. George on 29 July was a very good inland sighting (Michael and Eric Beohm).

BLACK TERN - Two birds were early migrants in Bryan Co. on 14 June (Gene Keferl). Ken Blankenship had a good count of 13 birds at Lake Walter F. George on 26 July, and 23 birds in Bartow Co. on 28 July.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE - Patrick Brisse and Hugh Garrett had a rare sighting of a bird at ELHLAF on 22 July.

LEAST FLYCATCHER - At least one bird was still present in the Suches area on 3 July (Pierre Howard).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER - Michael Beuerlein observed a bird along I-75 north of Macon on 5 June. Another rare sighting was a bird along I-285 on 24 July (Dot Freeman).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - A sighting of two birds in Gwinnett Co. on 18 June was very unusual, as this species has disappeared from that area over the past 10 years (Patrick Brisse). Terry and Peggy Moore also found two birds in Stockbridge on 19 June, for another unusual sighting.

WARBLING VIREO - Jack Carusos found a bird along Ivy Log Gap road on 8 June. This species is suspected of breeding occasionally in the state, so this could possibly indicate breeding activity in this area.

COMMON RAVEN - Dan Vickers found three birds in Blairsville and two birds at Brasstown Bald on 8 July.

CLIFF SWALLOW - This species continues to expand its range throughout the state. Marion Dobbs had a very good report of 500 nests in the Rome area on 21 June.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - This species is known to breed occasionally in the northeast mountains, so a bird observed on 4 June (David Trently) and another seen on 7 June (Larry Albright), both in Rabun Co., may have been local breeders.

WINTER WREN - Mark Davis and Sterling Blanchard found two birds singing on territories at Brasstown Bald on 25 June.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER - Joshua Spence reported finding up to 16 singing male birds on territories at Coosawattee NWR in Murray Co. in June.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER - A very rare sighting of a bird at Fort Stewart established a new early date for the Coastal Plain. Dee Mincey observed a bird drinking from a mud puddle on 28 June (fide Larry Carlike).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER - The earliest report away from the mountains was from KMT on 30 July (fide Giff Beaton).

CERULEAN WARBLER - The earliest migrant was reported from KMT on 20 July (fide Giff Beaton).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - The earliest migrant reported was from KMT on 15 July (fide Giff Beaton).

AMERICAN REDSTART - The earliest migrant reported was from KMT on 20 July (fide Deb Zaremba).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER - This species was seen throughout the period at the State Botanical Garden in Athens (fide Ed Marioriello).

OVENBIRD - Patrick Brisse had a good count of four birds still in Gwinnett Co. on 18 June.

HOODED WARBLER - The earliest migrant reported was from KMT on 28 July (fide Deb Zaremba).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Eric Beohm had a good count of 10 birds in Spalding County on 1 July.

DICKCISSEL - Ken Blankenship counted five birds in Bartow Co. on 23 July.

PINE SISKIN - Tom Striker reported finding one bird on 1 June and four birds on 11 June, all at his feeder in Blue Ridge.

Bob Zaremba, 2702 Lillie Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30064

THE ORIOLE

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