

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society, Vol. V., No. 4

June 30, 1978

THE GOShawk SAYS -- A BIG GOS Welcome to these new members -- Robert Harris, Toccoa; Dr. & Mrs. George Pickett, Jekyll Island; James Davis, Hawkinsville; Jerre Harvard, Montezuma; Mrs. Brannon Hancock, Demorest (a gift from Dorothy Neal); Joe Jones, Albany; Brent Ortego, Department Zoology/Entomology, Auburn University, Auburn, Al; Mr. & Mrs. Frederic Flataq, Miss Louisa Flataq, Valdosta; John Ball, Atlanta; Julie Rayers, Savannah; D. G. Muir, Atlanta; Michael Meadows, Adrian.

GOSer Bill Lovejoy teaches ornithology at Georgia Southern College, Statesboro. He elected to give his four outstanding students membership in GOS. John Martin, Statesboro; Billie Smith, Statesboro; Edward Harden, Boston; and Randy Barlow, Cochran are the recipients of the gift memberships. (One of our needs in GOS is getting the interest and membership of young people. Here is an excellent example of one person steering four young people into GOS. Although we are not all teachers, we could select one young person of our acquaintance and give them a gift membership. Sort of an "Adopt a Budding Birder" campaign. Let's do it! -- Ed.)

Two members have become "Lifers" -- Bill Lovejoy and Norman Giles.

EDITORIAL COMMENT -- Spring - 1978 -- The overall migration picture in Georgia, from all reports, seems to have been off. Atlanta comments on the lack and lateness of birds; my observations and that of others here in Dalton/Whitfield County were of a lackluster spring flight. Patchy bird activity was reported -- Columbus had some warbler movement, - Augusta used the phrase, "migrants were pouring through" for an April field trip count down. A few moderate waves passed through the lower elevations, Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest. My feeling still remains, the migration was both light and late.

Weather is a factor in bird migration. No warm fronts occurred in the migration period; cold fronts moved through the state. Birds move north on the warm fronts. Thunderstorms and other heavy weather were at a minimum, at least here in Northwest Georgia, and I suspect statewide; thus, allowing birds to overfly Georgia. No need to put down with fair weather urging a northward surge. One GOSer theorized the dry spring weather arrested development of insects; therefore there was a lack of food for refueling.

Major sightings for the state -- Bald Eagles continue to be seen with Valdosta and Columbus hosting them. Raptor reports have been increasing in Georgia. A good sign of reversal in the decline of birds of prey. A black Skimmer appeared in winter in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; a Greater Scaup was sighted at Columbus.

Dickcissels popped up at Columbus and in Gordon County; Common Loons swam on the waters in Echols County and near Suches. House Finches continue in the news at Columbus and, of course, in Atlanta. A Louisiana Heron was seen in late winter at Columbus -- a Whistling Swan visited there too.

Sandhill Cranes passed over Atlanta and Duluth; while Rome reports the finding of a Song Sparrow's nest. Pectoral Sandpipers were discovered in February at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge; Semipalmated Plovers were found in Columbus and a Laughing Gull was at Augusta. Olive-sided Flycatchers were listed in) Whitfield County and on the Cohutta Ranger District, Murray County.

House Wrens were singing at Augusta and Cohutta Ranger District, Murray County. A Henslow's Sparrow was studied at Columbus; Short-eared Owl and a pair of Monk Parakeets (possibly nesting) came in from Augusta. Worm-eating Warblers during nesting season in Harris County and a good number singing in suitable habitat, plus a singing Northern Parula Warbler in the breeding period on the Cohutta Ranger District complete the interesting finds for this issue.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS -- Frank McCamey you did it!!! A standing ovation is due you, your wife, Ginny, and all others who contributed to the success of the combined GOS, Tennessee Ornithological Society and Carolina Bird Club meeting held at Fontana Village. Any meeting demands time, work, organization -- this one demanded three times the above ingredients.

Registration stood at 500 people; 125 species of birds were listed, give or take a few. This total does not include birds sighted on Sunday.

The Bird Artist-Craftsman exhibit, coordinated by Louise Nunnally, TOS, was well-received and enjoyed by the assembled birders. Thanks go to Louise for arranging the attractive displays.

Dr. Charles Smith, Director of Public Education, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology gave two well-done presentations. On Saturday afternoon, "Role of the Amateur in Ornithology", and that night, "An Introduction to the Laboratory of Ornithology" gave valuable information and visual pleasure.

In this region of high rainfall, fair weather prevailed. The exception was Sunday, when clouds and fog appeared and the rains descended. By then, the main meeting was over and the rain not a detriment.

ADVANCE NOTICE -- FALL MEETING - COLUMBUS - OCTOBER 13, 14, & 15. Circle that weekend and reserve for GOS. Columbus has two active birding societies and great birding territory - like Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. Come, join your friends and catch the fall migration passing southward. See you there!

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 - Audubon Society-AS; National Wildlife Refuge - NWR; adult-ad; immature-im; male-m; female-f; river-R; Lake-L; Creek-Cr; Island-Is; Mountain-Mtn; Fort-Ft; County-Co; Common-Com; American-Am; Warbler-W; Eastern-E; Northern-N.

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AS - Sightings of interest -- m Dickcissel* at Bert Talley's Columbus feeder from late February to early March and a mature Bald Eagle* seen February 6 by Mike Fuller at Georgetown.

The March 11 field trip to Cooper Cr Park (CCP) netted 200 scaup; one f with the long white stripe of a Greater Scaup*; 20 Ring-necked Ducks; seven species of woodpeckers; several E Bluebirds, Sam Pate reporting. A dramatic race between a Mallard and a Com. Old White Duck (COWD) was observed. The race was started by someone with a good grade of duck feed about 100 yards from the two ducks. The COWD was in the lead for quite a number of yards, when all of a sudden, the mallard in a move of desperate hunger, charged ahead to win the first of what will perhaps become an annual duck race.

On May 1 (Tornado Day) Sam Pate received a call from the Massey household. Seems a "strange bird" was sitting on their back fence in a dense piney woods. "Sort of like a duck; but definitely not a duck." Turned out to be an Am. Coot. The hefty bird had been sitting on the fence from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM when Sam arrived. It took off running, then flew north along Lindsay Creek Expressway, putting down to get its bearings, flying in a huge circle at least three times. As the streets were still wet from heavy rains that day, they may have looked like streams to the disoriented bird. While watching the coot, a "V" formation of Cattle Egrets came over. (Please read on under Dalton news for coots being found on the elevations, away from water, on the Cohutta Ranger District - Ed.)

May 7, Sam watched a Loggerhead Shrike, carrying a House Sparrow, land in a pine tree near Colquit. That shrike really had to work to impale the sparrow on a broken pine limb. Bill Matheny brings us a Henslow's Sparrow*, seeing this elusive sparrow on three different occasions, April 6, 27, & 29. All sightings apparently of the same bird at the edge of an open woodland near a small field right in Columbus. He also reports about 100 Cape May W - all m - passed through his part of town from April 27-May 1; about 70 Yellow W were seen from April 27 - May 17 - more m by three to one; a m N. Oriole May 17 and m Scarlet Tanager singing May 7.

George Lewis (a birder from England) and Sam saw Least, Semipalmated, spotted Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers* along with Pileated Woodpeckers at CCP May 5. Worm-eating Ws* have staked out territory again in southwest Harris Co. according to Florence Lynn. She has had them around her place for several breeding seasons. They are at the extreme south end of their range. A Swainson's Thrush was still at her place the week of May 17.

An Am. Kestrel was spotted at Seale April 17; Swainson's W at West Point April 24; Chuck-will's-widow-4 - hawking in the Weracoba area April 24. Two Wood Storks* were at Ft. Gaines rookery on a recent field trip as told by Florence Lynn. On the May 20 trip this same rookery was absolutely beserk with Cattle

Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Com and Purple Gallinule, a few Great Egrets*, some White Ibises*, plenty of vultures and an Anhinga on its nest.

CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS -- Mike Fuller viewed a House Finch* February 18 at his Columbus feeder; he and David Johnston found a Louisiana Heron* January 28 at Green Is Hills, Columbus.

A Solitary Sandpiper was seen by Tom and Harriett Meadows at Peachtree Mall Cr in February (Editor's Note -- 16 March 1937); Sharp-shinned Hawk*, Red-tailed Hawks, Lake Bottom Park March 15; Whistling Swan* at dusk near 14th Street Bridge on the Chattahoochee River (CR) in March; m and f N. Orioles still around their place as of March 29. Sue Chambliss still had Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, as of April 9. Wood Ducks have been noted near Columbus College's Turner Center and traveling across Lindsay Creek Bypass - Warm Springs Road intersection. Canada Geese have paired off and an Orchard Oriole was seen at Callaway Gardens - May newsletter.

THE FALL LINE - OCMULGEE AS - MACON -- Field trip report - L Tobesofkee - 36 species, including Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, E. Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow- May newsletter.

Summer Tanagers, Green Herons are in the area with a N. Parula W, Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Indian Springs. The Great Crested Flycatcher arrived on schedule April 23 at T. P. Haines's. Emily and Emory Rumble brought a Ruby-throated Hummingbird with a broken wing to a meeting for all to see. The Prentice Edwards have been caring for the bird for 10 days.

BIRDING ABOUT - WITHLACOOCHEE WATCHERS - VALDOSTA -- A Bald Eagle* has often been seen soaring around Ocean Pond - A flock of gulls spent most of February-March there - April newsletter. N. Orioles were last noted at area feeders March 29. An Osprey* was seen April 8 - Ken George viewed Prothonotary, Prairie Hooded Ws April 3, 4. At Grassy Pond on April 6 a Barred Owl was listed and Clyde Connell found two com. Loons* on the borrow pond in Echols Co. plus many warblers on the banks of the Alapaha R April 13.

Fifty species were listed on the west side of Valdosta April 22, including Blue Grosbeak, Pine W. April 29 found us looking at 1,000 Bobolink in an oat field north of Moody Air Force Base - 500 more were watched in another grain field. At Shiwer Pond in Grand Bay, we saw a f Ruby-throated Hummingbird on a nest; com. Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated W, Indigo Bunting, Hooded W were enjoyed.

Jim Ingram discovered a baby Loggerhead Shrike out of the nest May 6. He fed it a grasshopper and a tree frog. An adult flew nervously about but did not try to interfere. Evening Grosbeaks were at a feeder in Statenville the week of April 16-22. Virginia and Bill Culpepper, Ken and Lucy George observed an albino Mockingbird on a nest on Breckenridge Drive.

THE BIRD-WATCHER - FLOYD COUNTY AS - ROME -- Janis Gomillion saw a Black and White W March 17; George Dorsey lucked upon a Hermit Thrush April 1; Red-eyed Vireo April 2. The field trip of April 9 netted Blue Jay, Cardinal, Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, White-throated Sparrow, pair of E. Bluebirds and Phil Ham got an E. Meadowlark. Continuing on to Lenn Sisson's home we added Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Am. Goldfinch, Carolina Chickadee, Rufous-sided Towhee.

A Cooper's Hawk* was seen by George Dorsey April 15 and he found a Song Sparrow's* nest with three eggs April 11; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher April 16. Rough-winged Swallow, E. Kingbird, Blue-winged W* were recorded on the April 23 trip out Black Buffs and Livingston Roads. At Berry College May 14 nesting Barn Swallows were watched -- about 24 birds and two nests under the car shelter at the Post Office. A male came to relieve the female on the nest so she could feed.

ATLANTA AS -- A field trip to Eufaula NWR turned up 15 Pectoral Sandpiper* February 26 seen by Terry Moore, et al (Editor's Note - Fairly common spring ... and fall ... transient both on coast and in interior; accidental on Jekyll Is 22 December 1970); Osprey*, Orange-crowned W, two Barn Owls*; several hundred Brewer's Blackbirds* also seen by Terry Moore, et al February 26.

Purple Martins arrived early -- Joel Volpi seeing them the first week in February at the "chicken plucking plant" near Pendergrass. Doris Cohrs and Vince Jackson turned in sightings of large numbers of Cedar Waxwings at the March meeting. Doris heard a Solitary Vireo March 11; Billy Pulliam found an almost

completely albino Mockingbird near Paideia School March 6. Terry Moore spotted a Cooper's Hawk* at South R (SR) March 11 and Robert Manns saw one near the High Museum of Art in early March. There have been four reports of Sandhill Cranes* by Carl Bachmann Hugh Garrett, Frank McCamey. Jeff Petit saw 200 flying over his home in Duluth March 11. He mentioned there were quite a few shorebirds moving through the fields near Rogers Bridge.

Spring migration started around the last weekend in March and swelled from a trickle to a dribble as of April 18. Dick Parks et al have observed Great Horned Owls* with one youngster at the CR Park. John Swiderski and Ann Forster heard Prairie and Black-throated Green Ws on the Capitol grounds and Ann spotted an Osprey* lazily drifting north over Murphy Candler L April 8. Chuck-will's-widows were reported from all over April 15. Billy Pulliam had a Black-crowned Night Heron* at Emory University's President's Estate (EPE) April 13, 16. Billy and Dan and Ann Forster led a field trip at the Outdoor Activities Center April 15 finding Ovenbird, Hooded W, Prairie W, White-crowned Sparrow*, Scarlet Tanager.

Most observers commented that migration which should have been in full swing during the latter half of April was both light and late. It wasn't until the last couple of days of April that migrants in any number started showing up. A total of 151 species were reported being seen in the Atlanta area during April. Many of these species were observed on the regular Sunday morning Fernbank walks

A Com. Loon* was seen in full breeding regalia April 30 near Suches by Ann and Dan Forster. Billy Pulliam saw eight Blue-winged Teal at EPE April 13 -- an injured Cattle Egret was discovered in Buckhead April 12, but later died. Jack Carusos found the usual migrating ducks along the CR during April, including Black Duck*, Gadwall*, Am Wigeon, N. Shoveler*. Two Cooper's Hawks* were seen along the SR by Don and Doris Cohrs and Terry Moore April 16. Two Broad-winged Hawks were noted on the Fernbank walk April 2 -- Jack Carusos saw four on this same date north of Atlanta.

An early Com Nighthawk was heard by Trina and Vince Jackson April 10; they saw five on April 13 at Decatur Square. An E. Kingbird was seen near Cumming April 8 -- a Barn Swallow was early at Cumming April 1. Both Long* and Short*-billed Marsh Wrens were noticed by Jack Carusos April 21 in northwest Atlanta. A Veery* was early at Fernbank April 23.

Dick Parks gives us a number of warblers and other migrants from Piedmont Park -- most of them not appearing until April 27 when he saw Orange-crowned*, N. Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean*, Blackpoll, N. Waterthrush, Am. Redstart. Billy Pulliam had an early Blue-winged W* at EPE April 13. Jack Carusos picked up two Cerulean Ws* off Indian Trail April 21. Terrill Soules saw a Chestnut-sided W near his home on 9th Street April 14.

The only House Finch* reported was a male still visiting Bob Raymund's feeder throughout the month - June newsletter. Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were still coming to a number of feeders at the end of April. Terrill Soules watched a Rose-breasted Grosbeak April 19 on 9th Street.

Jean and Pat Bevis spent a weekend (no date or specific place given - Ed.) on the Georgia coast, tallying 118 species, including Glossy Ibis*, Least Bittern, Whip-poor-will*, Bobolink, Long-billed Dowitcher. Jeff Petit and Jack Carusos went on a Big Day (an attempt to see as many species in one day as possible-Ed.) April 22. Starting in northwest Atlanta and ending at Jekyll Is. they counted 139 species with a nice flock of 15 Marbled Godwit* and many Whimbrel on JI.

AUGUSTA AS -- Two colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers* have been located at Clark Hill (CH) near the Plum Branch area. A third area is being checked out; indications are the birds are there.

The City of Augusta continues to expand toward Tobacco Road Ridge one of the two known locations of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers* in Richmond Co. The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) environmental impact statement on the proposed Peppridge Subdivision contained no indication that this endangered species is on the site. Gerald Knighton and Clarence Belger wrote to HUD advising them of an endangered species in the subdivision and requesting compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Gerald examined this new colony site April 23, reporting at least two and possibly three birds present.

Eleanor (Morris) Haddens tells of a flock of 12 m Purple Finches at her CH home March 4. Two Com. Redpolls* were reported at Karl Herde's feeder in late February (a Georgia record? - Ed.) Jeannine Angerman observed Greater Yellowlegs, Com Snipe, Marsh Hawk at Merry Ponds (MP) March 21.

Field trip notes -- March 18 - Heggie's Rock - Red-cockaded Woodpecker*, Sharp-shinned Hawk*; April 9 - 58 species - Prothonotary W. April 16 - 54 species - Double-crested Cormorant*, two dozen Upland Sandpiper*, Spotted Sandpiper -- a Red-shouldered Hawk has taken over his last year's nest on Lover's Lane. April 22 - migrants were pouring through - five Mississippi Kites, fairly early date, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, House Wrens* singing; 10 Red-tailed Hawks, Barred Owl, large flock of Bobolink. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were found in a wet weather pond by the hundreds.

At MP an Osprey* and Am Bittern were sighted April 14. J.P. and Helen Speltz report the first Wood Thrush April 6. Gerald Knighton spied a Laughing Gull* April 1; Vivian Poindexter saw a Short-eared Owl* March 31.

February 27 Jack Cooper received a call from Sam Pursley at Georgia Regional Hospital about a pair of parrot-like birds on the premises. Jack and Lee Gibbs investigated but found nothing. Bill and Lee Gibbs on March 1 located the Monk Parakeet in an elm tree eating mistletoe seeds.

Mrs. Walter Brumbeloe has reported parrot-like birds building in an abandoned squirrel's nest in her yard. Anne Waters continues -- by all indications the pair in the Brumbeloe's yard in Apple Valley are actively nesting. Up until March 25, the pair was always seen together usually feeding actively on the State Hospital lawn or building the nest. Now only one at a time is seen, the other remaining on the nest. One bird, the male I assume, often perches just outside the nest. On occasion the perched bird tried to fly off, only to be recalled by the bird on the nest. April 15 one started coming to my feeder, eating the smaller seeds, coming at least once each day. One thing I noticed -- the feet are dusty blue.

Bluebird Trail Report -- As of April 18, seven out of 14 boxes were occupied; Five eggs were in six boxes; one box has five two-day old young. Two boxes held Carolina Chickadee nests. One box held a nest begun by a Tufted Titmouse, then an E. Bluebird started building on the titmouse foundation -- three titmouse (titmice?-Ed.) were found. Another bluebird nest held three titmouse eggs.

THE KINGFISHER -- CHEROKEE AS - DALTON -- The field trip of April 19 brought to light a Blue-winged W*. Mary Meidinger tells us she saw 10 Solitary Sandpiper May 3 in a pasture near her home. An Am. Kestrel killed a f E. Bluebird, leaving the male to finish raising four young. The male took on the responsibility of rearing the young -- two died, two fledged. Wyatt Bruce, home on leave from the U. S. Army, gives us a Red-headed Woodpecker at Eton May 3; near Chatsworth Greater Yellowlegs - 3; Least Sandpiper; Yellow W-20. On Ft. Mtn May 4 Cooper's Hawk* - Olive-sided Flycatcher* Ga. Hwy 2 near Prater's Mill May 9 at the top of a dead tree.

Ann Hamilton records a small wave of migrants including Cape May W, Blackpoll W, Scarlet Tanager April 24. A Tennessee W showed up April 25, a Blue Grosbeak April 26; Veery* May 2; Canada W May 4.

On one of her Breeding Bird Survey routes, she lucked upon a singing Dickcissel* June 3. Jean and Harry White, Delano, and David Crowe, Harriett DiGioia and Anne saw and heard the bird on June 5, located two miles east of I-75 on Red Bud Road near Calhoun, Gordon Co.

Harriett Di Gioia - Dalton sightings -- Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush April 24; Veery* May 2; Marsh Hawk seen with Wyatt Bruce, May 6 - rather late.

Sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest, Murray and Fannin Cos. -- Harriett Di Gioia. At Millstone Cr and Release Cutting/Game Plot. FSRd 18 Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireo; Prothonotary W, Golden-winged W*, N. Parula W, Black-throated Blue W, Blackburnian W, Prairie W, Hooded W, Scarlet Tanager -- a definite wave of birds April 20. FS Rd 17, Black Mtn Clear-Cut-Worm-eating W, Tennessee W, Black-throated Green W, Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting with a Sharp-shinned Hawk*, Yellow-throated W at the Cohutta Work Center - another wave April 25. Tibbs Trail - FS Rd 78 - Release Cutting/Game Plot - Ruby-throated Hummingbird, House Wren*-2 singing, E. Wood

Pewee, N. Waterthrush - wave on May 3. Another wave was observed in this same area May 9.

Solitary Vireo on nest Camping Loop B, Lake Conasauga Recreation Area on the Songbird Management Area (SMA) May 7, 10; nest deserted as of May 17. Scarlet Tanager building nest at intersection of FS Rds 630 and 17 May 11; Olive-sided Flycatcher* singing at Millstone Release Cutting May 16; Cooper's Hawk* - 2 FS Rd 68 May 17. Red-shouldered Hawk nest with three almost fledged young and adult coming in to feed FS Rd 17 June 6; Yellow-billed Cuckoo-2 with food in bills Tibbs Trail Release Cutting - a total of five seen/heard June 13; Chestnut-sided Ws singing - one in clear-cut FS 49; one in tornado/burn damage/ game plot area FS 68 June 20; one on Tearbitches Trail, Cohutta Wilderness Area June 22; family groups of Black and White Ws and Blackburnian Ws Lake Conasauga Recreation Area on the SMA June 24. A Dark-eyed Junco was seen along side Ga. Hwy 2 May 31. Red-tailed Hawk nest with two ready-to-fly young FS Rd 68 June 26.

A N. Parula W sang all during breeding season May 19-July 2 at Bear Creek Hunt Camp FS Rd 126. Golden-winged* and Blue-winged* Ws sang side by side April 25 at Black Mtn Release Cutting; Am Coots were sighted in late April - early May on the elevations - one a quarter of a mile from Youther Cr; the other a mile from Emery Cr at Rocky Face Mtn. Turkey and Ruffed Grouse have been seen with eggs/young - Worm-eating Ws sang during breeding season from numerous ravines with 13 records between May 16 - June 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -- Gerald Kahan writes from Athens - "I found a baby Wood Thrush in downtown Athens in the asphalt jungle about April 15. Can't imagine where he came from since he wasn't flyable. I put him in the University (of Georgia) gardens and saw him finally down a large green caterpillar after three tries so I guess he'll be o.k."

Richard Kuerzi from Folkston -- "The great invasion of Evening Grosbeaks was the greatest. They arrived on January 21 with only a few individuals, peaked at a local feeder at 50 plus. Two females were still present April 24.

Purple Finch invasion was the finest with many fully plumaged red males. Toward the end of March, a few were heard to sing full songs.

A Black Skimmer* at the sill, southwest corner of Okefenokee Swamp on January 13 by Ranger Curtis Johnston, who made a beautiful color photo of the bird. (Editor's Note -- Common permanent resident on coast, breeds; accidental in interior in Ben Hill Co. 13 September 1964 and at Augusta spring 1888 (specimen), 13 May 1976.) A Merlin* on February 21 was good for our area.

I feel the following birds were in low numbers this past winter -- Sparrows - Chipping, Vesper, Savannah, White-throated; Cardinal; E. Meadowlark; Mockingbird; House Sparrow; Starling; Com. Flicker; Am. Kestrel; Marsh Hawk; Tree Swallow; Com. Snipe; Short-billed Marsh Wren; Am. Robin; Pine Siskin, Waterfowl."

Grace Boddiford reports from Screven Co -- Am Robins have been seen in three different locations. A m and f in her yard June 15, 16, 17. Christine Newton says she has a pair nesting at her home in Hiitonia; Virginia Miller mentions she has a pair nesting at her place in Sylvania.

NEWS OF PEOPLE -- The death of J. Fred Denton April 2, 1978 will leave a void in GOS. He was charter member, past president, past editor of The Oriole, contributed to Georgia Birds by Thomas D. Burleigh; assembled the original Pocket Checklist Georgia Birds and chaired the new Annotated Checklist Georgia Birds. Also, he was active in other birding organizations. He will be missed in GOS; he will be remembered for his mark on Georgia birding. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

Vaughn and Beth Morrison moved on June 1 to Poughkeepsie, New York.

Travelers -- Mabel Faulkner journeyed to Hawaii for a week last spring; Tony and Edna Criscuolo went on a week's museum tour of New York City; Gerald Kahan spent six weeks in London, England. Carl Bachmann ventured down the west coast of Florida from Tampa to Key West in late February - early March. He noted Wood Storks - "they looked like lazy old bums hanging around interstates" and was encouraged to see large numbers of Brown Pelicans; plus five Osprey nests in a 15-mile stretch.

Louis Schweizer visited Weslaco, Texas, December 24 - January 2, going to Santa Ana and Laguna Atacosa NWRs - Santa Ana being favored. At Santa Ana Chachalaca were everywhere; Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Kiskadee Flycatchers were watched. Laguna Atacosa - Reddish Egret, Golden-fronted Woodpecker. King Ranch - Caracara, Vermillion Flycatcher, Brewer's Sparrow.

Sam Pate at Alligator Point, Florida, in May found two White-rumped Sandpipers; two Wilson's Phalaropes at St. Mark's NWR and on May 13 a large young Bald Eagle hanging around a nest with an adult perched nearby.

MISCELLANEOUS -- A graduate student at Ohio State University released 200 strawberry blond blackbirds among the millions of Com. Grackles, Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, Starlings which annually roost near Milan, Tennessee. As blackbirds are long-ranging, watch for blonds and report them to Steve White, Biology Department, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY -- Of all the everyday plants of this earth, grass is the least pretentious and the most important to mankind. It clothes the earth in an unmistakable way. Grass is simplicity itself. Not the simplicity of the uncomplicated unicellular life of stagnant water, but specialized simplicity in the fields ... perfect for its purpose and found almost everywhere that plants can grow. Hal Borland.

(Harriett G. Di Gioia, Editor
U. S. Forest Service
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Chatsworth, Georgia 30705)

REGULAR FALL MEETING

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

OCTOBER 13-14-15, 1978

Come to western Georgia for the fall migration -- waterfowl and shorebirds, hawks and possibly an eagle. A fine weekend of birding and companionship is planned by Columbus birders under leadership of Sam Pate.

FRIDAY

5:30 pm. Registration
7:30 pm. Program (to be announced)

Columbus Museum of Arts and Sciences
1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus

SATURDAY

7:00 am. Field Trips

Eufaula Wildlife Refuge
Cooper Creek Park
Red-cockaded Woodpecker Area
Goat Rock Dam Area

3:00 pm. Business Meeting

Ralston Towers
211 12th Street
Columbus, Ga.

7:00 pm. Dinner

Program

Dr. James Milton, Auburn University
"Raptor Rehabilitation"

SUNDAY

7:00 am. Field Trips

Same areas as Saturday repeated

11:00 am. Countdown

Cooper Creek Park, Columbus

REGISTRATION

\$3.00 per person Please send in advance to:

Mrs. F. J. Spencer
2007 Poplar Drive
Columbus, Ga. 31906
Tel. (404) 322-1538

List of lodgings will be mailed to members in September, to make your own reservations with the motel or hotel of your choice.

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