

The Georgia GOShawk

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

December 29, 1976

The GOShawk says Welcome to these new members - from Dublin - Dr. & Mrs. Lester Porter, Ken Hilley, James Smith, Martha Hooks. From Chamblee - Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hudon, H. A. Baver. From Jekyll Island - Harold King, James Covert, Dorothy Kenney, Howard Joyce. From Dalton - Peggy Manis, Bonnie Sansom, Wyatt Bruce, Mary Garrison. From Savannah - W. H. Fishback, Doc Enos, Laine Lanier, Dr. Julian Kelly, Jr.. From Athens - Olin Allen, III, Robert Lockmiller.

From Albany - Axel Almgren, Mrs. James Parsons, Mrs. James Miller, Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Holman, Jr., Sharon Pope. From St. Simons Island - Mrs. A. V. Minor, Mrs. Ross Howard. From Valdosta - Jean George, Helen Pollard. From Clayton - Louise Howerton, Kathryn Ulmer. From Atlanta - D. D. Tolsma, Carl Bachmann, Alice Bell, Greg Fenn, Robert Wold, Rebecca Goggans, John Forbes, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dye, Ida Sherman.

Curtis Kingsbery, Pensacola, Fl., Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Henderson, Decatur. Mary Blackburn, Sylvania; Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Wakefield, Avondale Estates; Pat Ridge, Stone Mountain; Dr. A. Sarma, Milledgeville. Terry & Susan Bishop, Louisville, Al.; Hershel Sessions, Jr., Jacksonville, N. C.; Anita Parks, Leesburg; James Lowry, Rome; Sara Hall, Stockbridge; Jane Eliason, Buies Creek, N. C.; Mrs. C. E. Amos, Gainesville; Dr. Emil Urban, Augusta; Thomas Miller, Winterville; Mickey Fountain, Tarrytown.

Okefenokee Bird Club and Okefenokee Regional Library of Waycross; Science Reference Library, London, England, join us.

Here are our most recent Life Members - you might call them "Lifers" - Eugene Cypert, Mary Lou Cypert, Kenneth Dubke, Emily Ford, Anne Hamilton, Frank McCamey, Mozelle and McRae Williams, Norene Boring.

Editorial Comment - Interesting birds were on the agenda for Georgia's fall season and interested birders were out there watching those interesting birds! Although no first or second state records were established, birding was in high gear. Many birds came early (will they stay late?), breaking early - date records. Chimney Swifts set a new state late record at Dalton.

Banner Birds - Sooty Tern at Claxton; Long-billed Curlew on Jekyll Is. in July; dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger turned up at Ft. Gaines. Dalton and Augusta give us Western Tanagers. Cumberland Is. yielded White-winged and Surf Scoters, Black Rail, Cm. Raven, Connecticut Warbler, Bald Eagle, 35 Merlin, 70 Peregrine Falcon! Atlantans saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher - a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Columbus.

House Wrens (nesting in McDonough), Warblers - Nashville, Wilson's, Golden - and Blue-winged were scattered over the state. Bank and Cliff Swallows soared on the Suwanee breezes, Short-billed Marsh Wrens came to light in Atlanta. Sparrows - white - crowned in various parts of Georgia with Lincoln's and LeConte's spotted in Metro Atlanta. Horned Grebes showed up at Callaway Gardens and Dalton. Philadelphia Vireos are reported from Augusta and Columbus. Snow Geese were at Augusta. Dalton had two Bonaparte's Gulls and Ad. Peregrine Falcon in Murray County. Callaway Gardens still holds it's Bald Eagle.

Cedar Waxwing are once again in evidence over the state, after a virtual absence last winter. Purple Finches, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and the Kinglets - Ruby - and Golden-Crowned are covering the state in numbers. 'Tis a good winter for them!

This is not, at least so far, an Evening Grosbeak/Pine Siskin winter. Only sightings of these birds were in the Dalton - N. W. Georgia area. It will be interesting what the Christmas Counts turn up.

Round - up of GOS News - Athens, it was fine! Everyone had a great time; the weather, we arrived in a regular frog strangler, faired; the birds turned up - so did the members. 95 species sighted by 90 registrants.

The Friday night talks by Dr. Eugene Odum, Olin Allen, Joe Meyer were diversified and i.i. - interesting and informative. Saturday night's banquet was delicious and the "Birds In Art" exhibit and talks by Dick Parks, Sidney Gauthereaux, James Kilgo gave a fresh insight into the world of birds. Each artist gave a different bird's eye view of painting/carving birds. A refreshing program! It was a good touch to have the library open and various GOS papers displayed.

Birds noted on field trips included - Pintail, eight species of Hawks, seven species of Woodpeckers, three species of Swallows, 17 species of Warblers. Well done, Athens!

Have you always had a hankering to go to Fitzgerald? Here's your chance! April 29 - May 1 is the week-end. Put a big red circle around that week-end and save it for the birds and your birding friends. Birding should be keen in South Georgia at that time of year.

Want to whet your appetite and get a head start on what birds to expect? Order your copy of The Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and Adjacent Areas by Milton Hopkins, Jr. now. Get the low down on what to see and where to see it! Details for ordering are at the end of this newsletter along with other periodicals for sale. Fitzgerald is in Ben Hill Co. Let's go! See you there!

Richard A. Parks, artist, was awarded the 1976 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award and a good selection it was! Congratulations, Dick! Thanks go to the award committee for making this fine decision - Elbridge Freeborn, chm., Jeannine Angerman and the late Tom Rial.

2nd Vice-president Dan Hans has resigned. His company is transferring him to Chicago - Dan plans to keep up his GOS membership. Many thanks go to Dan for his contributions and hard work. It has not gone unnoticed. Franklin "Frank" McCamey has graciously accepted the challenge of filling Dan's unexpired term.

In with the last Oriole you received was a letter about the Tom M. Rial Memorial Fund. Please look on the back for the minutes of the general meeting at Athens. You should know what's going on in your Society!

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 Checklist Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton, Milton Hopkins, Jr. Editor's notes are from this book unless otherwise stated.

The Fall Line - Ocmulgee Audubon Society (A.S.) - Macon - Sept. 14, about 9:15 A.M., Richard Lux looked out his window to find the sky filled with Chimney Swifts. The first good rain in several months was in progress - a strong E by SE wind was blowing. From his vantage point on a hill, he could see a large area and a large number of birds. The swifts were soaring into the wind, not swooping and diving as is their custom. As the rain intensified, the birds moved higher into the sky. At noontime, only a few swifts were in view.

Richard submits the following birds from observations in his back yard - House Wren* Sept. 18; im. Sharp-shinned Hawk* Sept. 25; Nashville Warbler* (w) Oct. 11; Yellow-rumped w. Oct. 23.

Upper Flint River A. S. - Jonesboro - On Sept. 16, Roger Green floated a portion of the Flint R. in a canoe. Starting where Ga. Hwy. 54 crosses the Flint to the Gay-Concord Rd. Bridge just east of the Flat Shoals area he recorded - Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Belted Kingfisher, Loggerhead Shrike, Barn Swallow, Warblers - Canada, Prothonotary, Yellow-throated. About 200 yds. south of the Gay - Concord Rd. Bridge, three im. Little Blue Herons fed in the shoals. The Flat Shoals area is a good birding spot says Roger.

The Marshlander - Ogeechee A. S. - Savannah - A Wilson's W.* was seen on Tybee Is. Aug. 22. (Editors note - Georgia Birds, Thomas D. Burleigh - Sept. 2, 1939 - Athens.) Throughout the previous week AM. Redstarts were abundant at the Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and vicinity. Blue-winged Teal, harbringers of winter in Georgia, were found Aug. 21 on Barnwell Is. and were joined in the area by Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and 11 AM. Avocets, whose capricious arrivals and departures in the Savannah R. delta seem totally unrelated to migration. At Savannah Beach a Knot was sighted Sept. 1, a N. Oriole* Sept. 15, dozens of Palm and Prairie W. Sept. 23.

An IM. Sooty Tern, quite distinctive with its charcoal breast, was seen with another tern, perhaps an AD., on Sept. 14 at 9:00 P.M. in Claxton. This sighting was during a period of high winds and rain, effects of a tropical depression passing along the coast. Both birds were swooping around a parking lot light when one plummeted to the ground. The night watchman who rescued the bird speculates it hit a power line. As the injured tern was being carried to the guard's office, its companion shrieked and dove, finally abandoning its fellow species at 2:00 A.M.

The tern, was delivered to the Savannah Science Museum where no injuries could be detected. "Sprunt" named in honor of the late Alexander Sprunt, was fed and cared for for six days before being released into the wild. (Editor's Note - Accidental on Coast and in interior in summer, fall.)

This report on environmental legislation comes from the Georgia Environmental Council, to which we belong. It cannot be complete, of course. If you want more information, please call the Observer Desk at the Capitol (404-659-6045).

G.E.C. LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT

January 27, 1977

The following are the top priority and the secondary priority areas which G.E.C. will be following. Keep this preview of bills for reference because no further detailed descriptions will be included.

Top Priority

Heritage Trust Funding - H.B. 179 - Part of DNR appropriation package. Governor recommends 2.2 million dollars. Currently in the Appropriations Committee.

Surface Water Allocation - S.B. 44, H.B. 293 - There are times of the year when there is not enough surface water to furnish the needs of those demanding water (industry, agriculture, etc.). This Bill sets up a priority system. Those individuals or industries using over 3,000,000 gallons per month would need a permit. Currently in subcommittee resolving conflicts. **(Passed by House with Amendment exempting agriculture and poultry raising)**

Game and Fish Package- A court decision left in the air who actually controls the rules and regulations on game and fish. An Interim bill on big game proposes ending the season until March 15th. By then, it is planned that DNR will work out a new set of regulations. **(To be introduced Monday, Feb. 7)**

Horsepower Surtax - purpose is to regulate fuel consumption and discourage excessive driving. Currently drawing up a bill.

Bottle Bill Study Committee - sets study committee for report in 1978 legislative session. Waiting for proper sponsor.

Secondary Priority

Initiative Petition - S.R. 11 - opens general public to legislative process. Currently assigned to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee. No current action.

Easements - Although a secondary priority for G.E.C., there is currently no information about easements.

Others

Safe Drinking Water - H.B. 23 - bill will provide regulations for quality of piped drinking water. This will bring Georgia in line with Federal Regulation. Currently in House subcommittee. **(Do-Pass by Natural Resources Committee)**

Heritage Trust Taxpayers Resolution - S.R. 26 - proposes that one dollar be designated to Heritage Trust fund from the individuals yearly taxes. Individuals must check yes or no on tax return and must designate the specific purpose for their dollar. **(Passed Senate. This bill for historic, not natural areas. Complicated to administer.)**

Historic Sites Bill - H.B. 237 - authorizes counties and municipalities to enact their own ordinances concerning historic sites. Currently in the House Planning and Community Affairs Committee.

Steel Trap Bill - S.B. 79 - The third attempt to eliminate steel traps in the state of Georgia. A public meeting held by the Senate Natural Resources Committee was just completed. The testimonies are currently being evaluated. **(Assigned to subcommittee.)**

You may reach your legislators by calling (from Atlanta) 659-1100. If calling long distance, the House number is 1-800-282-5800 and the Senate number 1-800-282-5803.

end.

CR near Roswell, Sept. 26: an early Cape May W.* was noted Sept. 25. Three Short-billed Marsh Wrens* were found near Soapstone Ridge (SR) Oct. 24.

Louisa Echols has the following news - "Yellow" Palm Warbler, Sept. 8; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, late Canada W., White-throated Sparrow, Oct. 12. (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Canada W. - Oct. 4, 1953 - Atlanta.); Nashville W.* Decatur, Oct. 16. Also in Decatur a late Blackburnian W. Oct. 26 and a Blackpoll W.* Oct. 27-30. (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - ties state record Oct. 30, 1905, St. Mary's.)

Billy Russell found two Wilson's W.* in the willows at Emory University President's Estate (EPE) Sept. 12 and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak Sept. 24. Mary Anne Neville spotted an AM. Woodcock at John Ward Swamp (JWS) Sept. 24, 26; Ruby-crowned Kinglet Sept. 26; a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher JWS Nov. 6 (can winter in area - Ed.)

On Oct. 31 Vince and Trina Jackson, the J. H. Bevises and others had a Merlin* fly by in front of their car and light on a nearby brush pile. An omen of good things to come, further examination of the brush pile turned up an Im. White-crowned Sparrow*, a Lincoln's Sparrow*, a Bewick's Wren*! As if that weren't enough, the following week-end (Nov. 6, 7) in a nearby brush pile, they located a LeConte's Sparrow*. All this activity took place in the SR area.

Other fall sightings - Sharp-shinned Hawk*, Olive-sided Flycatcher*, ~~VEERY~~*. 28 species of warblers, including Golden - and Blue* - winged, Tennessee, Cerulean*, Bay-breasted, Northern Waterthrush, Canada (many). Cedar Waxwings in North Cobb Co. Sept. 12, Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, Rusty Blackbird, ~~VESPER~~ Sparrow round out the bird picture.

Hawk Watch Report - Sept 19 - OM - four Turkey Vultures; Hawks - two Sharp-shinned*, one Cooper's* two Red-tailed, 62 Broad-winged, two Marsh, one unidentified Accipiter. Oct. 3 - Don and Doris Cohrs counting - 18 Turkey, four Black Vultures; Hawks - one Sharp-shinned*; two Red-tailed.

At Kennesaw Mtn. Sept 22, Mary Anne Neville spotted 17 Broad-winged Hawks. Rafe and Ilze Henderson, Oct. 3 at EPE counted approximately 100 Broad - winged Hawks.

From Oct. 1-10, Joel Volp^o in conjunction with the International Color Banding Study and in cooperation with the U. S. Park Service counted these birds of prey on Cumberland Is. (CI) four Turkey, 42 Black Vultures; 16 Marsh Hawks; 15 Osprey*; 70 Peregrine Falcon* (All but a few were first year birds - 15 were banded); 35 Merlin*, 59 Am. Kestrel, two Red-tailed Hawk, one Bald Eagle*, three unidentified Buteos; seven unidentified Falcons. Also noted - one Black Rail* (John Swiderski mentioned in a note to this editor the rail surprised Joel by coming out of the surf at him!), one Com. Raven* (Editor's Note - Rare transient in extreme NE section of state), two Connecticut W.*.

(Dec) On the way home from a trip to St. Mark's NWR (FL) Terry Moore, Vaughn Morrison and others stopped at the Walter F. George Dam near Ft. Gaines and were amazed to find a dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger which they observed about 15 mins. through scopes. A second bird, also thought to be a jaeger was seen with the first bird but was not subsequently found. (Editor's Note - Occasional on coast in winter, more frequent off-shore. Accidental in Richmond Co.)

In Vol. IV. No. 1, pages 3,4, of this newsletter, a report of a pelagic trip (Aug. 21) was given. One Bridled Tern* was mentioned as being seen. In the Oct. issue of Atlanta A. S. newsletter, it is stated - "... Bridled Terns* ... were sighted in twos and fours ... Two circled the boat, giving everyone a fine view."

Augusta A. S. - Clarence Belger leads off with this checklist - at Merry Ponds (MP) 2 dowitchers*^{sp.} Aug. 29; without moving away from his car he saw Warblers - Cape May*, N. Parula, Pine, Yellow-breasted Chat; two Great Egrets*, a few Cattle Egrets on Sept. 26. Thousands of Cattle Egrets left MP the third week in August, he reports.

Gerald Knighton sends us this word from MP - White-eyed Vireo, House Wren*, Oct. 24. He noted a Winter Wren at his Clark Hill (CH) home and an Osprey* Oct. 26.

Results of field trips around Augusta - Warblers - Black-throated Green, Cape May* at Lock and Dam, Anhinga at Farmer's Field Oct. 9. Wood Duck, Am. Wigeon*, male Bufflehead*, House Wrens* - singing, enormous flock of Barn Swallows Oct. 30.

A dead Am. Bittern was found along Airport Rd. Oct. 16 - a dead Am. Coot was noticed beside the road near the airport Oct. 18. Neither bird bore any injuries. 25 - 30 Rusty Blackbirds came into view Oct. 18. A Snow Goose* was seen in late afternoon at MP Oct. 23.

A Brown Creeper was located Sept. 2 (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Oct. 2, 1925 - Athens). On this same date a Pileated Woodpecker was reported.

One of our members experienced an unusual happening about mid-morning Oct. 26. A Red-shouldered Hawk dropped from nowhere to the ground in their back yard with a fighting, squawking Com. Flicker (these birds seem to have been on the bill-of-fare for hawks this past fall - Ed.) in its talons. The birds flopped about with a rocking, rolling motion - the hawk's large wings spread wide. Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Carolina Wrens, Brown Thrashers, Cardinals gathered about, all raising a ruckus. In some way, the Flicker managed to free itself and dashed into the shrubbery. Laboriously flapping its large wings, the hawk lifted into the air and disappeared through the trees.

A field trip to MP Nov. 8 listed Gadwall*, Redhead*, five Great Egrets*, Savannah and Vesper Sparrows. On Oct. 23, seven Black-crowned Night Herons*; a Double-crested Comorant* Nov. 7 were checked off. A Great Blue Heron was seen feeding at MP; when the bird flew, two long red streamers trailed after each wing. (Editor's Note - one source says some 16,000 long-legged waders were marked in Texas. Another source asks that color-marked Great Blue Heron be reported to Crane Creek Wildlife Experiment Station in Ohio.)

More field notes - Im. Red-headed Woodpecker Sept. 27; Philadelphia Vireo* Sept. 28; Marsh Hawk Oct. 4; Western Tanager* in dogwood tree, observed from a distance of 15 ft. (please see Editor's Note under Dalton News); Philadelphia Vireo* Oct. 2 (same bird? - Ed.); Cerulean W.* Sept. 27; Red-cockaded Woodpecker Sept. 24.

Com. Flickers were flocking - 20 being seen Oct. 13. 15 - 20 on the Georgia side at CH, About two days later, 100 were in the dead trees along the lake. A Barred Owl was heard calling in the same area.

The Observer - Columbus A. S. - L. A. Wells mentions he noted Fish Crow activity Oct. 21. James Miller tells us about his sightings - on the Georgia side Eufaula (ENWR) Nov. 11 a Comorant* (Double-crested), Cedar Waxwing, Com. Loon and in Columbus, Purple Finch. Nov. 15 brought him a White-crowned Sparrow*. James and Sam Pate while birding together ticked off a male Blue* - and male Golden-winged W., Harris Co. (HCo) Sept. 11.

Sam Pate records the following birds - mature Bald Eagle* Callaway Gardens (CG) Sept. 6; Marsh Hawk, Chestnut-sided W., 30+ Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds, HCo Sept 7; male Cerulean W.* HCo Sept. 20. A Wilson's W. *, three Canada W. were viewed Sept. 30.

At Lake Seminole he saw a Scarlet Tanager Oct. 2; a Horned Grebe* CG Nov. 18. Between Sept. 11 and Oct. 14, he saw 16 Golden-winged W. - mostly male. Nine other birders were able to see some of them. (This raises the question, were these individual birds or sightings of the same bird more than once? - Ed.)

Miscellaneous sightings from down Columbus way - Swainson's Thrush Sept. 5; two Osprey* Muscogee Co. Oct. 6.

Down in Seminole Co. on Nov. 6, a Red-tailed Hawk caught an Eastern Gray Squirrel directly in front of a car driven by Sam Pate, Sr.. It flew 150 yds. down a dirt road ahead of the auto. The hawk's flight was very labored and it really had to struggle to stay airborne with the hefty squirrel.

Three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were caught and outfitted with radios during the weekend of Nov. 13. A scientist from Mississippi State University worked on the project.

Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club - Columbus - Grace Whiteman let's us in on her news - at Lake West Point (LWP) Sept. 7, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Editor's Note - Rare fall transient near coast and in Irwin and Richmond Cos.), Ruddy Turnstone (Editor's Note - ... Accidental in interior.) At our home we enjoyed a N. Parula W., Great-Crested Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak Sept. 21.

Sam Pate - Worm - eating W. HCo. Sept. 15; Wilson's W.* (same bird as reported on another date? - see Observer news - Ed.); Philadelphia Vireo* and 11 other species of warblers, including a Black-throated Green, Oct. 4; Dark-eyed Junco CG also on Oct. 4; Gray-cheeked Thrush* CG Oct. 9.

For seven days an incredible wave of warblers moved through Cooper Creek. The final and by far the largest wave moved through Oct. 17. On that date James Miller and Sam saw "two or three thousand warblers at least". A total of 14 species included 20 Black-throated Blue, 25 Cape May*, many hundreds of Tennessee. Also Blackburnian, Kentucky, Canada, Magnolia, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Hooded N. Parula, Bay-breasted, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided in a six hour period. The night before had been one of steady rain. (GOS should have been holding a meeting then and there! - Ed.)

A long flight of geese, in the classic V shape, flew down the CR Oct. 3. In mid-September a good deal of Com. Nighthawk activity with congregations numbering 50 - 100 was reported. Sue Chambliss heard a few notes from a Barred Owl several mornings from late Sept. through mid-Oct.

Two Stilt Sandpipers* were on the Georgia side LWP along with 50 Pectoral Sandpipers this past fall. (Dec.) A flock of 10 N. Orioles have settled into a member's yard.

James Miller has this information - Black Terns, Oliver Dam, Aug. 26; he flushed a Whip-poor-will Sept. 11 (one was seen in Columbus on this date); Lesser Scaup, Canvasback*, Gadwall* at Cooper Creek Park Nov. 16.

Oglethorpe University took a field trip to CI Nov. 19 - 21. On the 20th Surf Scoters* were noted. During this time period two Bald Eagles*, Peregrine Falcon*, Am. Oystercatchers, White-winged Scoters* were checked off.

Other sightings from the area - Veery* Aug. 31; Gray-cheeked Thrush* Sept. 8; Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow Oct. 29.

ENWR Report - (This refuge embraces the Georgia - Alabama state line. Unless stated to have been seen in Georgia, all sightings are listed under this special section - Ed.) 125 Pectoral Sandpiper, 150 Blue-winged Teal Aug. 29; Bank Swallow* Sept. 2; 10 Water Pipit, Cooper's Hawk attacking Red-Shouldered Hawk Oct. 10; male Dickcissel* Oct. 24; two Merlin* (one being pursued by an Am. Kestrel) Oct. 29; male Wilson's W.*, Snow Geese*, Merlin* (one of the above two? - Ed.) White Ibis* Nov. 9.

The Kingfisher - Cherokee A. S. - Dalton - 1976 was a year of records for Dalton and area. More first, second, third records than ever before recorded.

First/Second Record - On Sept. 16 and 25 a member had the good luck of spotting a male Western Tanager in his yard. Red coloration mottled the bird's head as it was changing into winter plumage. The editor believes the bird seen on the 25th to be the same bird. Harriett DiGioia saw a female plumaged Western Tanager on their farm Sept. 17, for the second record. Obviously these were different birds as the second sighting showed no trace of red. (Editor's Note ... Accidental in state.)

Second Modern-day Sighting - Frank and Harriett DiGioia had the good fortune to watch an Ad. Peregrine Falcon* wing its way over Fort Mtn., Murray Co., at the WC&P-TV tower Oct. 3. One was seen at High Point Fire Tower, Lookout Mtn., Walker Co., Sept. 22, 1974 (see Vol. II, No. 2, Page 5, this newsletter). No record exists for this bird in the Dalton area; the editor feels certain they were sighted in days gone by. There is one breeding record for Dade Co.

Another second - two winter plumaged Bonaparte's Gulls* were on Thread Mill Lake (TML) Dec. 3, sighted by Harriett DiGioia. They remained on the lake for the day, floating quietly, leaving about 5:30 P.M.. It is felt the gulls were traveling through and stopped to rest. Anne Hamilton, Wyatt Bruce also saw the gulls.

Third/Fourth Record - A Horned Grebe* - third record - was identified by Harriett DiGioia TML Oct. 20. This grebe was at TML Oct. 17 and for a few days before that, found by Wyatt Bruce. Two winter plumaged Horned Grebe* were on TML Nov. 15 for the fourth record - seen by Harriett DiGioia.

Anne Hamilton saw a Swamp Sparrow Oct. 13 - she and Harriett DiGioia got an Im. White-crowned Sparrow * West Hill Cemetery (WHC) Oct. 14. (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Oct. 25, 1925 - Athens.)

Wyatt Bruce - a new GOSer - gives us House Wren* WHC Oct. 5; Great Horned Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Grassy Mtn. Oct. 8; Red-headed Woodpecker WHC Oct. 10; Ruddy Duck TML Oct. 28. Wyatt and Harriett DiGioia - Orange-crowned W. Sept. 24. (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Oct. 8, 1944 - Augusta.); Dark-eyed Juncos - Fort Mtn., Murray Co., Oct. 3. (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Oct. 17, 1942 - Atlanta. These birds have been seen in the state during summer months. Please refer to this Newsletter Vol. IV, No. 1, page 4. Also one is reported in this issue on Oct. 4 under Chattahoochee Valley News.)

Harry White heard Evening Grosbeaks passing overhead 10 m. east of Ellijay, Gilmer Co., Oct. 29. (So far these are the only evening Grosbeaks reported for the state. Ed.)

Harry and Delano Crowe had the thrill of seeing 150 Ring-necked Duck on Lake Kathy Nov. 21. Doris and Delano Crowe saw a female plumaged Hooded Merganser at the U. S. Fish Hatchery, Cohutta, Nov. 7. Delano saw a V containing 100 geese flying over about dusk Nov. 29 and he tells about a friend who saw a partial albino Killdeer. It was totally white, save for the two dark bands on the chest. A dramatic sight!

Harriett DiGioia - Mallard, Carter's Dam, Murray Co., Sept. 21; Gray-cheeked Thrush* Sept 23; Cape May W.* Sept. 30; Nashville W.* WHC Oct. 7; Red-breasted Nuthatch Oct. 11; Pine Siskin and Fox Sparrow - farm - Oct. 15 (Editor's Note - Pine Siskin - Georgia Birds, Ibid - As early as late October. Fox Sparrow - Oct. 22, 1927 - Athens). Gadwall* Oct. 20, late Chimney Swift TML Oct. 31 (Editor's Note - Georgia Birds, Ibid - Oct. 29, 1941 - Fitzgerald.); one male, six female plumaged Hooded Merganser TML, Nov. 9; one male, two female plumaged Redhead* TML Nov. 11 - the male was still there as of Dec. 3.

Area sightings - Screech Owl - Oct. 6; Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Vireo, Am. Wigeon* Oct. 17.

Wyatt and Jerrilyn Bruce journey to his hometown of Thomasville for Thanksgiving, listing 18 Com. Flicker, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk, Am. Kestrel, 10 Vesper Sparrows.

Anne Hamilton passes on this news from Sylvania - On Nov. 29 a freshly killed Ring-billed Gull was found after a rainy period. Dec 1 - 20 Hooded Merganser, six Pied-billed Grebe; two Am. Coots, five Com. Snipe, three Rusty Blackbirds, Little Blue and Great Blue Herons were noted.

News of People - Thomas M. "Tom" Rial of Aiken, S. C. died November 1, 1976. Tom was a well - known GOSer, having served as president a few years ago. At the time of his death, he was on the Executive Board, Earle R. Greene Memorial Award and Conservation Committees. Our sympathies are extended to Marilyn and his children.

A memorial fund is being established for Tom. If you desire, a check marked "Tom Rial Memorial Fund" may be sent to GOS, P. O. Box 38214, Atlanta, Ga. 30334. In his last letter to President Noren Boring, Tom stated - "I am dedicated to the success of GOS!"

John Hinson of Sylvania, manager of the Wade Plantation died November 28, 1976. John led the field trips over the plantation at the GOS meeting in Sylvania. Our sympathies are extended to Ada Love Hinson.

Dick Parks is keeping good company! At an art showing sponsored by National A. S. and the Atlanta Chapter, Dick's paintings were shown along with art by Robin Hill, Grainger McKoy, Louis A. Fuertes, Roger Tory Peterson and other such luminaries of the wildlife art world. He received several mentions in the Atlanta Journal, Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine. Jan. 2, 1977.

Speaking of newspapers, new GOSer Dr. Ralph "Rafe" Henderson of the U. S. Center for Disease Control was interviewed about a certain phase of his work. This interview appeared on Page 1 A, of the Atlanta Journal.

Travelers - John and Judy Swiderski; Don and Doris Cohrs went tripping out California way over the holidays. Wyatt and Jerilyn Bruce went out South Dakota way, to Battle - stopping at Lincoln, Nb.. Wyatt reports a dearth of birds and virtually no ground cover due to the drought. He said the sloughs were "dry as dust". 60 - 70 Snow Geese were sighted halfway between St. Louis and Kansas City.

Miscellaneous - Did you know President - elect Jimmy Carter is a member of the Upper Flint River A. S.? The editor did not know it till reading it in their newsletter. A good prospect for GOS!

Attention - Wally Dreyfoos needs your help. He wants "Listers" to send in the number of species on their 1. Life List and/or 2. State List and/or 3. Back Yard List. Please send to Wallace Dreyfoos, 4627 Tall Pines Dr., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30327.

New GOSer, Peggy Manis, deserves a round of applause and a big thank you for offering to type this newsletter for the editor. 'Tis a tedious job.

Thought For The Day - We need the tonic of wildness - to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. - Henry David Thoreau.

(Please turn page for list of periodicals for sale. Ed.)

Harriett G. Di Gioia, Editor
(Mrs. Frank A. Di Gioia)
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Dalton, GA 30720
December 29, 1976

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

| | <u>DATE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> | <u>PRICE</u> |
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| Occasional Papers #5 | 1975 | <u>The Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and Adjacent Areas.</u> Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. Habitats, observations by the author and others from about 1939 including Willard Gaulding, Jr., J. L. Stephens, C. William Dopson, Jr., Mary M. Hopkins, Milton N. Hopkins, III, Dr. Robert A. Norris, David W. Johnston, Brooke Meanley. 6" x 9" | \$3.00 |
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