



# Georgia Ornithological Society

FOUNDED 1936

---

## RESULTS OF GOS FALL 2001 MEETING AND SPECIES COUNTDOWN

5 - 7 October 2001  
Savannah/Skidaway Island, GA  
Eugenia Thompson and Gail Russell, Meeting Planners  
*111 Registered Participants*

---



James F. Flynn, Jr.

Some folks were a little apprehensive about a meeting where all the action was a 15-minute drive from the motel but it worked out beautifully. At reasonable rates, the LaQuinta was a clean, well lighted place with plenty of amenities nearby; while the Group Shelter at Skidaway Island State Park had just the right Spartan-rustic atmosphere for a meeting of serious birders. The banquet Saturday night was a catered affair on paper plates but the food was delicious, featuring perfectly prepared salmon as one of the entrees. Kudos to (former) Second Vice President, Gail Russell, for a splendid job on arrangements!

One Hundred eleven members and guests were registered for the meeting, which is par for the course.\* Paul Sykes spoke Friday evening on his extensive studies of the

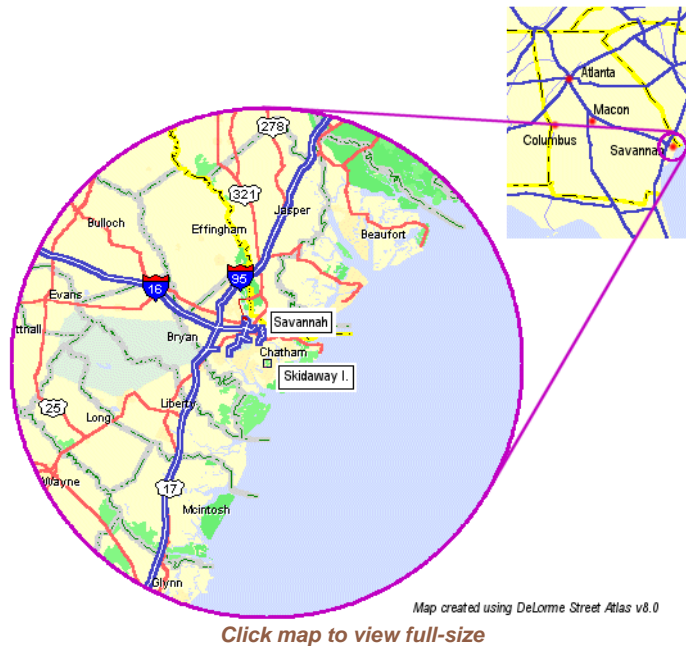
Atlantic coast population of Painted Buntings, with some great photos of these striking birds. Diana Churchill, President of the Ogeechee Audubon Society, briefed the weekend's field trips and introduced their leaders, Larry Carlile (Harris Neck NWR); Diana Churchill & Matt Ryan (Sterling Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility); Dot Bambach & Carol McClelland (Chimney Beach Creek & North Tybee); Lauree San Juan (Savannah NWR); Beth Roth (Skidaway State Park); Pat Metz & Steve Calver (Savannah Spoils Site); Lydia Thompson (Tybee North Beach on Sunday). Sunday also added a boat trip to Little Tybee Island led by Rene Heidt & Deb Barreiro. After the meal Saturday evening, President John Swiderski led a short business meeting during which he thanked First Vice President Eugenia Thompson and Second Vice President Gail Russell for a great job of setting up the meeting, and commented on the exceptional support of the Ogeechee Audubon Society in conducting the field trips. He also thanked Eugenia and Secretary Marie Amerson, who are completing their terms in office at this time for their years of valuable service to the society. Other business included presentation of the Earl R. Greene Award to Past President Ken Clark, and the election of officers for the ensuing two years. Todd Schneider gave an update on the Breeding Bird Atlas project, and Jim Wilson did the same for the Important Bird Areas program, followed by the principal speaker, Brad Winn, Waterbird Biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, who spoke of the special connection that both nesting and migratory shorebirds have with the Georgia coast.

The countdown, led by John Swiderski as his last official act as President and recorded by incoming First Vice President Bob Sargent, logged 163 species. Ten more species were added by Sunday's birders, bringing the total to 173, a record count for a GOS weekend!\*\* Noteworthy sightings included Reddish Egret, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, American Golden-Plover, American Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Black-backed Gull, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-winged Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Painted Bunting, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole.

\*The average attendance at fall meetings for the past 8 years is 107, ranging from 80 to 137. Spring meeting average for the same period is 83, ranging from 70 to 100.

\*\*Fall meetings usually produce the best counts. The 1997 fall meeting in Tallahassee, field trips coordinated by Brad Bergstrom, produced the previous record count of 172 species.

***Submitted by Kenneth B. (Ken) Clark***



## **FIELD TRIPS AND LEADERS**

**Diana Churchill and Pat Metz, Field Trip Coordinators**

### **Saturday, 6 October 2001**

Harris Neck NWR  
(Larry Carlile)

Sterling Creek Wastewater Treatment  
Facility  
(Diana Churchill & Matt Ryan)

Chimney Beach Creek & North Tybee I.  
(Dot Bambach & Carol McClelland)

Savannah NWR  
(Lauree San Juan)

Skidaway State Park  
(Beth Roth)

Savannah Spoils Site  
(Pat Metz & Steve Calver)

### **Sunday, 7 October 2001**

Tybee Island North Beach  
(Lydia Thompson)

Little Tybee Island  
(Rene Heidt & Deb Barreiro)

**SPECIES COUNTDOWN**  
**John Swiderski, Compiler**  
*173 species observed*

The following table contains a list of the species reported from the various field trips:

Common Loon	Sora	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Cedar Waxwing
Pied-billed Grebe	Purple Gallinule	Eastern Screech-Owl	Golden-winged Warbler
Brown Pelican	Common Moorhen	Great Horned Owl	Orange-crowned Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	American Coot	Barred Owl	Nashville Warbler
Anhinga	Black-bellied Plover	Common Nighthawk	Northern Parula
American Bittern	American Golden-plover	Chimney Swift	Yellow Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Semipalmated Plover	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Egret	Wilson's Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Magnolia Warbler
Snowy Egret	Killdeer	Red-headed Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Little Blue Heron	American Oystercatcher	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler
Tricolored Heron	American Avocet	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Pine Warbler
Cattle Egret	Greater Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker	Prairie Warbler
Green Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Hairy Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
Black-crowned Night Heron	Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Flicker	Black-and-white Warbler
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Willet	Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
White Ibis	Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Ovenbird
Glossy Ibis	Ruddy Turnstone	Eastern Phoebe	Northern Waterthrush
Roseate Spoonbill	Sanderling	Loggerhead Shrike	Kentucky Warbler
Wood Stork	Semipalmated Sandpiper	White-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Black Vulture	Western Sandpiper	Red-eyed Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Least Sandpiper	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Fulvous Whistling Duck	White-rumped Sandpiper	American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Wood Duck	Pectoral Sandpiper	Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Gadwall	Dunlin	Purple Martin	Field Sparrow
Mallard	Stilt Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Vesper Sparrow
Mottled Duck	Short-billed Dowitcher	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Common Snipe	Barn Swallow	sharp-tailed sparrow sp.
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Phalarope	Carolina Chickadee	Seaside Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Laughing Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Ring-billed Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Osprey	Herring Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Bald Eagle	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Carolina Wren	Blue Grosbeak
Northern Harrier	Great Black-backed Gull	House Wren	Indigo Bunting
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Gull-billed Tern	Sedge Wren	Painted Bunting
Cooper's Hawk	Caspian Tern	Marsh Wren	Bobolink
Red-shouldered Hawk	Royal Tern	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Sandwich Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Eastern Meadowlark
American Kestrel	Forster's Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Common Grackle
Merlin	Black Skimmer	American Robin	Boat-tailed Grackle
Peregrine Falcon	Rock Dove	Gray Catbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wild Turkey	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Northern Mockingbird	Baltimore Oriole
Northern Bobwhite	Mourning Dove	Brown Thrasher	House Finch
Clapper Rail	Common Ground-Dove	European Starling	House Sparrow
King Rail			

[Return to the GOS Meetings Page](#)

---

8/2013