



Georgia Ornithological Society

FOUNDED 1936

RESULTS OF GOS FALL 2002 MEETING AND SPECIES COUNTDOWN

4 - 6 October 2002

Jekyll Island, GA

Anne Mursch, Meeting Planner



James F. Flynn Jr.

Meetings at Jekyll Island are always much anticipated by GOS members because they give us an excuse to spend a weekend soaking up the ambience of the Atlantic Ocean while birding the beaches, dunes, estuaries, and maritime forest. For many of our inland members, a trip to Jekyll Island provides a great opportunity to brush up on shorebird identification skills. Nearly 150 GOS members spent the weekend of 4-6 October at the coast enjoying the company of good friends, informative presentations by guest speakers, and some great field trip opportunities that resulted in the observation of 174 species, the best count for a fall (or

spring) count in many years.

The success of the field trips was due in large part to the very talented group of leaders: Giff Beaton, John Jensen, Paul Sykes, Bob Zaremba, Lydia Thompson, Todd Schneider, Brad Winn, Diana Churchill, Mike Chapman, Gene Keferl, and Jan and Chris Pitman. With their guidance we explored Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Harris Neck NWR, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Jekyll Island, the Jekyll Island Banding Station, and St. Simons Island. We also rode boats out to sea for memorable visits to Blackbeard Island NWR, the lower Altamaha River basin, and Little St. Simons Island. Notable sightings included American Bittern, "Great White" Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Mottled Duck, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, White-rumped Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bachman's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Painted Bunting.

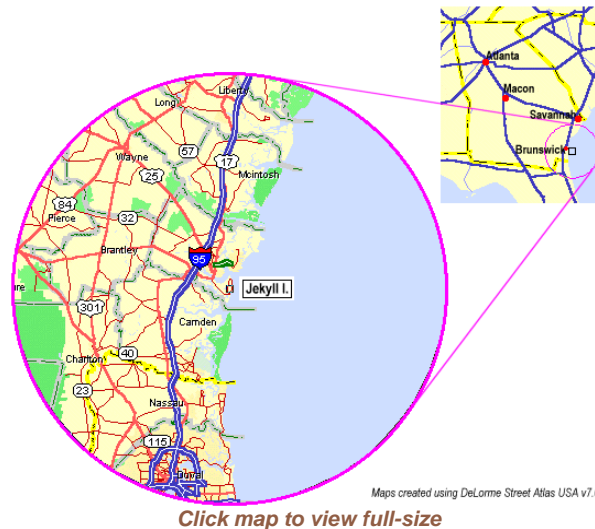
The Friday evening check-in at the Clarion Resort went smoothly thanks to the efforts of Anne Mursch, Barbara Brigham, Gail Russell and several other members. Dr. Mark Welford of Georgia Southern University was the guest speaker that evening. His presentation, "Why Bird in Ecuador: 1,540 Breeding Bird Species and Counting," led the audience on a fascinating and visually stunning tour of the tropical forests of this small South American country. Mark's presentation featured an excellent mixture of ornithology, ecology, spectacular pictures, and witty observations. Following the presentation, the leaders for the Saturday and Sunday field trips had people scrambling for their binoculars when they finished describing the places we would visit and the birds we might see.

The Saturday evening activities began with a poster session featuring research by Dr. Jim Ferrari, Dr. Doug Levey, Dr. John Parrish, and Paul Sykes. These scientists shared fascinating results from studies on avian diversity, nesting ecology, and capture techniques, featuring Painted Buntings and American Kestrels. Dick Parks exhibited his beautiful collection of Audubon prints, and sold copies of one of his own paintings depicting the Mourning Dove. As he has so often done, Dick generously

donated all proceeds from the sale of his paintings to GOS. The banquet proceeded smoothly thanks to the hard work, attention to detail, and organizational skills of Anne Mursch. Gail Russell began the evening program by asking for a moment of silence to remember and acknowledge the passing of so many selfless, dedicated GOS members during the past year. She went on to thank the many people who were responsible for making the meeting a success, and gave a special thank you to Dick Parks, Milton Hopkins, and other long-term members of GOS who have given so much to bird conservation in Georgia.

Following Gail's speech, Bob Sargent and Milton Hopkins had the honor of presenting the Earle R. Greene Award to Paul Sykes for his extraordinary dedication to, and accomplishments in, the field of ornithology for over 30 years (see John Swiderski's article in this newsletter). After the award ceremony, Dr. Doug Levey of the University of Florida presented, "The Importance of Fruit to Birds," a fine lesson in ecology taught with the aid of data from a study that was enormous in scope. Doug's presentation flowed like a well-written mystery, encouraging viewers to think ahead and guess the answers to each of the riddles he posed. Gene Keferl's unique wit and style made the evening's finale, the countdown, highly entertaining to all. The consensus was that the meeting was a success, and we all look forward to next year's excuse for gathering by the sea to go birding.

Submitted by Bob Sargent



FIELD TRIPS AND LEADERS

Bob Sargent, Field Trip Coordinator

Saturday, 5 October 2002

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
(John Jensen)

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
(Paul Sykes)

Altamaha Wildlife Management Area
(Bob Zaremba)

Blackbeard Island NWR
(Giff Beaton)

Jekyll Island

Sunday, 6 October 2002

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
(Diana Churchill)

Altamaha Wildlife Management Area
(Gene Keferl)

Little St. Simons Island
(Giff Beaton)

Jekyll Island
(Lydia Thompson & Todd Schneider)

Jekyll Island Banding Station

(Lydia Thompson & Todd Schneider)

(Bob Sargent)

Jekyll Island Banding Station
(Diana Churchill)Moveable feast (local hot spots)
(Mike Chapman)The Lower Altamaha River basin
(Brad Winn)Moveable feast (local hot spots)
(Mike Chapman)**SPECIES COUNTDOWN****Bob Sargent, Compiler****174 species observed**

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

Pied-billed Grebe	Sandhill Crane	Barred Owl	Northern Mockingbird
Brown Pelican	Black-bellied Plover	Whip-poor-will	Brown Thrasher
Double-crested Cormorant	Wilson's Plover	Chimney Swift	European Starling
Anhinga	Semipalmated Plover	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Tennessee Warbler
American Bittern	Piping Plover	Belted Kingfisher	Nashville Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Killdeer	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Parula
"Great White Heron"	American Oystercatcher	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Great Egret	American Avocet	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Snowy Egret	Greater Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker	Magnolia Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Cape May Warbler
Tricolored Heron	Willet	Northern Flicker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Reddish Egret	Spotted Sandpiper	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler
Cattle Egret	Whimbrel	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Pine Warbler
Green Heron	Long-billed Curlew	Alder Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler
Black-crowned Night Heron	Marbled Godwit	"Traill's Flycatcher"	Palm Warbler (western race)
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Eastern Phoebe	Black-and-white Warbler
White Ibis	Red Knot	Great Crested Flycatcher	American Redstart
Glossy Ibis	Sanderling	Western Kingbird	Ovenbird
Roseate Spoonbill	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Eastern Kingbird	Northern Waterthrush
Wood Stork	Western Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	Common Yellowthroat
Black Vulture	Least Sandpiper	White-eyed Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
Turkey Vulture	White-rumped Sandpiper	Blue-headed Vireo	Summer Tanager
Canada Goose	Dunlin	Warbling Vireo	Eastern Towhee
Wood Duck	Stilt Sandpiper	Philadelphia Vireo	Bachman's Sparrow
Mottled Duck	Short-billed Dowitcher	Red-eyed Vireo	Clay-colored Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Laughing Gull	American Crow	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Osprey	Ring-billed Gull	Fish Crow	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Herring Gull	Tree Swallow	Seaside Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Barn Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull	Carolina Chickadee	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Red-shouldered Hawk	Caspian Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Blue Grosbeak
Red-tailed Hawk	Royal Tern	White-breasted Nuthatch	Indigo Bunting
American Kestrel	Sandwich Tern	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Painted Bunting
Merlin	Common Tern	Carolina Wren	Bobolink
Peregrine Falcon	Forster's Tern	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Bobwhite	Black Skimmer	Marsh Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Clapper Rail	Rock Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Common Grackle
King Rail	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Boat-tailed Grackle
Virginia Rail	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sora	Common Ground-dove	Veery	Baltimore Oriole
Purple Gallinule	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swainson's Thrush	House Finch
Common Moorhen	Eastern Screech-Owl	Wood Thrush	American Goldfinch
American Coot	Great Horned Owl	Gray Catbird	House Sparrow

[Return to the GOS Meetings Page](#)

8/2013