

27 SEP 1976

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society Vol. IV No. 1

The GOShawk Says--Hope everyone had a delightful, birdfilled summer. Get your binoculars polished up and your field guide out--fall is upon us. Looks like the fall and winter season will hold excellent birding. Why not get out into the field and pull down some of the unusual birds that are waiting to be seen. Records are made to be broken! It takes the right person in the right place at the right time--a person who can correctly interpret what he sees--to get out of season/range birds. This person can be you!

Editorial Comment--Summer, often a time of doldrums in the birding world, was an active season in Georgia. First and third records were established for the state. Northern, Western birds appeared--shore birds popped up in the interior. Some birds lingered late--others arrived ahead of schedule, breaking early records.

Run-down of important summer bird finds in Georgia. Headliners--Cinnamon Teal at Savannah; House Finch near Columbus; N. Phalarope at Pendergrast. Bridled Terns showed upon the beach at Savannah and 40m. out in the ocean after Hurricane Belle passed through. A Sooty Tern was also on the beach at Savannah after the hurricane. (All birders should be alert--even in the interior--for storm--blown birds after the passage of a hurricane or other severe storm. Thunder storms, especially those associated with frontal air movements in winter on the squall lines, often bring down unusual birds in any section of our state.--Ed.)

A Parasitic Jaeger was beached on Wassaw Is. (W.I.). Dalton came up with a Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Dowitcher, sp. Columbus gives us a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher--Cliff Swallows appeared at Brasstown Bald in July. Skidaway Is (SI) and WI give us two Roseate Spoonbill sightings. Ring-necked Ducks--one Im.--turned up at Augusta July 10. An Im. Bald Eagle was seen near Atlanta.

Mississippi Kites were reported--three records from Augusta and from Middle Georgia, Macon, Southeast Georgia. Swallow-tailed kites were above the Altamaha River and Oconee River.

Latebirds--Brown Creeper, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco--lingered about Columbus--Evening Grosbeaks tarried in Atlanta.

Early birds--Blue-winged Teal at Macon and Dalton; Com. Snipe--Augusta and Dalton; Winter Wren, Tennessee Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak broke early dates at Dalton.

Prothonotary Warblers were reported by some observers to be in high numbers. One editor commented on the abundance of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in his area. And so the news goes for Georgia. Read on for details.

Round-up of GOS News--Hey, Athens!--Are you ready? We're ready and about to descend on your town! You have your invitation and write-up of events--so, why not attend? Let's have a good turn-out! The Fall migration should be going through Athens--see warblers, vireos, grosbeaks! Meet your old friends and make new ones! The second Earle R. Greene Memorial award will be presented. Who do you think will get the award? Come to Athens!!

Message from your President--I look forward to seeing many of you in Athens. On Friday evening, Omar Allen will be speaking on "Updating of Breeding Birds of Athens." Also, Joseph Myers will enlighten us on "Effects of Rights Away Clearings on Bird Populations in the North Georgia Mountains." The talks will include slide illustrations and there will be exhibits around the wall. Dr. Eugene of GOS, and the scanning election microscope. There will be exhibits at the Institute of Ecology.

Support GOS by your presence and by bringing a friend. Membership is a vital need at this time and our hopes depend upon each person doing his/her part. Our needs at this time are greater than ever!

Morena Boring
President

Oversight--Forgot to thank Bill Lovejoy for showing his excellent bird slides at the Sylvania meeting in the June issue of this newsletter.

New Treasurer--Tom Collum, Treasurer for the past three years, has felt the necessity to resign due to pressures from his work and other commitments. Thank you, Tom, for serving as our treasurer--this is a time-consuming, demanding, often thankless task. We appreciate your efforts.

John Swiderski has agreed to serve as treasurer for the unexpired term. John gives this new address--GOS, Box #38214, Atlanta, GA 30334--please send all dues/correspondence to this address.

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

The Bird Watcher-Floyd County Audubon Society (A.S.)-Rome-(May)-A Blue Grosbeak's nest with three eggs was found in a solitary little Sweet Gum Tree, out in an open grassy field.

The Albany Limpkin-Albany (A.S.)-(June)-Anne Gordon lists these birds for Dougherty Co.-Wood Stork*, Black-crowned Night Heron*-ad. and im; Com. Gallinule, White Ibis*, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret*, Warblers-Prothonotary, N. Parula.

Charles Erwin and others from Albany A.S. took a trip to the Oke enokee National Wildlife Refuge (ONWR) July 30. Anhingas and Prothonotary Warblers were enjoyed. Charles spotted a Least Bittern (second record) at Chehaw Park Aug. 15. He reports the following shorebirds for Aug. 18-Least Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

Mr. and Mrs. Rip Holman saw a Bridled* and a Sooty* Tern at Savannah Aug. 15. This was fairly soon after Hurricane Belle came through the area. (Editors' **NOTE** -Two dead Bridled Terns were found on Tybee Is. Oct. 1, 1950-Georgia Birds, Thomas D. Burleigh. These are the first live birds to be recorded on the beaches. Please see Columbus A.S. news for another sighting off the coast. Sooty Tern-accidental on coast and interior, in summer, fall.)

The Fall Line-Ocmulgee A.S.-Macon-Rose Marie Johnson tells of hearing an owl behind her home. On the evening of July 27 she saw a Barred Owl perched in a tree in her back yard.

Richard Lux, May 26, had a Pileated Woodpecker come to his suet feeder. On Aug. 9, a Hooded Warbler, Aug. 28, a Golden-winged Warbler visited his yard.

On a trip to Lamar Mounds Aug. 24, Richard observed these birds-Great Blue Heron (1), Great Egret* (10), Blue-winged Teal (4), Mississippi Kite* (1), Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (2), Barred Owl (1), Warblers-Black and White (3), Prothonotary (5), Golden-winged (1), N. Parula (1), Kentucky (2), Com. Yellowthroat (1), Hooded (3).

T.P. Haines mentions that on a boat trip on the Ocmulgee River July 3, a large number of Prothonotary Warblers were seen. They were all over the place, he said. Five pair of Summer Tanagers were also noted.

More Ruby-throated Hummingbirds than usual were reported throughout the summer.

The Marshlander-Ogeechee A.S.-Savannah-20 Auduboners and guests journeyed to ONWR May 1 & 2. Two Barred Owls were seen at close quarters; a Great Blue Heron was watched as it speared and ate a fish.

Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge (HNWR)-Corp of Engineers-Savannah R. Spoil Site (SSS) report. In spite of an extended drought replaced by a succession of monsoon-like rains, the 1976 nesting season appears to be extremely successful . . .

HNWE Rookeries produced over 2700 Egrets, Herons and Anhingas-a record high for the refuge. Though wading birds fared poorly on the island refuges, particularly on Blackbeard where there is a shortage of water in the pools, Wood Ducks and Gallinule populations appear to be average. Wood Ducks on the Savannah Refuge have already broken last year's record high production numbers, some are now working on third clutches.

At the Corp of Engineers SSS, approximately 300 pair of Least Terns have nested-so far, an estimated 500 young have fledged. An additional 75 nests are now active July 18. Barring unforeseen meteorological disasters, SSS will probably produce a total of 650 Least Terns.

On the fringes of the compact Least Tern Colonies are looser colonies of Black-necked Stilts*, Wilson's Plovers, Black Skimmers. A dozen Stilt nests were counted June 19 and fledglings are now (July 15) in evidence feeding with adults. From the number of Ad. Stilts in the area, many more nests must be dispersed throughout the SSS. Black Skimmers are beginning to scratch our nest depressions in sandy areas-three nests have already been located-July 18.

Several sightings recorded this year are noteworthy. From May 12-16, a Cinnamon Teal*-a western species-was seen at the Corps SSS. When first discovered by Bill Young of the Corps, the bird was crossing a dike and appeared to be injured. Bill speculates the Teal was eventually eaten by an alligator residing in the pool where the bird was last seen. (Editors' Note-Not on any Georgia List to my knowledge.)

June 2, a Parasitic Jaeger* was found standing on the beach at the southend of WI. Prior to the sighting there were strong N.E. winds and rains. The bird seemed tired and only flew short distances when approached. A Roseate Spoonbill* was found June 14 among a group of Wood Stork* roosting on SI. July 1, refuge personnel spotted a lone Roseate Spoonbill* on WI., also in the company of Wood Storks*. (Same bird-Ed.)

Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club-Columbus-a member noted a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feeding on flowers in his garden long after dark. A trip to Brasstown Bald netted a Canada Warbler in June. Early Warbler activity has been viewed in a members' yard-Am. Redstart July 21; Kentucky Aug. 1, N. Parula Aug. 3; a female and an Im. male, N. Oriole were at the feeders, **AUG 23 + 24.**

An Osprey* was observed by the Chattahoochee River back of Bill Russell Ford.

The Observer-Columbus A.S.-Bill Matheny gives us a Sora* March 4 at Brookstone. James Miller spotted a Com. Tern* May 1. Mike Fuller found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* at Ft. Benning June 31. (Editors' Note-Occasional in Costal Plain. Recorded in Chatham, McIntosh, Tift Cos.)

Aug. 15, Sam Pate sighted a male House Finch* near the intersection of I-20 and Hwy. 83. The bird was being "dive-bombed" by two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The House Finch is extremely rare in our state It has been reported in winter only twice previously in Georgia. This late summer sighting makes us wonder if the bird is nesting in our state. (Editors' note-A female and a male House Finch were seen on separate days at McDonough-see Oriole Vol. 35 Nos. 2 & 3.)

Mike Fuller and Sam Pate took a pelagic trip with 30 other birders Aug. 21, going more than 40 miles into the Atlantic Ocean. A Bridled

Tern* was seen extremely well on this all day post-hurricane (Belle) trip.

Interesting observations from down Columbus way-Three whip-poor-wills were 64M. So. of Columbus May 26. A White-throated Sparrow was still lingering May 27. On June 17 a worm-eating Warbler was seen-may be an indication of nesting. It was last found nesting in Harris Co. June 10. A late Brown Creeper was viewed June 30 (Editors' Note-latest date known to this editor.) Another late record is for a Dark-eyed Junco-July 3, hopping up the front steps and into the low bushes at a member's home. (Editors' Note-One was seen in Columbus May 15, 1976-is this the same bird? Anne Hamilton saw two on Grassy Mountain June 7 & 8, 1947.)

Joy and Bob Terhune went to Brasstown Bald in July. Birds seen included Ruffed Grouse, Scarlet Tanager, Blue-winged Warbler and many Cliff Swallows*. (Editors' Note-. . .Has nested on Hartwell Dam since 1965.)

Augusta A.S.-Going back to May- Clarence Belger on the 15th saw Sandpipers-white-rumped*, Pectoral, Semipalmated*, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs-the bird of the day was a Least Tern*.

June 13, he saw 40 Mississippi Kites* sailing and dipping over a field near the airport. Many Grasshopper Sparrows were noted.

July 19 brought into Clarence's view a Barn Owl*, two Semipalmated*, and two Least Sandpipers, one Blue-winged Teal-a stay-behinder or an early-comer. On the 20th he saw two Im. Snowy Egret and a number of White Ibis, Merry Ponds (MP).

About 5:00 p.m. Aug. 14, Clarence went to MP and listed these birds-Com. Snipe (Editors' Note-Georgia Birds, Ibid.-Aug. 25, 1932-Atlanta), Lesser Scaup (Editors' Note-Georgia Birds, Ibid-Oct. 5, 1906-Chatham Co.), White Ibis*-one Ad., one Im.

A flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings was viewed at the dedication of the Bartram Trail on the banks of the Savannah River May 15.

At Farmer's Pond, June 27, 14 Mississippi Kites*, a high number of Painted Buntings, Red-tailed Hawk, a host of Cattle Egrets, a good number of Great Egrets* were enjoyed.

July 10-MP-two female Ring-necked Ducks*-one was Im-were noted (Editors' Note-No summer nesting record to my knowledge), a Snowy Egret* appeared in Farmer's Field, five Wood Stork* were observed.

In late July, a pair of Barn Swallows built their nest, attaching it to a beam of a carport at West Lake Town Houses. People were constantly coming and going, not at all disturbing the birds. While pictures were being taken, the birds continued to feed their young. J. Fred Denton in the March 1976 issue of The Oriole (Vol. 41 No. 1) states-"The expansion of its breeding range in the Piedmont of Georgia has been very rapid, even phenomenal, during the past 15 years."

Vivian Poindexter, Clarence Belger found a Least Tern* (same bird as on May 15?-Ed.), 126 Ad. White Ibis*, two Snowy Egrets*, 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers* at MP June 25. On June 7, Fred Denton and Clarence saw a feeding Osprey*, one Snowy Egret*, three Great Egrets*, one Least Bittern on its nest with young, 23 Mississippi Kites*-all at MP.

Tom Rial, Jeanine Angerman observed between 2000-3000 Cattle Egrets coming in to roost at MP and a Black-crowned Night Heron* July 20.

Atlanta A.S.-At the June 6th Spring Count/ Picnic at Piedmont Park, 69 species were tallied. Bill Terrell got a Great Horned Owl* and a late-lingering Ring-necked Duck was recorded. A rather late Blue-winged

Teal was seen by Louisa Echols, Billy Russell May 29.

The latest Evening Grosbeaks recorded in Georgia-a flock of about 20-were seen May 23. Warblers-a Cerulean May 17, and a Blackburnian* May 28 seen by Louisa Echols represent the latest dates in the state (known to this editor.) A Lawrence's Warbler* was reported seen in Fayetteville May 30.

Report from Brasstown Bald Field Trip-John Paget announced on May 28 he had seen a small flock of White-rumped Sandpipers* at the poultry processing plant near Pendergraft. On the return from Brasstown Bald, a stop was made to see the birds. They were seen, but Billy Russell, Don and Doris Cohrs, Terry Moore found a pair of N. Phalarope* (Editors' Note-Rare transient on coast and in Grady, Richmond Cos.)

Ken and Barbara Acree had the thrill of seeing a pair of Screech Owls with five young at their home. Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers were found within a mile of each other in North Georgia by Terry Moore June 6. This could indicate nesting. They were later seen on a Breeding Bird Census (BBC) by Joe and Patti Greenburg. (The Lawrence Warbler-see above-is a rare hybrid between the two aforementioned birds-Ed.)

(Sept.) Four Mississippi Kites* were seen at the Hawkinsville-Montezuma Exit below Macon-I-75 and Ga. 26. Presumably this is the pair that have been seen here before and their offspring.

The Dalton Kingfisher-Cherokee A.S.-Spring/Summer News-30+ Bobolink were seen in a member's yard the second week in May. From Ringgold comes a report of a Mockingbird nesting in a bird house. On June 3 four eggs were in the nest. The man who told of this happening never had seen Mockingbirds nesting in a cavity situation (nor has the editor); but, a man told him of seeing, as a boy, Mockingbirds nesting in a hole in an apple tree.

Two first records were made for Dalton. Aug. 13 Harriett Di Gioia saw a Marbled Godwit* at Thread Mill Lake (TML). Anne Hamilton, Delano Crowe, Harry White viewed the bird-last seen Aug. 22. To this editor's knowledge, there is no interior record in Georgia for this bird.

Aug. 17 brought a Ruddy Turnstone* to TML-spotted by Anne Hamilton-also seen by Harry White, Delano Crowe. (Editor's Note-Accidental in interior.)

Shorebird Report-May 23-Yellow-crowned Night Heron*. July 29-two Im. Little Blue Heron, 2 Im. Yellow-crowned Night Heron*, Spotted Sandpiper. July 30-Solitary Sandpiper, 6+ Least Sandpiper*. Aug. 2-several Pectoral Sandpiper*. Aug. 13-Semipalmated Plover*. Aug. 17-Dowitcher, sp.* (second record for area). All above sightings at TML by Harriett Di Gioia, except the dowitcher by Anne Hamilton. During the above period, TML was drained for spillway repairs, exposing mud flats.

An early Com. Snipe was seen on a farm Aug. 19-Anne Hamilton saw one TML Aug. 24.

Hawk Happenings-Two young Am. Kestrels-one alive, one dead-were found in an intown yard. The live bird was being mobbed by Blue Jays-she was rescued and kept in a cage until restored to health, then set free.

A Red-tailed Hawk nest with young was found in June in a Pine tree surrounded by water at Carter's Dam, Murray County.

On June 1, a sick Im. Red-tailed Hawk was found in the middle of a road. Sept. 12, a Broad-winged Hawk injured itself by flying into a car. Both were taken to a local veterinarian-the Red-tailed died-the Broad-winged was treated and released.

Anne Hamilton, Harriett Di Gioia saw five Broad-winged Hawks perched on the WCLP-TV tower atop Fort Mtn. July 26. Aug. 9 Harriett noted six of these hawks on the TV Tower-three were seen sailing around for a total of nine hawks.

Ruffed Grouse/Turkey News-About May 5, a bird strongly felt to be a Ruffed Grouse walked across a yard at the base of Dug Gap Mtn. One was noted along the Mill Creek Trail, Songbird Management Area, Grassy Mtn. May 31.

A Mon Bush-hogging a field on the west side of Whitfield Co. in June, ran up on a Turkey nest. The hen rose right up in front of his tractor. Sixteen (16) eggs were in the nest-they were put in an incubator, but to no avail. A good "herd" of turkeys is in this area, with quite a few young.

Anne Hamilton noted five Blue-winged Teal, TML, Aug. 17-Sept. 5 a Black-throated Green Warbler. (Editors' Note-Georgia Birds, Ibid-Aug 27, 1938-Atlanta, Aug. 27, 1941-Grady Co.)

Harry White comes up with a Winter Wren and four (one male) Rose-breasted Grosbeak in his yard Sept. 11-making these the earliest known, to this editor, dates in the state. Jarry feels he saw a Tennessee Warbler Aug. 26-Harriett Di Gioia saw one Aug. 29; again the earliest known to this editor, dates for Gerogia.

Harriett Di Gioia-Aug. 26-N. Parula Warbler. Aug. 29-Golden-winged, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Canada Warblers. Aug. 30-Blackburnian Wabler, Am. Redstart. Sept 5-Yellow-throated Vires, Magnolia Warbler, Veery. Sept. 6-Marsh Hawk-earliest area date. Sept 9-Yellow-throated Warbler. Sept 10-Swa'nson's Thrush.

Dalton experienced waves of Warblers (and other migrants) on Aug. 29, 30, 31; Sept. 4 & 5 (heavy), 7, 8, 9, 17, 19, 24. Aug. 26 marked the first Warbler movement.

The Henry Co. A.S. has been disbanded-Ed.

Letters/Cards-From John Swiderski-"We had an im. Bald Eagle* at Morgan Falls Dam area of the Chattahoochee River. It was seen by an area resident Aug. 5 and by Frank McCamey Aug. 10. A Louisiana Heron* has been at the Emory (University) President's Estate since about Aug. 8-Billy Russell has seen it along with other persons."

Dan Hans writes-"Wally Dreyfoos saw a Canada Goose July 30 on I-75. He indicated it was not banded and flew off with a strong flight when approached on foot. This is an unusual sighting for around here since we don't know of anybody who has 'tame' geese about." (Atlanta)

Marynette Webb-"Vidalia has anived-we have our own pair of Painted Buntings, sighted at the bus station in early June."

"Swallow-tailed Kites* are back again this year on the Altamaha R. and Oconee R."

"Mississippi Kites* are around. Four were staying at McFalls on the Altamaha R. We've seen four on the Oconee R. and eight on the Ohoopee R.

"There have been many Yellow-crowned Night Herons*-at least a dozen im.-on the Bullock Creek Reserve this summer.

"White Ibis* have taken over the Ohoopee R. on the State Prison Farm and below. We've seen flocks of 75-100 in the evenings.

". . .Prothonotary Warblers 'nearly toted us off' this year-they were everywhere and made morning sleep impossible for a few weeks"

Wally Dreyfoos tells-"Dan and Ann Forester and I ran our BBC in Central Georgia, Cochran to just beyond the Dodge Co. Line, turning up 67 species including Anhinga (2), White Ibis* (20), Mississippi Kite* (4), Hen Turkey with two chicks."

News of People-Illness-Phil Ham is recovering after his bout with surgey.

Tom Rial had a massive heart attack on Aug. 27 and suffered a second attack Aug. 28. He is confined to Aiken Hospital, Aiken, S.C. We wish you both a speedy and complete recovery!

Sybil Arbery has a new address-Rt. 8 - Box 38, Cumming, Ga. 30130.

Charles Erwin was nominated by the Executive Board of Albany A.S. for the 1975 Youth Conservationist of the Year. Charles was selected Second Congressional District winner and was a confender for the state award. He received a plaque from the Georgia Wildlife Federation and Sears, Roebuck and Company.

Vaughn Morrison will be teaching a course at Oglethorpe University, Fall Quarter, entitled, "Georgia Birds: Their Habits and Habitats."

Alabama Birds-second edition-by Thomas A. Imhoff is off the press and for sale. Paintings and drawings are by Richard A. Parks. 662 Illustrations, 556 pages-\$22.50. Order from The University of Alabama Press-Drawer 2877, University of Alabama, 35486.

Travelers-Delano, Doris Crowe and children enjoyed a trip to New Orleans. Frank, Harriett Di Gioia and their family traveled to Boston. Harriett reports lots of Rock Doves + Seagulls. She saw a Ruffed Grouse in Pa. and spotted a Stilt Sandpiper at Beverly Beach, Ma.

Dan and Sara Hans ventured to Arizona, adding 30 or so new birds to their lists. L.A. and Roberta Wells took a "Golden West Tour" via bus to San Francisco.

Sam Pate and six boys journeyed to the North-west-British Columbia, Alberta, Oregon-7600 miles. Birds of interest-Tufted Puffin, Pigeon Guillemot, Wandering Tattler.

Bill and Demitri Matheny, Sam Pate, Mike and Martha Fuller went southwest-Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, California. Birds noted-Goshawk, Red-faced Warbler, Prairie Falcon.

Wally and Jeanne Dreyfoos made tracks to Texas-going up the Rio Grande R. to Falcon Dam, then to Austin and on to the Am. Birding Assoc. Convention in Beaumont. They came home via the coastal area of Louisiana and Florida. Wally added 30 new birds, Jeanne about 70 to their lists.

Vince and Trina Jackson did southwest Florida-Fort Myers, Sanibel Island, L. Okeechobee, the Everglades. Birds seen-Burrowing Owl, Black-whiskered Vireo, Black-necked Stilt.

Bill Terrell went to the Florida Gulf Coast and to the keys-New Port Ritchie, Ft. De Sota S.P., L. Okeechobee, Miami, Key West. Birds-Everglades Kite, Caracara, Antillean Night-Hawk.

Sr. Mark's NWR-Wakulla Springs welcomed Sam Pate and Mike Fuller. Birds-Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Brown Pelican.

Roger Green attended the Southeast Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society, Hendersonville, N.C. Tom French again worked on the Puffin Re-establishment Program, Eastern Egg Rock Is., Muconus Bay, Me.

Thought for the Day-"Remember: It takes Nature, working from scratch, from five hundred to a thousand years to build one inch of fertile, perfectly balanced soil." - Weeds Guardians of the Soil - Joseph A. Cocannouer.

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