

14 JUN 1975

## The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society Vol. II No. 4

THE GOShawk SAYS - A great big welcome to our new members - Clell Peterson, Murray, KY; William Terrell (L.), Atlanta; Marynette Webb, Vedaia; Dr. John Westbrook, Aiken, SC; Mrs. Emory Jones (gift from her children), Barnesville; Mrs. Emily Ford (L.) (Gift from her brother, George Dorsey), Riverdale; C. Michael Fuller (gift from the L. A. Wells), Columbus; Mr. and Mrs. Grady Oliver, Abbeville, SC; Kathy Fortner, Statesboro; Ronald Halstead, Camilla; Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bishop, Tifton; Dr. Joseph Greenberg (600 Club member), Lithonia; Richard Holbrook, Hahira; Carl Helms, Athens; Morris Williams, Knoxville, TN; Elizabeth Lee, Sylvania; Mary Anne Neville, Marietta. Hope to see all of you at the upcoming fall meeting at Jekyll Island.

Did you notice three of the new memberships are gifts? A membership in GOS is a thoughtful, unusual gift - and one that will benefit the recipient all the year through. Do you have a bird/nature oriented high school or college graduate or a friend or relative you would like to remember? Consider a gift membership in GOS. A timely, useful present for any and all occasions and for no occasion at all!

Spring migration in Georgia appeared to be down. The area around Brunswick reported good warbler numbers and sightings of Sandhill Cranes. Canada Geese were seen winging their way northward over the Stone Mountain - McDonough region; Snow Geese passed over Dalton. Albany is distressed over the decline in the number of birds at the Wilderness Pond Rookery (WPR), especially the number of Great Egrets. White Ibis are doing well there - Cattle Egrets, too, and also in the Augusta area. The Augusta and Rome areas appear to be holding their own - the Columbus area report is incomplete. In northwest Georgia - about Dalton - the warblers were off with a few species not recorded at all -- Golden-winged, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian. It is interesting to note that Lil Dubke in a telephone conversation with the editor mentioned the Chattanooga, TN, area had a good warbler migration, indicating the warblers could have swung west of Dalton. Swainson's Thrushes, after a slow start, appeared in regular numbers; Gray-Cheeked Thrush and Blue Grosbeak numbers were depressed - Cuckoos were in very shy numbers.

The Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) had record-breaking numbers of ducks - plus Bald Eagle sightings and a Whistling-Swan. A Bald Eagle was also seen at the Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge (HNNWR). Parasitic Jaegers were just offshore of Jekyll Island (JI). Two sightings of birds not on the Georgia lists available to the editor were received; along with another Warbling Vireo report, a record of Clay-colored Sparrows and an Olive-sided Flycatcher.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS - A heartfelt "thank you" to the Albany Audubon Society for a great meeting. The birds and weather cooperated - the guides were efficient and well-informed. Jim Fowler's talk and movie were most interesting and informative - the slides by local photographers with Charles Erwin's running commentary filled us in on local birds to be seen on the field trips - the slides and commentary were well done. 86 people registered - 126 species seen, including Hooded Mergansers, Philadelphia Vireo, Snowy Egret, Lesser Yellowlegs. Several new birds were added to the Dougherty County list by GOSers - Red-breasted Merganser, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Swainson's Warbler. The Purple Gallinule had been missing from the Dougherty County records since Herbert Stoddard reported its presence here in 1947 until it was seen again on the GOS field trip. Impressions of a cypress swamp - a vastness where the water is the color of tea, a land of perfect reflections - where do the cypress trees end and the water begin? - an ethereal world veiled in a quality of mystery. A primordial setting as if you had stepped back into time and the world was, once again, young and you are the only person. Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Anhingas, Turkey and Black Vultures swooping and sailing overhead on quiet wings - the wild calling of Coot and Gallinule from cattail-rimmed secret ponds. This is a world reaching back to the misty dawn of time.

What's hoving to on the horison? - why, the fall GOS meeting, of course! Dates - October 17 - 19, Jekyll Island (JI) - headquarters at the new Holiday Inn. Dr. Chandler Robbins of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, author of Birds of North America, GOS member, leading ornithologist will be the featured speaker. Two pelagic trips are in the planning stages - the wide choice of birding habitat - beaches, marshes, woods - are waiting. The migrants and shore birds should be at their peak. Election of officers will be held. This meeting was originally intended to honor Earle Green -

now it will be dedicated to him. The Golden Isles are calling you! - save those dates.

Speaking of the election - send in your choice of candidate for the various offices to Terry Moore - his address appears later - by July 1. Do you have someone in mind you wish to see receive the Earle R. Greene Memorial award? If so, send in your selection to Elbridge Freeborn, 122 Lamont Drive, Decatur, GA 30030 - by July 1. Also, remember the write-ups for the Guide to Birding in Georgia are due in to editor Dan Hans, 4181 Linda Lane, Lilburn, GA 30247 - by July 4. Tempus fugit!

Lucein B. Harris, author of Butterflies of Georgia and a charter member was elected an Honorary Life Member at the spring meeting. This is in recognition of the major contributions he has made to the natural history of our state and to honor and express our esteem for him.

BIRD NEWS - An asterisk following the name of a bird denotes it is listed as rare, uncommon, casual, etc., for that particular area/season in the Pocket Check-List Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton, Milton Hopkins, Jr. Any editor's notes will be from the above book, unless otherwise stated.

THE FALL LINE - OCMULGEE AUDUBON SOCIETY - MACON - The April 26 weekend trip to JI was both pleasant and successful - 16 people were fortunate enough to go. A number of Pointed Buntings were seen. Interesting birds - Clapper Rail, Glossy Ibis\*, Northern Parula Warbler, Black-bellied Plover, Gull-billed Tern, Least Bittern.

ALBANY AUDUBON SOCIETY - The most serious news to report is the definite decline in the number of birds showing up at WPR this spring. The Great Egrets show the most decline. Hopefully, this is a temporary situation which will be observed closely.

On March 22, there was a report of possibly 2,000 White Ibis at WPR. This was during a time when the fish were coming up the creek to spawn and could account for the large number of White Ibis there.

Observation of migrating birds is always a fascinating time for those able to get into the field. It has been noticed the Hooded Merganser\* has been a more reliable find lately due to their moving up from the Gulf. Blue-winged Teal were seen coming through on March 17 - hundreds were seen at the Ellsworth Cattle Company area and also were seen frequently in the wet areas near St. Joe.

Other sightings in our area - Fish Crows seem to outnumber Common Crows now two to one. March 15 brought the first Snowy Egret and Black-Crowned Night Heron\* sightings; March 20 the first Cattle Egrets for Dougherty County were noted. News of the first Yellow-crowned Night Heron and first Dougherty County Ring-billed Gull came on March 22.

UPPER FLINT RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY - JONESBORO - A fledgling Turkey Vulture has been observed near the Georgia Forestry Commission's Fayetteville station.

THE MARSHLANDER - OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY - SAVANNAH - Winter report from SNWR - Record-breaking numbers of waterfowl wintered on the SNWR, the satellite island refuges and HNNWR. On the SNWR alone, over 50,000 ducks were recorded during the December 18 inventory. Wood Ducks were the most abundant species - 24,900; Green-winged Teal placed second - 11,950; Ring-necked Ducks came in third - 6,320. The 100 Canvasbacks on Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge's (BINWR) Flag Pond tripled their '74 census. The Canvasback count on the SNWR was also high - 125.

Unusual sightings for the season include one Whistling Swan\* - SNWR (see Vol. II, No. 3, this newsletter for other winter records of these swans in Georgia. - Ed.); three Fulvous Tree Ducks\* - SNWR; three Canada Geese--SNWR.

Throughout the winter, two mature Bald Eagles\* have been spotted on the SNWR. An immature Bald Eagle\*, seen by Auduboners on their February 8 field trip, continues to feast on the decoy flock of Canada Geese at HNNWR.

The high point of the February 8 trip to HNNWR was observing the Bald Eagle\* sighted by Sam Young. Most of us enjoyed close-ups through the Young's field scope. The eagle sat on the fence post, swiveling his neck 180° right, then reversing. You could practically see computers flickering in the yellow eyes, returning our stares while measuring safety in terms of distance to the intruders. It is too bad the Bill Lovejoys from Georgia Southern missed the young eagle by minutes.

Magnificent - no other word fits the handsome black-headed, white-cheeked Canada Geese. The cliché - "I like a gaggle of cackling geese," proved apt when groups of 20 - sometimes 40 - divebombed nearby, cackling and honking with

insolent familiarity. So completely at ease in the sanctuary, their flights were of short duration - just a dogleg holding pattern before resuming pond activities.

The first big pond was a haven for an American Kestrel, Osprey\*, American Robin, Green Heron\*. Other hawks noted - Red-shouldered, Cooper's, Merlin\*, Red-tailed.

THE PIPER - COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY - BRUNSWICK - In January, a member reports seeing five Parasitic Jaegers\* giving Caspian Terns fits, just offshore of JI. He actually saw the harried Terns drop their loot for the new owner's menu - a sight he'd never witnessed before.

Eight Pileated Woodpeckers were counted in one tree at the same time in a yard on JI. Painted Buntings are very early this year. Carl Masters, JI, reports a female on February 14 - another observer saw two males at a feeder, February 21, JI. (Editor's Note: Georgia Birds - Thomas D. Burleigh - At Savannah, the average date of arrival in Spring is April 14, the earliest record being that of a single bird seen April 7, 1925.)

On March 1, 29 members visited the BINWR. Joe King reports 54 species sighted, of which the Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Black and White Warbler are listed as occasional on the island. The refuge manager told them this had been a very poor year as far as ducks were concerned.

Unusual sightings - A Blue Grosbeak was seen in a yard on April 14 - they were also seen on St. Simons Island (SSI) and JI, on April 15 in the same yard where the Blue Grosbeak was seen - amid hundreds of warblers, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Black-throated Green Warbler\* were noted. Two Sandhill Cranes\* were seen in the marsh on the west side of SSI on March 30. These big fellows usually confine themselves to the Okefenokee Swamp and migrate over certain other areas of the state. According to old-timers, though, they did frequent this area back in the early 1900's.

<sup>Atlanta</sup>  
Aud. Sec. Bob Manns, former Southeastern Representative of the National Audubon Society, writes the following - "On May 25, 1974, Atlanta observers witnessed a Mute Swan (Cygnus Olor) in the Bull Sluice area of the Chattahoochee River. (Reported in Vol. II, No. 1 this newsletter - June 8, 1974, being the date given in the Atlanta Newsletter and used by this editor.) The bird was taken for an escape . . . Then, . . . some days after May 25 the bird was shot and the body retrieved. It was taken to Fernbank Science Center where Ed Thompson examined the bird carefully. An excerpt from his letter to me follows: '. . . There really seems to be a possibility of this being a wild bird.'

"For the bird "listers" it is my opinion it would be more judicious to 'take' it than to ignore it. . . .

"In summary, so heavy is the evidence for the wild condition of this bird, . . . I check the bird as Georgia's first and close my book on the Mute Swan until findings to the contrary are presented." (Room does not permit the publishing of all the details on this bird. Interested persons can get the details by contacting Bob Manns or this editor. This is good Oriole material! - Ed.)

Several partial albino American Robins have been noted in the Atlanta area. Elbridge Freehorn reports the following two items - #1 - On February 21, two small skeins of Canada Geese gathered together in downtown Lawrenceville, formed one large skein of about 30 individuals, flew around haphazardly for a few minutes, got themselves all in a line and headed north. #2 - An Atlantan off on a fishing trip reports while going through Calhoun County seeing a Golden Eagle\* take a rabbit. Elbridge comments he knows the observer and the man is accurate - "I'm sure this is a correct observation." Maibelle Hodgins saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in her yard around April 19.

THE HOUSE FINCH - HENRY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - (March) - Cedar Waxwings have been quite in evidence in our area recently. (The Cedar Waxwing population was generally good throughout the state. Dalton area had a bumper number of these birds this season. - Ed.) Canada Geese were seen winging their way northward near Stone Mountain (SM) and between McDonough and SM during the first weeks of March. One of our members tells of watching Sandhill Cranes\* flying over.

(May) A resident of Stockbridge called Mrs. Mike Einhorn to inquire about a bird which looked like a "white butterfly." Mike went over to Stockbridge, inspected the bird which unfortunately had been killed the day before by a dog. He identified it as an albino Yellow-rumped Warbler. (The editor noted a partial albino Yellow-rumped Warbler at Thread Mill Lake (TML) this past winter. This bird was highly visible at a distance - good pickings for any predator about!)

Betty Schroeder has a Brown-headed Nuthatch nesting in a small rough bird house in her yard.

THE BIRD WATCHER - FLOYD COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY - ROME - George Dorsey comments in the March edition that he has not seen a single Evening Grosbeak or Pine Siskin for the winter. (These two species were not in Georgia this winter in any significant numbers. Again the Dalton area was low in these birds. - Ed.)

On the March 9 field trip to Mountain End Lake, we found 76 American Wigeons. And on March 14, a member reports Pine Siskins at her feeder - three were seen together. Byron Eberhart has the following first on his list - Ruby-throated Hummingbird, April 1 (Editor's note: The earliest date given in Georgia Birds, Ibid., for the northern part of the state is April 2, 1922, Atlanta.); Barn Swallows, April 5 (this is an early date - Dalton records sightings on March 20, 1974; March 25, 1975 - Ed.); a Veery\* and a Nashville Warbler\*, May 3. The field trip to Morrison's Campground turned up a Solitary Vireo\*, Orchard Oriole, Blue-winged Warbler\*, Blackburnian Warbler. - May Newsletter. From George Dorsey come these first-of-season birds - Ovenbird, April 6 in the woods of Darlington School - one day earlier than previous dates; Broad-winged Hawk, April 12; Barred Owl, April 13; Barn Swallow's nest high under a bridge, April 20.

AUGUSTA AUDUBON SOCIETY - The field trip of February 8, led by Tom Rial, revealed several White-crowned Sparrows\* at the corner of Swan Pond and the paved road. These birds were noted again at the same location on March 15, 23, April 5, 19. A male Painted Bunting was seen at an extremely early date - February 13, on Jackson Avenue. (Please refer back to the Editor's Note for earliness under news from THE PIPER - this is one day earlier than the JI date. - Ed.) The river and reed-bordered ponds are not too distant from the area of sighting. The first Purple Martin scouts of the season were once again seen at Consumer's Feed Company, Washington Road, in Martinez on February 22.

15 Cattle Egrets were recorded on the March 15 walk, roosting at Big Pond. A number of Great Blue Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons\* were observed. Two sightings were made of American Woodcocks, flocks of Tree Swallows\* and Rough-winged Swallows were dipping over the ponds at Long Dyke. Six Evening Grosbeaks were seen at the Lock and Dam - they have been scarce all winter with only two sightings reported. Fish Crows were reported back in great numbers. On March 23 a female Bufflehead\* was on Swan Pond, two Sora\* - one dead apparently of a broken neck - were seen. Tom Rial reports the most unusual find was at Farmer's Field off the levee. The field was covered with water-filled potholes - literally hundreds of Blue-winged Teal were enjoying the luxury of the potholes.

An albino American Robin has been viewed in the area and a Short-eared Owl\* has been around all winter in Boiling Springs. A Red-headed woodpecker has been a "regular" at an area feeder and an Eastern Bluebird nest with five eggs was found in an electrician's box near a home under construction. April 5 brought sightings of an Osprey\*, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks; Cape May Warblers were in; one Evening Grosbeak was seen. The high-light of the day was the discovery of the nest of a Great Horned Owl\* containing an immature. 1,000 Cattle Egrets were estimated to be at Bush Field (Airport) on April 19; Least and American Bitterns, a late Blue-winged Teal, Sora\*, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak were listed. The rare bird of the day was a female Red-breasted Merganser\*.

The April 27 walk produced Yellow\*, Cape May, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Semipalmated Sandpiper\*, Grasshopper Sparrows\* were in and singing and either a Common\* or a Forster's\* Tern - it was never satisfactorily identified - was observed.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS - L. A. Wells saw a Common Loon on Lake Oliver (LO), March 13 - the earliest date since 1969. Short-eared Owls\* - 16 of them - were flushed February 26 at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR) - a return trip on March 26 netted no owls. Two members on April 6 visited a swamp 20 miles south of Columbus. A flock of Rough-winged Swallows arrived and began to sing, followed by a flock of beautiful Barn Swallows. Soon we realized the swallows were scolding us. Their alarm was understood - we discovered we were standing above four huge culverts. Barn Swallow nests were in two, Rough-winged Swallow nest in a third. We observed the swallows courting, mating, resting on the sides of their nests.

One of the resident Canada Geese is setting on a nest in Hummingbird Lake, Callaway Gardens. The Blue Morph of the Snow Goose\* reported in the March issue (Vol. II, No. 3 this newsletter) was still in the company of domestic geese at a feeder of a home on LO as of April 3.

Bird records from L. A. Wells - Mike Fuller saw a Red Knot on the Georgia Coast (May newsletter). Joy and Bob Terhune and two friends went to the Georgia Coast on April 20. Heading their list - Short-eared Owl, Black-bellied Plover,

Bachman's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows and a rare Curlew Sandpiper (Editor's Note: This bird is not listed in Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid., or Georgia Birds, Ibid. The most recent author - Species Index to The Oriole - Vol. XXXV, No. 4 gives no listing for this species. Chandler Robbins in Birds of North America says "A casual fall visitor on East Coast." Roger Tory Peterson in A Field Guide to the Birds says - "One of the rarest of shore-birds . . .")

James Miller - Yellow-throated Warbler, March 15; late Green-winged Teal, March 23; Wood Thrush, March 28; late Winter Wren, March 30; three Gadwalls\* seen with Bill Matheny - LO, April 2. Bill Matheny gives us - Bonaparte's Gull\* and four Broad-winged Hawks, April 11. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen March 29 (Please refer back to the Editor's Note on the earliness of this bird under news from THE BIRD-WATCHER - ROME - Ed.), a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted April 1. LeConte's Sparrows\* and up to 25 White-crowned Sparrows\* were still at ENWR at last report (April Newsletter).

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AUDUBON SOCIETY - From the bird records of L. A. Wells - William Matheny records these birds - Cliff Swallow\*, April 2; a rare White-rumped Sandpiper\* on the Georgia side ENWR, April 7 - a first for the refuge; April 13 three Wilson's Phalaropes (Editor's Note: Rare transient on coast, accidental in interior at Augusta); four Clay-colored Sparrows, May 3 (Editor's Note: not listed in Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid. - Georgia Birds, Ibid. lists these sparrows on the hypothetical list with two sightings - Alexander Sprunt - 1936B - reports seeing a Clay-colored Sparrow on Cumberland Island, April 5, 1932, but did not collect it. Another was observed by Richard Kuerzi on his front lawn at St. Mary's, April 22, 1950.). The author - Species Index to The Oriole - Vol. XXXV, No. 4 gives no listing for this species. Bill has two Brookstone classes in ornithology and takes them to ENWR - seems he gets a regional first on every trip! He had an all-time early Swainson's Thrush - by 22 days -- in his backyard woods. (Unfortunately, no date was given for this sighting from the May newsletter. - Ed.)

James Miller has these birds for our consideration - Prothonotary and Hooded Warblers, March 30; two Blue-winged Warblers\*, April 19; Cape May Warblers from April 5 - May 10, the most numerous warbler. He estimated 60 Lesser Yellow-legs and 80 Pectoral Sandpipers at ENWR, April 5.

Broad-winged Hawks were in April 6; Fish Crows, March 1; 97 Ruddy Ducks were on Bussey's Lake, March 21; Veeries\* were singing on May 15; Gray-cheeked Thrushes\* and Bobolinks were noted on May 7. The latest ever Marsh Hawk was at Columbus, April 23.

Five women members of the society went to the Georgia side ENWR, May 19. They report a White-rumped Sandpiper\* (this could be the same bird seen by Bill Matheny - Ed.), a Purple Gallinule\* getting to the north of its range, its gaudy colors remindful of the tropics, young broods of Canada Geese and young Wood Ducks riding their mother's back.

THE DALTON KINGFISHER - CHEROKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY - Two American Woodcocks were displaying on the DiGioia farm the middle of February. One was heard displaying at Thread Mill Marsh, Dalton, February 16. A quite early nesting record has been received. Two nestlings were found on the ground, along with fragments of the nest in a fairly new subdivision on February 16 by neighborhood children. They were taken to a local resident, well versed in caring for young birds. The woman wished to know the identity of the birds. Harriett DiGioia was contacted and went to see the birds - identified them as Common Crows, approximately two weeks old. This would put the date of hatching about February 2. Death came to the young Crows February 21. (Editor's Note: Georgia Birds, Ibid. - lists the earliest nesting date as March 9, 1935, Atlanta - nest with five fresh eggs.)

Sandy Pangle observed these birds - American Wigeon, TML, March 19, two Black-crowned Night Herons\* at close range, perched on same iron pipes in the water at TML, March 31; Eastern Kingbird, April 1 - TML - early date; Tree Swallows\*, TML, April 15. On April 11, Ollie Munn saw two parent Canada Geese being trailed by six goslings on Shield's Pond - these are resident birds.

From Anne Hamilton we have this news - first Wood Thrush of the season in her yard, March 29 - an early date; Yellow-throated Warbler at Lake Francis, April 10; Swainson's Thrush, April 24; Northern Parula, Magnolia Warblers, May 5; Black-billed Cuckoo\*, May 6. Harry White saw a Wilson's Warbler\* in a thickety area in his yard, April 26.

Harriett DiGioia - male Northern Shoveler\*, Swift's Pond, March 16; Broad-winged Hawk, April 10; Cerulean Warbler\*, April 18; Blue-winged Warbler\* - farm - these birds sing there every year indicating possible nesting, Scarlet Tanager, April 19; Gray-cheeked Thrush\*, Canada Warbler, April 25.



Other news from Dalton - 20+ Snow Geese\* were seen beating against a stiff wind, passing low over the area on March 3. A Water Pipit was seen on the field trip to the Cohutta National Fish Hatchery, March 16. A male Indigo Bunting was spotted in a yard on April 6 - one day shy of the early record last year. The Bewick's Wren\* was seen the week of April 7 in a yard where it is a "regular."

Evening Grosbeaks - scarce in Dalton this winter - were seen by Sandy Pangle - eight flying over the high school and alighting in a nearby tree, April 8 - one was seen in a yard, April 15, and one was heard April 16. Cattle Egrets are turning up - six in a pasture April 1; one in another section of the county April 17 and Harry White saw ten in a pasture on Highway 2 March 28. The most interesting aspect, he said, was the fact the cattle were actually chasing the birds about - causing them to fly up in front of the cattle. Norene Boring saw one Chimney Swift at West Hill Cemetery - Sandy Pangle saw eight - TML - March 23 - earliest date in Dalton.

Olive-sided Flycatcher - a member reports seeing an Olive-sided Flycatcher perched on a dead limb of a Sweet Gum tree in her yard, May 3. The observer is an experienced birder and was within ten feet of the bird, so had a good opportunity to study all field marks. A good description was given the editor. This bird is essentially a western and northern bird - breeding down into the mountains of North Carolina and has been recorded in Georgia in limited numbers. Dalton has two previously unpublished sightings of this bird - one last year; one four/five years ago. (Editor's Note: Rare transient, recorded in Clark, Fulton, Grady, Lumpkin counties.)

Late Dates - Don and Doris Cohrs, passing through Dalton on a business trip, observed a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, May 12. Georgia Birds, Ibid., lists May 5, 1940, Atlanta, as the latest date. Dark-eyed Juncos were noted at Fort Mountain State Park, April 28 - Georgia Birds, Ibid., lists April 22, 1926 - Atlanta - as an extreme date. A very late male Blue-winged Teal has been watched at TML. The latest date on which it was seen was June 11 by Harriett DiGioia. She first saw two males at the lake, <sup>May</sup> March 14 - these were observed through May 23. On June 1, one male was seen - only one has been there since that date. The latest date in Georgia Birds, Ibid., is May 16, 1944 - Atlanta.

LETTERS - CALLS - CARDS - John Swiderski called in to report John Paget saw three American Golden Plovers\* on April 5 near a chicken processing plant at Pendergrast. John, Terry Moore and others saw them April 6.

Terry Moore writes in a letter - "A small group of us from Atlanta and Columbus went on a pelagic trip out from SSI on March 8 and got about 200 Gannets, two Parasitic Jaegers\*, a Red Phalarope (Editor's Note: Not listed in either Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, Ibid., or Georgia Birds, Ibid. Chandler Robbins in Birds of North America - "An uncommon pelagic species most often seen during storms along the coast.") . . . along with many land birds that had evidently been blown out to sea the night before." Interested in going on a trip like this? Terry plans them every now and again - if you would like more information as to when and where - drop Terry a line - Terry S. Moore, Apt. 10-F, 1185 Collier Rd., NW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Only 15 people can be accommodated - first come, first served! Terry wrote the following on a card - "We've been hearing a Black Rail\* on the Georgia side ENWR since April 24."

A letter from Tenny Griffin, publisher of The Valdosta Times, brings news of his Warbling Vireo\* sighting. "The bird was in a small oak, working the limbs and leaves when I sighted it about 7:30 a.m., April 25. It was so close that I didn't need the glasses to identify it. Since I saw the Warbling Vireo in the mountains of North Carolina on a previous occasion, I am positive of the sighting." Mr. Griffin's backyard is heavily wooded with thick underbrush, surrounded by several acres of this same type of habitat. (Editor's Note: Georgia Birds, Ibid., places this bird on the hypothetical list recording two sightings. Two recent sightings by William Matheny and Harriett DiGioia are reported in Vol. II, Nos. 2 & 3, The Oriole). Mike Fuller told the editor at the spring GOS meeting that an American Golden Plover\* had been seen at ENWR.

NEWS OF PEOPLE - It is always with sadness we report the death of members or in the immediate family of our members - Dr. Thomas D. Burleigh, a charter member, residing in California at the time of his death and author of the oft-quoted-by-this-editor - Georgia Birds; Dr. Nelsen Spratt died recently in Minneapolis, MN - he was a charter and life member. Dean Case, son of Ed and Lola Case, was accidentally killed while on an outing in Florida the week of April 6; Mrs. Daniel C. (Barbara) Carbough died recently at Columbus. Our sympathies are extended to these families.

TRAVELERS - Betty Schroeder had a good trip to Colorado in December to visit her daughters. The McRae Williams attended a motor coach rally at Linnville, NC. Terry Moore and John Swiderski enjoyed a trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. They listed many birds - including Whooping Crane, Buff-bellied Hummingbird; White-tailed Hawk. As an expert guide, they recommend Mr. Victor Emanuel, 1603 West Clay, Houston, TX, 77019 - phone - 713 - 528-3725.

ILLNESS - Maurene Snow fell and broke her back a few months ago and was hospitalized - as of the April meeting she was home and doing well. Helene MacNeill has been in and out of the hospital several times - at last report she was much improved. Mozelle Williams, as of June 6, was in the hospital and undergoing tests. We wish all a quick and complete recovery.

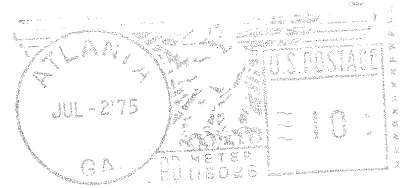
ACTIVITIES - We have two presidents in our midst - Terry Moore is now president of the 600 Club; Georgine Pindar is president of the Georgia Environmental Council - she also led the bird buff field trip for the Georgia Botanical Society's recent wildflower pilgrimage. Ken Dubke presented a slide narrative - "The Evolution of a Bird Watcher" for the banquet meeting of the Cherokee Audubon Society, Dalton. Ken's picture - with four other fearless folk - was in the May 6 Chattanooga Times - a group of 50 went into Amnicola Marsh to do biological and botanical research. Wilson Baker gave a slide/talk show about his trip to Africa to the Albany Audubon Society in May. Sandy Pangle taped the program of bird calls George Dorsey presented to the Dalton group, added some more calls, translated some calls into words and narrated it for "The Wonderful World of Languages" program - aired on WBLJ.

Did you read the article "Advice From the Snakebite Doctor" in the May 8, 1975, Atlanta Journal/Constitution Magazine? In the article, T. P. Haines is mentioned. Seems the doctor about whom the article was written as a student at Mercer studied under T. P. Haines. Later on, the doctor while getting his medical degree from the University of Michigan, had occasion to see T. P. Haines again. This time T. P. Haines had been bitten by a rattlesnake and was brought in for treatment by his former student.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - The volume of Nature is the book of knowledge.

-- Oliver Goldsmith

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