

25 MAR 1976

The Georgia GOSHawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society Vol. 111 No. 3

THE GOSHAWK SAYS--A big, big welcome to our new members--Thomas Imhof, Birmingham, AL, (author of Alabama Birds); Dr. & Mrs. Ted Holloway, Waycross; Maridaun Collins, North Augusta, SC; Clarence Belger, Jr., Augusta; Mrs. Harry Snavely, Winston-Salem, NC; James Colehour, Dallas; Walter Bressman, Fort Walton Beach, FL; Mrs. Alan Clow, Sardis (gift of Eleanor Fisher); Ann Gordon, Albany; Mrs. Edwin Winkler, Raleigh, NC; family of Dorothy Ickringill, Conyers.

Here's some more! Stephen Johnson, West Point; Doyle Land, Flowery Branch; Baxter McLendon, Martinez; family of Helen Ogren, Alpharetta; Mr. & Mrs. Joel Volpi, Suwanee; Dr. & Mrs. Warren Davidson, Avondale Estates; Sam Pate, Forston; Dr. James Harrison, Macon; J. G. Horne, Bogart; Scott Tilden, Doraville; Mrs. Earl Olson, Norris, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kikesh, Lilburn; Charles Moore, Claxton; Steve Knight, Columbus; Mrs. Robert Gomillion, Rome.

We're still going!--From Valdosta--Mr. & Mrs. William Culpepper, Benjamin Harrison, Dr. Clyde Connell. St. Simons Island--Mr. & Mrs. W. C. LeShanna, Ann Webb. Athens--Philip Hale, Alan Smith, Joseph Meyers, Gerald Kahn, Anne Hinton. Marietta--Mrs. Lee Ballew, Walter Borden. Decatur--Gary Breece, Louisa Echols. Savannah--Jean Milmine, P. R. Schreck. Sylvania--Dr. Katrine Hawkins, Runette Davis.

Take a deep breath now and get ready for Atlanta--Mr. & Mrs. Elvin Hilyer, Christopher Newman, Mrs. Burton Bankston, Marilyn Herrin, Vaughn Morrison. Sarah Ringwalt, Patricia Rogers, Adah Toombs, Mary Ann Vernocy, Lee Marcott, Trina Jackson, Eilsen Hutcheson, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jarrett, Carolyn Krueger, Mrs. Bertram Boley, Mrs. G. C. Merrill, Mrs. Jerry Capps, Mr. & Mrs. Lamon Witcher, Mrs. Joseph Lefkoff.

Seventy-two new members!! We hope each and everyone of you will participate in our activities and meetings. See you in Sylvania!

Winter birding in Georgia was most rewarding. Northern Orioles wintered in widely scattered regions--Albany, Chatham, and Byran Counties, Rome, Dalton, Augusta, and Columbus recording sightings. According to John V. Dennis in his new book--A Complete Guide to Bird Feeding--Northern Orioles and other winter tropicals are wintering increasingly in the United States. He offers the thought that artificial (feeder) feeding of birds is breaking the migratory patterns of this and other birds wintering in hot climates. This is a very interesting and informative book!

Summer birds sure did pop up during the cold weather. Two Cerulean Warblers at Brunswick, a Veery and an Orchard Oriole from Atlanta; Augusta sighted these Warblers--Swainson's and Prairie. A Swainson's Thrush turned up at Albany, Macon gives us a Blackburnian Warbler; plus Chimney Swifts at Brunswick and 450 Tree Swallows in Columbus.

Other records of interest--Dalton--Purple and Common Gallinules, Common Goldeneye, Snow Geese and a Dickcissel. Atlanta--a Snow Bunting. Lookout Mountain--Peregrine Falcon. Augusta--Merlin. Common Goldeneye were at Augusta and Columbus; Snowgeese in Savannah, Albany, Columbus, SYLVANIA.

Whistling Swans put in an appearance at Savannah, Augusta, Sylvania, Thomaston, Pendergrass, and near Atlanta.

Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Pine Siskins, Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were not lacking in the state--they fared very well! On the other hand, Cedar Waxwings were scarce with only a few reports coming in.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS--Every area in our state is unique in its topography, history, beauty, charm, animal, plant, bird life. The five geographical regions of Georgia demand exploring--our swamps, marshes, flood plains, beaches, mountains beckon the birder-naturalist afield. GOS is a good means to get acquainted with our state.

Sylvania is beckoning to us--Burke and Screven Counties await our arrival. You have your invitation and information sheets in hand (be sure to turn the sheet with the reservation blank over--this gives a run-down of accommodations on the back side). Screven County Agriculture Center will serve as headquarters, countdown site, jumping off point for field trips, executive board meeting location. If you have any questions upon arrival, feel free to phone Lucy Lee--564-2966; Grace Boddiford--829-3284.

Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux's presentation of "Radar and Bird Migration" sounds intriguing. The whole week-end sounds great--birding, fellowship, food await your pleasure. Never been to Sylvania? Here's your opportunity! I am planning to go--how about you? Sylvania or bust!

Be sure to look for Claudia Carswell and Clemmie Brower--they will be manning the publications desk at the meeting--patches and publications will be for sale.

Through error, Tom French's name was left off the new Conservation Committee in Vol. III, No. 2 of this newsletter. Please add his name--we apologize for leaving out your name, Tom!

Here is a summary from the Conservation Committee. Environmental Legislation--1976 Georgia Assembly--Two pieces of good environmental legislation failed to pass the 1976 Georgia Assembly: Property Tax Relief (SR 269) and the Noise Pollution Control Act (HB 733 CS). Other good legislation never reached the floor (Reusable Bottle Act (HB 646 and HB 341), Flood Hazard Area Act (HB 424 CS), and the Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act (HB 1014). The Sand Dunes Protection Act was not introduced this session, nor was the Natural Resources Planning Act (SB 14).

On the plus side are two good bills to encourage the development of solar energy hardware (Sales Tax Exemption--HB 1480--and Ad Valorem Tax Exemption--SR 284). Another forward step is HB 1698, which creates an Energy Resources Council. The Hazardous Radiation Control Act (HB 1907), an important bill, passed in the last days of the session. The small, but welcome, sum of \$50,000 for Georgia Heritage Trust, was left in the new budget (HB 1227 CS), and the Off-Road Vehicles Act (SB 353 CS) was passed.--Georginne Pindar, Chairman

Handouts concerning the Conservation Committee activities will be handed out at the Sylvania meeting.

GOS GUIDES--If you are passing through or visiting the areas listed below--these people will be happy to guide you or give you tips on birding spots. Daniel Hans--4181 Linda Lane, Lilburn, 30247, phone--404-921-6451.

Clarence Belger, Sr.--539 Tubman Street, Augusta, 30904, phone--404-736-5349. Roger Folsom, Route Two, Coffee Road--Hakira, 31632, phone--912-794-2133. Tom Rial--791 Boardman Road--Aiken, SC, 29801, phone--803-648-4501 (Augusta or Aiken area). J. Fred Denton--529 Henderson Drive, Augusta, 30904, phone--404-733-9520. Terry and Susan Bishop--101 East 18th Street, Tifton, 31794, phone--912-386-2761. Roger Green--6544 Bussell Way, Riverdale, 30274, phone--404-478-2588.

Three people in Dalton--zip 30720--area code 404--have signed up. Sandy Pangle--1216 Riverbend Road--phone--226-4905. Anne Hamilton--704 Greenwood Drive--phone--278-5901. Harriett DiGioia--1309 Lakemont Drive--phone--278-3858.

Are you interested in being a guide? Refer to Vol. III, No.2--this newsletter for further details. Drop a postcard to this editor or tell me at the Sylvania meeting and your name will appear in the June issue.

Do you know the whereabouts of the following people? They are "lost" to GOS--mail is being returned. Please contact Tom Collum--P. O. Box 362--Atlanta--30301 with any information. Charlotte Blackshear, R. C. Chestnutt, Robert Folk III, John Galli, Richard Hopkins, Victor Landis, Robert Lathrop II, Harris Mathis, Terry Moore, Vaughn Morrison, John Paget, Steven Schneider, Jerry Senn.

Are your dues paid? It's that time of year! Send to the treasurer, Tom Collum--his address is in the above paragraph.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS AROUND THE STATE--Columbus--December 20-- 92 species, including--Snow Goose*, Northern Shoveler*, Common Goldeneye*, Sharp-shinned Hawk* (five hawk species counted), 300 seagulls--Herring*, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's*, all species of woodpeckers, including Red-cockaded*, Solitary Vireo*, Northern Oriole*, White-crowned Sparrow*, Great Horned Owl*.

Macon--January 3-- 63 species, including--Great Blue Heron--2; Red-tailed Hawk-4; American Kestrel-6; American Woodcock-3; Pileated Woodpecker-8; Red-headed Woodpecker-2; Hairy Woodpecker-4; Eastern Bluebird-22; Cedar Waxwing-69; Loggerhead Shrike-6; Solitary Vireo*-1; Common Yellowthroat-1; black-bird, sp.-500, 000; Evening Grosbeak-171. Seen during count week--Blackburnean Warbler*. "I observed it in the feeding area of my backyard January 2. I was able to observe it for just a few seconds with my 8x40 Bushnell binoculars. It was an adult, for its distinct black and white body."--from the newsletter. (Editor's Note--Not listed on winter records for state to my knowledge.)

Sapelo Island--no date given-- 133 species, including--whip-poor-will*, Rock Dove*--this is a first record for the Rock Dove on the island, Great Horned*, Screech, Barn Owls*. Ducks were said to bedown from previous years and it was reported hard work to get a good number of species of sparrows on the count.

Augusta--no date given-- 92 species.

Glynn County--December 28-- 156 species--approximately 28,916 individuals, including--Parasitic Jaeger*, Marbled Godwit*, Bewick's Wren*, Yellow-crowned Night Heron*, Chimney Swift* (several)--(Editor's Note--Not on winter records to my knowledge), Louisiana and Green Herons* were common, several Sharp-skinned Hawks* (more hawks were sighted than usual), Redhead*. Birds seen during count week--Whimbrel*, Gull-billed Tern* (Editor's Note--Erratic but not uncommon summer resident on coast....), Grasshopper Sparrow* (Editor's Note--...Uncommon winter resident to Atlanta and Athens. Scarce on coast.) Whip-poor-will.*

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge--Savannah--December 27--
104 species--6,090 individuals, including--Bonaparte's Gull*--1, a
first sighting in the six years of the refuge count. Pileated
Woodpecker--22; Short-billed Marsh Wren*, Sharp-skinned Hawk*.

Albany--December 27--93 species, including--Snow Geese*,
Henslow's Sparrow*. During count week--White Ibis*--no previous
winter record for Dougherty County; Limpkin*, Long-billed Marsh
Wren*, Swainson's Thrush* (Editor's Note--no winter record to my
knowledge).

Rome--no date given--99 species.

Atlanta--January 4--84 species--14,275 individuals including--
Great Blue Heron-5; Redhead*-2; Bufflehead*-25; Hawks--Sharp-
skinned*-3; Cooper's-2, Red-tailed-23; Red-shouldered-6; Marsh-1;
American Kestrel-17; Sora*-1; American Woodcock-19; Screech Owl-
22; Carolina Chickadee-349; House Wren*-1; Gray Catbird*-2;
Kinglets--Golden-crowned-363; Ruby-crowned-666; Cedar Waxwing-66;
White-eyed Vireo*-1; Solitary Vireo*-2; Dark-eyed Junco-1,317;
Field Sparrow-899. A new count record was established with the
84 species--new count highs were made for 21 of these 84 species.

Callaway Gardens--January 1--90 species--6,884 individuals,
including--Horned Grebe*, Bufflehead*, Hooded Merganser, Turkey,
Red-cockaded Woodpecker*, Wrens-House*, Long-billed Marsh*;
Solitary Vireo*, Evening Grosbeak, Henslow's Sparrow*.

Dalton--December 20--79 species--14,508 individuals, inclu-
ding--Great Blue Heron-4; Black Duck-2; American Wigeon*-2;
Lesser Scaup-1; Hawks--Sharp-skinned*-1; Cooper's-1, Red-tailed-
12, Red-shouldered-2, Marsh-2, American Kestrel-12, Great Horned
Owl*-1; Red-headed Woodpecker-1; Red-breasted Nuthatch-5; Bewick's
Wren*-1; Orange-crowned Warbler-1; Evening Grosbeak-28. Wood-
peckers were low--White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos
showed an increase. A bird thought to be a Willet* was seen by
Harry White and Delano Crowe--they gave a convincing description
of the bird. Written details have been sent in with the count
form. If the Willet is accepted, the total will rise to 80
species. Either way, this is the most number of species recorded
on our CBC!

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 CHATTANOOGA CHAT--CHATTANOOGA BIRD CLUB--(This news-
letter is published in Tennessee but often carries Georgia sight-
ings. Editor's GOSer Lil Dubke-Ed.) Reaching back in time to
October 30, 75 Turkey Vultures were sighted at Rocky Face. (Dec.)
A Peregrine Falcon* was sighted at Lookout Mountain (Editor's
Note--One breeding record Dade County). (Jan.) 300-500 Evening
Grosbeaks were seen near Summerville.

THE HOUSE FINCH--HENRY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY--(Dec.) Hawks
are on the move now. Three Redtail, two Marsh Hawks and one Am-
erican Kestrel were observed on one trip through the Locust Grove
vicinity.

THE ALBANY LIMPkin-ALBANY AUDUBON SOCIETY--500 Ring-necked
Ducks were on Windmill Pond at St. Joe January 21 at dusk.

While on a hunting trip, a member discovered a sick or in-
jured mature Red-tailed Hawk. After the hunting dogs pointed
the bird, it was caught and taken home. The hawk was given to
the local zoo for care and has been released back into the wild.

A Northern Oriole* has been feeding on peanut butter at a local feeder--this is unusual for our area. The bird was still present on February 2.

THE MARSHLANDER-OGEECHEE AUDUBON SOCIETY-SAVANNAH--Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge (SRNWR) Winter Report--A succession of cold fronts moving into the South in early January coupled with the severe winter sustained in the North caused an increase in the wintering waterfowl population on the SRNWR. These weather factors undoubtedly account for the presence on the refuge of several uncommon winter visitors including 11 Whistling Swans* (January 11), two Snow Geese* (blue subspecies), and several Canada Geese. Only the Wood Duck population shows a marked decrease, and this can be attributed to ...an excellent acorn crop up the Savannah River that attracted the Wood Ducks to additional feeding areas.

Two adult Bald Eagles* and a juvenile (possibly their offspring) have been seen regularly this winter and may have nested on the refuge--attempts to locate the nest have been unsuccessful. The refuge is also being visited this season by 48 Fulvous Tree Ducks* (January 16) which seem to reappear in the Southeast each year in greater numbers.

Other bird sightings of interest in the area include a flock of over 100 American Avocets frequenting the Corps of Engineers Savannah River spoilsite (January 10) and individual Northern Orioles* reported from Chatham (December 24, January 19) and Bryan (December 29) Counties. On November 15, a wounded Short-eared Owl was brought into the Savannah Science Museum, the victim of a collision with a car near Casey Canal. Sadly, the owl was mortally wounded.

THE PIPER-COASTAL GEORGIA AUDUBON SOCIETY-BRUNSWICK--A Parasitic Jaeger* was watched chasing a Royal Tern over the beach at Jekyll Island October 30. On November 19, a member in Brunswick saw two Cerulean Warblers* fairly close to his window. Possibly they were coming in for water. (Editor's Note--Considered rare below the fall line. Although data in Georgia Birds, Thomas D. Burleigh, is limited--this is a very late date.)

Joe King reports the November 22 field trip to the south end of Sea Island turned up 35 species. Observers had a good opportunity to compare similar species--Royal and Caspian Terns and shorebirds.

UPPER FLINT RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY-JONESBORO--Roger Green saw his first Evening Grosbeaks of the year on December 18 when six visited his feeder.

ATLANTA AUDUBON SOCIETY-Bob Manns submits this report--"On November 23, one day before Atlanta's first snow of the winter, a single Snow Bunting* was observed at the regional hospital on Panthersville Road. The apparent male bird allowed six observers within 20 feet: Bob and Elaine Jarrett, Bob Gilbert, two others and myself. To my knowledge this is only the second appearance of this species in the interior..., the first being four birds that were found and photographed on Stone Mountain November 27, 1969." (Editor's Note--Occasional in winter at Augusta and on coast).

(Jan.) Sarah Ringwalt was pleased to have her residence visited by a Veery*. (Editor's Note--not recorded for winter to my knowledge. Glynn County listed one on the 1974 Christmas Count which was deleted in the published list in American Birds, Vol. 29, No. 2. Care should be exercised not to confuse the Veery with the Hermit Thrush.)

(Jan.) A member in Sandy Springs reports a Brown Creeper and a male Orchard Oriole* outside her apartment feeder. (Editor's Note--Again, a bird not on the winter record to my knowledge. One was believed seen in Dalton the winter of 1974-1975--see Vol.II, No.3--this newsletter. Orchard and Northern Orioles--especially immature males--can be easily confused.)

On the January field trip to Talmo excellent views were obtained of Water Pipits, Common Snipe and one young birder observed one of the Horned Larks that sometimes frequent the area. John Paget was the leader.

THE BIRD-WATCHER-FLOYD COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY-ROME--(Feb.)
Bob Todd reports a male Northern Oriole* seems to be spending the winter near his home. He has seen it on two occasions--and it was seen once by a neighbor.

On a rainy January field trip only Mr. & Mrs. James Colehour and George Dorsey went adventuring. As Mrs. Cole--very wisely sat in the car--James and George took turns--one holding the umbrella while the other looked at birds through the spotting 'scope! At Darlington School, we counted 22 Common Snipes feeding in an open field with Killdeers and American Robins. Down the highway we saw an American Kestrel.

At Paris Lake--300 American Wigeons*, 200 American Coots, six or more scaup, three Redheads*, a pair--male and female Mallards; Wax Lake gave us--five Ruddy Ducks*, two Buffleheads*.

Emily Ford, Phil Ham, Alan Spearman, Bob Todd, Mr. & Mrs. Colehour, George Dorsey sallied forth on a field trip, February 8. At Russell Airport, 11 Black Vultures and 32 Savannah Sparrows were noted. Next we went to Garden Lakes where we saw--2 Red-head*, 2 Canvasback*, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Yellow-rumped Warbler. Upon our return to Darlington School, we saw 1,500 Starlings--more than George Dorsey had ever seen before on the school grounds.

AUGUSTA AUDUBON SOCIETY--Our winter field trips turned up some good finds. November 8--Tom Rial leading--a cold, miserable day--Horned Grebe*, numerous Greater Yellowlegs, 100 Least Sandpipers. A Horned Grebe* (same bird?-Ed.) was also seen on the November 23 field trip. January 17--An abominable day, cold with a penetrating icy rain found two hardy souls out birding. At Duck Pond, they found scores of Gadwalls*, American Wigeons*, Ruddy Ducks*, Northern Shovelers* and Mallards (an aptly named pond!--Ed.)

One Red-shouldered, four Red-tailed Hawks and an American Kestrel, four Herring Gulls*, four Whistling Swans* at Swan Pond and a Green Heron* were seen on the walk of January 25.

Interesting observations around and about Augusta--November 16, an Osprey* was spotted over Big Pond at Merry Ponds--it hovered and dived feet first into the water. Two immature Common Flickers were watched in a yard on November 29. This seems a rather late date for birds in juvenile plumage. November 14 brought a Swainson's Warbler* to a member's yard (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid--gives October 18, 1929, as the latest date--one struck the Tybee Light that day.). Two Great Horned Owls* were heard one morning at 4:00 a.m.--perhaps a courting pair (Dec. issue).

A Common Gallinule, a female Common Goldeneye*, one female Bufflehead* were at Merry Ponds December 7. On this same date, at Merry Ponds, a Merlin* was studied for about 15 minutes with binoculars and a 20 x scope.

The bird allowed a very close approach-before it flew, the long pointed wings, long darkly barred tail and dark cap were noted. This hawk definitely lacked the whisker mark.

December 21, a Pileated Woodpecker was observed for two hours and fifteen minutes as he sat on a large branch, horizontally, and excavated a cavity.

(Jan.) A member believes he has a hybrid Dark-eyed X Oregon Junco coming to his feeder. It has a uniformly slate gray head, back, and breast but definitely has a pink strip running down the sides. (Editor's Note--Immature Slate-colored Juncos can answer this description. With the change in nomenclature, identification is no longer a problem with certain species of juncos. They are all Dark-eyed Juncos! This points up the reason for the lumping together of certain species and the name changing.)

Down at Magnolia Springs, near Millen, about January 1 a pair of Common Gallinuls was observed. A Solitary Vireo* has been noted in a yard all winter and Evening Grosbeaks have been seen off and on at various feeders. Five Whistling Swans* were seen at Merry Ponds on February 12.

Clarence Belger has really been seeing the birds. He reports a Northern Oriole* from November 2-13 and a female at his feeder January 11--a late Northern Parula Warbler* on November 4 (Editor's Note--ties the state late record of November 4, 1929, Athens as listed in Georgia Birds, Ibid.), four Black-throated Green Warblers* November 4 (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--latest date November 1, 1925--Athens), an Orange-crowned Warbler November 5 and three immature Black-poll Warblers* November 5 (Editor's Note--latest date in Georgia Birds, Ibid.--October 30, 1900, St. Mary's.)

Continuing with Clarence's list--on November 23 an American Woodcock, two Soras, one Horned Grebe*. November 25--American Wigeon*, Gadwall*, two Hooded Mergansers, one Redhead*, Common Egrets and Cattle Egrets were observed on November 30--this is a late date for the Cattle Egret. The above sightings were all at Merry Ponds.

Still birding at Merry Ponds, Clarence saw a Yellow-throated Warbler* January 18 (Editor's Note--...winters sparingly in Coastal Plain.) On January 20, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*, 22 Ring-billed Gulls, one Herring Gull*, four Whistling Swans*, four Red-shouldered and 12 Red-tailed Hawks. One Red-shouldered Hawk was observed with a stick in his beak. He alighted in a tree, holding the stick and sat there for as long as the observer stayed. (Augusta Editor's Note--This characteristic is said to be preliminary to nest building. In the south, Red-shouldered Hawks begin nest construction in February taking four-five weeks for completion.)

Late in the afternoon on January 20, Clarence took his boat into the reeds at Duck Pond and observed six Pintail Ducks*, five Red-heads*, 150 American Wigeons*, 80 Wood Ducks. Near Swan Pond, he saw a Northern Parula Warbler* (Editor's Note--of accidental occurrence in winter). On January 22 at Merry Ponds--nine scaup, a Merlin*, and a Prairie Warbler* (Editor's Note--Not on winter records--Gerald Knighton and Tom Rial saw one January 13, 1974, and one was seen November 27, 1966, at Athens--see Vol. I, No. 3, this newsletter.)

Bill and Lee Gibbs have been interstate hawk watching again. On December 13 they noted 36 hawks between Augusta and Atlanta.--33 Red-tailed, one Red-shouldered Hawks, two American Kestrels for the morning.

Three of the hawks were eating prey. It is approximately 145 miles from North Augusta, SC, to Atlanta. With 36 hawks spotted, this makes an average of one hawk every four miles. (Anne Hamilton and the editor on a trip to Atlanta, January 28 and back saw an American Kestrel, two Red-tailed, two unidentified buteos on way down--three Red-tailed Hawks circling Camp Timber Ridge; one Red-tailed Hawk on way home. On a trip to Atlanta February 2, the editor noted four Red-tailed Hawks going to Atlanta, two Red-shouldered, four Red-tailed Hawks on way back.)

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB--A Fox Sparrow was seen November 9, and Northern Orioles* have been seen by a member December 10.

Claudia Carswell sends word that a Whistling Swan* is reported to have been seen on the pond of a Thomaston resident during the week ending December 19. Grace Whiteman writes that West Point Lake is attracting gulls now--over 100 Ring-billed and Herring* Gulls observed December 31. Back in October, a member had three Orange-crowned Warblers bathing together in her bird bath.

L. A. Wells tells the following--On January 21, a member spied an estimated 450 Tree Swallows* perching on overhead wires along Box Road in Columbus. Research reveals that Tree Swallows regularly migrate through the Chattahoochee Valley--latest in fall being December 21, earliest in spring March 7, abundance record of 200 set on November 3, 1966. So, what were these "ice birds" doing at a Columbus shopping center in the dead of winter? They are a hardy species able to subsist on various berries. (Tom) Imhof, in Alabama Birds states they are locally abundant on the Gulf coast in winter, but have been recorded only a few times inland at this season. It is easy to surmise that the broad waterway up the river past the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge has exerted a powerful influence on these as well as other migrating species. (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--lists Tree Swallows being seen in January at Tybee Light, the mouth of the Savannah River, Sea Island, Okefenokee Swamp, and at Coleraine.)

A resplendent male and a demure female Northern Oriole* have been seen at Braebour since December, plus a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches.

THE DALTON KINGFISHER--CHEROKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY--Going back to November 6--a member was brought an injured Purple Gallinule*. It's leg was broken most likely by a car as it was found in the road. It was kept for a week, then turned loose at Thread Mill Lake (TML). The gallinule repaid its benefactor with a solid nip on the arm and swam off in a straight line--not a zig-zag course as might be expected of a bird with a disabled leg. No further sightings of this bird have been received. This is a second record--Anne Hamilton saw one at TML May 19, 1965.

A visiting birder tells of seeing a Dickcissel* at his family's feeder December 24. While Dickcissels have been seen in Dalton, they are considered rare. The problem with these birds is one of identity--they closely resemble House Sparrows--to compound the issue, they closely associate with House Sparrows. The bird spotter is from Nebraska and South Dakota--so is the "spottee".

Snow Geese--a report was received of two Snow Geese* on Lake Kathy February 8. The sighter was not familiar with Snow Geese and did not notice the black wing tips. Harry White went to the lake February 11 and verified them as Snow Geese. This is the sixth record for the area--two of these records are of Snow Geese flying over Dalton.

Northern Oriole--Anne Hamilton and a neighbor have been sharing a male Northern Oriole* in almost full spring plumage. The bird was first noticed at the neighbor's feeder January 2 and was last seen by Anne February 18. A female/immature was seen by the neighbor at his feeder January 5 and once again at a later date. Rotted bananas, pieces of tangerines and oranges, suet are most attractive to this bird.

Evening Grosbeaks--we've been awash with these birds. One member had 100 feeding in her yard, another reports 75 on the grounds of a church--Doris and Delano Crowe spotted a spectacular 200 feeding under some pine trees in northeast Whitfield County. Other GOSers entertaining Evening Grosbeaks--Anne Hamilton, Norene Boring, Harriett DiGioia, Harry White, Ollie Munn--Ollie saw them March 17.

A Cooper's Hawk was seen by Anne Hamilton at Lakeshore Park December 18--Harry White saw a Sharp-skinned Hawk* in his yard the week of January 18 and again on February 13 and 12 Water Pipits at Salem Carpet Mills, Ringgold February 8.

Harriett DiGioia--Fox Sparrow--farm--November 22, Sharp-skinned Hawk* January 6, female Common Goldeneye*, TML, January 24, 25--the third record for our area; two female, one male American Wigeon* and four male, 10 female Ring-necked Ducks, TML March 4. Sandy Pangle saw three male, two female Redheads* and 500 American Coot on Lake Marvin, Walker County, March 7. A member saw a dozen Cedar Waxwings March 10-11 in her yard.

Geese migration reports are running well this year. Two reports on February 24 of Canada Geese--eight flying over Murray County--50 passing over Dalton. Reports of geese going over Dalton were received on February 27 (two formations) and March 1.

Great Blue Herons are seen regularly on or flying over the DiGioia farm. At sunset on February 15, one was seen with material dangling from its bill--the heron dropped whatever it was carrying. Harry White and Harriett DiGioia thought the material was grass for nesting--Anne Hamilton felt it was a snake. The breeding status of the Great Blue Heron in north Georgia is cloudy--not much nesting data in hand.

Owl News--A Great Horned Owl* was found hung in a barbed wire fence in Murray County December 4. It suffered an injury to the inside of one wing. The owl was brought to a veterinarian and in the warmth of the clinic, maggots hatched in the wound. Poison secreted by the maggots caused the owl's death on December 10. Harriett DiGioia received a call from a woman on December 10 who said she had a Screech Owl in her study, sitting on the sofa, watching t.v. Sure enough, there was a red phase Screech Owl ensconced in the study, watching the evening news on t.v.! A net was thrown over the bird and it was deposited outdoors.

Frank DiGioia reports a red phase Screech Owl was spotted sitting on the rafters at the General Latex plant January 20. The night shift workers caught it and said the owl looked poorly, one man took it home for care. It subsequently died.

CARDS AND LETTERS--Mrs. Emory Jones of Barnesville writes--"Ever since the first of January I had so many of them (Evening Grosbeaks) everyday that they ate over 50 pounds of sunflower seed in a week. One day I actually counted over 100 on the ground at one time and almost that many more that I didn't get a chance to count. Between 7:30-8:00 every morning they descend on my six feeders and stay until about noon or a little after. Then they disappear completely until the next morning."

Marynette Webb of Vidalia--"... I'm delighted to report my husband, Shannon, and I spent a delightful January 31 watching and photographing 11 Evening Grosbeaks...they were at the feeder in the backyard from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. They were back on the morning of February 1.

February 14, Dr. Lovejoy...took the Living Science Club--10-12 of us (from Georgia Southern College) to the SRNWR for a day of birding. I added Green and Blue-winged Teal (by the thousands), Ruddy Ducks*, scaup, Canvasback (at least 200) to my list, but the real treat was Whistling Swans* (12) and a lone Snow Goose*."

Grace Boddiford of Sylvania--"...One Snow Goose* (Blue Morph) has been living with domestic geese on a farm since May. Nine Canada Geese appeared on this farm January 12 and were still there February 20. Six Whistling Swans*, two adults, four immatures, were seen on a farm pond November 24. During early December three Snow Geese* were seen. This farm also keeps domestic geese.

Two sightings of Cattle Egrets* were made during the first week in January.

On February 20 I found two young Morning Doves, about five-six days old, dead in our yard. Their nest had been dislodged from a pine limb by high winds February 19. (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--Nesting begins in late February in extreme southern Georgia, and by early May it is under way in all sections of the state.) Evening Grosbeaks have been seen in Burke County at Waynesboro and Sardis and in Screven County at Sylvania and Hiltonia. Cattle Egrets were seen in Screven County March 10."

According to the Atlanta Journal of December 11--Terry Moore saw nine Whistling Swans* around the poultry processing ponds at Pendergrass during the preceding week. A separate sighting was reported later at Morgan Falls Reservoir on the Chattahoochee River nearer to Atlanta.

NEWS OF PEOPLE--Virginia Denton was hospitalized at the beginning of the winter--Mozelle Williams had a hospital stay recently. We hope both are now fully recovered!

Our congratulations go to L. A. and Roberta Wells--they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Travelers--Ed and Lola Case, with their daughter Gail Murphy and her family enjoyed a trip to Mammoth Cave and the Jasper Pulaski Game Refuge in Indiana. At the refuge they saw an estimated 7600 migrating Sandhill Cranes. They had a good view of a Bald Eagle. Their son Neil joined them for a few days. Sam Pate, Bill and Dimitri Matheny went to South Texas and Mexico--"Land of the Rio Grande" area. Over 1500 hawks sighted, 15 species--even the Hooked-billed Kite! Don and Doris Cohrs took a trip out Texas way in December. Eleanor Morris spent the Christmas season in Jamaica. She saw Streamer-tailed Hummingbirds, Smooth-billed Ani, Bananaquits, Cho-Cho, flocks of Kling-klings, seven small Olive-throated Parakeets and an old familiar face--the Black and White Warbler.

Ann Gordon and some other birders made a one day trip to St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge. Eighty-three species were totaled, including Horned Grebe, Osprey, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Pintail.

Joseph Myers--a new GOSer--is a University of Georgia graduate student, currently doing research (three years) on bird populations in the area of Young Harris--through TVA. Wally Dreyfoos was chairman and gave the keynote speech at a state-wide conservation meeting held in Atlanta last November. Fifty-five people representing 32 organizations (42,000 members) were in attendance. Wally is on the Board of Directors of this group.

More travelers--McRae and Mozelle Williams took a seven week motor coach trip to Key West, Shreveport and points between. "Our only serious birding occurred at Key West where our good GOS friend, Mrs. Frances Hames, took us in tow...and introduced us to the birds of Key West and Stock Island. We met a dozen White-crowned Pigeons, six Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a magnificent Frigatebird on two occasions, Fulvous Tree Ducks. We had a total of 40 species. She also gave us a lesson on gulls and terns."

Mrs. Cason Callaway has been selected one of the 25 Historic Georgia Mothers. The Sunday Atlanta Journal/Constitution had an excellent write-up of Mrs. Callaway in their Historic Georgia Mother series. Congratulations to you, Mrs. Callaway, for this honor.

Lorraine Dusenbury is Chairman of the Glynn County Commission.

Miscellaneous--The following note was received by Tom Collum with the payment of dues and is from Christopher Newman-- "... I moved to Atlanta last year from New England where I was active in a banding program for Greenwich Audubon. I am interested in working with a licensed bander in the Atlanta area so that I may apply for my own permit. I would appreciate any names you might be able to give me. Thank you very much." Can anyone help Christopher out? His address is--2494 A Peachwood Circle, Atlanta, GA, 30345.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY--"We shall never understand the natural environment until we see it not as just so air, water, and real estate, but as a living organism." Paul Brooks

Harriett G. DiGioia--Editor
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