

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society, Vol. V, No. 1

September 30, 1977

THE GOShawk SAYS -- WELCOME! To these new members -- Barry Howard, Marietta; Lynette McQueen, Folkston; Eloise Connor, Atlanta; Richard Izzo, Thomasville; Dr. Charles Watt, Jr., Thomasville; Gerald Miller, Lisbon Falls, Maine; Mrs. R. E. Gibson, Athens; Henry Stevenson, Tallahassee, Florida; and Robert Sachs, Rome.

EDITORIAL COMMENT - Three previously unreported regions are covered in this issue - Valdosta; Folkston/Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest. The more regions reporting birds, the more complete and true a picture of birdlife in Georgia emerges. Keep that bird news coming!

Major sightings for the state during the late spring/summer include such finds as a Prairie Falcon and a Golden Eagle out of the Cohutta Ranger District Stilt Sandpiper and Mourning Warbler coming to light from Atlanta; Willow Flycatchers showing up in Atlanta and Cohutta Ranger District. Jekyll Island and the spoil area of the Savannah River give us white morphs of Great Blue Herons and the spoil area contained a N. Phalarope.

A wandering Sandhill Crane popped up in Augusta; Olive-sided Flycatchers turned up on the Cohutta Ranger District; House Finches lingered in the Atlanta area-- Ospreys plied the skies over Georgia. The Callaway Gardens' Bald Eagle showed up; another Bald Eagle was seen in Seminole County. Summer sightings of Marsh Hawks came in from Waverly Hall and Cohutta Ranger District. Swallow-tailed Kites were at Folkston.

An immature Dickcissel fed at a feeder in Waverly Hall; a Worm-eating Warbler was reported in breeding season at Providence Canyon State Park. Least Flycatchers were in the trees at Clayton; Red Crossbills were on the Cohutta Ranger District. A late White-crowned Sparrow was at Jekyll Island and a very early Yellow-rumped Warbler was spotted at Rock Eagle State Park to put the wrap-up on the editorial birds for this issue.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS -- The GOShawk found itself between a rock and a hard place in working up this September issue. We will carry the news of the Brunswick meeting in the December issue, as usual.

Know where the spring meeting will be? Fontana Village--April 28, 29, 30. We'll bird the Great Smoky Mountains not only with fellow GOSers, but with birders from the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the Carolina Bird Club. A tri-state bird society meet!! Sounds great -- mark your calendar in red for this important weekend. The Smokies in spring are unbeatable for warblers, thrushes, tanagers, vireos and other interesting bird species. And don't forget the mountains will be abloom with thousands of wildflowers. You don't want to miss out on this very special meeting -- reserve that last weekend in April for birding the Great Smoky Mountains.

The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds is hot off the press and now for sale. If you haven't gotten your copy yet, do so by all means. It is bigger and better than the previous checklist. The editor has this statement to make -- it has been sheer pleasure to use the new checklist for editing the birds; my work has been much eased through using the new checklist. It contains an index, gives extremes of migration dates, what geographical province the birds favor and other such valuable information. Price is just \$2.00. This book is a must for your bird library. Please see the enclosed sheet about ordering your copy.

Not to rush the season or anything; but the new checklist would make a delightful stocking stuffer for birding relatives/friends.

A big round of applause goes to the Checklist committee -- J. Fred Denton, Chairman; W. Wilson Baker, Leslie B. Davenport, Jr., Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., and Chandler S. Robbins for a hard job well done!

BIRD NEWS -- An asterisk following the name of a bird denotes it is listed as occasional, rare, uncommon for that particular area/season in the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton. Editor's notes are taken from this book.

Abbreviations used in this newsletter -- National Wildlife Refuge - NWR; River- R; Lake - L; Island - Is; County- Co; Mountain - Mtn; Creek - Cr; Fort - Ft; Common - Com; Immature - im; Audubon Society - AS; Warbler - W; State Park - SP.

Birding About -- With Lacoochee Watchers - Valdosta -- We welcome Valdosta aboard as part of our bird news network encompassing the state. Ken George saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White Ibis*, Yellowthroats and Blue Grosbeaks recently. A Hooded W came into the yard of Tillie and Harris Mathis - a first for them in their yard. Above items from September issue of newsletter. Dr. Clyde Connell reports a N. Waterthrush in Naylor July 30. He comments this warbler is among the first birds to start migration.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS -- Jane Knight spotted a Worm-eating W* at Providence Canyon June 7 (Editor's Note - Uncommon summer resident, breeding in mountains and Upper Piedmont, extra-limital nesting in Harris Co (HCo) June 1962 . . .). A singing Black and White W in HCo June 15, with an Ovenbird* also in HCo start the Columbus bird news rolling.

A Mother Killdeer and four chicks were observed at Peachtree Mall, Columbus, this summer. (Taking her brood shopping? - Ed.) A report from Waverly Hall tells us a Marsh Hawk* sat on a member's feeder just outside her window August 17. (Editor's Note - Please see Dalton news for an even earlier summer date and comment.) On the same day, 12 plus E. Bluebirds took over her bird bath and she had fall warblers in the yard. An im. Dickcissel* ate grain at her feeder for three or four days early in August. One day her pasture was filled with Cattle Egrets and five Pileated Woodpeckers were in her yard at one time recently. Turning back the calendar to last winter, she mentions she saw two small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks near her home. Dorothy Neal, Demorest, also mentions seeing Evening Grosbeaks last winter (these are among the very few reports received for the state last winter - Ed.)

An in-town member recorded Am. Redstart August 2; Golden-winged W August 22; Cerulean W* August 23. Sharing her bird bath on August 23 were N. Parula W-2; Black and White W-2; Golden-winged W - a Black-throated Green W was seen August 25.

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AS -- Owls once again start off this section of Columbus news. Sam Pate climbed into an old abandoned farm building to check on a nesting Barn Owl*. Four large young greeted him with loud, wierd sounds. Sam Pate, Sr., reports Screech Owls were at the same area at L. Seminole (LS) for several weeks. On June 19, four of the owls were observed. Two were adult, two large immatures - all gray - phase birds. They could be approached at arm's length at times.

Barred Owls were called up to a Bar-B-Q grill in Stewart Co. Sam got incredibly good views of the huge nocturnal predators as they sat directly over the grill, looking for the imitators of their calls. (One slip of the talon and it would have been BBQ Owl! - Ed.) An injured Screech Owl was found in August, but subsequently died. A red-phase Screech Owl flew out over Ga. Highway (Hwy) 27 with a couple of birds in hot pursuit July 10. A Great Horned Owl* was heard in NW Muscogee Co. July 3 and another rocketed across in front of Sam's headlight beams in Stewart Co. June 21. (Sam must keep owly hours! - Ed.)

On June 4, ten members went down to the Cypress Pond near Ft. Gaines. A couple of Wood Storks* were in the trees along with Anhingas, Great Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Great Blue Herons, Purple and Common Gallinule. Sam Pate received a call on May 30 concerning an injured hawk seen upon occasion in a wooded area. A search turned up a female Chuck-will's widow when she burst from a rut in an abandoned road. The male appeared on the scene immediately. Quite a display of noise, broken wing acts, erratic flying took place. Finally someone noticed a baby chuck in the dry leaves covering the road; it was the size of a small peach and not far removed from a tan ball of cotton appearance. Feathering of these birds was absolutely beautiful and the mystery of the injured hawk was solved.

From the July issue - a couple was out camping at Pine Mtn. and unknowingly set up camp near a nest of an Orchard Oriole. Watching the changing of the guard was an interesting experience. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in the news recently when they were given a lot of credit for stopping a portion of the caterpillar outbreak of a few weeks ago. Several people in "downtown" Columbus were amazed at the number of cuckoos in town all of a sudden. These sleek birds are famous caterpillar eaters. Why, during a hot dry summer, would they move into town in large numbers? It was noted a massive number of caterpillars had begun to devour the leaves of Sweet Gum trees.

Not only were cuckoos on the job, but Carolina Wrens, Am. Robins, assorted woodpeckers, Blue Jays, various blackbirds, starlings, different vireos and thrushes were helping rid the area of the plague of caterpillars. (Cuckoos saved the trees on Fort Mtn. from caterpillar damage 10-15 years ago. During the recent Fall Armyworm invasion around Dalton, blackbirds and starlings were holding a feast on these critters. Blackbirds and Starlings are good for something! - Ed.)

Recent sightings of interest -- Sam Pate offers us im. Wood Storks* north of Ft. Gaines June 18; Mississippi Kites and Osprey*, Seminole Co. (SCo) June 19; Least Bitterns - common - five were spotted in 100 yards, L.S., June 21. A Cooper's Hawk, Least Bittern (abundant), Osprey* at nest, Purple Gallinules with large young, SCo, July 9. On July 10, he watched 100 plus Mississippi Kites pass over in 30 minutes from Jackson Co., Florida into SCo on their post-breeding flights up the Chattahoochee R (CR), catching and eating insects while in flight.

Bill Matheny and Sam report Purple Gallinules are common on the Georgia side Eufaula NWR (ENWR) as of June 18. Black Terns in breeding plumage were seen on the Georgia side ENWR July 18. From Taylor Co we have this news -- Several Mississippi Kites were along the Flint R. between Ft. Valley and Reynolds August 22, 23. Two of the kites were calling and one of the birds was eating; scraps fell from 500 plus feet. One kite made passes at a big buteo while riding the thermals.

A Red-tailed Hawk dropped down to sink its talons into a full grown rabbit near River Rd. August 26. A mature Bald Eagle* was at Callaway Gardens August 9. Sam Pate sighted a mature Bald Eagle* in SCo, in the Flint R. portion of LS August 12. Also seen on that day Osprey*-2; Mississippi Kites-several; White Ibis, Wood Duck-45; Anhinga; Great Egrets; Little Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron-several. Several Black Terns were moving down the CR. Quite a few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen about the Columbus area this summer season.

AUGUSTA AS -- In May, Clarence Belger and Lee Gibbs took 30 fifth graders birding at Merry Ponds (MP). A female Red-shouldered Hawk dropped food into a nest with three almost ready-to-fly young. The female and young could be heard calling. A Mississippi Kite soared in at tree top level, a Painted Bunting, singing male Orchard Oriole and the call of a Killdeer were enjoyed.

The annual wade-in and picnic, June 4, revealed few birds around the Midville Rookery. Pond #1 was deserted - this pond had been used for years by Great Egrets, long before Cattle Egrets invaded it. A few Little Blue Herons and two Anhingas were at Pond #2. Five more sites were checked out, but none were active. Louisiana Waterthrushes were found along a creek near the picnic area.

Report on summer field trips. July 16 -- members covered the mud flats at MP, discovering a good number of sandpipers, unusual for this time of year. Due to the drought, the ponds were extremely low, creating more extensive mud flats than usual. Sandpipers checked off - Semipalmated*-3; Least-5; Spotted*-2; Solitary-1. Mississippi Kites were observed, along with im. White Ibis*-19; Great Egrets-12; im. Little Blue Heron-29.

On August 13, Clarence Belger and Jeannine Angerman spotted a White-rumped Sandpiper*, plus a Semipalmated Plover* at MP, At the airport, 14 Upland Sandpipers* were seen.

David Elwonger saw six White-crowned Sparrows*, Long-billed Marsh Wren* and a Palm W April 17 at MP. A member reports Am. Redstarts, Black-throated Blue W, White-throated Sparrow in his yard May 1. Ovenbirds, young Carolina Chickadees, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Pileated Woodpecker and Black-poll W. dropped into another yard May 10. At 7:00 P.M., May 10, Clarence Belger sighted a Sandhill Crane* at MP. That morning he spotted two Mississippi Kites there. Rollie and Irell Harp have a family of House Sparrows, all partial albinos, coming to their feeder.

A report comes in from the Clayton-Tiger area that not one nesting E. Bluebird was seen this past spring. The E. Bluebird population, as a whole, was down considerably. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported down in the area. (Editor's note-- According to the two regional editors covering Georgia -- Southern Atlantic Coast Region, Harry E. LeGrand, Jr., and Appalachian Region George A. Hall, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets, E. Bluebirds were adversely affected by the severe weather of last winter. E. Meadowlarks Belted Kingfishers, Screech Owls were also affected, according to their reports in American Birds, May, 1977, Vol. 31, No. 3. Please report all sightings of these birds to your local editor and all local editors, please include these usually everyday birds in your newsletters, so this editor may tabulate and publish the numbers in Georgia. Thanks! See sighting of Ruby-crowned Kinglet under Dalton news.)

Early in August, a member-family camped at Cloudland Canyon SP. Blue-winged* Hooded, Kentucky W. were enjoyed. At a campground under 2,000 feet elevation Black and White, N. Parula, Prothonotary, Orange-Crowned W. were viewed. (Editor's Note -- Orange-crowned W-earliest date in state Oct. 8, 1944. Being rather nondescript, Orange-crowned W are a bit hard to key down.) A Broad-winged Hawk, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers were seen. They commented warblers passed through in small waves as if in early migration.

THE ALBANY LIMPKIN - ALBANY AS -- Charles Erwin and Rip Holman went birding in Early, Baker and Calhoun Cos., down the CR and back via another route August 25. A Louisiana Waterthrush was noted and on a pond between Leary and Arlington, they saw numerous Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Green Herons and 75 Wood Storks. In lower Early Co., an Anhinga sunned itself at a mill pond. A report was received of an Am. Kestrel* being sighted in the area. Five Mississippi Kites were circling over Slappy Blvd. one day. Recently, 5,000 Cattle Egrets were viewed on Eight-mile Rd. Looked like a snow storm had struck! Above three sightings from September issue.

Rip and Carolyn Holman spent a birding week-end at Savannah Beach August 20, 21. They arrived after a heavy rain left water over a large expanse of lawn, ending in hedges and shrubs. Fall warbler migration had evidently started for they listed Yellow W, Worm-eating W*, Am. Redstart, N. Waterthrush Prothonotary W and Green Herons.

ATLANTA AS -- The sixth annual Fernbank spring migration watch produced a total count of 91 species. This is a smaller total than the previous five years; migration seemed slower and less dense than usual. Over the past six springs a total of 125 species have been heard/seen on the 60-acre Fernbank Forest. New to the composite list this year were Rough-winged Swallow and Swamp Sparrow.

The May field tip to Cloudland Canyon SP turned up a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hooded W, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. June field trip checked off N. Parula W, Prothonotary W, Yellow-throated W, Grasshopper Sparrows at Shakerag Community Mallard, Wood Duck, Green Heron were produced by the CR group. Fairburn and Constitution Rds. gave up Hooded W, Swainson's W, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Willow Flycatcher*. Those at Emory University's President's Estate (EPE) listed Hairy Woodpecker, E. Bluebird.

Up at Brasstown Bald the weekend of July 15-17, members on a field trip spotted a number of warblers missed on the Atlanta scene; a flock of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds battled over patches of Beebalm. A Dark-eyed Junco nest with three young was discovered.

Field Notes -- Billy Russell chalks up a Pied-billed Grebe* at EPE July 31 and 19 Com. Night Hawks there at dusk on August 13. He made a trip to Pender grass August 5 and 7 reporting 20 Tree Swallows*, an Im. Black Tern, several Least and Pectoral Sandpipers. Mary Anne Neville saw an im. night heron* at ^{John} Ward Swamp (JWS) July 16; a Scarlet Tanager and a House Finch* at Kenesaw July 31. On this same date, Don and Doris Cohrs recorded a lone House Finch* at their East Point feeder. On a trip to Rock Eagle August 6, Joe Greenburg, Carolyn Krueger and others found two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers*, a Black Tern, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers and a very early Yellow-rumped W. (Editor's Note -- earliest date September 22, 1930).

The beaver swamp near Shakerag contained several interesting birds. On July 2, Jeff Petit and Don ?/ Doris ? Cohrs (the Atlanta newsletter uses initials after birds to identify the sighter. It isn't always clear which Cohrs - or both - saw the bird. Ah, the hazards of editing! - Ed.) saw a Blue-winged W* and on July 31. Jean and Pat Bevis, Jeff Petit, Trina and Vince Jackson found six Great Egrets, two im. Little Blue Heron, a Cattle Egret, five im. White Ibis*, 3 Mallard, numerous Blue-winged Teal* (Editor's note -- Accidental in summer at Rome and DeKalb July 14, 1951), Wood Duck, two Kentucky W. 500 Rough-winged and Bank* Swallows were resting in a corn field near the river.

A Stilt Sandpiper* - a first for the Atlanta area - was sighted and carefully studied along the CR May 14. It was in the company of five Greater Yellowlegs. This establishes the Stilt Sandpiper on the Atlanta area list. A Mourning W* was heard the 15 of May at JWS. The call was compared with tapes, but the bird was not seen.

Late dates -- Spotted Sandpipers June 6, Louisa Echols; House Finch June 20 Don and Doris Cohrs (please read on for an even later date - Ed.); White-throated Sparrow June 6, Billy Russell. On June 18, a Worm-eating W and male Scarlet Tanager were spotted by Vaughn Morrison. Over at Cheatam Hill, Kennesaw Mtn., July 19, an Ovenbird and Scarlet Tanager were viewed by Terry Moore and Vaughn Morrison.

Elsewhere in the state -- Tom and Anne Bailey saw several Least Flycatchers*, at Clayton May 27-29 and again the following weekend, June 3-4, by Anne, Terry Moore, Mary Ann Vernocy. A white morph* of the Great Blue Heron was spotted by Arthur Crowe at Jekyll Is. May 2. Vaughn Morrison and Terry Moore at the Corps of Engineers Spoil Area, Savannah R found a female N. Phalarope* and white morph* Great Blue Heron. A Swainson's W was at Rock Eagle SP May 28, seen by Vince and Trina Jackson.

More about the May 27-29 Jekyll Is weekend. (A few of these birds appeared in the June issue, Vol. IV, No. 4, page 7-Ed.) Don and Doris Cohrs, Terry Moore, Vaughn Morrison got in some pretty fine birding. Among the birds tallied -- Magnificent Frigatebird*, white morph.* Great Blue Heron, Budgerigar-4; Gray Kingbird*. Up near the Altamaha R. just S of Darien, many Least Bitterns, Glossy Ibis*, Wood Ducks with young, Purple Gallinule, White-rumped Sandpiper* and a very late White-crowned Sparrow* - rare find near the coast (Editor's Note - latest date May 13, 1928) were enjoyed. Along Jekyll Beach, Black Skimmers, Red Knots, Sanderlings were spotted. Add in a few Painted Buntings for color emphasis, a night heron* and Mississippi Kites for sheer poetry of motion and the weekend is complete.

THE KINGFISHER - CHEROKEE AS - DALTON -- A pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches raised four young in a maple tree in a member's yard last May. Nesting of these birds has been supposed for our area; but, this is the first definite breeding record to this editor's knowledge. Four young E. Bluebirds were also raised in the same yard. An im. Little Blue Heron was at an area pond back in July.

Anne Hamilton, September 2, heard a Screech Owl singing a most tremulous, melodious song in her yard. July 4 and 23, she noted Black-billed Cuckoos* in her yard. Harry White chalks up these birds -- Golden-winged W August 14 (early area date) and a Sharp-shinned Hawk* - last seen September 6. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen August 21 (early date - does breed in mountains in state.)

Harriett DiGioia - Whitfield County sightings -- Black and White W, Camp Maynard, June 14. This falls within the breeding dates and is indicative the bird breeds in our county. No definite breeding record has been established. Red phase Screech Owl being mobbed by assorted birds July 27; two Blue-winged W and two Blackburnian W August 14 - an early date for the Blackburnian - does breed in mountains in state. Singing House Wren* - early - is now breeding in state; this seemed a young bird September 6. Frank and Harriett spotted two Red-headed Woodpeckers August 28.

Harriett has the privilege of being with the U.S. Forest Service. She ranges the entire Cohutta Ranger District and was at Lake Conasauga, Grassy Mountain, every Saturday from the Fourth of July weekend until the Labor Day weekend. Following are birds of interest recorded on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. Sightings are from Murray, Gilmer, Fannin Cos. N. Parula W, Blackburnian W, Dally Gap, July 8; two Dark-eyed Juncos gathering food alongside Ga. Hwy 2, both flying off in same direction with food in their bills. This is indicative of breeding. Sighting was on Cowpen Mtn. at 4000 feet elevation July 14. A single Dark-eyed Junco was

noticed at the same location July 15.

Black and White W, Hickory Ridge Trail, Cohutta Wilderness Area, July 14; Marsh Hawk*, along Ga. 2, just outside Cisco July 20. This is the third known summer sighting to this editor for the state. (Editor's Note - July 22, 1943). Falcon, sp. - from size, shape, coloration judged to be a Peregrine but no distinct field marks could be detailed - Grassy Mtn. July 30. Olive-sided Flycatcher* beyond Emery Creek August 3, and in a clear-cut on Grassy Mtn. August 6. A pair of flycatchers thought to be these birds was seen briefly beyond Emery Creek August 4.

Prairie Falcon* beyond Emery Creek August 5, - this is the third sighting for the state known to this editor. Not on official or hypothetical list. Willow Flycatcher*, Doogan Mtn. August 24; five Red Crossbills* beyond Emery Creek August 25.

Gray-cheeked Thrush, Grassy Mtn., August 27 (Editor's Note -- September 6, 1933); Red-headed Woodpecker, Doogan Mtn. August 30. Four im. Chestnut-sided W, Black-throated Green W, Black-throated Blue W, Tennessee W, September 1, Dick Heady Creek. This was a definite wave of warblers, vireos, tanagers, Carolina Chickadees moving through the trees. A Golden Eagle* - first record for the area - was sighted at Doogan Mtn. September 9. A Forest Service worker told Harriett he had seen a Golden Eagle down on a rabbit on the road at Fort Mtn. back in May.

Many, many hawks were listed along with Pileated Woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse. Black Vultures were recorded. Birds of all species are in good numbers on the district. An article about the bird sightings of the area is being prepared for The Oriole. (A Songbird Management Area, first non-game management area on the Chattahoochee National Forest, is being implemented by the U.S. Forest Service on 350 acres around Lake Conasauga, Grassy Mountain. This lake is the highest in elevation in our state at 3,120 feet. - Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -- Doris Cohrs, Atlanta, writes -- "My lone male House Finch* stopped singing about the middle of June and was last seen June 28."

Marynette Webb - Vidalia - shares her news -- "The birding that I've done has been good. While Ibises are back on the Altamaha R. On August 2 at 7:30 A.M., I saw Wood Storks at U.S. 1 and the Altamaha R. Other Wood Stork sightings - one in the afternoon of August 2, my husband saw one on July 26 just outside Vidalia and I saw another the morning of August 3. Prothonotary W nested in a grill at the trailer on the Altamaha R and fledged five young. The swamps have been full of them. Two Yellow-crowned Night Herons* nested over a beaver pond close by. Three in one nest, four in the other; with the nests not more than 200 feet apart. Mississippi Kites are on the river again and three E. Bluebirds spent a stormy night in the eaves of our trailer porch. A huge flock of Cedar Waxwings - probably 500 birds - was in Lyons April 1 just after daybreak."

Richard Kuerzi - Folkston - has the following bird news for Camden and Charlton Cos. "My total number of species for this area stands at 288 and is representative of the two counties. Winter 1976-77 - water was high in the swamps during this period, producing more water fowl. Sandhill Cranes* were plentiful in the boardwalk area, a few were within 30 feet of the boardwalk. One Whistling Swan* was present for a few days, only the second record. Ring-necked Ducks, Am. Wigeon, Mallards, Canvasbacks*, Ruddy Ducks* and a few White Ibis were sighted, along with Turkeys seen feeding in an open field. A Com. Goldeneye* was present from December 25, 1976 to January 18, 1977 on a small pond, along with a Redhead* seen on January 8. A few Bufflehead* were on area waters and a White-crowned Sparrow* put in an appearance at my home January 27. A Summer Tanager was viewed February 1 (Editor's Note - one winter record December 19, 1947, Grady Co.) and 15 plus Cattle Egrets wintered near Folkston.

Am. Woodcocks performed their courtship ritual later than usual, last heard on March 22, about two weeks after usual cut-off date. General aspects of the winter were lack of Tree Swallows, Pine Siskins, Red-headed Woodpeckers. Commoner than usual were Dark-eyed Juncos, Water Pipits, White-throated Sparrows, Purple Finches, Cardinals, Vesper and Chipping Sparrows. Brown-headed Cowbirds were in heavier numbers, Am. Robins abundant and Am. Kestrels normal to good.

Swallow-tailed Kites* put in an appearance for the third year. Two were seen in the Folkston area April 15. I have seen the bird four or five times over the city. There is no evidence of its nesting in the immediate area, we believe it probably nests off the eastern side of the swamp. In March, I visited the Fargo side of the swamp where a guide told me last summer (1976) he had seen 22 kites at one time at Wide Water L. On June 24, I saw a Swallow tailed Kite take a fledgling Mockingbird from the nest in a tall Black Pine and fly off directly west with the young bird in its talons. This indicated the kite probably had young in its nest on the eastern side of the swamp - this would be directly west, about three miles, from my home.

SCREVEN COUNTY NEWS -- Two Com. Snipe were sighted September 1. A large flock of 30 plus im. White Ibis was on the Milhaven Plantation ponds and pastures September 1. Grace Boddiford saw seven on September 20. Flocks of eight to 23 migrating swallows passed over September 15. They were thought to be Bank*Swallows. Also, on that same date a Solitary Sandpiper was spotted.

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.) Sandpipers - Stilt, Pectoral, Solitary, Semi-palmated, Short-billed Dowitcher April 24. King Rails, Black-crowned Night Herons July 10.

NEWS OF PEOPLE -- Helen Pollard had surgery and is making a fine recovery. Harris Mathis was hospitalized with a coronary and Virginia Culpepper broke her foot. Both have now mended. We wish you continued good health!

HEADLINES -- On August 22, 1977, The Atlanta Journal ran a page spread about "Swamp Fever." This was a descriptive piece, with pictures, about the Okefenokee Swamp. Now, an article cannot be written about the Okefenokee without mentioning Eugene Cypret. A quote by Gene was used and mention was made of his lectures at the Ecology Center.

Eugene Odum had his picture and an article in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Saturday, August 27. He gave a donation (part of a prize he was awarded) to the University of Georgia, stipulating the money go to the Institute of Ecology. (Looks like the Eugenes were the only ones to break into print! - Ed.)

TRAVELERS -- Bill Matheny journeyed to South Dakota and got to see a Trumpeter Swan - one of the 21 "Lifers" he put on his list. He also went to North Dakota and Saskatchewan. Sam Pate again took a group of boys on a summer junket to Glacier National Park, Alberta, British Columbia, the Oregon Coast, California Redwood County, Grand Canyon, Wyoming, Texas and Mexico -- 8,000 miles!

Terry Moore attended the 1977 National AS Convention at Estes Park, Colorado. He said, "The facilities were beautifully rustic, scenery awesome, field trips productive, meetings interesting and informative." Ken George traveled to Northern Michigan and found all the White-throated Sparrows we enjoy in Georgia in wintertime. Bill and Virginia Culpepper went to Highlands, N.C., enjoying Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, White-and Red-breasted Nuthatches and four Ruffed Grouse.

The Criscuolos got nine life birds on their late August trip to Key West and Sanibel Is. Magnificent Frigatebird, White-crowned Pigeon, Roseate Spoonbills, Northern Waterthrush were among the birds seen. Elinor Fisher went out California-way for a month's visit.

Marynette and Shannon Webb made it to Sanibel-Captiva Is. and visited the Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge. Osprey were all over the island. Mottled Duck, Reddish Egret were also enjoyed. Louis Schweizer spent 10 days in Kansas and attended the Kansas Ornithological Meeting. He picked up two life birds -- Wilson's ^{WEAVER} and Clay-colored Sparrow and reports practically no E. Bluebirds and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were down considerably. Helen and Jake Speltz really went far afield to Egypt, Kenya and the Middle East. Since they were not with a birding group, bird sightings were practically nil. A Weaver Bird was seen at its nest. Roberta and L. A. Wells went to the far Northwest, seeing the scenic wonders of Alberta, Oregon, Washington and California -- they took a snowmobile ride in the icefields in July. Frank Di-Gioia enjoyed a fishing trip to Curtiss Is., Rainy Lake, Ontario, Canada.

An im. Bald Eagle was sighted sitting on the edge of its nest.

Wyatt Bruce joined the Army on June 21 and is assigned to Fort Bliss, Tx. Jerrilyn and Stephanie have joined him and are residing in El Paso. In a recent letter he told of seeing a Rose-throated Beccard and a flock of 20 House Finches.

MISCELLANEOUS -- It is clear that some estuaries are of critical importance in the yearly cycles of many species of shorebirds. Without the feeding and resting areas that such estuaries provide, many shorebirds would be unable to accumulate large fat reserves required for an oversea journey to wintering grounds. One of the ways of covering the large geographical areas involved is through volunteers. An area can be adopted and surveyed once every two weeks during southward migration, early July until mid-October. In winter - November to March - monthly checks could be made. If you are unable to visit an area regularly, occasional counts can be run; i.e., at a vacation time especially during migration peak periods would be welcome and worthwhile. If you are able to assist contact Brian A. Harrington, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Ma. 02345. This applies to the U.S., Caribbean area and South America.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY -- The woods please us above all things. Virgil.

Harriett G. Di Gioia, Editor
 (Mrs. Frank A. Di Gioia)
 1309 Lakemont Drive
 Dalton, Ga. 30720

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 38214
 ATLANTA, GA. 30334

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
 PERMIT NO. 1418

MR. AND MRS. FRANK DIGIOIA F
 1309 LAKEMONT DR.
 DALTON, GA. 30720