



Georgia Ornithological Society

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RESULTS OF GOS SPRING 2002 MEETING AND SPECIES COUNTDOWN

26 - 28 April 2002

Valdosta, GA

Eugenia Thompson and Gail Russell, Meeting Planners



James F. Flynn Jr.

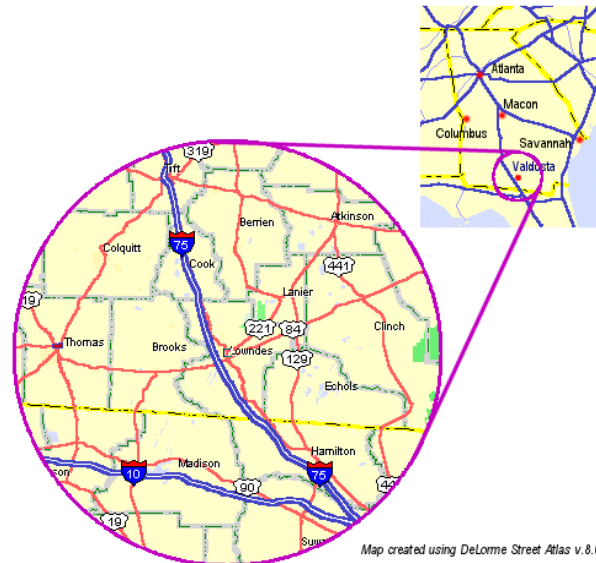
One of the great attractions, it seems to me, of our semi-annual meetings is the opportunity they afford for folks, regardless of their birding skills, to meet, mingle and spend a day in the field with some of the top birders in Georgia, guided by volunteers who really know the interesting birding areas in the neighborhood. This was certainly the case at our spring meeting in Valdosta 26-28 April this year. Brad Bergstrom planned and organized field trips led by himself, Michael Bell, Kristi Avera, Ken George, John & Kate Swiderski, Malcolm Hodges, and Barbara Passmore that produced 141 species of birds for our edification and enjoyment. Notables in Georgia included Horned Grebe, Prothonotary and Swainson's Warblers, and Bachman's Sparrow, while a trip to phosphate mines in north Florida revealed Common and Red-throated Loons, Eared Grebe, American White Pelican and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Even though we missed migration, a total of 17 warbler species were found.

This was John & Kate Swiderski's first opportunity to play host to a GOS gathering since they moved to Valdosta from Cartersville a few years ago. They teamed with the GOS president Gail Russell, and meeting planners Bob Sargent and Anne Mursch to provide a really great weekend for the more than 90 GOS members and guests who participated. The ambitious program began with a smooth check in with Anne Mursch on the registration desk, aided by Helen Ogren, Barbara Brigham and Pat Sully. Brad Bergstrom presented the Friday evening program on "From Jamaica to Belize: Birds of Winter in the Hand and in the Bush," well supported with beautiful color slides of his own making. John Swiderski followed with an appetite-whetting description of the Saturday and Sunday field trips to such hot spots as the PSC phosphate mines in Hamilton County, Florida; the Grand Bay WMA; Reed Bingham State Park; Grassy Pond; private property in north Lowndes County; Broxton Rocks; Langdale Park; and the Blackwater nesting stork colony in Brooks County. The weather was kind and the birds cooperative, as the species count shows.

Saturday afternoon members were invited to the dedication of Grand Bay/Banks Lake Ecosystem as an Important Bird Area, then returned to the Holiday Inn for a poster session organized by Bob Sargent (six exhibitors), and an exhibition of paintings done during WW II by Charter Member Dick Parks. A "Backyard Barbeque" banquet preceded the Saturday evening presentation by Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Gainesville, Florida, on "The Trans-equatorial Migration and Conservation Biology of Swallow-tailed Kites," illustrated with dramatic photographs of the birds and explanatory charts.

The day's countdown by Brad Bergstrom and Bob Sargent closed the evening and prepared the group for another half-day of birding Sunday. It was a well planned and executed meeting with a full agenda of very interesting and informative programs, quite a feather in the caps of our Valdosta hosts and volunteers. I hope we'll be going there again before too long.

Submitted by Kenneth B. (Ken) Clark



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FIELD TRIPS AND LEADERS

Brad Bergstrom, Field Trip Coordinator

Saturday, 27 April 2002

PCS Phosphate Mines, Hamilton Co., FL
(Brad Bergstrom)

Grand Bay
(John Swiderski, T Hon)

Reed Bingham State Park
(Michael Bell)

North Lowndes Co.
(K George)

Sunday, 28 April 2002

Brooks Co., including
Blackwater Plantation
(Barbara Passmore, Kristi Avera)

Langdale Park
(Brad Bergstrom)

additional species seen at Broxton Rocks
(Malcolm Hodges) or in Valdosta

SPECIES COUNTDOWN

Brad Bergstrom, Compiler

141 species observed

A list of species observed on each of the field trips may be viewed on Brad Bergstrom's site:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/~bergstrm/s02gostrip.htm>

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

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Red-throated Loon | Broad-winged Hawk | Red-bellied Woodpecker | Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| Common Loon | Red-tailed Hawk | Downy Woodpecker | Yellow-throated Warbler |
| Horned Grebe | Wild Turkey | Hairy Woodpecker | Pine Warbler |
| Eared Grebe | Northern Bobwhite | Pileated Woodpecker | Palm Warbler |
| American White Pelican | Sora | Eastern Wood-pewee | Blackpoll Warbler |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Purple Gallinule | Acadian Flycatcher | Black-and-white Warbler |
| Anhinga | Common Moorhen | Great Crested Flycatcher | American Redstart |
| Great Blue Heron | American Coot | Eastern Kingbird | Prothonotary Warbler |
| Great Egret | Semipalmated Plover | Loggerhead Shrike | Swainson's Warbler |
| Snowy Egret | Killdeer | White-eyed Vireo | Northern Waterthrush |
| Little Blue Heron | Black-necked Stilt | Yellow-throated Vireo | Louisiana Waterthrush |
| Tricolored Heron | American Avocet | Red-eyed Vireo | Common Yellowthroat |
| Cattle Egret | Greater Yellowlegs | Blue Jay | Hooded Warbler |
| Green Heron | Lesser Yellowlegs | American Crow | Yellow-breasted Chat |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | Solitary Sandpiper | Fish Crow | Summer Tanager |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | Spotted Sandpiper | Purple Martin | Scarlet Tanager |
| White Ibis | Least Sandpiper | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Eastern Towhee |
| Glossy Ibis | Bonaparte's Gull | Barn Swallow | Bachman's Sparrow |
| Wood Stork | Ring-billed Gull | Carolina Chickadee | Chipping Sparrow |
| Black Vulture | Gull-billed Tern | Tufted Titmouse | Savannah Sparrow |
| Turkey Vulture | Caspian Tern | White-breasted Nuthatch | Song Sparrow |
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | Least Tern | Brown-headed Nuthatch | Swamp Sparrow |
| Canada Goose | Rock Dove | Carolina Wren | Northern Cardinal |
| Wood Duck | Eurasian Collared-Dove | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| Mallard | Mourning Dove | Eastern Bluebird | Blue Grosbeak |
| Blue-winged Teal | Common Ground-Dove | Wood Thrush | Indigo Bunting |
| Northern Shoveler | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | American Robin | Bobolink |
| Ring-necked Duck | Great Horned Owl | Gray Catbird | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Bufflehead | Barred Owl | Northern Mockingbird | Eastern Meadowlark |
| Hooded Merganser | Common Nighthawk | Brown Thrasher | Common Grackle |
| Red-breasted Merganser | Chuck-will's-widow | European Starling | Boat-tailed Grackle |
| Ruddy Duck | Chimney Swift | Cedar Waxwing | Brown-headed Cowbird |
| Osprey | Ruby-throated Hummingbird | Northern Parula | Orchard Oriole |
| Mississippi Kite | Belted Kingfisher | Yellow Warbler | House Finch |
| Bald Eagle | Red-headed Woodpecker | Cape May Warbler | House Sparrow |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | |

[Return to the GOS Meetings Page](#)

8/2013