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

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<th>Species Countdown...</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Steve Holzman, Compiler</strong></td>
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<td><strong>199 species observed</strong></td>
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The following table contains a combined list of the species reported from the all of the field trips:

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