

GOS Winter Meeting  
Tybee Island, Georgia  
13-16 February 2017

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Keith Bildstein – Vultures

Dr. Bildstein detailed his work in both South and North America focusing on movements and site fidelity of vultures on the breeding and wintering grounds.

Friday Speaker: Heather Abernathy

Heather spoke about her study examining how breeding insectivorous songbirds, vegetation, and caterpillars have responded to a gradient of 30-year annual average precipitation in southern Appalachia. They found that songbirds are exerting top-down control on caterpillars and, if asynchrony between caterpillars and songbirds continue, large tracts of forest may be under threat of defoliation by caterpillars. Further, they found that Canada Warblers and Black-throated Blue Warblers had very strong relationships to environmental variables such as, topography, elevation, and 30-year annual average precipitation. These relationships need to be considered when assessing future habitat availability due to climate change.

Heather Abernathy, Countdown Emcee  
Larry Carlile, Compiler  
169 Species Observed

***Highlights are in bold italics***

Birds observed during field trips to: Chatham County Wetlands Mitigation Site, Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, Corps of Engineers Spoil Disposal Site (Jasper Co., SC), Fort Pulaski National Monument, Fort Stewart Military Installation, Harris Neck NWR, Little St. Simons Island, Pelagic Trips, Little Tybee Island, Richmond Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility, Savannah Hotspots, Sapelo Island, Savannah NWR (Jasper Co., SC), Savannah NWR (Solomon Tract), Skidaway Island Hotspots, Tybee Island, and Wassaw Island NWR.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Canada Goose  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Mottled Duck  
Blue-winged Teal  
Northern Shoveler  
Green-winged Teal  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Black Scoter  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
***Plain Chachalaca***  
Red-throated Loon  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
***Eared Grebe***

***Manx Shearwater***  
Wood Stork  
Northern Gannet  
Double-crested Cormorant  
Anhinga  
American White Pelican  
Brown Pelican  
American Bittern  
Great Blue Heron  
Great Egret  
Snowy Egret  
Little Blue Heron  
Tricolored Heron  
Green Heron  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
White Ibis  
Glossy Ibis  
Roseate Spoonbill  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Bald Eagle  
Northern Harrier  
Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Clapper Rail  
King Rail  
Virginia Rail  
Sora  
Common Gallinule  
American Coot  
American Avocet  
American Oystercatcher  
Black-bellied Plover  
***Snowy Plover***  
Wilson's Plover  
Semipalmated Plover  
Piping Plover  
Killdeer  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Greater Yellowlegs  
Willet  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Whimbrel  
Marbled Godwit  
Ruddy Turnstone  
Red Knot

Ruff  
**Stilt Sandpiper**  
Sanderling  
Dunlin  
Least Sandpiper  
Western Sandpiper  
Short-billed Dowitcher  
**Long-billed Dowitcher**  
Wilson's Snipe  
**Red Phalarope**  
**Pomarine Jaeger**  
**Parasitic Jaeger**  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Laughing Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Great Black-backed Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Royal Tern  
Black Skimmer  
Rock Pigeon  
Eurasian Collared-Dove  
Mourning Dove  
Common Ground-Dove  
Great Horned Owl  
**Short-eared Owl**  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
**Hairy Woodpecker**  
**Red-cockaded Woodpecker**  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
American Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
Eastern Phoebe  
Loggerhead Shrike  
White-eyed Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Fish Crow  
Tree Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch**  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Brown-headed Nuthatch  
Brown Creeper  
House Wren  
Winter Wren

Sedge Wren  
Marsh Wren  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Golden-crowned Kinglet  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Eastern Bluebird  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Brown Thrasher  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Cedar Waxwing  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Palm Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Eastern Towhee  
Bachman's Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Savannah Sparrow  
**Henslow's Sparrow**  
Nelson's Sparrow  
Saltmarsh Sparrow  
Seaside Sparrow  
**Fox Sparrow**  
Song Sparrow  
Swamp Sparrow  
White-throated Sparrow  
Northern Cardinal  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Boat-tailed Grackle  
House Finch  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow