

7 JUN 1976

The Georgia GOShawk

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

The GOShawk Says--Welcome to three new members--Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux, Clemson, SC; Mabel Faulkner, Dalton; Claudia Thompson, Waynesboro. Looking forward to seeing you at the fall meeting in Athens.

Editorial Comment--Ruff! That's the big news in the state--and it doesn't mean Spring birding was rough. A Ruff--the *THIRD* one seen in Georgia to my knowledge--was again put on the Georgia sight list in Omaha.

Sharing almost top billing with the Ruff are--Black Rails, Long-billed Dowitcher, Cliff and Bank Swallows, all on the Ga. side Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (ENWR).

Philadelphia Vireos--two--previously listed as rare fall transient--were located in Columbus and Dalton. Red Cross bills appeared on the horizon--four sightings in Atlanta, one in Whitfield Co., one in Murray Co.

Augusta brings to light a Forster's Tern, Glossy Ibis, House Wren--a Bald Eagle was seen at Rabun Bald. Atlanta's news includes dowitchers, sp. Sandhill Cranes, House Wren, Wilson's and Connecticut Warblers. Mississippi Kites were in evidence at Albany and Sylvania while Dalton rings up Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Loon. Guess what's making news in Whitfield Co.?--Vultures!

Evening Grosbeaks have been blanketing the state and have all departed by this writing. A late one is recorded in Whitfield Co. on May 17. More Osprey sightings crossed the editor's desk this time than in any other quarter--Atlanta, St. Catherine's Is., Augusta, Thomaston, Floyd Co., Sylvania reporting them--Dalton/Whitfield Co. giving us six records.

Local editors stated Pine Siskins were low (after a good start) but were increasing in number in Atlanta toward the end of their stay. Cedar Waxwings remain virtually unrecorded, except for some good numbers in Augusta--Warbler migration was reported to be slow.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the spring is the many early sightings--more early birds than the editor has ever received before.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS--Spring meeting in retrospect. Great!--would sum it up. Birding was keen--137 species recorded. Osprey*, Mississippi Kite*, Bachman's Sparrow, baby Ankingas in the nest were among the birds sighted. (Eleanor Fisher had the best of luck--she found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest at Blue Springs. The female bird hovered about attempting to care for the young). Companionship--111 birders registered (122 at banquet) was great. Food--the down-on-the-farm dinner was delicious--this transplanted Yankee and her husband really licked our plates clean! Decorations were apropos for a birding group and the Bicentennial Year. Sidney Gauthreaux's slide/movie/talk--"Radar and Bird Migration"--was well presented and included a wealth of information. We're all much more aware of the intricacies and myseries of migration now. This brings us down to the weather. It rained--a regular goose-drownder-Friday night (all day Friday!). Saturday dawned fair and except for a vagrant shower at lunch time, the weather was grand. Thank you Sylvania--Screven--Burke Counties for a long-to-be-remembered week-end!

REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT--After a delightful and productive meeting at Sylvania, I want to express my appreciation to all the members present for their highly affirmative response in regard to raising of dues in 1977.

I would like to add that in the event there is someone who would like to make a contribution or donation to GOS, it would be heartily welcomed. This would help to alleviate some of the financial pressures of 1975. Sustaining and Life memberships are encouraged to help secure funds during a time of rising costs and increased needs.

We look forward to sharing the attractions and birdlife in Athens.—
Norene Boring

Three more guides have signed up to help you with birding in their area--Eleanor Fisher, Rt. 1, Box 152, Sardis--30456. Phone--912-569-4493. Maridaun Collins, 114 Seymour Dr., North Augusta, SC --29801. Phone--803-279-6181. Jeanine Angerman--1326 Evans Rd., Aiken, SC--29841. Phone--803-648-1565. (Please refer to Vol. III, No. 3--this newsletter for other guides).

Do you have someone in mind for the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award? This is to be presented to the person doing the most to promote ornithology in Ga. Please send your recommendation to Elbridge Freeborn, 122 Lamont Dr., Decatur, Ga.--30030 by July 31.

Fall meeting--Athens--Oct. 8-10, 1976! See you there!

THE CHEROKEE AUDUBON SOCIETY (AS.), based in Dalton, had a unique challenge offered them. The U.S. Forest Service is managing 350 acres around Lake Conasauga (highest lake in Ga., 3150 feet) on Grassy Mountain for songbirds. This is a change of policy from game/gamebird management. 150 of these acres (the remainder is managed for recreation) will be selectively timbered, with certain trees--dead snags, cavity, food--being left. Cutting will be done in small plots, then food/cover shrubs will be planted in the openings--this increases the edge habitat. A Songbird Trail (Mill Creek Trail) on a ridge at higher elevation will be maintained for birders. The Dalton group spent five Sundays in April and May on the mountain to census the birds. Periodic counting will take place during summer, at fall migration, winter and again an intensive every week survey next May to study the effects of lumbering. Harriett DiGioia is co-ordinator--GOSers Frank DiGioia, Anne Hamilton, Norene Boring, Harry White, Delano Crowe participating. A paper is being planned for publication in The Oriole. 48 species were listed--in spite of bad weather.

BIRD NEWS--An asterisk following the name of a bird denotes it is listed as rare, scarce, 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.

ATLANTA AS--April--Whistling Swans*--eight in all--delighted visitors and local residents by wintering in the Chattahoochee River Park above Morgan Falls from early December to early March. Publicity was intentionally subdued due to the senseless shooting of a visiting (Mute) Swan in the same area last year (Vol. II, NOs. 1 and 4--this newsletter). Much credit must be given all residents on land adjoining the park for their efforts to protect the swans.

Sightings by Joel Volpi--Sandhill Cranes*, rare but regular in the Atlanta area, were spotted twice near Lawrenceville: A flock of eight on Mar. 4; flock of 24 on Mar. 7. A wedge of Canada Geese flew over Lawrenceville Mar. 4, three Am. Bitterns appeared along the Chattahoochee River (CR) northeast of Atlanta, Mar. 16. Northern Shoveler* Mar. 16 and Redhead*, Canvasback*, Com. Goldeneye* Apr. 6 and 7--all seen on a pond by his home. Also on Mar. 16, he reports a most unusual flock of dowitchers*, sp. feeding in a flooded field with Com. Snipe and Yellowlegs, sp. This is perhaps the first spring record for this rare migrant in the Atlanta area.

Vaughn Morrison and Terry Moore have been busy finding birds--150 Water Pipits south of Atlanta and a Lincoln's Sparrow* Mar. 21.

They noted an early Prothonotary Warbler at John Ward Swamp (JWS) Apr. 3 (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds-- , Thomas D. Burleigh lists Apr. 14, 1921 and 1926--Atlanta and Athens respectively for an early date); Upland Sandpiper*--early--at the Regional Hospital and early Barn Swallows Apr. 4. To top off their news--a Swainson's Warbler near Fairburn Rd. Apr. 18.

A Black-throated Green Warbler came to the home of Don and Doris Cohrs and they saw a Black-billed Cuckoo* May 16 near Fairburn Rd. Terry Moore saw two flocks of Red Crossbills*--at Kennesaw May 1 and in northwest Atlanta May 16. Terry also saw two flocks earlier (same birds?--Ed.)--one of the birds was in his yard. Carolyn Krueger spied an Osprey* along the CR Apr.3--the only one reported. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron* was reported by Billy Russell at Emory University's President's Estate (EPE) Apr. 19.

Eileen Hutcheson saw a family of five Ruffed Grouse walking along the road to Brasstown Bald Mar. 19--a Com. Raven* was seen on this same date.

May 1 was "Big Day"--(really Big!--Ed.) for John Swiderski and Terry Moore. They listed 138 species--25 of them warblers--on a run from Kennesaw Mt. to ENWR! Sightings include Louisiana Heron* and Rusty Blackbirds--JWS; Sharp-shinned Hawk*--Atlanta. For more exciting finds, please refer to the heading Cards/Letters/Phone Calls.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen by Vince Jackson at East Lake Country Club Mar. 21 (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--Apr. 3, 1902--St. Mary's) and along with Trina saw Pine Siskins eating mulberries at their home May 11--a rather late date.

Louisa Echols found a Swainson's Warbler at EPE Apr. 21 and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest Apr. 27--it appeared to be abandoned several days later. Also, a late House Wren* May 4 (Editor's Note--has been recorded as nesting in Northeastern Ga.--see Vol II, No. 2--this newsletter for nesting record in Atlanta area) and a Gray-cheeked Thrush*. Her most exciting finds are two Connecticut Warbler* records--one heard at EPE and one turned up at her home May 11-15. Several birders were able to see the bird.

Miscellaneous sightings--A Wilson's Warbler* was viewed by many until Mar. 21; Great Egret, EPE, Apr. 13; Am. Wigeon*, EPE Apr. 18; Cerulean Warbler* May 14 and an adult Bald Eagle* seen near Rabun Bald Apr. 18. A Ringed Turtle Dove was spotted in northwest Atlanta.

Fernbank Bird Walks netted a pair of nesting Pileated Woodpeckers and Lee Marcott saw Tree Swallows Mar. 20. A Scarlet Tanager and the following warblers--N. Parula, Prairie, Canada were seen Mar. 30. (Editor's Note--all the birds in the foregoing sentence are early either for Atlanta or the state according to Georgia Birds, Ibid. Please refer to this book for further details.)

An Emory (University) student brought to light a large heron rookery south of ENWR--Ga. side. Several visits from mid-April to early May revealed Ankingas*, Little Blue Heron*, Cattle Egret* all with nesting activities underway. (Editor's Note--all listed as Coastal Plain breeders). Other species sighted--Louisiana Heron*, Purple* and Common* Gallinules. Over 150 White Ibis* were reported leaving the rookery at daybreak May 9 by Sam Pate. Vaughn Morrison--Atlanta compiler.

THE PIPER--COASTAL GEORGIA AS--BRUNSWICK--May--In one meadow (St. Catherine's Island) four Osprey nests and four adult Ospreys* in flight were sighted. Another area is reported to be the home of a Bald Eagle*.

THE BIRD-WATCHER--FLOYD COUNTY AS--ROME--A completed Carolina Wren nest was found in a cardboard box provided for that purpose Mar. 22-- a bit early. James Eberhart found a fledged Screech Owl in Polk Co.-- Mar. 22 issue.

THE HOUSE FINCH--HENRY COUNTY AS--Two Ground Doves* were seen Jan. 6. (Editor's Note--Accidental in Piedmont). Fred Beers has been enjoying a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in his yard (Jan. issue) and Betty Schroeder has had a blonde English Sparrow at her feeder this past winter.

On a trip to Savannah, Betty noted the following birds--Red-tailed Hawks--seem to be many this year, Loggerhead Shrike, Cattle Egrets--south Ga., Great Horned Owl* near Conyers, Pileated Woodpecker.

THE OBSERVER--COLUMBUS AS--On Jan. 17, Sam Pate found a banded Great Blue Heron*, Ga. side ENWR. The bird was freshly killed and the band was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Information received indicated the bird was banded near Castalia, Oh. on June 2, 1974--the bird could not fly when banded.

March 28 brought a Worm-eating Warbler upon the Columbus scene (Editor's Note--Georgia Bird, Ibid.--Apr. 4, 1912--Savannah); Bob Terhune spotted the first Blackburnian Warbler May 1. Sam Pate offers us a N. Oriole* and a Philadelphia Vireo* Apr. 25 (Editor's Note--Rare fall transient) and a Swainson's Warbler May 9. A late Dark-eyed Junco was observed May 15 (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--May 3, 1909--Savannah. Anne Hamilton recorded two on Grassy Mt., Murray Co., June 1 and 2, 1940 and again same location on June 7 and 8, 1947.)

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB--COLUMBUS--L. A. Wells spotted a Fish Crow at Lake Oliver Feb. 21 and reports the earliest ever Louisiana Waterthrush Mar. 5 (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--ties Mar. 5, 1907--Atlanta); all-time early Rough-winged Swallow, Bussey's Lake, Mar. 7. (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--Mar. 10, 1922--Savannah).

Grace Whiteman records the first Com. Loon* on Lake West Point (LWP) Jan 16. James Miller tells of seeing an Am. Kestrel Mar. 20; Great Crested Flycatcher Mar.21. Sue Chambliss saw a Barn Swallow early--, singing Yellow Warbler (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid. Apr. 2, 1917--Atlanta), Canada Goose on a nest at Callaway Gardens Mar. 28. A Whip-poor-will was heard Mar. 8--new early date.

UPPER FLINT RIVER AS--JONESBORO--Roger Green comes up with this news--on Jan. 11, he saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk* carrying off a Brown-headed Cowbird that had been at one of the feeders. A neighbor said he witnessed a similiar act of predation at the Green's feeder the week before.

He saw a Great Blue Heron* along Camp Creek, Clayton Co., Mar. 7; the only Pine Siskins of the year at his feeder Apr. 10; Loggerhead Shrike, Flint River (F.R.) in Clayton Co. An Am. Bittern was noticed in a marshy area aong Bethsaeda Rd., So. Fulton Co., Apr. 16 and an Osprey* above Highway 36 bridge, F. R., near Thomaston, Apr. 17. On Apr. 21, a Com. Nighthawk was seen chasing insects above the crowd in Atlanta Stadium at the Braves vs Giants game. (If the Braves keep on loosing as they currently are, the Nighthawks will be the only action worth watching!--Ed.)

AUGUSTA AS--Clarence Bleger has been birding again--Com. Gallinule* Feb. 14, a wave of 35-40 Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Great Horned Owl* calling at dusk; three Great Egrets; three of the four Whistling Swans* seen since Dec. on Feb. 16. Three Barred Owls were heard "barking" Feb. 28. Above sightings at Merry Ponds (MP).

Mar. 22 brought a Ruddy Duck* to Duck Pond--Mar. 30 found a Snowy Egret*, four Glossy Ibis*, Sora*, Black-crowned Night Heron*, two Great Egrets at MP.

Still at MP, Clarence saw, on Apr. 12, numerous Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, 200 Cattle Egret. On April 17--Brick Yard Ponds (BYP), a Merlin* was viewed. White-crowned Sparrow*, Semi-palmated Plover*, Black-bellied Plover* (Editor's Note--Accidental in interior), Marsh Hawk, Least Bittern, 75 Water Pipits, 500 roosting Cattle Egrets and an im. Little Blue Heron were ticked off.

From Gerald Knighton, we have these records--Feb. 29 he heard and saw singing White-eyed Vireos and a Red-shouldered Hawk performing territorial and courtship displays--also a Red-tailed Hawk and Am. Kestrel at MP.

Field Trip Results--Feb. 22-59 species--Hairy Woodpecker--this bird seems more rare than the Pileated Woodpecker. A Sora* and a King Rail were at Swan Pond (SP). Mar 22 listed the first Cattle Egrets, Yellow-crowned Night Heron*, 200-300 Blue-winged Teal in water holes in a field. Tree Swallows were noted. Two Barred Owls were in their hollow tree and a Fish Crow nest was discovered at the Lock and Dam.

Apr. 3--73 species--Bufflehead*, Ruddy Duck*, SP. Also noted: House Wren* and a N. Parula Warbler nest-building in Spanish Moss. A Fox Sparrow was checked-off (Augusta Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid.--Apr. 2, 1947 and 1950--Stone Mt. and Atlanta. "...being only infrequently seen in spring after the middle of March"). Apr. 11 a Black-crowned Night Heron* and four Green Heron nests, complete with eggs, were seen.

Sightings around and about Augusta--On the afternoon of Feb. 29 a Forster's Tern* was spotted at MP along with 30 Ring-billed Gulls (Augusta Editor's Note--...Occasional in interior except mountains). Hawks--two Red-tailed on I-20 near Martintown Rd., Feb. 12, one diving for prey at Columbia Sq., Jan. 28 and an Am. Kestrel at the 13th St. Bridge.

40-50 Cedar Waxwings were at a member's home Mar. 9--staying around for two weeks. Another large flock (the same?--Ed.) was in the same yard Apr. 24. A flock of 25-35 Pine Siskins--these have been rare in our area this year--13 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in one tree, several im. Herring Gulls*, a Com. Loon* and near Little River five Horned Grebe*--all in winter plumage--were at Clark Hill Reservoir Mar. 14.

A rather early date, Mar. 29, is recorded for the Orchard Oriole. A Song Sparrow--on the late side--was observed at a feeder Apr. 8. At dusk on Apr. 27 a Barn Owl* was seen at Hollow Creek on Hwy 278 and one was captured in the street in front of the First Presbyterian Church--apparently ill or injured. An Osprey* with a fish in its talons was at BYP Apr. 20--it was near the Great Horned Owl* nest.

Pileated Woodpeckers have been active. One attacked the red-wood door framing of a house--slivers of wood four-six inches long were on the deck floor. One frame was completely torn away--the bird was starting on the second one. It was eating Black Carpenter Bees found in the wood. (A woodpecker reported as a Com. Flicker was mentioned to this editor on May 24 as drilling into and nesting in the framing of a house under construction on the flank of Fort Mt., Murray Co.--Ed.)

THE ALBANY LIMPKIN--ALBANY AS--At Reed Bingham State Park, Ann Gordon saw a Yellow-throated Warbler* Feb. 17. A Great Crested Flycatcher was seen on Doublegate Rd., the last week in Feb.

(Editor's Note--Georgia Birds, Ibid--Mar. 20, 1948--Atlanta). May issue--A Bobolink was seen in some matured grain at the intersection of Oakridge and Lockett Station Rd.--a Red-headed Woodpecker has been sighted and Mississippi Kites* were in trees at the Hilsman Park area. They have been noticed on several occasions--the first time on May 1.

THE DALTON KINGFISHER--CHEROKEE AS--Sandy Pangle saw the first Chimney Swifts--20 of them--at Thread Mill Lake (TML) Mar. 16--five days earlier than previous records. (Editor's Note--Georgia Birds--Ibid--Mar. 19, 1909--Savannah) On an overnight camping trip to John's Mt., Walker Co., he observed a Great Horned Owl*, counted 10 Whip-poor-wills calling, saw an early Am. Redstart Apr. 10. He heard a Chuck-will's--widow calling in Dawnville Mar. 29.

Anne Hamilton checks off a Veery* Apr. 25 and a Canada Warbler May 12. The first Cattle Egret was seen in a pasture in Whitfield Co. May 7 and 9. Spring Bird Count on May 8 turned up the following firsts--Least Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo*, Short-billed Marsh Wren*--2, Bewick's Wren*. 106 species--May 8; additional 5 species May 9-- total 111 species.

Our area has six Osprey* sightings--one at a member's pond Apr. 14; Anne Hamilton saw two at TML Apr. 15--three were seen on Spring count May 8. One was reported seen by a member in Floyd Co. a few weeks ago--May issue. These are the most Osprey sightings to come across the Dalton editor's desk at one time.

Red Crossbills are making headlines--a member had one come onto the ground near her Apr. 21--the bird was also seen by another family member and three Red Crossbills were seen on Grassy Mt., May 9--furnishing the third and fourth records for the area.

Frank and Harriett DiGioia discovered a raft of 80 Scaup, 12 Am. Coot; 3-4 Pied-billed Grebe; two male Blue-winged Teal; two male, two female Bufflehead*--11th record--a male Hooded Merganser*--9th record--; two male, one female Northern Shoveler* at TML Mar. 21. On Apr. 12, another raft consisting of 70 Scaup, 30 Am. Coot, one Pied-billed Grebe was seen at TML Apr. 12. Both of these sightings were after storms had passed through Dalton. Harriett DiGioia--Com. Loon*--7th record--TML, Mar. 31; Black-crowned Night Heron* TML Apr. 1; three Canada Geese TML Apr. 6; Blue-winged Warbler* Apr. 10; Cerulean Warbler* Apr. 27; N. Oriole* Apr. 29; Gray-cheeked Thrush* May 4; Philadelphia Vireo* May 10--this bird was sitting on a dead twig at eye level about 10 feet in front of her over a creek near her home--an article for The Oriole will be prepared. This is the second record for Dalton--one being seen on the west side of the county Oct. 12, 1974, at the GOS meeting! A Magnolia Warbler* May 12 and an im. Little Blue Heron* TML--complete the list.

Vulture write-up--Norene Boring, Anne Hamilton, Frank and Harriett DiGioia had the thrill of seeing approximately 100 Black and Turkey Vultures settle onto an Am. Sycamore tree for the night in western Whitfield Co. Apr. 4. The majority were Turkey Vultures. It was a dramatic sight to see these large birds come swooping and sailing in for a landing, then vie for the best positions on the limbs.

On May 8, the DiGioia s went by and saw 50 vultures on the tree and another 50--along with a Red-tailed Hawk--sitting on the crossbars of a power transmission tower--the vultures stage on the crossbars and then came into the tree at their leisure. Again on May 22 when passing the area, Frank and Harriett saw one vulture settled into the tree and another five on the crossarms.

Many vultures--numbering up into the 20's and 30's--Black and Turkey--have been watched by the DiGioia s on their nearby farm for five years.

In the evenings they flew low over the ridges of the farm and the DiGioias long suspected a roost was nearby.

Harry White, on May 26, watched a Black Vulture take a young Blue Jay from a nest in his yard and eat it. More details in next newsletter and Oriole.

LETTERS/CARDS/PHONE CALLS--John Swiderski reports in these exciting finds on "Big Day"--May 1 for Terry Moore and himself--A Ruff* was spotted 15 miles east of ENWR near Omaha in a puddle in a corn-field along with Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Semi-palmated Plovers*. Through the aid of a scope, the flack feathering about the breast of the Ruff could be seen (Editor's Note--Not on any Georgia list to my knowlege. On Mar. 31, 1961--Hedvig Cater and Alma Cooke spotted a Ruff in Houston Co.--The Oriole Vol. XXVI--No. 1)** Also at ENWR on the same date, Black Rails* answered a taped call and Terry saw a Long-billed Dowitcher* really bright red--as red as he'd ever seen according to Terry.

On May 9, again Ga. side ENWR, Terry sighted Cliff* and Bank* Swallows--there were seven other observers. John also tells of a N. Waterthrush found before Apr. 30 and on the 30th four-five singing at JWS. Judy and John also had a chance to see the Connecticut Warbler at Louisa Echol's home on Scott Blvd.--this is in Decatur--a honeysuckle/creek bottom habitat. Doris Cohrs thought she heard one a Fernbank the week before the sighting.

Doris and Don Cohrs write--"Last Sunday (May 2) was the first good day at Fernbank...--all the thrushes were seen; Warblers--Blue-winged*, Worm-eating, Orange-crowned, Cape May, Black-throated Blue,--Green; Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat; Orioles--N.*, Orchard; Rose-breasted Grosbeak."

Eleanor Fisher of Sardis tells of a Painted Bunting that flew down on the sidewalk in front of a grocery store to eat crumbs--Allan Clow reports that item and says they are nesting in his yard.

EVENING GROSBEAK ROUND-UP--these birds were really in evidence in our state this past winter. Not only were they here in abundance; but they were so enjoying Ga. southern hospitality that they tarried--lingering in the southland. Dalton records the late date on May 17--one was seen in the northeastern part of Whitfield Co. One hit a window in Dalton May 10 and three were seen at Lake Conasauga, Grassy Mt., Murray Co. May 9.

Six were recorded in Griffin, a large flock was seen on the Green Island Golf Course, Columbus, early Mar. A homeowner reports doves in yard Mar. 3--they drained his bird bath three times. Dates and numbers--30--Riverdale--Apr. 22; flock--Augusta--Apr. 20, two pair--May 3; 150-200--Clark Hill Reservoir--Mar. 14. Wally Dreyfoos finally had one at his feeder in Atlanta April 2. 300 were seen in Atlanta Apr. 20.

Marbelle Hodges has had a flock, including a partial Albino. The bird was washed with yellow where a female has yellow, so it was concluded the bird was a female. This feeling was further heightened when the bird was wet--a light tan color is located where the black would normally be on a female. Eyes were a dark brown.

NEWS OF PEOPLE--(Editor's Note--ENWR is confusing as to whether the birds are in our state or Alabama. Hereafter, unless stated that the birds were seen on the Ga. side, ENWR records will be published under this heading and given just a light once-over. This editor assumes the following sightings are Alabama records. No dates will be given--birds and observers lumped together. Observer and date will be on file with this editor for reference.)

** a Ruff was seen in Atlanta three or four years ago - the bird was photographed - Ed

Short-eared Owl, 50-60 Black-crowned Night Heron, Great and Cattle Egrets, Barn Owl, Louisiana Heron, White and Glossy Ibises, Snowy Egret, Least Bittern, Osprey, 500 Bobolink, 30 White-rumped Sandpiper, White-fronted Geese, Fulvous Tree Duck. Laughing Gulls were at a dam south of the rookery. Observers: Sam Pate, Terry Moore, John Swiderski, Vaughn Morrison, James Miller.

TRAVELERS--St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge--Wakulla Springs. Helen Lisak went down and got in some birding, including--Sora, Osprey, Gull-billed Tern. The Don Mitchells also traveled to the area--they enjoyed seeing White Ibis, Limpkin, Com. Goldeneye. Bill Terrell journeyed down for some birding--his findings include Ground Dove, Canvasback, Pintail. Bill added 11 birds to his Life List.

Charles Irwin spent a month in England this spring, adding 60 birds to his Life List. He also went to Dolphin Island (Dauphin?--ED.) earlier in the spring, seeing 45 Red-necked Grebes, 60 Black Skimmers, many Laughing Gulls. Ann Gordon and her family had a nice trip to Gatlinburg for the Wild flower Pilgrimage. Black-capped Chickadee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler were among the birds enjoyed. Grace and Harrison Whiteman are off to the Ozark Mts. to see and photograph wildflowers.

Sam Pate guided six liberated ladies on a smashing Texas Coast trip. GOSers--Helen Ogren, Judy Swiderski, Mary Anne Vernocy, Barbara Acree, Louise Echols went. The group traveling in a van and camper truck went to such active birding spots as Anahuac W.R., Aransas W. R. complete with 32 Whooping Cranes, Falcon Dam, Santa Ana--listing 225 species. They started Mar. 19 and included such finds as White-tailed Kite, 31 booming Greater Prairie Chickens, Owls--Ferruginous and Elf, Parakee, three species of Kingfishers--Ringed, Green, Belted flying from side to side over the Rio Grande River.

Sandy Pangle went to Bellville, Il.--on a side trip to St. Louis, Mo., he saw a European Tree Sparrow--one of the colony that exists there. In Tennessee he heard a Saw-whet Owl and reports seeing many hawks.

SPEAKERS--Elbridge Freeborn spoke to the Upper Flint River AS about vegetable gardening. Tom French gave an excellent slide narrative at the banquet of the Cherokee AS on the Puffin RE-establishment Program he worked on last summer--and will do again this summer--on Eastern Egg Rock Island, Muscongus Bay, Maine.

Birds of Alabama by Tom Imhof is being revised and should be off the press soon. Rosalind Clark was presented an award by Mary Anne Nelville on behalf of the Atlanta AS for serving six years as editor of the newsletter.

Lou Fink reports seeing a Glaucous Gull at Roanoke Rapids, NC. Tom Collum had a most interesting letter in "Letters To The Editor" section of the Atlanta Journal/Constitution Magazine, Sunday, Apr. 30. Ga. can claim three members of the 600 Club--Joe Greenburg--654; Terry Moore, (Secretary, Treasurer)--632; Patti Greenburg 603. The late Earle R. Greene had 664 species on his list.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEM--Don and Doris Cohrs would like to bring our attention to the Colonial Bird Register organized by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Anyone working with colonially nesting species is asked to contribute information. For further details--contact this editor.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY--Every flower, every ray of light, every drop of dew, each flake of snow, the curling smoke, the lowering cloud, the bright sun, the pale moon, the twinkling star, speak to us in eloquent language of the great Hand that made us. But millions lose the grand lesson which nature teaches, because they can attach no meaning to what they see or hear. From--The Reason Why

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor, (Mrs. Frank A.) 1309 Lakemont Drive Dalton, GA 30720 June 7, 1976