

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society, Vol. V, No. 2

December 30, 1977

THE GOShawk SAYS -- WELCOME! To the following new members -- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith, Dalton, Miss Leila Oertel, Athens; George Brothers, III, Waycross; Dr. John Avise, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens.

EDITORIAL COMMENT - This fall/early winter issue is a hefty one. The bird business was booming in Georgia! Outstanding birds? Well, you can kind of take your choice.

Want to be where the action is? Go to the South end of Jekyll Island. White winged Black Tern, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Roseate Tern, were sighted there. None of these birds is on the official or hypothetical list. A Northern Phalarope was also recorded there.

Or take a pelagic trip on the waters off Savannah. Brought in were immature White-tailed Tropicbird - on state hypothetical list; Bridled Terns; Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters.

There was a questionable sighting of a Swainson's Hawk at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. The bird itself is not in question; but was it seen in Georgia or only in Alabama? A difference of opinion is expressed in two newsletters. Peregrine Falcons turned up at Jekyll Island and Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest. Bald and Golden Eagles were in the Atlanta area; Bald Eagles were present at Jekyll Island, Macon, Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported from Columbus and Whistling Swans were in Screven County.

That takes care of our rare birds. How are our winter regulars faring? So far, it has been a good winter for Red-breasted Nuthatches, even appearing at Sylvania where they have been unreported for several years; Purple Finches, White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos. Pine Siskins are good in Northwest Georgia and have been reported fairly consistently over the state. There is one exception to the above and that is Valdosta. Back in December they stated the winter regulars were in short supply. Evening Grosbeaks are spotty with no widespread pattern or high numbers reported.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are sporadic, showing up here and there in small numbers. The only area reporting any numbers at all is the Cohutta Ranger District during migration. Golden-crowned Kinglets are considerably depressed with very few being sighted. Here again, the most reported were on the Cohutta Ranger District. Winter Wrens are down with very few sightings and the same holds true for Hermit Thrushes. Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported in migration, especially from Atlanta; but are in low numbers in Northwest Georgia. Valdosta comments they were low there in the December newsletter.

What does this mean? It undoubtedly reflects the bird-killing cold of the '76-'77 winter. This editor feels it is also the non-reporting of birds. Many local editors do not report on "common" or "everyday" birds; many field observers do not bother to turn in what they consider unimportant finds. The forthcoming Christmas Bird Count totals will help clarify the picture in the state. All local editors, please send in your CBC lists - complete if possible for tabulation. GOSers ask your non-GOS editor to send the CBCs along.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS -- Thank you Eugene and Mary Lou Cypert for a grand meeting at Brunswick: Birding was excellent with 160 species tallied. Special birds sighted include: Surf Scoter*, Sharp-shinned Hawk* - 150 over S. end of Jekyll Island backed up by unfavorable winds, Cooper's Hawk*, Bald Eagle*, Osprey*, Peregrine Falcon*-2, Merlin*, Marbled Godwit*, Long-billed Curlew*, Stilt Sandpiper*, Lesser Black-backed Gull*, Gull-billed Tern*, Sandwich Tern*, Western Kingbird*, hordes of Tree Swallows, Cliff Swallows*, 23 species of warblers including Connecticut*, Yellow-headed Blackbird*. Quite a list!

People did all right, too, with 126 registered. Fred Denton was awarded the third Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for his excellent contribution to Georgia birding in the form of the newly printed Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds.

Fred chaired the committee researching and writing this important work. Over the years, Fred has contributed much to GOS and to birding, having served at one time as president and as editor of The Oriole. Our congratulations to you, Fred! Thank yous go to the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Committee -- Elbridge Freeborn, Jeannine Angerman, Anne Hamilton -- for a job well done.

Officers were elected for the upcoming two year terms. President-Georginne Pindar; First Vice-President-Frank McCamey; Second Vice-President-Tom Patterson; Treasurer-John Swiderski; Secretary-Johnny Howell; Editor of The Oriole-Les Davenport. We anticipate two fruitful years with these officers. The Nominating Committee -- Frank Di Gioia, Roberta Wells, Elizabeth Newsom, William Dopson -- chose a good group of officers. Thank you!

Our heartfelt thank yous go to the outgoing officers -- Norene Boring, Bobby Crawford, Lee Gibbs and to continuing officers Frank McCamey and John Swiderski for doing a great job of administration.

Gerald Knighton presented a timely Friday evening slide show, "Birds of the Water's Edge." An evening well spent reviewing the water/shore birds for the next day's field trips. Samuel Grimes gave a most interesting, informative program Saturday night, "Fifty Years of Bird Photography," starting with old black and whites then coming up to the latest colors and techniques.

Got your reservation made at Fontana Village? No? Better get going and make that reservation before you get left out. Spring meeting will be at Fontana Village, Fontana Dam, N. C. April 28, 29, and 30. We'll bird the Great Smoky Mountains. Roger Tory Peterson wrote -- "For the well-traveled naturalist the Appalachians hold many unique facets of interest. To single out three: Abundant variety of deciduous trees, great diversity of salamanders, and the gay galaxy of wood warblers." Come along and strike up or renew your acquaintances with these beautifully patterned wood warblers. You have your invitation in hand and know the great field trips, speakers, movies in store for us. This is a tri-state bird society meet and a marvelous opportunity to enlarge your birding friendships.

Dues are due! Statements were sent out recently. Be sure and pay those dues. Birds, like everything else, cost money and that's what it takes to run GOS. If you haven't renewed your dues, do so now!

See you at Fontana in April!

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; Audubon Society - A.S; County-Co; River-R; Lake-L; Island-Is; Mountain-Mtn; Creek-Cr; Fort-Ft; Common-Com; Immature-Im; Warbler-W; Male-M; Female-F; and American-Am.

AUGUSTA AS -- Going back to August 27, we pick up the news of a sighting of Upland Plover*-4 at the airport. Over at Merry Ponds (MP) a M Northern Oriole Bank Swallow*, Barn Owl* were reported. The owl plunged down to make a kill. A Kentucky W was picked up at Farmer's Field (FF).

September 10 brought an Am. Bittern and the following warblers into view -- Yellow, Blue-winged*, Black and White, Nashville*, N Water thrush, American Redstart. Egrets -- Great, Cattle, Snowy* along with N Parula Wand Palm W-2 were at FF September 18.

On the field trip of September 24, 50 species were noted including a good movement of warblers -- Tennessee, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Palm-12, Com. Yellow-throat. At MP, Little Blue and Great Blue Herons, Com. Gallinule along with three species of hawks -- Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Am. Kestrel were listed.

Clarence Belger reports a Carolina Wren was building a nest in one of his feeders September 8. The nest was never used. More records -- at Clark Hill (CH) September 11, Yellow-throated Vireo and Prairie W. A Screech Owl

intimidated the birds in the early morning of September 20. Through a downpour of rain October 9 he saw a Sanderling* at MP. (Editor's Note -- one other record for Augusta August 6, 1953 and four other interior sightings). A Pectoral Sandpiper on November 23 was late at Swan Pond (SP), (Editor's note -- November 1, 1942) and he mentions the Scaup with the streak down its left wing is back. Since it is darker than usual, he thinks it may be a hybrid. A Winter Wren was spotted at CH November 21.

Jack Cooper spotted a turkey on a road six to seven miles S of Augusta and the Rollie Harps report a turkey in the Valley Park neighborhood. A red phase Screech Owl nested in a box intended for Com Flickers this past summer for the third consecutive year. Elizabeth Satcher calls attention to a f/im. m Purple Finch in her yard intermittently throughout the summer. (Editor's note -- none reported in state in summer to this editor's knowledge. Care must be exercised not to confuse it with sparrows.)

Jeannine Angerman spotted on September 26 Prairie Wand Pine W; a Sanderling* was seen at SP on October 15. (same bird?-Ed.) A Brown Creeper was sighted October 21; Red-breasted Nuthatch November 5. Results of field trips -- November 6-55 species, including abundant Swamp, Song, Chipping, Field, White-throated Sparrows. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were numerous. Fish Crow, Water Pipit, Am. Woodcock, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were tallied at MP.

November 30 - 43 species -- Hawks, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed Am. Kestrel, Marsh were watched. A large number of Great Blue Herons was recorded, perhaps a migratory movement, at MP; Com. Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker were viewed all at MP and the levee.

From Washington we receive this news -- Red-headed Woodpecker, Black-throated Green/W, Bay-breasted W, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rough-legged Hawk* seen during autumn.

Reaching way back to April, a member reports 70-80 Canvasbacks* on the Augusta Reservoir, remaining there for seven/eight days. This reservoir, three to four acres in extent, is on a steep rise and bounded by heavily traveled arteries.

The Bird-Watcher - Floyd Co. AS - Rome -- Our September field trip yielded a Red-tailed Hawk spotted by Mrs. James Matheny; Am. Kestrel, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, E. Wood Pewee, Cardinal, Rufous-sided Towhee. Byron Eberhart spied the first White-throated Sparrow October 11.

Field Trip Observations -- Hall's Land Morrison Campground - November 13-- Blue Jay, Com. Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Starling, Com. Grackle, Am. Goldfinch. At Garden L in late November, Gadwall*-49; Am. Wigeon*-54; Redhead*-5; Canvasback*-4; Am. Goldeneye*-2m; Ruddy Duck*-4; Com. Merganser*-1f; Ring-billed Gull-3.

Birding About - Withlacoochee Watchers - Valdosta -- Virginia and Bill Culpepper have seen Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-throated W, N. Parula W, Yellow-rumped W about their place.

M. E. and Es Crago went over to Cumberland Is. (C.Is.) October 9 and tell of seeing Am. Redstarts, Vesper Sparrows, Wood Storks, White Ibis, Great Blue Herons, Double-crested Cormorants, and "dozens of Merlins* and Am. Kestrels." They also tell us their yard is thick with Brown-headed Nuthatches.

Tillie and Harris Mathis see Marsh Hawks, Purple and Com. Gallinule frequently at their lake. Tony Criscuolo reports a Red-headed Woodpecker on the campus at Valdosta State College. All above sightings from October newsletter.

From the November issue -- a trip to Grassy Pond proved a real bonanza. Never have we viewed there so large a collection of water/shore birds. Of particular interest-- a flock of Wood Stork mingled with Great Egret; a flock of Louisiana Heron and a lone Greater Yellowlegs. Thirty-eight (38) species were tallied including four to five warblers.

A Black and White W*, Am. Redstart* (this would be a late bird if seen in late November or December and this is the reason dates should be included in the reports - Ed.) and a Loggerhead Shrike were reported by members.

Virginia and Bill Culpepper check off a Ruby-crowned Kinglet; the Tony Criscuolos send in sightings of Yellow-rumped W and Am. Kestrels. Valdosta mentions a shortage of winter birds - White-throated Sparrow, Purple Finch, Yellow-rumped W being present but in reduced numbers. Above from December issue.

THE FALL LINE - OCMULGEE AS - MACON -- The September 17 field trip listed

an im. Bald Eagle* plus Great Blue Heron, Mallard-2 at the Waterfall Management area, L. Tobesofkee (LT). The ranger at LT and another observer report the head of the eagle was turning white as of November 21. In October, two of our members sighted an im. Bald Eagle* (same bird? - Ed.) two times in two days at a pond. Nine E. Bluebirds have been watched around a nest box during September - November. Six Bufflehead* (3m, 3f) and approximately 15 Am. Coot were on LT November 13. Other sightings from the area -- Yellow rumped W-1 October 15; Brown Creeper-1 October 18; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-1 November 1.

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AS -- Interesting area sightings -- On September 3 a Worm-eating W and September 22 a Red-breasted Nuthatch were observed in Harris Co. (HCo); at Cooper Cr. Park (CCP) September 18 Golden-winged W-2; dozens of N. Parula W and Chestnut-sided W- many of them adult, along with a few Tennessee W, Blackburnian W, Am. Redstart were watched. Barred, Great Horned*, Screech Owls were in their usual haunts in HCo. November 9 brought the first Ruby-crowned Kinglets to SW HCo. and Golden-crowned Kinglets to L. Richards. A Winter Wren in Columbus and a Yellow-rumped W in HCo. were firsts on November 12.

Sam Pate has been getting in the birding, listing massive flocks of Chimney Swifts over Muscogee Co. (MCo) September 8; Bay-breasted W-10, Chestnut-sided W-20, Tennessee W-25, Black and White W-5 and many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks HCo September 30. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds-25 plus were behind the greenhouse at Callaway Gardens (CG) October 1; Philadelphia Vireo*-2; Tennessee W-100 plus; Magnolia W-20 and Pileated Woodpeckers at CCr October 2; Canada W October 8; Caspian Tern* Eufaula NWR (ENWR) October 23.

Sam reports the sighting of a Swainson's Hawk* on the Georgia side ENWR October 9. Vaughn Morrison, Billy Russell, Mary Ann Vernocy, Louisa Echols, Terry Moore also saw the hawk along with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker being chased by a Red-cockaded Woodpecker* at Ft. Benning. Swainson's Hawk may be verified by Vaughn and Terry. Joe Greenberg saw another Swainson's Hawk there in the fall. (Please read on for Editor's note and a difference of opinion under Atlanta news - Ed.)

Along with Bill Matheny a Philadelphia Vireo* (one of the two reported above? Ed.), Black-throated Blue W, Red-eyed Vireo, Pine W were studied September 12. Sam came to the aid of a Broad-winged Hawk that had been shot in the rump September 15. He fed it Mrs. Stellanie Ure's "Gator Aid Treatment" consisting of Gator Aid, powdered gelatin, raw meat, insects, ground bone, hair, other roughage. The patient was kept 13 days, completely recovered and was released at CG.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS -- From southern HCo a wave of migrants was reported by Sam Pate including Am. Redstarts, N. Oriole Blackburnian W, Marsh Hawk. From north of Columbus he saw a Great Horned Owl* September 11 and he mentions many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Columbus September 16.

Bill Matheny and he checked off Blue-winged W*-2m; Summer Tanager September 15; Rose-breasted Grosbeak-2m; numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Red shouldered Hawk; Com. Yellow-throat, Barred Owl September 18. On September 17, in Columbus, Bill sighted a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*, studied it leisurely at very close range, noting the yellow throat, eye rings, wingbars.

Claudia Carswell sent over a picture of an albino E. Bluebird to the meeting. A red-cockaded Woodpecker* was viewed on a field trip - from November issue.

ATLANTA AS -- Let's get the out-of-town trips going first. Terry Moore, Vaughn Morrison, Vince and Trina Jackson took a pelagic trip out of Savannah on August 27 and report Bridled Tern*-26; White-tailed Tropicbird-1 im. (Editor's note - On state hypothetical list - one sighting in Atlanta August 15, 1940 by William Griffin), Cory's Shearwater-16 (Editor's Note -

Accidental, one record on C Is. September 2, 1973 - specimen); Audubon's Shearwater-1 (Editor's Note - Accidental on Little C Is. July 25, 1966 - specimen and on C Is. September 27, 1973- specimen).

Around ENWR Joe Greenberg and Carolyn Krueger listed Bank Swallows*-1,000 at Florence Landing with a Sharp-shinned Hawk* feeding on the swallows and a Mississippi Kite east of the landing. From the November issue -- "On the Alabama side ENWR same group as mentioned in Columbus write-up saw ... and an im. Swainson's Hawk. Joe reported he may have seen a Swainson's Hawk on the Georgia side ENWR." (This hawk is not on any Georgia list to this editor's knowledge. Here an editor has two different write-ups containing different information. In one account - Columbus - the hawk is stated to have been seen in Georgia; Atlanta says in Alabama. Columbus says "Joe Greenberg saw another Swainson's Hawk there in the fall." Atlanta says "Joe reported he may have seen")

Jean and Pat Bevis saw Yellow-crowned Night Herons*, mature and im. White Ibis* on the Flint R (FR) near Gay September 8. On Jekyll Is. (J Is.) September 10 they noted a Peregrine Falcon* fly over the pumping station, a N. Phalarope* and A Roseate Tern on the beach at the S end of J Is. (Editor's Note - not on any state list to this editor's knowledge.)

On September 15, S end J Is. around 10:00 a.m., Jean Bevis and Bob Manns using a 25 x 60 mm Bushnell Spotting Scope, spotted a White-winged Black Tern in a concentration of some 70-80 gulls and terns. After duly studying the bird in the scope, they consulted eight references and "conclude without reservation that the species involved was a White-winged Black Tern." (Editor's Note - not on any state list to this editor's knowledge. Listed in Birds Of North America, Chandler S. Robbins as "A casual Old World visitor ...". A Field Guide To the Birds, Roger Tory Peterson places it in the "Accidentals, Appendix I." Under "News of People" please note a sighting in Maryland a week previous.) Billy Russell reports seeing on the morning of the day and in the same area that Jean and Bob spotted their prize - a strange-looking Tern and feels it could have been the White-winged Black Tern.

During a field trip October 15 held in conjunction with the fall GOS meeting, a single adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was studied at the S end of J Is. (looks like that's where the action is - Ed.) by Vince and Trina Jackson, Pat and Jean Bevis, Bob Manns. "While the bird was in the water, we agreed we were looking at either a North American Greater Black-backed Gull or a Lesser Black-backed Gull. Upon rising from the water, the gull displayed yellow legs and size in flight of a Herring Gull. Roger Tory Peterson in his A Field Guide to Eastern Birds states "the 'overwhelming chances' of a gull marked as ours and with yellow legs occurring in the U.S. eastern shore indicates most heavily the Lesser Black-backed Gull." (Editor's Note - Not on any state list to this editor's knowledge.)

The hawk watch at Oglethorpe Mtn. September 18 didn't produce very many hawks, but those who waited out the downpour of rain were rewarded with some good warblers, including Orange-crowned*, Canada, Wilson's*.

Jeff Petit saw an im. White Ibis* at Shakerag Swamp September 3; Short-billed Dowitcher* at the "chicken plucking plant" near Pendergrass August 10. Also at Pendergrass, Vince and Trina Jackson saw Bank Swallow*-2; Jeff saw two more September 4, plus a Pectoral Sandpiper and a few Least Sandpipers. Mary Ann Vernocy and Louisa Echols saw Solitary Sandpiper-3; Blue-winged Teal-3 September 4. On that same date, Eileen Hutchison in Helen found a Blue-winged W* and about 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbird in an apple tree. A Bewick's Wren*, late Gray Catbird, White-crowned Sparrow* were at Pendergrass November 8.

Field Notes from the Atlanta Area -- Spectacular flights of Com. Nighthawks have been reported. Terry Moore and others counted 353 flying over his house in about an hour's time September 4; there were 91 the next night. John Swiderski saw 500 of them "kettling" over his home in Roswell September 8. Vince and Trina Jackson have seen smaller groups from their yard since August 24 and report the birds are always in loose formation and the lead and rear birds appear to call to each other.

Louisa Echols and Elizabeth McCain found a House Wren* and a Veery* at Emory University's President's Estate (EPE). One of the best places to see warblers seems to be right in the middle of town. Two members had many at their

Adolphus St. home, with the best finds a Cerulean W* September 5, a Canada W September 12. The list of species at the "9th Street Flyway" in a member's yard is too long to include, but some of the finds are: Golden-winged W September 6, 7; Nashville W*, Black-throated Green W September 14; Cerulean W*-2 September 10; several Blackburnian W September 6-14; Ovenbird September 17; Kentucky W September 8; plus 15 N. Orioles September 12. (Who needs to go out into the country? City viewing is doing all right! - Ed.)

Terry Moore viewed Bobolink-3 near the South R (SR) September 5; Doris Cohrs tells us the House Finch* returned to her East Point feeder September 6 and heard a Rose-breasted Grosbeak September 11. (Editor's Note - September 14, 1966) Three Am. Kestrels are real city slickers. They dive from the corner of the Equitable Building near Central City Park. Joe Greenberg found an early White-throated Sparrow at Freeman L. (FL) on Beaver Ruin Rd. September 29 (Editor's Note - October 5, 1943) and a Purple Finch was there on the same day for an early Atlanta date. Terry Moore spotted a Pine Siskin flying over his house October 21.

Bill Terrell got 52 Broad-winged Hawk flying over his house in late afternoon of September 18. Vince and Trina Jackson had a Red-shouldered Hawk in their back yard September 15. One of the most exciting finds to come in was the sighting of two eagles at FL September 29 by Jean Bevis and Joe Greenberg. One bird was an ad. Golden Eagle*; the other an im. Bald Eagle*. Jeff Petit saw an unidentifiable eagle* at Rogers Bridge on the Chattahoochee R. (CR). Piedmont Park gave up Philadelphia Vireo*-2; and a Wilson's W* to Dick Parks in mid-September; a Nashville W* was at EPE September 18 reported by David Smith. Vince and Trina Jackson found a Brewster's W* at FL October 1 and were able to watch this rare hybrid at close range for ten minutes,

A Com. Loon* was sighted on the CR near Azalea Dr. and a very late Green Heron* at EPE on November 13 by Billy (Russell) Pulliam. Louisa Echols reports the bird was still there November 15. Billy tells us about Green-winged Teal-4 at EPE November 11 and Ruddy Duck*-5, Hooded Merganser-November 12 at L. Acworth. Mary Ann Vernocy found Bufflehead*-4 (1 M, 3F) and a Ring-necked Duck on a tiny pond at the Willow L apartments November 13 and later saw a F Bufflehead* at EPE.

Billy Pulliam saw Turkey Vulture-8 at EPE November 13; Don and Doris Cohrs report about 50 in East Point November 1. A Sharp-shinned Hawk* was at CR October 30; a Cooper's Hawk* at SR November 6. John Swiderski watched a Barn Owl* fly over a shopping center near Roswell Rd. while waiting on an early morning bus October 10. Vaughn Morrison and Mary Ann Vernocy found a Barred Owl sitting in the middle of Ashford Dunwoody Rd. November 14. Louisa Echols, Jeff Petit, Mary Ann Vernocy, Joel and Vicki Volpi found a late Whip-poor-will at Shakerag Swamp October 23. The bird was in the open and being harassed by wrens, titmice, chickadees for about ten minutes.

A Winter Wren was found by Louisa Echols EPE October 22. A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets have been sighted; one report was of two flocks of about 8-12 each on October 22. Jeff Petit reports one Golden-crowned Kinglet at R. B November 1; Terry Moore, Don and Doris Cohrs found one near SR November 16.

Cedar Waxwings-10 were seen by Jeff Petit at RB November 1; Yellow-rumped W seemed to arrive by the hundreds October 21. Joel and Vicki Volpi, Jeff Petit saw a late Nashville W* October 23. Doris and Don Cohrs, Terry Moore have seen small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks at SR from October 30. Louisa Echols, Mary Ann Vernocy dredged up White-crowned Sparrows* RB October 23.

THE KINGFISHER - CHEROKEE AS - DALTON -- A field trip to Brackett's Farm September 11 netted a Canada W and a Scarlet Tanager. On the November 13 field trip to Carter's Dam, Murray Co. a male Bufflehead* was seen. Harry White ticks off the first Whitfield Co. Ruby-crowned Kinglet October 8 and six (3m, 3f) Evening Grosbeaks in his yard November 13 and heard some passing over his home December 3. Ollie Munn also had Evening Grosbeaks -3 f at her feeder November 25.

Anne Hamilton reports a wave of warblers September 19 and a Hooded W spent an overnight in her yard September 23-24. She saw the first White-throated Sparrow October 10; this hits right on the traditional returning date; and heard a Great Horned Owl* softly hooting in her yard the early morning hours of October 19. Delano Crowe heard a Great Horned Owl* at his place the night of October 17. Anne got the season's first Brown Creeper October 23. A rescued Barn Owl* died in spite of good nursing care. A member reports Green-winged Teal-4 (3m, 1f) on her pond November 9.

Harriett DiGioia - Whitfield Co. records - Ovenbird September 13; Veery* September 14; Worm-eating W September 16; Nashville W* September 21. Waves of warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Carolina Chickadees passed through the trees on her ridge September 16. Dark-eyed Junco October 19; Yellow-rumped W, Swamp Sparrow October 22; Am. Kestrel November 7 within the city limits. At Thread Mill L Ring-necked Duck-168 November 21. November 18 a Canvasback* was present; November 19 brought in Bufflehead* 3 (2m, 1f). Canvasback*-2 were on the lake November 22, with three being present November 23. A winter plumaged Horned Grebe* was on the lake November 23.

Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer Cos. - Harriett DiGioia -- Im. Red-headed Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet clear cut Grassy Mtn September 25 (early area date for kinglet); Turkey Vulture-20, Black Vulture-1; Red-tailed Hawk-1; Broad-winged Hawk-20; Osprey*-1; Peregrine Falcon*-1; plus Red-breasted Nuthatch, Swainson's Thrush -8; Gray-cheeked Thrush-5; Carolina Chickadee-25; Tennessee W-30; Bay-breasted W-10 at Cohutta Overlook; Cohutta Mtn, Gilmer Co. Altogether 29 species, 183 individuals were seen in this rather small area October 4. At Youther Cr September 30 Wood Thrush-5 were watched. Two or three picked up skeletonized leaves, flying off with them. Cooper's Hawk*-2; and Bay-breasted W-50; were on the Songbird Management Area (SMA), L Conasauga Recreation Area, Grassy Mtn October 18.

Carolina Chickadee-40; House Wren*; Golden-crowned Kinglet-2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-15 were around a Release Cutting FS Rd 630 October 20. Carolina Chickadee-20; Winter Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-18 in a Public Use Firewood Area at Rock Creek October 27. Carolina Chickadee-40; Ruby-crowned Kinglet-30 Rusty Blackbird, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch SMA on weekend camping trip October 29-30. Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Release Cutting Muddy Cr November 10; Golden-crowned Kinglet-2; Alaculsy Valley FS Rd 16 November 12. Golden-crowned Kinglet SMA November 14; Cooper's Hawk* FS Rd 64, Golden-crowned Kinglet-4 Conasauga River Trailhead Cohutta Wilderness Area November 15; with two near Doogan Mtn November 12. Ruby-crowned Kinglet in a Release Cutting FS Rd 630; Dark-eyed Juncos-120 seen along FS Rd 68, 17, 630 Grassy Mtn November 26. Since July 2, 1977 107 species, 3043 individuals have been recorded. Some caution should be applied in the individual total as a little overlap occurred when the Timber Site Improvement Crew worked an area for a few consecutive days.

ENWR REPORT -- Local editors are doing such a good job placing birds on the Georgia/Alabama side that this section is being discontinued.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -- Jim Colehour, Dallas, writes -- "On 28 November 1977, I was looking out my window and saw a Swainson's Thrush* sitting in a small tree looking around acting like he was disgusted with the weather like the rest of us (it was dismal and showery). He perched long enough that I could look him over good and he had all the field marks, eye ring and all. I have photographed them several times at Pensacola but never this late in the year." (Editor's Note -- October 18, 1929-speciman). Grace Boddiford - Sylvania - "Here are our uncommon finds -- mid-November -- Double-crested Comorant. December 3 at Savannah R NWR - Bald Eagle*-1; Black and White W*; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*-2 plus. December 12-Whistling Swan*-1 ad, 4 im; Canada Geese-7; Greater White-fronted Goose*1 ad, 4 im-this is the second record for Screven Co. Dr. and Mrs. Kemp Mabry of Statesboro found six on October 10, 1976; Snow Geese*, Blue Morph-3. December 27 - Lesser Scaup-60; com. Pintail*-75 plus; Canada Geese-3; numerous Red-tailed Hawks, two of which were observed in courtship display. December 30 - Red-breasted Nuthatch-1; the first in several years. On December 9 during the last 15 minutes before dark, I watched a stream of blackbirds heading for Savannah R Swamp. I estimated 30,000 individuals.

NEWS OF PEOPLE -- Our sympathies are extended to Jeannine Angerman in the death of her father in early September in Ohio and to Harriett DiGioia in the death of her mother December 12 at Dalton.

Fred Denton had surgery this past fall and Daniel Jacobson was painfully injured on the job November 11. We wish them both well.

Best wishes are extended to the John Swiderski's on the new addition at their house -- the arrival of a son, Justin David.

On October 29, the headquarters sign at Silver Bluff Sanctuary near Aiken, S.C. was dedicated to the memory of Tom Rial.

MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA -- Frank McCamey received some nice mentions in an article, "Bird Watching" appearing in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution December 4, 1977. A piece about the Christmas Bird Count in The Atlanta Constitution had Joe Greenberg's name included. Dick Parks was on WRNG radio Thanksgiving morning answering questions about birds and such. Floyd Co. AS has a program, "Nature Notes" airing on Radio Station WLAQ each Sunday afternoon.

SPEAKERS/WRITERS -- George Dorsey Journeyed over to Dalton to present a slide/narrative, "A Half Century of Birding" to the Cherokee AS last October. Columbus AS invited Terry Moore to give the program at their annual banquet - Terry took them all over the U.S. and Canada through the medium of slides. Maibelle Dickey Hodgins had an article, "If You Wish Upon a Star," all about the delights and rewards of bird feeding in the winter issue of Georgia Life.

TRAVELERS -- Mabel Faulkner took off on a Caribbean cruise last September; Terry Moore got in a pelagic trip 100 miles off San Diego in the fall, while Bill and Virginia Culpepper ventured to the Outer Banks, N.C. in late October having the thrill of watching geese "V" their way across the sky. They also enjoyed Ring-necked Pheasant, Whistling Swan, Brant. On the Blue Ridge Parkway they chatted a while with a man doing a hawk watch. In a period of 30 minutes, 20 hawks-red-tailed and red-shouldered - were observed.

Dan and Ann Forster, the weekend of September 9, saw a White-winged Black Tern in Maryland, just a week before Jean Bevis and Bob Manns brought in the first Georgia record. Elizabeth McCain sighted a Great Black-backed Gull in Pasadena, Md. in August and Billy Russell saw a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Mt. Pisgah, N.C. also in August.

Atlanta Audubon Nature Photography Club held a contest recently. Vince Jackson and Frank McCamey were among the prize winners.

MISCELLANEOUS -- In Vol. IV, No. 2, page 5, of this newsletter, it was reported a Great Blue Heron had been sighted at Augusta with red streamers on each wing. Dr. Emil Urban, Biology Department, Augusta College tracked down the details. This bird had been one of 502 Great Blues that had been tagged in late May/early June, 1976, as a nestling in a rookery at Winous Point Shooting Club, Sandusky Bay on the SE end of L Erie. The tagging was done by the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus. Nestlings hatched in 1975 were tagged with white streamers, the 1977 crop was tagged with yellow streamers.

Brown's Guide to Georgia - March/April 1978 edition will carry an article on birds. Included in this article will be sections on what to feed birds, what to plant to attract birds, where to go birding in Georgia, information on our birds and a Who's Who in Georgia Birding. Be sure and get your copy!!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY -- Wilderness is the raw material out of which man has hammered the artifact called civilization - Aldo Leopold.

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