

Oriole Chirps

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BIRDERS IN MIDDLE GEORGIA are doing some very interesting things ... Elizabeth Newsom, of Sandersville, has completed a compilation of names and dates on all graves (over seven thousand) in all cemeteries in Washington County for which she was honored at a tea by the Sandersville D.A.R. Chapter ... The Carol Sirmons (he is President of the Milledgeville bird group) will be opening their Cove Pottery in December and, among beautiful and interesting articles, will feature bird houses and feeders ... Miss Sara Finney, also of Milledgeville, has added carved wooden birds to her already flourishing business of carved wooden fruit and vegetables.

ATLANTA BIRD CLUB members enjoyed a field trip to Callaway Gardens in October and during the same month had their first Wildlife Film of the season. Sybil Arbury shared her birding in the British Isles with the club as the program at one of the summer meetings.

AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK AGAIN went Marion King and Virginia Starr, of Rome. Of all their wonderful trips in the U.S. and abroad, this was surely the "mostest" of everything.

GOS PRESIDENT-ELECT Marie Mellinger served as naturalist and guide at Black Rock State Park during the past summer. Spending a recent week-end at the Park were Milledgeville birders Selma Erwin, Mary Elizabeth Venable, Kitty Weaver, and Mrs. Alice Goddard, with Marie as guide on a trail hike.

THE NATURE INSTITUTE, held annually at Gay Valley Camp, near Brevard, had two GOS members on the staff at the June session -- Tully Pennington, of Statesboro, was again director of the Institute, and Louise Nunnally, of Knoxville, was in charge of workshop activities. The whole Gay Valley family has been saddened by the death of the beloved Miss Mary Gwynn, owner and director of this outstanding camp.

BEST WISHES FOR RECOVERY go to Alma Cooke, of Butler, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident during the summer, to Byron Eberhart, of Rome, who has been seriously ill, and to Anne Hamilton, of Dalton, who is a patient at Emory Hospital.

A GREAT LOSS to the Atlanta Bird Club and GOS in June with the death of Jay Brower, following a sudden illness, and three weeks later, following an automobile accident, of Mrs. B.N. Willingham, his mother-in-law. Jay had served the ABC well as president, chairman of the Audubon Wildlife Film Committee, and later as editor of the newsletter. Mrs. Willingham had been historian of the club. Clemmie Brower, who was injured in the same accident as her mother, has recovered. To her, and other members of the family, goes the heartfelt sympathy of all GOS members. These two lovers of the beautiful in the out-of-doors have joined others now missing (and greatly missed) from our ranks. Perhaps it is not inappropriate to think of a Chapter-on-the-Other Side with such members as Rufus Godwin, Ray Werner, Jay Brower and Mrs. Willingham, of Atlanta, Bill DuPre, Mrs. W. B. Nunnally, Mrs. Alta Stevens, and Ben Maulsby, of Rome, and Ivan Tomkins, of Savannah. At this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us pause and give thanks for all that they were and will always be to those who knew and loved them.

HELP WANTED -- Will the clubs over the state getting out a bulletin or newsletter, please add the name of Chirp's editor to the mailing list? Thanks !

AND THEN THERE WAS THE MAN (this time Norton Mockridge of up Pennsylvania way) who, in his yearly tally, found that he had encountered the following: At the beach, a hairy-chested strutter, also there (but avoiding the water) was a bikini-striped sand hugger and a goggle-eyed ogler. In a more domesticated habitat was found an overstuffed sofa flopper and a full-tummied snoozer. On a snowy day, near an elementary school, was noticed a teary-eyed mittens-minus and a runny-beaked sniffer. Around a high school was seen a tousle-thatched hot-rodder. One species, noticed only before noon, was the morning grouse. Normally among birds, females have duller plumages than males, but Mockridge spotted two very colorful females - a painted upstart and a scarlet tantalizer. Another bird which he found at an office Christmas party, under some mistletoe, was a wet-beaked osculator. What have you spotted recently?

With the Christmas season so near, thoughts turn to the Christmas counts. Let all who can, get out, count and be counted, and may this year's count be the best ever !

To all of you

Happy Holidays and Happy Birding !

Louise Nunnally
Editor

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