

12 DEC 1975

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society Vol. 111 No. 2

The GOShawk Says--Welcome to a new member--Margaret Waters of Bloomingdale.

Autumn birding in Georgia turned up two firsts for the state--the famous Black-throated Gray Warbler at Jekyll Island (JI) and two Bell's Vireos at separate locations by different observers in Columbus. Other westerners appeared--a yellow-headed Blackbird at JI and a Wilson's Phalarope on Little Cumberland Island. Columbus came up with two Brewster's Warblers and several Golden--and Blue-winged Warblers, plus a Philadelphia Vireo and an early Tennessee Warbler. Albany has had Sanderlings among their other birds.

Hurricane Eloise swept Brown Pelicans into Atlanta for a first record and second interior record known to this editor, brought to earth many warblers at Columbus and Common Gallinule at Dalton. Sandhill Cranes passed over Atlanta in late November, the only record of these birds for the fall. The Bald Eagle at Callaway Gardens (CG) is still making news and being watched by birders. A Bewick's Wren is patronizing a feeder near Dalton-- Evening Grosbeakes have appeared at Columbus, Atlanta, Dalton.

The trend so far in Georgia is for a good "northern" bird winter. Brown Creepers are notably strong at Dalton--Rome, Augusta, and other points reporting them. Red-breasted Nuthatches are really in evidence, Pine Siskins, Purple Finches are in numbers--House Wrens are staging a good show. The winter season is bright with the prospect of good birding ahead!

Round-up of GOS News--Thank you!--to the Atlanta members who worked to make the meeting at JI superlative--the most people registered, 207 coming from Maine, New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Kentucky, Virginia, and our neighbors-- Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Florida. 165 species recorded-- making this the largest meeting people and bird wise ever. Ted Holloway, Joe and Ruth Brent showed marvelous slides--Chandler Robbins gave an excellent talk "Birds of the Leeward Hawaiian Chain"--despite repeated projection problems. After a drenching rain Friday, the weather faired and held perfect for the meeting.

The big news in the bird line came with the sighting by Charles Erwin and Don Forster of a Black-throated Gray Warbler (Editor's Note: Not on Georgia list--a first record. Sightings of this bird have been made in other eastern states--an essentially western bird accidentally in the east.) Charles said the bird was eating the seeds of Cord Grass, *Spartina alternifolia*--and appeared to be exhausted. It remained in full view, close to the road and is, undoubtedly, the most looked at and photographed bird in the state. The sighting took place at 2:30 p.m., October 18--north end JI. What better place than a GOS meeting for a first record?

Other interesting birds--Gannet*, Peregrine Falcon*, Merlin*, Parasitic Jaeger*, Saw-whet Owe*, 20 species of warblers, Yellow-headed Blackbird (Editor's Note: Accidental in fall/winter.) An American Golden Plover* was reported seen. A mess of birds! (Even with the cancellation of the pelagic trip--good birds were turned up. Another pelagic trip can be scheduled for a future coastal meeting.)

This was an election year. New officers are--Norene Boring, president; Bob Crawford, first vice-president; Dan Hans, second vice-president; Lee Gibbs, secretary; Tom Collum, treasurer. We look forward to two good years with these officers! A big "thank you" to the Nominating Committee--Terry Moore, chairman; Les Davenport, Bill Griffin.

A round of applause and many thanks go to the two out-going officers-- Wally Dreyfoos and Terry Moore--and to the three continuing officers--Norene, Lee, Tom--your work did not go unnoticed!

New committee--Conservation--appointed, chaired by Georgine Pindar, Tom Rial, Franklin McCamey.

An Open Thank-you Note from Harriett DiGioia, recipient of the Earle R. Greene Memorial award. I would first like to thank the members of GOS--without your sightings, travels, activities I would have no news to print!

Special thanks go to Tom Rial who asked me to be editor and had confidence in my abilities when I lacked such confidence; to Wally Dreyfoos for his continued help and assistance and to the Award Committee--Elbridge Freeborn, chairman; Tom Rial, Dick Parks for selecting me for this honor.

To the local editors--Sue Chambliss--Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club; Rebekah Patrick, Margaret Jordan--The Observer--Columbus A.S.; Rosalind Clark--Atlanta A.S.--Roger Green--Upper Flint River A.S.; Betty Schroeder--The House Finch--Henry County A.S.; George Dorsey--The Bird-Watcher--Floyd County A.S.; Richard Lux--The Fall Line--Ocmulgee A.S.; Sally Ryder--The Piper--Coastal Georgia A.S.; Elaine Young--The Marshlander--Ogeechee A.S.; Lee Gibbs--Augusta A.S.; Ann Gordon--The Albany Lempkin--Albany A.S.--goes my heartfelt gratitude--without your hard work there could be no GOShawk. You deserve much of the credit--everyone writes a good newsletter. (A few of these editorships have changed; but the aforementioned are those who worked with me last year. In case you're wondering, The Dalton Kingfisher is written by this editor.)

Have you ever had a mentor? I have the good fortune to have had and continue to have a marvelous teacher in Anne P. Hamilton. Her willingness to teach me combined with her love for birds and all the outdoors has inspired and spurred me onward.

Lastly, I would like to thank my husband, Frank, and four children--Rachel, Harriett, Robert, Frank for their understanding, advice, and help.

Spring Meeting--We're all invited to Sylvania in Screven County--located on the east side of our state in the coastal plain, right next to South Carolina. The Savannah River is its border--there are bottoms, creeks, plantations and those famous landforms, the Carolina Bays--to be explored. The area is rich in bird life with accessible rookeries for your pleasure. The members in Screven and Burke Counties are already firing up to show us a good time--y'all come!

BIRD NEWS--An asterisk following the name of a bird denotes it is listed as rare, uncommon, casual, etc. for that particular area and season in the Pocket Check-list Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton, Milton Hopkins, Jr. Editor's notes are taken from this book unless otherwise stated.

THE HOUSE FINCH--HENRY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY--(Nov.) A Pileated Woodpecker has been eating almost daily in a magnolia tree. Cattle Egrets have been in a pasture just south of Forsyth. Marsh and Red-tailed Hawks are being sighted.

THE ALBANY LEMPKIN--ALBANY AUDUBON SOCIETY--American Kestrels were seen in Worth County September 13. A Marsh Hawk was noted on September 23 between Albany and Macon. A dead Swainson's Thrush was found on September 7 and two American Kestrels were sighted in Lee County September 21.

On September 25, the Ellsworth Cattle Company land we checked out and many Blue-winged Teal, female Hooded Merganser, numerous Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderlings*, Least Sandpipers were found. An immature Red-tailed Hawk posed perfectly on a fence post--a photographer's dream. A birding trip on September 22 resulted in two King Rails on Lily Pond Rd., Pied-billed Grebes and several Wood Storks*.

The Saturday morning bird class has seen 33 Wood Storks* standing in a wet weather pond--a beautiful sight flying up together when struck by the first rays of the morning sun. Pileated Woodpeckers, Cattle and Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night Heron*, Barred Owl--the "yank, yank" of White-breasted Nuthatches has been heard.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

Grace Whiteman found two Swainson's Thrushes in her birdbath at one time in mid-September. An Acadian Flycatcher killed itself flying into a glass door.

In the garden behind the greenhouses at CG on a late September morning were 20-40 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. In flight--at rest--hovering--feeding from the sage--chasing each other--uttering strange call notes--completely silent--looking black, or in shining green and white--or flashing red throats.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB--Columbus Common Nighthawks attracted to the lights of the American Family Life Building have been finding insects abundant. At the height of migration, 100 of these birds per 30-second period traversed the field of view of upright held binoculars. For the most part they were going SSW.

Normally dry in fall, Columbus was visited by Hurricane Eloise on September 23 bringing rains and winds to 61 MPH. On September 26 at Cooper Creek Watershed an estimated 60 Blackburnian and 30 Chestnut-sided Warblers were found. Previous fall abundance records stood at 6 and 20 respectively.

A succession of damp, low visibility mornings assured good birding well into October. Two Black-billed Cuckoos*, Georgia side Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (EUNR) September 21 were reported by Bill Matheny. Two Bell's Vireos (Editor's Note: Not on any Georgia list available to this editor. This is a bird of western and middle United States--westerners do come east!) were seen separately by Bill and another member on August 3 and 24, (same bird? Ed.). Both observers are familiar with the species--an account will be prepared for The Oriole (This is good to hear--Ed.). A Brewster's Warbler* was seen from September 11 through October 3. White-throated Sparrows were in on October 18.

25 Common Terns* were viewed by James Miller at Oliver Dam Look-out September 15. Purple Martins seen on October 3 constitute a new late record. (Editor's Note: This ties the late record in Georgia Birds, Thomas D. Burleigh ...October 3, 1924, Grady County.). Mike Fuller and L. A. Wells got a Life Bird on October 11 when they saw a Philadelphia Vireo*--only 14 have been recorded locally since 1957. 50 American Coots were on Lake Oliver according to L. A. Wells October 30. Early fall records--Scarlet Tanager September 27, Song Sparrow October 11 and an all-time late bird--a Rose-breasted Grosbeak October 30.

Grace Whiteman saw two Caspian Terns* at Lake West Point October 12 and a Green Heron. A resident of Waverly Hall has curious Carolina Wrens. Four or five times one has entered the home through a dog door on the porch. Nine hawks were seen circling a farm in Pine Mountain Valley, evidently waiting for a chance to attack the remaining pair of Guinea Fowl--all the rest of the flock has been killed. The Bald Eagle* has been seen almost daily for three weeks prior to October 26 at CG.

THE OBSERVER--COLUMBUS AUDUBON SOCIETY--L. A. Wells reporting. The recent rain not only is breaking the drouth but is bringing Fall 1975 migrants to earth where they can be observed. Going back to August--on the 24 a Tennessee Warbler was seen (Editor's Note: Georgia Birds, Ibid. gives September 6, 1952, Atlanta as the earliest date.)--this is a good half-month ahead of the gang. The first Veery* was noted September 12; a Worm-eating Warbler September 17. September 11 was a big day at a members sprinkler and dripping bird bath. Among other species it was the site of a warbler party (a bird wade-in--Ed.) a Black and White, Northern Parulas, a Yellow-throated, Prairie Warblers and American Redstarts being noted.

September 13 brought the first Blackburnian Warbler--one of our members lucked up on two Blue-winged Warblers* on the Flint River, near Gay, September 11. Willets (Editor's Note: ... Accidental in interior) have now been recorded at ~~N. Ft.~~ Gaines Dam August 16 by James Miller. A Gray-cheeked Thrush* was found that evidently flew into the window of a store.

A pair of Blue-winged Warblers* September 12, (same birds?-Ed.) and three Golden-winged and a Brewster's Warblers were spotted September 20 along the Flint River near Gay.

On September 21 an American Bittern, Marsh Hawk, Bold Eagle* were seen at ENWR, Georgia side by Bill Matheny. A male Wilson's Warbler* was in Columbus September 25--a House Wren* September 28. Golden-winged Warblers* were sighted separately by Bill Matheny and James Miller along Cooper Creek September 27. Red-breasted Nuthatches had returned by September 28.

October records of interest--Cedar Waxwing, Golden-winged Warbler* October 2. The Ovenbird was in by October 3--one was seen down in Seminole County September 13. The Hermit Thrush was easily seen October 18. Our October field trip to Cooper Creek Park was a great success--Bay-breasted and Black-throated Blue Warblers still around. Evening Grosbeaks appeared on November 20--15 of them.

THE BIRD-WATCHER--FLOYD COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY--ROME--Phil Ham had an Orange-crowned Warbler at his home September 14. Byron Eberhart gets surprising results by watching on his home grounds--eight Cedar Waxwings came a week early. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked* Thrushes, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch have been visitors--25 Eastern Blue birds were at his place October 20--25 species were seen about his home October 13. George Dorsey found six common Snipe November 1.

On a field trip at Darlington School, members witnessed three Common Crows harassing a young Red-tailed Hawk in the air. The crows flew up to the hawk sounding their battle cries and began swooping down from above. The hawk avoided attack by maneuvering in the air, descending several times--once with quite a steep drop. They never seemed to strike the hawk--merely trying to drive it away. Round and round the hawk went, making quick aerobatic shifts, until we lost sight of the birds over the hill. (On November 20, this editor watched five crows badgering a Red-tailed Hawk over Tibbs Rd., Dalton. The crows actually hit the hawk several times causing it to dive. Twice it completely turned over in the air to get away from the pressing attackers as well as veering sharply. The head could be seen moving from side to side as it watched the crows. Finally, the hawk caught a thermal updraft and spiraled up and away from the crows.) Two Vesper Sparrows and a Brown Creeper were also ^{at} ~~seen~~.

Phil Ham reports he has finally found the Bold Eagle* in Georgia. He went to CG on a recent birding trip. The Canada Geese were on the lake and while he was watching them the eagle, which flew rather low, went directly over where he was standing.

ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY--AAS members made first steps at locating hawk observation points in northern Georgia this past October. Tennessee has a well-organized network of fire towers, etc. in contrast to our state with only one reporting station last year. A fire tower on Taylor's Ridge, Chattooga County, was manned September 20. Seven Broad-winged, one Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen--the wind was unfavorable for migration. It was an interesting sight to see 15 Black Vultures come off a nearby roost. September 28 was spent on top of Oglethorpe Mountain near Jasper. 99 Broad-winged, eight Sharp-shinned, one each Cooper's, Marsh Hawks, plus an Osprey* were observed. Most of these were flying 500 feet and higher above the mountain. John and Judy Swiderski, Terry Moore, Dan Hans, Don and Doris Cohrs participated. Reported by John Swiderski.

A biologist with the Georgia Power Company Environment--at Center spotted seven Brown Pelicans on September 28 above Bouldercrest Rd. about 8:00 a.m.--an important sighting for this part of our state. The observer--a former ornithological student--hails from Louisiana--The Pelican State--and should know his pelicans. The theory is the visitors were brought in by Hurricane Eloise which hit the Atlanta area September 23 with blinding rain and high winds. (Editor's Note : One sight record from interior--at Albany. Hurricanes have their virtues--blowing sea/shore birds for inland and sweeping out the stagnant, polluted air, replacing it with fresh, heavily oxygenated air.)

Welcome visitors in the Atlanta area--a Pileated Woodpecker and an American Redstart for two days near the end of October. Mary Ann Neville, Marietta, has had Red-breasted Nuthatches and a Nashville Warbler* in early November (Editor's Note: Georgia Birds, Ibid. gives few dates. The latest date given--November 3, 1946, Athens).

AUGUSTA AUDUBON SOCIETY--On September 14 a family of Rufous-sided Towhees was spotted in a yard. Both parents were feeding fledglings which appeared to be about three weeks old. On September 27, two young towhees were observed that looked to be just out of the nest. These two nestings seem late. (Lee Gibbs did have a female towhee start construction of a nest September 2, 1974. Two eggs were hatched early on the morning of September 22. By 10:00 a.m. Blue Jays had robbed the nest of the young. This occurred in Lee's yard--making it a South Carolina record.--Ed.)

September 14 Bill and Lee Gibbs saw a flock of Ruby-crowned Kinglets on a mountainside near Clayton. On the same mountain September 18, they saw a wave of Swainson's Thrushes gulping the fruit of Flowering Dogwood and Black Gum trees at the edge of a power line cut.

Clarence Belger saw 17 Western Sandpipers* near Farmer's Field September 28. Hundreds of Rough-winged and a few Barn Swallows were passing over the area, he reports. On October 8 at Ft. Gordon, a Bewick's Wren* was viewed. A Pileated Woodpecker has been visiting a feeder--White-throated Sparrows ~~was~~ were seen October 15.

Run-down of field trips--Tom Rial reporting. September 13--Snowy Egret*, Louisiana Heron*, Black-crowned Night Heron*, an American Woodcock flushed, Fish Crows were flocking. September 21--Snowy Egret* (same bird?-Ed.), a great number of immature Mallards, over 100 American Redstarts, a couple of Palm Warblers were listed. October 12--American Bittern--immobile giving all a good look, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Hermit Thrush, Marsh Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Snipe--Northern Parula, Cape May*, Chestnut-sided Warblers--noted. October 25--Warblers--Tennessee, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Black and White, Yellow-rumped were recorded, plus a Vesper Sparrow.

THE PIPER-COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY-BRUNSWICK--On October 3, a strange atmospheric condition prevailed--along with rain and wind from the North, resulted in a large bird-kill on JI. Ruth and Joe Brent had dead birds on their patio--phone calls from other island areas brought news of more dead birds. Apparently there was a large migration movement that night and birds were caught on all East-West wires, including the TV aerial--south end JI. Hundreds of birds were down--mostly dead--wings torn off or throats cut. Many were unidentifiable as they had fallen in the road and been hit by cars. The Brents did identify close to 50 Swainson's Thrushes, 10-15 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, some Ovenbirds, an immature Gallinule, House Wren*, numerous American Redstarts, Green Heron, Great Blue Heron and many Warblers.

A magnificent Peregrine Falcon* came down on St. Simons Island (SSI) October 5. The Audubon Society passed the word this bird--an endangered species--must be reported. This was done (via Cornell Ornithological Laboratory) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The injured bird then became federal property. Bill Frazier, Senior Resident Agent, USFWS, Atlanta went to SSL on October 18 and found the bird to be suffering partial paralysis of the left foot and talons--necessitating hand feeding several times daily. It was unable to fly. The thought was the falcon's illness might be caused by DDT poisoning. Should it recover, it will be turned over to the USFWS for their disposition. However, the falcon decided its own future--leaving the cage via an open door and flying out over the marshes October 24.

Sixteen captive-bred Peregrine Falcons have been released in an experimental re-establishment program. If you should see a Peregrine Falcon with a blue leg band, call Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (607) 256-5056.

THE FALL LINE--OCMULGEE AUDUBON SOCIETY-MACON--On a field trip to Allison Lake, November 15 Mallards, American Widgeon, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Red-cockaded Woodpecker* (one), Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing were recorded.

THE DALTON KINGFISHER-CHEROKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY--An American Bittern was spotted September 16 at 9:00 a.m. on a power line leading into a member's home. The bird was semi-perched--rather huddled up against the pole on the thick portion of the wire. It stayed quite awhile until driven off by a Mockingbird.

Ollie Munn observed Cardinals still feeding a well-grown young as late as September 25. Cape May Warblers*--Anne Hamilton saw an immature September 22--on September 25 she viewed another immature with very little of the yellow color. Norene Boring spotted a female in summer plumage in her Silver Maple tree September 29. This bird is considered a scarce migrant for fall in our area. Yellow-throated Warblers*--Harriett DiGioia had two sightings--September 26, 27--possibly the same bird,--Sandy Pangle saw one October 13. Again, this species is considered uncommon for our region.

Harry White had White-throated Sparrows in his yard, October 6. Delano Crowe saw a Marsh Hawk in the Coosawattee River bottoms November 6. A Bewick's Wren* was noted at a feeder November 28. A Ruffed Grouse--red phase--was in a yard within the city limits at 10:00 a.m. November 15. This is the first grouse the editor knows about within the city limits. Ruffed Grouse are birds of the higher elevations in the South; however, they do come into the lowlands to feed upon occasions. The editor was told by a hunter this is a peak year for grouse--"they're everywhere," he said. 60 Canada Geese were seen on Shield's Pond recently.

11--four male; seven female--Evening Grosbeaks were at a feeder October 23. They came for five days, then disappeared. November 14, 1972, is the earliest date for Dalton. Evening Grosbeaks were unrecorded in Georgia before 1955, so records do not go back very far. To this editor's knowledge, this is the earliest date for the state. In a phone conversation on November 10 Don Cohrs of Atlanta--passing through Dalton--said Evening Grosbeaks had been sighted in Atlanta.

Anne Hamilton gives us Golden-crowned Kinglets October 20; Brown Creeper and a late Tennessee Warbler, November 4; Pine Siskins, November 18. Sandy Pangle reports seeing eight Pied-billed Grebe September 17, Crown Mill Lake--some were immature indicating possible breeding; 20 ♀ hawks flying over his home September 16; Red-headed Woodpecker October 13 and a quite early Winter Wren September 22. He heard the double "Kip-Kip" note as well as seeing the bird. The previous early date for Dalton was at the GOS meeting October 12, 1974. This surpasses the early date for the state as listed in Georgia Birds Ibid of October 7, 1922, Athens. The Winter Wren has nested at Brasstown Bold--could Sandy's "early bird" be a wanderer from these neighboring mountains?

Anne Hamilton, Harriett DiGioia together saw an Orange-crowned Warbler, Thread Mill Lake, (TML) November 28; House Wren*, TML, November 19, 80 scaup, TML, November 23. Two House Wrens* were seen at Lakeshore Park November 25; one at the cemetery November 27.

Harriett DiGioia--Swainson's and Gray-cheeked* Thrushes September 19, Common Gallinule*, TML, September 24--sixteenth record for Dalton and first sighting since 1966. It was also seen on September 25. A bird fitting the description of a Common Gallinule was seen by a lake-side resident September 23. Northern Waterthrush October 15; Hermit Thrush--farm--October 25; Bay-breasted Warbler--farm--October 4; Red-breasted Nuthatches October 9; Fox Sparrow--farm--November 22. Frank and Robert DiGioia saw 30-40 Turkey Vultures over Mill Creek Rd. October 2 and Frank put up a Common Snipe at the farm October 25. Common Crows are common on the farm with 150-200 flying over the ridge October 3 and in recent days this number in the bottoms.

While traveling to Atlanta, the DiGioias had the thrill of seeing a flock of 36 Sandhill Cranes* November 28. Robert spotted the group, Frankie counted, Harriett identified. Frank was traffic watching, but got in a glance or two. The birds were flying SSE over I-75 in Marietta and were in and out of view for 8-10 minutes. The flight pattern changed from a V to a straight line and to formations in between. The sighting was made about 10:30 a.m. According to the check-list of the Birds of Atlanta compiled by the Atlanta Audubon Society, Sandhill Cranes go through Atlanta the first two weeks of November. The editor figures the weather has been so mild the cranes lingered on migration. The heavy snowstorm to the NNW of us last week undoubtedly drove the birds ahead of it.

LETTERS---Father Bertrend of Savannah tells that on a September Ogeechee HS field trip to Cumberland Island several Osprey* and 20 Wild Turkey were seen.

Our new GOSer--Margaret Waters gives us this news--"... On September 1, I discovered three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers* living right in my backyard ... about 200 yards from my house. ... Our property and the adjacent land were both logged about 10-15 years ago. When the logging was done, several trees right on the property line were not cut. The woodpeckers have made holes in four of these trees and hopefully will nest in them in the spring. (This location is in Effingham Co.--Ed.)

Jane Moore writes--"On August 27, about 5:00 p.m., I was on the beach at Little Cumberland Island. ... Light conditions were perfect--I was using 7x35 Bausch & Lomb binoculars. I was near a tidal pool ... the sun was at my back ... it was about an hour before low tide. Five shore birds with long bills flew overhead into the sun--they were neither peeps nor dowitchers. On looking back at the tidalpool there was a bird with bright yellow legs and totally pure white underparts from bill to tail. It was smaller than a yellowlegs with a slim neck and small head. It had a dark gray cap which extended down the back of the neck to merge into the gray back and wing feathers. There was a dark eye patch on the white face which created the impression of a white eye line above the eye. The bill was black, long, pointed, thin. ... Jim Richardson, a biologist and very knowledgeable of Georgia birds joined us and felt the bird could be a Wilson's Phalarope*. We studied the bird with Birds of North America, Chandler S. Robbins in hand and finally decided the bird had to be flushed as the back pattern would be decisive. On flushing the bird displayed white tail and rump, dark wings and back with no discernable pattern--thus confirming a Wilson's Phalarope. Cecily Master's Check-list--Common transient visitor on coast--records in April, August, September. We do not have a Burleigh's" (Editor's Note: Rare transient on coast. Georgia Birds, Ibid. Of accidental occurrence on coast.)

Eleanor Fisher of Sardis--"... I have many delightful bird moments I was driving slowly to Waynesboro in a heavy mist when a Red-tailed Hawk swooped down in front of the "Bug")at eye level. The dampness must have made his tail seem redder--it almost flamed. We have Pileated Woodpeckers in the yard everyday 11 Ankingas were seen together in a cypress tree on the Wade Plantation one day this fall.

NEWS OF PEOPLE--Our sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Beckett in the death of their son this past summer.

Dick Parks is still painting away. An exhibit of his bird paintings is at the Unitarian Church, 1911 Cliff Valley Way, N.E.--just off I-85 north of North Druid Hills Rd. The exhibit opened December 5 and will end January 4. Hours--9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.--Sundays 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Jon and Nancy DeVore journeyed to Dalton where Jon gave a talk concerning birds found on or around water to the Cherokee A.S.

TRAVELERS--Helene MacNeill spent a month this summer at Hampton Beach, N.H.--saw lots of gulls but fewer terns than usual. She also spent a week in Chicago--and has moved from Dalton to Albany. Betty Henderson went to western Tennessee and to Grandfather Mountain, N.C. last summer. She reports Dark-eyed (Carolina) Juncos nesting at the summit and saw six Common Ravens near Asheville, N.C. Sue Chambliss spent two weeks in the Smokies and Blue Ridge Mountains. Betty Schroeder spent three weeks in Colorado. While there she enjoyed the many hummingbirds--one actually inspected her face and she could feel the air from its wings--and the sight of a soaring Golden Eagle.

Phil and Dolly Ham have been on a cruise to the islands of the Caribbean. Eleanor Morris spent two weeks in Recife, Brazil. One of the most interesting birds she saw was the Red-backed Crow--a local name. They build their pensile nests out of palm fibers only and many palms along the roadside would have six-eight nests. Ed and Lola Case and their daughter toured Big Bend National Park and other points in Texas. McRae and Mozelle Williams went to a Motor Coack Rally at Chattanooga, TN, stopping off in Dalton en route home for some visiting and birding--Wally and Jeanne Dreyfoos also got in some birding and visiting in Dalton.

Jane and James Moore went with the Massachusetts A.S. recently to Turkey for the Buzzard and Eagle migration; Switzerland for Alpines; Danish Coast and Fakturbo in Southern Sweden where the count was 400,000 before 8:00 a.m. This is the only point where all the northern birds can cross the water going south.

MISCELLANEOUS--The Canadian Wildlife Service is conducting an extensive program of banding and color-marking shore birds in the James Bay and Maritime Provinces. Colored leg-bands and feather dyes are being used--the assistance of bird watchers is being requested to report sightings of these birds to--Dr. E.I.G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 2721 Highway 31, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A, ON3, Canada. Please give details of species, place, date, marking.

McRae Williams says complete sets of The Oriole are available as well as individual copies. Contact him at 755 Ellsworth Drive, N.W., Atlanta, GA. 30318 for more information.

A word from Pat Probst--"I had four 5x5 inch color prints made from the cropped portion of four Kodachrome slides. These are quality prints of the Black-throated Gray Warbler found on JI during the GOS week-end. The price is \$2.00 each print--they are well worth the cost. I had three sets, four poses each made up. Those desiring a copy may contact me--Route 2, Box 80-C 2, Pawley's Island, SC 29585

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY--What is more melancholy than the old apple trees that linger about the spot where once stood a homestead, but where there is now only a ruined chimney rising out of a grassy and weed-grown cellar? They offer their fruit to every wayfarer.--Nathaniel Hawthorne

A Happy Holiday Season to all and to all Good Birding in 1976!

EXTRA--How would you like to be a bird guide for fellow GOSers? Fill in the blank below and drop it in the mail to the editor. Your name will be printed in the March issue of this newsletter. GOSers planning a trip to or through your area can then write ahead--or phone you when in the area--and make arrangements for birding. You could either take them on a guided tour of your environs or give them directions and tips on finding birds on their own. Blanks must be in the editor's hand by March 1, 1976.

Name _____
Street/Route _____
City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
Area Code/telephone number _____

Harriett G. DiGioia
(Mrs. Frank A.)
1309 Lakemont Drive
Dalton, GA 30720
December 12, 1975

Remember--A Birder's Guide To Georgia makes a good stocking stuffer--a gift membership in GOS makes a thoughtful Christmas for a nature/bird oriented relative/friend.