



fall 2007 meeting. . .

12 - 14 October 2007
Jekyll Island, GA

meeting summary. . .

The fifth Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival was held October 12-14, 2007, and by all accounts was a huge success. The field trips actually began on Thursday, October 11, at the Glennville Water Treatment Facility and did not conclude until Monday, October 15, with a trip to Little St. Simons Island. In between were more than 60 field trips, a Nature Day on Saturday, workshops and seminars on Friday and Saturday, the banquet on Saturday evening with a wonderful talk by John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, activities and exhibits at The Rookery, and the shared fellowship of more than 300 birders and nature enthusiasts.

This year's species count was 199, down a bit from the last two years, possibly because the fabulous weather and northern winds were ideal for pushing migrants along on their southbound journey, so many birds were quickly moving through Georgia into Florida. Still, some great birds were found over the weekend, including a Western Kingbird on the south end of Jekyll Island, several sightings of Cave Swallows at different locations, a MacGillivray's Warbler that was banded at the Jekyll Island Banding Station, a Franklin's Gull on the South Beach of Jekyll, and a Clay-colored Sparrow at the Altamaha WMA.

Saturday's Nature Day at The Rookery was a new feature this year, with activities for the whole family. It was a full day of educational programs and events, such as beginning birding for adults and kids, the history of the barrier islands, why the Georgia coast is such a birding magnet, a raptor show, and presentations on reptile and turtle biology. Other activities during Nature Day included a beach walk, a marsh walk, and a nature trip on the Little Satilla River. "Passports" were issued to each registrant and were stamped at each activity or exhibit. More than 100 people signed up for Nature Day.

The banquet Saturday night featured a very good dinner, the election of the GOS officer slate (see the new list in this newsletter), and the announcement of the winners of the Colonial Coast Birding Challenge. John Galvani and Gene Keferl won the challenge, with 86 species seen in one day and only at sites that are part of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Dr. Fitzpatrick began his talk with a somewhat haunting recording of an Oo, a bird of the Hawaiian Islands. Then he stunned his audience with the announcement that this was actually a recording of the last bird of this species and that they would never hear this beautiful, distinctive song again except on a recording. "Fitz" went on to present a fascinating case-by-case talk on how important it is to save the habitat of

endangered birds (or any other plant or animal), not just because of the values those habitats provide for wildlife, but also because preserving them is vital to ensuring the future health of planet Earth. As he so eloquently put it, "It is not about the species, it is about preserving the environment that supported that species." Fitz also fascinated the audience with his review of the evidence concerning the existence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

As we look forward to next year's festival, we owe a great big thank you to all those who put in so much time and effort to put on these festivals. It is truly an outstanding event on Georgia's uniquely beautiful coast.

Submitted by Bob Sargent

species countdown. . .

Steve Holzman, Compiler 199 species observed

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

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Long-billed Curlew	Sedge Wren
Canada Goose	Marbled Godwit	Marsh Wren
Wood Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Red Knot	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Mottled Duck	Sanderling	Eastern Bluebird
Blue-winged Teal	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Veery
Northern Shoveler	Western Sandpiper	Gray-cheeked Thrush
Northern Pintail	Least Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush
Green-winged Teal	Dunlin	Hermit Thrush
Black Scoter	Stilt Sandpiper	Wood Thrush
Surf Scoter	Short-billed Dowitcher	Gray Catbird
Hooded Merganser	Wilson's Snipe	Northern Mockingbird
Plain Chachalaca	Laughing Gull	Brown Thrasher
Wild Turkey	Franklin's Gull	European Starling
Pied-billed Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Tennessee Warbler
American White Pelican	Herring Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler
Brown Pelican	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Northern Parula
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Black-backed Gull	Yellow Warbler
Anhinga	Caspian Tern	Chestnut-sided Warbler
American Bittern	Royal Tern	Magnolia Warbler
Least Bittern	Sandwich Tern	Cape May Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Common Tern	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Great Egret	Forster's Tern	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Snowy Egret	Black Skimmer	Black-throated Green Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Rock Pigeon	Blackburnian Warbler
Tricolored Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow-throated Warbler
Reddish Egret	Mourning Dove	Pine Warbler
Cattle Egret	Common Ground-Dove	Prairie Warbler
Green Heron	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Palm Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Barn Owl	Bay-breasted Warbler
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Eastern Screech-Owl	Blackpoll Warbler
White Ibis	Great Horned Owl	Black-and-white Warbler
Glossy Ibis	Barred Owl	American Redstart
Roseate Spoonbill	Chimney Swift	Swainson's Warbler
Wood Stork	Belted Kingfisher	Ovenbird
Black Vulture	Red-headed Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker	MacGillivray's Warbler
Osprey	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Common Yellowthroat
Bald Eagle	Downy Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Northern Harrier	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Wilson's Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker	Summer Tanager
Cooper's Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Scarlet Tanager
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Towhee
Broad-winged Hawk	Trail's Flycatcher	Bachman's Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Savannah Sparrow
American Kestrel	Great Crested Flycatcher	Henslow's Sparrow
Merlin	Western Kingbird	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Peregrine Falcon	Eastern Kingbird	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Clapper Rail	Loggerhead Shrike	Seaside Sparrow
King Rail	White-eyed Vireo	Song Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Yellow-throated Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Sora	Blue-headed Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Purple Gallinule	Red-eyed Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Common Moorhen	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
American Coot	American Crow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-bellied Plover	Fish Crow	Blue Grosbeak
Wilson's Plover	Tree Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Semipalmated Plover	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Painted Bunting
Piping Plover	Cave Swallow	Bobolink
Killdeer	Barn Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
American Oystercatcher	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Meadowlark
American Avocet	Tufted Titmouse	Common Grackle
Spotted Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch	Boat-tailed Grackle
Solitary Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Greater Yellowlegs	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Willet	House Wren	House Sparrow
Lesser Yellowlegs		

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