

14 MAR 1975

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society Vol. II No. 3

THE GOShawk SAYS - Welcome to our new members - Mr. and Mrs. Beaufort Cranford, Sr., Milledgeville; Franklin McCamey, Clarkston; Frank Larkin, Greenwich, Conn.; John Woods, Midway; Roger Folsom, Hahira; Stephen Irons, Ocilla; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mitchell, Macon; Douglas Oxford, Jr., Greenville; Kathy Simmons, Athens. Also joining us is the library at Bainbridge Junior College. Do plan to come to the meeting in Albany and all our other get togethers.

The winter bird picture in Georgia developed as follows - Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were at scattered localities in reduced numbers. Purple Finches appeared in normal numbers. Snowy Owls invaded the south, as they do at intervals, being tied to the lemming cycle - one was seen in Georgia. Whistling Swans were reported from three locations, White-crowned Sparrows were sprinkled about. Shorteared Owls put in an appearance in the interior, Red Crossbills popped up in the mountains, Lapland Longspurs were at Gainsville. Two Christmas Counts turned up "summer" birds and birds typical of the warm months were found in the dead of winter.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS - How long has it been since you were in Albany and got in some of the good birding the area offers? Too long, probably, Why not go down Albany way and attend the spring meeting April 11-13? The information sheets are out and it looks like a great meeting coming up - interesting and productive field trips; a famous naturalist of TV fame - Jim Fowler, a native of Albany - to give the banquet speech, complete with movies. A private version of "Wild Kingdom" for GOSers! The migrants will be coming through the piney woods - dressed in their spring best and singing glorious melodies. If you enjoy the coastal plain, swamps, pine woods, open fields and all the intriguing bird, animal and plant life these areas hold - this is for you! On to Albany!

A message from Dan Han editor of the guide to Georgia birding -- "At the Fall meeting of the GOS, it was decided to try to put together a bird finding guide for Georgia. At the request of Wally Dreyfoos, I agreed to edit this guide. The guide is to consist of those areas in Georgia accessible to the public both as to ownership and ease of admittance."

"If any person knows of any good birding areas in Georgia, I would appreciate their giving me the information at the following address: 4181 Linda Lane, Lilburn, Georgia, 30247. I especially need assistance along the coast from Savannah to Jekyll Island and the northeastern corner of the state."

CHRISTMAS COUNTS AROUND THE STATE - * denotes bird listed as uncommon, rare, casual, etc. in Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton, Milton Hopkins, Jr.

ALBANY - December 28 - Foggy in morning, sunny in afternoon. Mild. 82 species. Birds of interest - Green-winged Teal* 15, Northern Shoveler* 3, Vultures - Turkey 123, Black 178, Hawks - Red-tailed 29, Red-shouldered 14, Marsh 16, American Kestrel 14, Turkey 1, Rock Dove 36 (first year these birds have appeared on the count list - Ed.), Owls - Screech 1, Great Horned* 2, Barred 11, Woodpeckers - Red-Headed 2, Hairy* 3, Whitebreasted Nuthatch 2, House Wren* 1, Eastern Bluebird 47, Solitary Vireo* 1, Red-winged Blackbird 63,000. Sparrows - Grasshopper* 1, Bachman's* 2, Fox* 4. Seen during count period - Limpkin*, Wood Stork*, Black and White Warbler*. GOSers - Charles Erwin, Charlotte Blackshear.

COLUMBUS - December 28 - 93 species, 22,210 individuals - this tied the all-time record established in 1962. Birds of note -- Snow Goose* (Blue Morph) 1, Barn Owl*, House Wren* 14 - high; Evening Grosbeak 2.

CALLAWAY GARDENS - January 1 - 83 species, 7,486 individuals.

HARRIS NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - SAVANNAH - December 28 - 93 species. Species of interest - Long-eared Owl* 1 - a first for the refuge, Snow Geese* 12 (Blue Morph 10), Fox Sparrow* 1 - appearing on count list for the second time. GOSer - Sam Young.

BRUNSWICK - December 29 - Foggy, misty. Best count yet! 161 species, about 17,922 individuals. Noteworthy birds - Horned Grebe, Green Heron*, Cattle Egret*, Black-crowned Night Heron*, Yellow-crowned Night Heron (generally considered a summer bird - Ed.) Wood Stork*, Blue-winged Teal*, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye*, King Eider*, Black

(Common* - Ed.) Scoter, Common Merganser*, Hawks - Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Rough-legged*, Marsh, Peregrine Falcon*, Merlin*, American Kestrel, Turkey, Sora*, Whimbrel*, Spotted Sandpiper*, Yellow-legs-Greater, Lesser*, Red Knot, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit*, American Avocet*, Gulls-Laughing*, Bonaparte's, Common Tern*, Rock Dove, Owls - Screech, Great Horned*, Whip-poor-will*, Woodpeckers - Red-headed, Hairy*, Red-cockaded, Least Flycatcher (rare transient, uncommon summer resident in mountains - Ed.) Wrens-House*, Short billed*, Veery (uncommon transient-fairly common summer resident in mountains above 3500 feet - Ed.), Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Vireos - Yellow-throated (summer resident - Ed.), Solitary*, Warblers - Black and White*, Northern Parula*, Rusty Blackbird*, Pine Siskin 15, Sparrows - Ipswich*, Grasshopper*, Tree (Editor's Note: not listed in Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid. Georgia Birds, Thomas D. Burleigh - lists this bird on the hypothetical list. Single sight record...three birds seen by Aaron C. Bagg on February 25, 1921 feeding on a lawn within city limits of Augusta - Bagg, 1921.), White-crowned*, Fox*, GOSer - Norene Boring.

MACON - December 21 - Clear. 65 species. Birds of note -- Hawks - Red-tailed 3, Marsh 1, American Kestrel 3, Rock Dove 30, Ground Dove 2, Great Horned Owl* 1, Woodpeckers - Red-headed 2, Hairy* 9, Eastern Kingbird 1 (Common summer resident over state - Ed.), Horned Lark 2, American Robin 1050, Eastern Bluebird 4, Fox Sparrow 1.

AUGUSTA - December 15 - Overcast in morning, drizzle in late morning; downpour in afternoon. 84 species. Bird finds -- ten species of ducks, including Canvasback*, Bufflehead*, Ruddy*, Fish Crow* 10, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1, Black and White Warbler* 2, White-crowned Sparrow* 1. GOSers - Fred Denton, Tom Rial, Jack Cooper, Alan and Elaine Gates, Jeanine Angerman - participated in three counts -, Gerald Knighton.

ATLANTA - December 22 - Good weather. 81 species - four higher than ever before - 10,463 individuals. Good finds - Horned Grebe* 2 - a first for the count, Gadwall* 6, Common Goldeneye* 2, Hawks, Sharp-shinned* 4, Red-tailed 20, Red-shouldered 5, American Kestrel 4, King Rail* 10 - a first for the count, Rock Dove 10, Great Horned Owl* 3, Woodpeckers - Red-headed 7, Hairy* 5, Eastern Phoebe 13, Eastern Bluebird 138, House Wren* 5, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 325, Solitary Vireo 3, Evening Grosbeak 5, Pine Siskin 3.

ROME - no count held due to inclement weather.

DALTON - December 14 - Frost, 32° F in morning - up to 60° F in afternoon. No wind, clear. 77 species, 11,222 individuals. Interesting birds - Vultures - Turkey 4, Black 2, Hawks - Cooper's 2, Red-tailed 14, Red-shouldered 3, Marsh 1, American Kestrel 11, Rock Dove 75, Woodpeckers - Red-headed 7, Hairy* 4, Eastern Bluebird 73, Bewick's Wren* 2, American Robin 1,628, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 82, Loggerhead Shrike 13, Palm Warbler* 1, - first winter record, Sparrows - White-crowned* 18, Fox 4, One counter saw every species of woodpecker indigenous to the north Georgia area. A Gray Catbird was seen during the count period. GOSers - Sandy Pangle, Frank, Harriett, Robert DiGioia, Norene Boring, Harry White, Anne Hamilton.

BIRD NEWS - The editor will now be using an asterish * to denote birds listed as uncommon, rare, scarce, casual, etc. in the Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid. Any editor's notes included will be from the above book, unless otherwise stated.

THE PIPER - COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY - BRUNSWICK - (Nov.) Joe King reports recently seeing a spectacular several hundred Dunlin on Sea Island Beach.

On November 11, 32 persons spent an enjoyable day at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Buzzy Pickren made the arrangements; 33 species were tallied. Probably 20 Sandhill Cranes were viewed, usually in small flocks of two - three feeding in open spaces or flying low over the swamp. White Ibis were abundant, particularly in the Grand Prairie area in flocks of a few dozen up to possibly a hundred birds. Wood Storks were scattered but present in considerable numbers. Close-up views were had of several Red-shouldered Hawks. A Great Crested Flycatcher, Tree Swallows, Fish Crows were seen. A Turkey was watched crossing the road in the Peckerwood Trail area and several people reported seeing a Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Reported by Joe King.

THE FALL LINE - OCMULGEE AUDUBON SOCIETY - MACON - On December 12, it was learned Whistling Swans* were at Lake Allison, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge. Four members went up on December 14 and had the thrill of seeing two immature swans (one source puts the figure at four swans. - Ed.) 500 Ring-necked Ducks were seen there, November 23.

THE BIRD WATCHER - FLOYD COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - ROME - (Nov.)

On our last field trip we visited the J & G Ranch near Shannon. We enjoyed the sight of a big Red-tailed Hawk and saw a male Marsh Hawk, light in color and graceful in the air.

A member has had beavers build a dam that has backed water into the low parts of his woodland tract. He saw about a dozen Wood Ducks there recently. A big Barred Owl has come to his woods and he hopes it will nest there. Also, he tells of seeing a Merlin* pursuing a Red-tailed Hawk, calling angrily as it ousted the larger bird.

(Feb.) We went to "Paris" Lake and Garden Lakes on our last field trip. Birds recorded: 200+ Ring-necked Duck, one Ruddy Duck* - there were perhaps more - 450+ American Wigeon*, 30+ Gadwall*, 800+ American Coot.

ALBANY AUDUBON SOCIETY - The first Purple Finch was seen November 28. Charles Erwin reports six Herring Gulls flying over his house, November 30, during a period of unsettled weather. (Editor's Note: ...Locally uncommon in interior.)

(Dec.) Recently, two members noted 65 - actual count - Great Egrets feeding in a pond on Lily Pond Road, along with three Common Snipe.

(Feb.) During a recent trip to Reed-Bingham State Park, 30 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were sighted. The first Purple Martin Scouts were reported to have been seen, January 23, just west of Sylvester.

UPPER FLINT RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY - JONESBORO - Roger Green, Ken and Barbara Acree, Don and Doris Cohrs of the Atlanta Chapter, went to Opelika, Ala., January 19 to see the Snowy Owl. This beautiful predator was spotted within 15 minutes after arrival.

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AUDUBON SOCIETY - L. A. Wells reports - a very good fall. However, when 13 "earliest ever" records follow nine such records in spring - it is time to be grateful for the excellent birding that brought them in. William Matheny's holidays and week-ends are even more productive than his daily home and campus checks. James Miller, specializing on home records, works against my latest issue of "Migration Extremes & Abundances" in the field.

William Matheny ticked off the following birds - Going back to August 10, ten Wood Storks* were a good find at the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR); August 17, he saw an Upland Sandpiper* there for a first record in the refuge. A Merlin* was viewed on October 15 - this bird is now rarely seen - 40 late Cattle Egrets were noted. November 23 was a regular field day at ENWR - two Double-crested Cormorants*, 130 Hooded Mergansers and thousands of Red-breasted Mergansers*, series of flocks from daylight to dark and an adult Bald Eagle*, plus 10 House Wrens* were recorded.

The following birds were noted by James Miller - October 27, Bay-breasted Warbler - latest since 1968 and he found five Tennessee Warblers in one tree. Three White-breasted Nuthatch were in the trees around Lake Richards (LR), November 2. A Long-billed Marsh Wren* and a Henslow's Sparrow* were observed at ENWR, November 10. November 17 brought 45 Bufflehead* to LR and November 23, 12 Little Blue Herons, ENWR, were late.

Other bird news - The Blue Morph of the Snow Goose* - an immature - has appeared daily with ducks at a feeder of a member since October 19 - this bird has been photographed. An American Kestrel was watched on October 19 - few are seen locally; more elsewhere. Why? We have a new late date for the Ovenbird - November 6 and a member had three of these shy birds at her feeding grounds at one time on October 20. The first Horned Grebe* was reported on November 8 - more were along on Lake Oliver (LO) - the last was reported, November 16. A new all-time late date has been established for the Tennessee Warbler - one was seen November 15. An Oldsquaw* was noticed on LO, November 23 - the 14th local sighting.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS - Thanks to L.A. Wells, we have some bird records for this season. The first Orange-crowned Warbler of the season was recorded on October 10; a White-crowned Sparrow* was seen October 23 - earliest since 1968; and a new all time early date for the Fox Sparrow, October 26.

Still reaching back into October - L. A. Wells saw the latest ever Great Crested Flycatcher on the 18th; Bob Terhune got the first Darkeyed Junco of the season the 19th, the earliest-ever date. A Golden Eagle* was at LO February 6, for the first Columbus record - L. A. Wells also observed the eagle. Henry Stevenson, up from Florida for the Alabama Ornithological Society (AOS) meeting, saw Least Sandpipers*, ENWR, January 26.

James Miller recorded these birds - Black and White Warbler, November 9, the first ever seen in November, now seen every month of the year; straggling Barn Swallows at ENWR on November 10; 20 Sandhill Cranes*, November 17 off Hamilton Road - the first since 1959.

Credit goes to William Matheny for the following finds - Black-billed Cuckoo* - fifth local record - October 5; Chestnut-sided Warbler, November 2 - all time late date, William and Terry Moore sighted two Golden Eagles* one adult, one immature, Georgia side ENWR a Le Conte's Sparrow*, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow (Editors Note: ... rare spring and fall transient in interior.), ENWR, January 25.

THE HOUSE FINCH - HENRY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - (Dec.) White-crowned Sparrows* were reported in a yard in early November. A member has been seeing Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks and American Kestrels near McDonough. A Marsh Hawk has been observed on Browning Road, Stone Mountain; a Red-tailed Hawk was recently watched as it ate a small mammal.

THE ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY - From the (Georgia) Conservancy Bulletin "A Bald Eagle* was recently sighted in North Georgia. The occasion was a canoe trip down the Coosawattee River, September 7. All of the party of nine got a clear view of the eagle at close range. At one point, the eagle flew upstream almost directly over them, displaying its brilliant white head and tail plumage. In the opinion of Bill Griffin, Trustee and birder of note who was consulted about the sighting, the eagle was likely not nesting in the area, but migrating through.

Elbridge Freeborn received a report of the sighting of a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks on the Ansley Golf course during the last week of October. Sybil Arbery mentioned that a good place to see an Ovenbird in Atlanta is inside the Newberry Store, downtown. The bird has been surviving on snack bar treats. (Dec. issue.)

The last week-end in October - 25 - 27 - 14 Atlanta birders led by Terry Moore racked up 140 species on the coast. One Gannet was seen at Jekyll Island, One Long-billed Curlew at Sea Island (Editor's Note: Formerly a common transient and winter resident along coast, now rare.). Merlins* were sighted on five - six separate occasions at Jekyll and the Altamaha area. (See page 5, Vol. II, No. 2 - this newsletter - for other finds on this trip. - Ed.).

Wally Drewfoos spotted a Mississippi Kite* at the Lockheed parking lot, December 2. On the January 8 field trip to Gainesville a dozen birders saw Horned Larks, a Water Pipit, a Least Sandpiper and, off I-85, a tree Swallow. The last two aren't unusual birds, they just don't belong here at this time of year. Doris Cohrs reported lots of Red-tailed Hawks.

AUGUSTA AUDUBON SOCIETY - A pair of Gadwall were reported below the Fifth Street Bridge on the Savannah River, October 1. An American Kestrel was spotted, October 19, at Merry Ponds - probably a migrant. (See page 3, Vol. 11, No. 2 - this newsletter - for further comments - Ed.). The November 2 field trip set out to look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Only nesting trees were seen - no birds. A Swainson's Thrush was in a Holly Tree along a wooded path at Winston Springs.

Red-crossbills* have been sighted on Eastman Mountain near Clayton, September 2. A flock of 11 were seen foraging in the large White Pines by Louis Schweizer, Jake and Helen Speltz, Caroline Newhall and others. These birds do seem to be invading the South more frequently in the past few years.

Interstate Hawks - Hawk watching has become a sport for several Augusta birders as they travel to Atlanta. On November 23, Bill and Lee Gibbs journeyed to Atlanta via I-20 and spied 12 hawks - nine Red-tailed, two Red-shouldered, one American Kestrel. Again on November 28, they observed 21 hawks up to the LaVista exit on 285. One American Kestrel, 15 Red-tailed, five Red-shouldered hawks were seen. (March 12, traveling I-75 from Dalton to Atlanta, the return trip made in a heavy thunderstorm - the editor saw four Red-tailed Hawks.).

Tom Rial, Julie Crowley totaled 49 species on the December 7 field trip. Ruddy Ducks*, Ring-billed Gulls, a Vesper Sparrow were noted. Four species of hawks were listed - Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, American Kestrel. Gerald Knighton at another location that day, reported Green-winged Teal* and Bufflehead*.

Whistling Swans* are back! Robbie Lathrop went birding on Merry Ponds early on the morning of January 1 and found an immature on Swan Pond. Last year, one was seen for a first record at Merry Ponds - Robbie's sighting is six weeks previous to last year's.

59 species were seen on the January 10 trip, including - Pintail*, Black-crowned Night Heron*, Long-billed Marsh Wren*, Solitary Vireo* and "pools" of Sandpipers.

January 11, saw Jeanine Angerman, Robbie Lathrop, Tom Rial off on a field trip to the Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge. 71 species were checked of including - 200 Canvasback, Wellover 100 Common Snipe, one Solitary Vireo*. Tom said he was concerned about the decline in the number of birds. This was down considerably from former visits. He also stated that a "diversion canal" had been built through the heart of the refuge - this and other factors are nibbling away at the preserve and will finally murder the refuge. Jake and Helen Speltz have a hanging basket of plastic flowers in their carport. In winter, Carolina Wrens use it for sleeping quarters - in spring as a nesting site. Late in December, Jake found an adult Wren dead in the basket - this was repeated in January. There were no outward signs of the cause of death, but pesticides are suspected. (Anne Hamilton has two Carolina Wrens using her hanging basket of plastic flowers as a roost. - Ed.).

THE DALTON KINGFISHER - CHEROKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY - Norene Boring, Anne Hamilton spotted a Cooper's Hawk flying across Utility Road, November 17. One of our members found a freshly dead Barn Owl* at 4:00 p.m., November 29, on the street that fronts Dalton Junior College. The bird was in perfect condition - no marks on it.

Since the week-end of November 30 - December 1, a family on Kinner Circle has been entertaining a first year male Orchard Oriole at their feeder. The bird has been seen on many occasions. Anne Hamilton, Harriett DiGioia saw the bird on Christmas Day. Northern Orioles do winter in the U. S. - this Orchard Oriole sighting is believed to be one of the few winter records for the state, if not the first record. (If anyone has information on the winter status of this bird in Georgia, please contact the editor.) The Orchard Oriole was seen at another feeder in the same neighborhood, January 18, 22. The original observers last saw the Oriole, January 29.

A Gray Catbird was seen, December 8 - they occasionally winter with us. Two Pine Siskins were seen around the end of December for the only report of these erratic birds in this area. Harry White has White-crowned Sparrows* coming to his feeder and tells of seeing a Red-breasted Nuthatch, one of the few reported this year. He also has seen two - three Red-tailed Hawks circling about his home. Anne Harriett DiGioia watched a Red-shouldered Hawk, November 23 and a Sharp-shinned Hawk* at their farm, November 29. She saw a Green Heron, January 28, in a creek bottom off Highway 41. This is a first winter record for Dalton, although Green Herons do winter in Georgia. Sandy Pangle noted a Green Heron at Thread Mill Lake, February 4 - these two sightings are most likely of the same bird, as the areas are close to each other. A Bewick's Wren* was at a feeder February 7. Four Red-shouldered Hawks were heard screaming as they circled a farm, February 28. Evening Grosbeaks are in the news! We finally have two reports, both from feeders. Two were seen on February 19 and the observer said they had been coming about a month. Three were noted, March 1; six on March 2 - male and female.

Whistling Swans* - a first record for Whitfield County. Harriett DiGioia was told of the presence of birds believed to be Whistling Swans on Lake Kathy, near Tunnel Hill - first seen on February 1. She and her son, Robert, went to the lake, February 13, saw the swans and verified them as Whistling Swans. Photographs were taken of the birds. Sandy Pangle viewed them on February 14. Norene Boring went to the lake, February 15, but the swans were not there. One account said the swans had been at the lake a month - another person said they had been there since Christmas. Harry White saw them at the lake on February 18. Five Canada Geese were also on Lake Kathy, February 13. An unverified report - from two sources - mentions a flock of Herring Gulls* there on February 9.

LETTERS - PHONE CALLS - Lois Dulaney writes - "Referring to your news-letter, Vol. II, No. 2 under 'Citified Woodcocks', I am happy to report that for the past three winters we have had a Woodcock in our garden in Savannah. He stays a month or so and then disappears."

Terry Moore wrote in to say John Paget and a friend found Lapland Longspurs* at the Gainesville airport.

John Swiderski reported the following news in a telephone conversation - a Snowy Owl* was sighted one time in Hawkinsville around Christmas-time by a college student whose father is a state ranger.

Mike Einhorn, John and Judy Swiderski, Don and Sara Hans saw one Lapland Longspur* and 30 - 40 Horned Larks at the Gainesville airport, December 7 - 8. A male Northern Oriole was seen at a feeder in Atlanta, February 5. Great Horned Owls* are in abundance - a good number of these owls have been reported in the Atlanta area, according to John. One was in the woods behind his house the week of February 9.

Mike Fuller, president of the Columbus Audubon Society, called the editor to tell the news of the Snowy Owl of Opelika, Ala. He mentioned there were four Short-eared Owls* at ENWR, January 13 and one of the owls flew to the Georgia side that day. (20 Short-eared Owls were seen at ENWR, January 15 - one source puts the figure at 23 - Ed.). Mike told of a trip he went on to Jekyll Island, January 3 - 5 - he saw a European Wigeon (Editor's Note: Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid. does not list this bird. Georgia Birds, Ibid. - a rare transient and winter resident in the southeastern corner of the state, six sightings recorded.), a classic adult Great Black-backed Gull was watched (Editor's Note: rare on coast in winter, December-February.), a Red-throated Loon was spotted and a Common Scoter* was found on the beach.

The John Hinsons saw a Golden Eagle* in Screven County the latter part of December. Grace Boddiford, Anne Hamilton noted Least Sandpipers, February 8, and a Solitary Vireo* about that time.

(The editor appreciates all the phone calls and letters bringing in bird/people news. Keep them coming!).

Snowy Owl - it is the editor's policy not to print bird sightings from adjoining states. The two exceptions being the Columbus area - especially ENWR - and the Augusta Area; it is not always possible to separate the Georgia birds from the Alabama/South Carolina birds. These birds are very close to our borders and therefore, in all probability come over into Georgia. The Snowy Owl is being included because of its rareness and the fact that many GOSers journeyed to see it and almost all newsletters in the state carried articles on the bird.

The Snowy Owl of Opelika, was - until late January - a most celebrated visitor. People came from all over Alabama and adjoining states to see this bird - one estimate put the number at over a thousand people. The Owl, thought by Dr. Ed Hill of Auburn to be an immature male - made the downtown area his headquarters - feeding on the Opelika pigeons. Since the owl spent a lot of his time on the spire of the Methodist and Baptist churches, we have an ecumenical owl! Reports have been received of Snowy Owl sightings in North and South Carolina. The Opelika Snowy Owl was first seen December 12.

NEWS OF PEOPLE - Our congratulations to Felix and Mildred Pierce who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 22. May you have many more!

Grace and Knapp Boddiford visited their daughter and her family in Germany last fall. Side trips were taken to Sweden, Austria, Switzerland.

Stateside Travelers - Jake and Helen Speltz spent the first two weeks of October in California, adding the Roadrunner to their Life List. Tom and Marilyn Rial enjoyed a ten-day camping trip in the Okefenokee Swamp and attended the Georgia Conservancy meeting held there November 22-24. Tom saw more Sandhill Cranes than he ever had ever before, two of these birds were seen on the west side of Big Water Prairie. A flock of approximately 200 white Ibis were seen on Grand Prairie. A number of Barred Owls were heard calling at night. As before "the bird of the swamp" was the Pileated Woodpecker. McRae and Mozelle Williams were in the Okefenokee in January at a motor coach rally. They saw two Pileated Woodpeckers and two Sandhill Cranes, "for closer than we ever expected to occur by happenstance."

Our president, Wally Dreyfoos, traveled to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (SMNWR) and to Wakulla Springs, Florida, January 4. 87 species were seen, including 15 species of ducks. Four Glossy Ibis were noted and an adult Bald Eagle flew almost directly in front of the car. Grace and Harrison Whiteman went to the Qanatee National Wildlife Refuge, S. C. (seems like our members spend a lot of time in wildlife refuges! - Ed.). They observed 2000+ Canada Geese, four Snow Geese (Blue Morph). Tom French was at the Maine Audubon Camp this past summer. While he was there a Common Puffin re-establishment program was in progress. Sue Chambliss attended one session of the AOS meeting at ENWR in January. Jeanine Angerman and Tom Rial were at the Carolina Bird Club winter meeting at Moorehead Beach, S. C., January 25-26. 121 species seen - 145 birders registered.

Sandy Pangle went to Columbus and on to SMNWR, January 24-26, adding 18 birds to his Life List. He saw the Short-eared Owl at ENWR and the Snowy Owl at Opelika.

ILLNESS - Peg Einhorn had a coughing spell so severe she broke her back and was hospitalized. Virginia Denton underwent major surgery and has been recuperating at home. We wish a speedy recovery to you both! Jeanine Angerman had further surgery at Mayo's Clinic, Rochester, Minn., November 25; Anne Hamilton was hospitalized in January in Sylvania - both are up and well now.

ACTIVITIES - The magazine section of THE ATLANTA JOURNAL/CONSTITUTION, January 12, carried a story - "Birds of St. Simons" - complete with superb photographs. Good mentions were made of Earle Green and his birding activities. Georgine Pindar was on an early morning talk show, discussing birds with John Moore, WSB. A certificate signed by Georgine was given to Governor Carter at the Audubon Southeastern Regional Conference in November. Dick Parks was a featured speaker at this meeting, November 3. Dicks' paintings were displayed during the entire conference. Jay Ginsberg was recently pictured in the Atlanta Journal using a computer at the Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, where he is a research assistant. George Dorsey presented a most interesting talk to the Cherokee Audubon Society, Dalton, in February.

Congratulations are in order for Jeanine Angerman's daughter, Julie. While working at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken, S. C., Julie co-authored an article, "Effect of Age on Indigestible Components of a Mouse" which appeared in the Journal of Mammalogy. Vol. 55, No. 1, March 30, 1974.

An Invitation from Tom Rial - All GOSers are cordially invited to the Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting, May 2-4, 1975 in Aiken, S. C. for more information, write/call Tom at 791 Boardman Road, Aiken, S. C., 29801 --Phone 803-648-4501. Tom is Vice-President of the CBC.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - Civilization should be measured with daisies and goldenrods, with ferns and grasses and trees of every kind, with roses and lilies and herbs. We should measure it not in terms of how much concrete we pour but rather how many gardens we create. From an editorial in Horticulture Magazine by Carlton B. Lees, Executive Director, Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

It is with sadness we report the death of Earle Greene following a short illness, March 12 at St. Simons Island. He was a dean of Georgia birders, founder, member and a past secretary of the 600 Club; he wrote A Lifetime with the birds, check-lists, various other books and articles. Earle will be sorely missed from Georgia birding circles.

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor
(Mrs. Frank A.)
1309 Lakemont Drive
Dalton, Georgia 30720

March 14, 1975

MR. AND MRS. FRANK DIGIOIA
1309 LAKE MONT DRIVE
DALTON, GEORGIA 30720

