

# THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

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

December 31, 1978

THE GOSHAWK SAYS--- Welcome to these new members--- Richard Kneisel, Atlanta; Norman Yeager, Moultrie; Susan Bumbarger, Atlanta; Karen Fay, Cartersville; Stephen Schmeiser, Atlanta; W. W. McEver, Jr., M.D., Warner Robbins; Ralph and Ann Woldt, Savannah; Robert Manns, Atlanta; Frederick and Peggy Spencer, Columbus; David Engle, Atlanta; Martha Lesser, Chamblee; Terrill Soules, Atlanta; William Sherrer, Marietta; Mark Gabriel, Statesboro; Jeff Dixon, Dalton.

We also extend our welcome to a new library--Reese Library at Augusta College, Augusta, and to a foundation patron--The Daugherty Foundation of Jackson.

GOS is fortunate to have various categories--students through patrons, plus libraries and schools--on our membership roll. Each new member adds to GOS's potential to bring birding and nature awareness to the general public; GOS enriches each member's life.

EDITORIAL COMMENT-- Fall and early winter birding in the state was good, good, good. Migrants passed through in numbers; rarities and uncommons were discovered. All of Georgia seems to have hosted many birds winging their way to warmer climes.

It is a different story with winter birds. Evening Grosbeak, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Fox Sparrow, so far, have been seen in slim numbers, with no Pine Siskins reported. Ruby-crowned Kinglets apparently have recouped their population after a winter die-off. Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglets apparently, from reports received, are moderate in their numbers.

In my hometown of Dalton, these birds seem to be in lower numbers; while on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest, 22 miles east of Dalton, the aforementioned birds were listed in numbers, especially Juncos. It is hard to assess the status of these "common" birds as newsletters and correspondents do not generally report them. Upcoming results of Christmas Bird Counts will give us a clue to the abundance of winter birds in Georgia.

Rarities, uncommon sightings, included Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Pendergrass, Jekyll Island, Cumberland Island, Savannah. Many White Ibis were spotted on the coast and coastal plain, but two were sighted in the interior mountains of Northwest Georgia. Sandhill Cranes came over in good numbers. A Golden Plover turned up at Columbus on the GOS weekend, adding interest to the gathering. Philadelphia Vireos were reported in the greatest number since this newsletter began. A Cinnamon Teal again surfaced at Augusta.

Whistling Swans were listed from Augusta to Rome to Sumter County and over to Savannah. Least Flycatchers were present; a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was listed from Columbus. House Wrens, Nashville and Wilson's Warblers were sprinkled over the state. Black Scoters were off the coast, Western Kingbirds at Jekyll Island. Peregrine Falcons were seen on Cumberland, Jekyll, Tybee Islands; Bald Eagle sightings came from Jekyll Island, Carter's Dam, Savannah, Talbot County. Wilson's Phalarope in Sumter County; Glossy Ibis at Augusta round out the outstanding birds for the autumn-early winter season.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS-- The fall meeting at Columbus, hosted by the Columbus Audubon Society, was short on attendance (47 registrants), but long on birds, fellowship, excellent programs.

111 species were listed, including White Ibis\*, Northern Shoveler\*, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk\*, Cooper's Hawk\*, Sora, Golden Plover\*, (still retaining some of its summer plumage), Western Sandpiper\*, Barn Owl\*, Red-cockaded Woodpecker\*, Tree Swallow\*, Philadelphia Vireo\*.

Sam Pate's Friday night special-- "Nature-Sam Pate Style" was excellent and informative. Dr. James Milton, veterinarian surgeon and inspiration of the Raptor Rehabilitation Program at Auburn University, gave a stimulating and thought-provoking program "Raptor Rehabilitation". This dealt with the treatment of wild birds of prey. Case histories, slides of broken/smashed bones and wounds all pointed up the difficulties of working with wild birds. Lack of funds, time-consuming factors, lack of sufficient knowledge of birds of prey, plus the unknown variables inherent in each patient, adds up to a rather bleak outcome. Dr. Milton has had successes among his raptor patients. Two senior students exhibited four convalescing patients--Golden Eagle, Barred Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Screech Owl. The plumages of these birds at close range was unbelievable.

An anticipated event was the awarding of the fourth Earle R. Greene Memorial Award to the person doing the most to promote ornithology in Georgia. Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., was the deserving recipient. Milton has done much to aid birding in our state--a past editor of The Oriole, author of The Birds of Ben Hill County and Adjacent Areas, co-editor of the Pocket Check-list of Georgia Birds and the new Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, all around good birder. Our congratulations to you, Milton!

Valdosta is calling! Spring meeting will be held at Valdosta April 20, 21 and 22, hosted by the Withlacoochee Watchers. This is the first time ever GOS has held a meeting in Valdosta. Wouldn't you like to be in on a first-time happening? Circle that weekend; reserve it for birding and GOS fellowship. Spring migration should be good in the south-eastern portion of our state. See you there!

HELP! Says Terry Moore. He is planning a Blitz Day to be conducted this summer. 'Tis his plan to spend a day in a predetermined location (not yet chosen) in an attempt to analyze, in depth, the bird population (breeding in this time period). This will be a one-day stand and reward you with a pleasant day outdoors, a hand in a scientific effort, fellowship with GOSers. How about it? Interested? Please contact Terry Moore, 2699 Twiggs Circle, Marietta, GA 30067, or phone him at 404-952-5952.

1st Vice President Franklin McCamey writes this important message:

#### HOW DO WE RUN A BIRD CLUB?

The Columbus meeting in October was a delightful occasion -- good weather, fine program, fellowship among birders. Attendance was light because of competing attractions, but those present enjoyed the weekend.

GOS meets only twice a year, and there are always important matters to be discussed in a business session. But members do not attend the business meetings. Why?

This is YOUR society, existing only to facilitate group support of bird study in Georgia and provide for pleasant exchange of information in social gatherings. YOU must participate in the management of YOUR society if its programs are going to be what you want.

We have about 500 members in Georgia, but only 11, including 5 officers, attended the business meeting in Columbus. At Fontana, almost 200 GOS members were present and the business session drew less than 15. Any club that has input from only 2 or 3 percent of its voting members cannot know the needs of its membership or provide activities of interest to them.

Please let us know why you do not attend the business meetings and what we should do to get you there. We want the GOS to serve its members and support birding in Georgia -- can you tell us how to do it?

BIRD NEWS-- Records listed in this newsletter are largely unchecked and do not constitute an official sighting. Publication of these records is intended to bring interesting sightings to the attention of the membership and to remind them to be alert for unusual species in the areas indicated.

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

AUGUSTA AS -- Field trip results -- 2 September at the Lock and Dam (L&D) and Farmer's Field (FF) - Snowy Egret\*, Louisiana Heron\*, Glossy Ibis\*, Little Blue Heron, Kentucky W, White Ibis\*, swarms of Bank Swallows\*. 16 September - L&D, FF - Am Kestrel\*-3, Am Redstart, N Waterthrush, Magnolia W, N Parula W, Black-and-White W, Chestnut-sided W, Yellow-throated Vireo-2.

October (no date-Ed.) Least Sandpiper-50, Great Egret-15, Sparrows - White-throated, Savannah, Chipping, Swamp. 8 November - Merry Ponds (MP) - The big sighting of the day was a M Cinnamon Teal\*, its deep rufous body gleaming in the sunlight. A hybrid? Cinnamon Teal stayed in the ponds for two/three months last winter. (Editor's Note: Not on official or hypothetical lists for Georgia.) Also Sparrows - Vesper and Field; im White Ibis\*, a few Greater Yellowlegs, Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Am Wigeon, N Shoveler\*, Blue-winged Teal. At the fairgrounds bordering 4th Street, 1200-1500 Brown-headed Cowbirds were observed gorging themselves on spilled corn from recently removed popcorn vending machines.

2 December - MP- Whistling Swan\*-7, Great Egret-9; the swans sub-arctic birds; the egrets sub-tropical birds and the twain did meet at MP; Canvasback\*, Redhead\*, Pintail\*, White Ibis\*, and a procrastinating Spotted Sandpiper (Editor's Note: 3 November 1929...a few in winter...), Dark-eyed Junco, the first Fox Sparrow of the season (and one of the few reported for the state-Ed.), Belted Kingfisher, numerous Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Carolina and Winter Wrens, Cedar Waxwing; Hawks - Red-tailed, Marsh, Sharp-shinned. Gerald Knighton spotted a Cormorant (Double-crested\*-Ed.) on his way home.

FIELD NOTES -- Clarence Belger brings the following sightings to our attention. 25 September - Swallows: Bank\*, Tree\*, Barn, Rough-winged, plus a Snowy Egret\*, and Cape May W\* at FF. He watched an unusually colored thrush with spots on its breast - one he'd never seen before. An ad Veery\* came out of the underbrush and fed the young bird (Veeries do nest on the higher elevations of Georgia. No date given-Ed.). 1 October a House Wren\* was spotted at Clark Hill (CH) and 13 September he observed a family of rather late Orchard Orioles at CH. On 23 October he saw a Solitary Vireo and Black-throated Green W, Cape May W\*, E Phoebe. 10 October brought a Bay-breasted W; 20 November a dead Barred Owl found about 20 feet from a dead rabbit. Perhaps the owl grabbed the rabbit, then a car got the owl. 1 December a Merlin\* was seen at MP.

John and Helen Hatcher - 17 September found Veery\*-2, Red-eyed Vireo, Am Robins, Hermit Thrush (Editor's Note: 4 October 1926) in their yard. They report their sprinkler is a real drawing card for birds. 26 September Black-and-White W, M Black-throated Blue W, Cape May W\*, Least Flycatcher\*, Philadelphia Vireo\*, Swainson's Thrush, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Am Redstart-3-4, Gray-cheeked Thrush\*, Hermit Thrush enjoyed the refreshing water. (Please see sprinkler sightings under Columbus AS news-Ed.) 30 September, again in his yard, E Wood Pewee, Least Flycatcher\* (same bird?-Ed.), Wood Thrush; 4 October - Magnolia and Orange-crowned Ws; 5-6 October - Worm-eating W, Hooded W, Blackburnian W. 11 October - im White-eyed Vireo.

Gerald Knighton and Clarence Belger, 19 November, sighted Com Loon\*-2 on the Georgia side of the Savannah R. Fielding Dillard alerted Augusta ASers to Whistling Swans\*-6, 5 ad, 1 im, on Swan Pond (very apt locale-Ed.). They arrived on the ponds sometime during a steady rain that day (same birds as on above field trip?-Ed.).

THE FALL LINE - OCMULGEE AS - MACON -- Richard Lux reports a Nashville W\* (no date, from November newsletter-Ed.). On the Ocmulgee R, across from the Hitchiti Experimental Forest, 17 November, Rose Marie and Hunter Johnson saw Red-cockaded Woodpecker\*-3. The Parkers, 23 November, spied a Red-cockaded Woodpecker\* at their feeder.

BIRDING ABOUT - WITHLACOOCHEE WATCHERS - VALDOSTA -- Winging in lately have been Yellow-rumped W, Pine W, Orange-crowned W, Bay-breasted W\*, Am Kestrel, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and more woodpeckers than ever. A Pileated Woodpecker landed in M. E. Crago's bird bath, virtually filling it. (From November newsletter-Ed.)

THE BIRD-WATCHER - FLOYD COUNT AS - ROME -- On our last field trip to Battey State Experimental Farm, we listed Red-tailed Hawks-1; Am Kestrel-1; Bobwhite-14; Com Flicker-1; Red-headed Woodpecker-1; E Phoebe-1; Blue Jay-2; Gray Catbird-1; E Bluebird-11; Starling-3; Palm W-2; Cardinal-1; Blue Grosbeak-1 F; Chipping Sparrow-4; Field Sparrow-1. The Kestrel was annoying the perched Red-tailed Hawk. Mary Elizabeth Smith found an Ovenbird lying dead on the sidewalk in downtown Rome. (From 16 October newsletter-Ed.)

Bryan Eberhart found Magnolia W and Yellow-throated W on his home grounds; George Dorsey sighted Savannah Sparrow-5 on 14 October and tells of seeing a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Swamp Sparrow. Lenn Sisson and George went to Paris L at Floyd Junior College 29 October, finding Pied-billed Grebe-2; Am Wigeon-284 M, 161 F; Marsh Hawk-1; Killdeer-3; Com Snipe-3; Mockingbird-2; E Meadowlark-7; Rusty Blackbird-47; Com Grackle-150 plus. Bob Todd tells us there has been a Whistling Swan\* at Padgett L for the last several weeks (from 11 December newsletter-Ed.).

THE OBSERVER - COLUMBUS AS -- Reaching way back to June for a sighting inadvertently left out of the September GOSHawk, Jerry Turner sighted ad Bald Eagle\*-2 about eight miles from the Flint R in northeast Talbot Co 7 June.

Continuing the sprinklers-bring-birds-to-your-yard theme started in the Augusta section, sprinklers in the yards of Peggy Spencer and Jane Knight brought in N Parula W, Black-and-White W, Canada W, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Summer Tanager, Am Redstart, E Phoebe, E Wood Pewee, F Ruby-throated Hummingbird (from October newsletter-Ed.).

Sam Pate journeyed over to Jekyll Is. (JI) 11 November, checking off incredible numbers of Tree Swallows\* everywhere. Think of the billions of insects required to keep up the anabolism of millions of swallows. Among the winter visitors to this resort area were several Black Scoters\*, many Red Knots, Black Skimmers by the dozen; a dozen Oystercatchers and hordes of "ordinary" shorebirds and gulls. Tremendous numbers of birds were counted. Sea Is., 12 November, hosted huge concentrations of gulls and terns.

Sightings of interest - Canada and Hooded Ws 23 September, Swainson's Thrush 18 October by Grace Martin. On 1 October, Steve Butler got 12 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in view at the same time; Bob Grier reports that as of 22 September there were plenty of Cattle Egrets still around the Seale to Columbus area. Sam Pate brings a Brown Creeper 10 October, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, many Yellow-rumped Ws 12 October, Black-billed Cuckoo\* 25 October to our attention. He tells that on 29 September there was an abundance of warblers at Callaway Gardens. Great Horned\*, Screech, Barred Owls were heard west of the Gardens. On one night, Barred Owl-4 showed up in response to calls.

One of the few Red-breasted Nuthatches reported in this issue was seen by Florence Lynn 30 October. She also records Golden-crowned Kinglets, Harris Co (HC), 30 October; Dark-eyed Junco 7 November; Purple Finch, HC, 17 November. A Brewer's Blackbird\* was viewed by Thelma Dawson 20 November.

On 11 November, Sam Pate noted an achievement that certainly should rank very high in the annals of Am Kestrel weight lifting. A few miles east of Statesboro a very pretty dead Com Flicker was found lying in the middle of U. S. 80. A small M Am Kestrel sank its tiny talons into the flicker's chest and flew a short distance with the hefty weight.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY CLUB - COLUMBUS - Mike Fuller got a Blackpoll W\* 7 September and a Stilt Sandpiper\* 8 September, while Florence Lynn saw a Worm-eating W 13 September.

In Vol. VI, No. 1, Page 3 this newsletter, a sighting of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by Dr. Brill in Columbus was reported. On 29 September, Harriett Meadows was backing out of her driveway, casually noticing low flying Chimney Swifts, when suddenly a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher\* darted in front of her windshield, captured an insect, spread his tail and flew away. (Possibly the same bird?-Ed.) Sue Chambliss found a Swainson's Thrush and an Am Redstart in her yard 30 September.

ATLANTA AS - Richard Parks reported on the progress of 12 nests he was watching for the Cornell Nest Records Program and noted successful hatchings of Song Sparrows\*, Cardinals, Com Flickers, Brown Thrashers, Blue Jays. Of six Wood Thrush nests, one was abandoned, one contained three unhatched eggs, four resulted in the hatching of Brown-headed Cowbird eggs.

The Mt. Oglethorpe Hawk Watch of 24 September was fogged out. Warblers were noted along with an im Ruby-throated Hummingbird. An extended trip to Pendergrass produced im White Ibis\*, Wood Ducks, E Bluebird; Least, Pectoral, Buff-breasted\* Sandpiper. (Please see more detailed write-up further on in Atlanta news-Ed.)

August Field Notes - An im Yellow-crowned Night Heron\*, im Little Blue Heron-6; im White Ibis\*-8 were seen at Wayne's Poultry Plant (WPP) near Pendergrass 11 August by Joel Volpi. Two im Yellow-crowned Night Herons\* were seen in Piedmont Park (PP) 18 August by Richard Parks. Terry Moore discovered Cattle Egrets-21 and a Great Egret at the Regional Hospital during a driving rainstorm 27 August; while Richard Parks noted Great Egret-2 at PP 24 August, one was found dead later on. (One of the Great Egrets Terry saw?-Ed.) Joel Volpi at WPP 31 August found a Great Egret.

Hawk News - Billy Pulliam saw at least one Broad-winged throughout late August and two on 28 August at Emory University's President's Estate (EPE). Nesting is suspected in the general area. He spotted a Red-shouldered in the area 28 August. Jeff Petit and Joel Volpi mention seeing Cooper's\* and Joel reports Sharp-shinned\* to be returning to Atlanta in late August. Only one Osprey\* was listed, Frank McCamey watching one at L Hartwell 15 August. An early Marsh was sighted by Vince Jackson 8 August along I-285 near Northlake Mall. Not to be outdone, Trina Jackson saw an Am Kestrel downtown Atlanta. Whether this one is resident or migrant is unknown.

Twelve Sandhill Cranes\* were observed by Don, Doris Cohrs 6 August between Cartersville and Cedartown. Since most migrants don't appear around here until late October and November, these birds might be wanderers from the south, though they could be early migrants.

11 August at WPP Joel Volpi checked off Sandpipers - Pectoral, White-rumped\* (Editor's Note: 14 August 1949), Least, Spotted, Solitary; plus a dowitcher\* which may have been a Long-billed. Jeff Petit in mid-August sent in the observation of a roost of about 5000 Mourning Doves near Howell Station, Atlanta.

Com Nighthawks, one of the most spectacular of the bird migrants through Atlanta, were recorded - Terry Moore got 46 on 29 August; Mary Ann Vernocy saw 12 same date; Vince and Trina Jackson observed 30-40 on 31 August. The nighthawks move silently either as singles or in small flocks, starting to fly about 30 minutes to an hour before sunset and generally at about 150 feet.

Warblers made big news as small numbers of migrants started appearing. Billy Pulliam and Richard Parks kept tracks of migrants at EPE and PP respectively and recorded a total of 17 species. Worm-eating were seen at EPE 22, 23 August and in PP on 18, 21, 25 August. Golden-wings at EPE 26 August, PP on 18, 31 August. Yellow in PP on 21, 31 August, with Ceruleans\* on 8, 13, 21 August and N Waterthrush at PP on 28 August, ending with Canadas 21, 22, 31 August at PP. Jeff Petit got a Tennessee on 22 August (26 August, 1978 - Cohutta Ranger District-Ed.) near Duluth.

23 September White Ibis\*-4 at Pendergrass seen by Richard Parks and one im\* over Terry Moore's house 17 September. Rarer ducks at Pendergrass 17 September included a N Shoveler\* listed by Jeff Petit and a Green-winged Teal\* seen by Billy Pulliam.

The best count of Broad-winged Hawks was 300 plus on 17 September counted by Elmer Butler (no location given-Ed.). Mississippi Kites were spotted on the coast 28, 29 September and a Peregrine Falcon\* was viewed 30 September at Tybee Is by Robert Manns and Jean Bevis.

Mary Ann Vernocy observed Ruffed Grouse-2 on 23 September near Rabun Bald (U.S. Forest Service land-Ed.). Sandhill Cranes\*-4 were watched migrating through northeast Habersham Co on 25 September by Frank McCamey. The rarest bird of the month was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper\* discovered by Jack Carusos at Pendergrass 16 September. It was subsequently seen by many observers at least through 26 September. (Editor's Note: Rare fall transient on and near coast...three inland sightings. This is the same bird as reported at the beginning of the Atlanta news.) Two more were found again by Jack on JI 22 September.

Screech Owls were widely reported from urban areas and a Barred Owl was heard on 11 September at the new Johns Sanctuary, recently acquired by Atlanta AS, reported by Mary Ann Vernocy. Flycatchers went through virtually unrecorded. A Nashville W\* was found at Cumming 26 September by Jack Carusos and a M Wilson's W\* appeared in Terry Moore's backyard 16 September.

N Orioles\* were seen in above-average numbers, especially by Richard Parks in PP during September with the largest total being seven on 9 September. Good numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with a high of 15 seen by Billy Pulliam at EPE. Also at EPE, Billy spied a White-throated Sparrow 30 September (Editor's Note: 5 October 1943); Savannah Sparrows were at Pendergrass 24 September noticed by Mary Ann Vernocy.

October Field Notes - A flock of 5 Com Loons\* were noticed flying over Terry Moore's house 29 October. On a banding trip to JI, several flocks of migrating Great Blue Herons were watched arriving from the northwest at a great height by Terry, Don and Doris Cohrs, Vince Jackson. Joel Volpi found an early Black Scoter\* from Cumberland Is (CI) - one on 10 October, 50 plus on 12 October (Editor's Note: 9 November 1974).

Joel Volpi banded Peregrine Falcons on CI this fall with not as impressive results as last year. He saw 29 and banded 6. Other banding sites reported good catches so the low number on CI were attributed to poor Peregrine weather. Other sightings of these falcons are given by Joe Greenberg - one on 9 October, one on 10 October at JI (same bird? Ed.). An Osprey\* was discovered by Dan and Ann Forster at Sweetwater Cr State Park just west of Atlanta 7 October.

Joe Greenberg found a Buff-breasted Sandpiper\* at the Corps of Engineers fill area at Savannah 8 October and Joel Volpi saw up to five during his stay on CI. A Great Black-backed Gull\* was recorded by Dan and Ann Forster from the Ossabaw Dock 28 October.

Jeff Petit watched 5000 plus Chimney Swifts from Roger's Bridge 8 October. A Winter Wren was listed by Richard Parks in PP 5 October. Philadelphia Vireos\* were watched by Joe Greenberg 7 October at the Savannah RNWR. A M Wilson's W\* was in PP according to Richard Parks 23 October. He had a total of 26 species of warblers in PP during the fall, including a high of 40 Tennessee 13 October.

A banding sojourn to JI 8-15 October by Don and Doris Cohrs, Terry Moore and various "band aides" netted 369 individuals of 41 species, including 18 species of warblers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sharp-shinned Hawk\*, Philadelphia Vireo\*, N Oriole\*, Gray-cheeked Thrush\* were among the species banded. A Western Kingbird\* put in two appearances or maybe it was two different birds. On several occasions the passage of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks\* reached peaks of over 100 per day. The weekly total for them was 300-350. Peregrine Falcon\*-7 were sighted along with good numbers of Merlins\* and Am Kestrels. To their surprise, House Sparrows were observed migrating from JI to CI on 10 October.

The most interesting Am Kestrel sighting was by Trina Jackson who spotted one flying inside the pool building at the JI Convention Center. With the aid of a clever hawk trap and a store-bought white mouse, the falcon was enticed to pounce on the prey only to find his feet entangled in a waiting snare. He was quickly retrieved and released outside. The mouse was unharmed.

THE KINGFISHER - CHEROKEE AS - DALTON -- Dalton's fall migration seems to have been off. Anne Hamilton, Harriett Di Gioia, Delano Crowe not counting as many migrants as usual. Norene Boring mentioned on a few days she had a nice number of warblers in her trees.

Harriett Di Gioia reports the fall migration through the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest, was excellent with hundreds of birds waving through the Black-Yellow-Birch forest in the elevations. Birds came through in such numbers it was impossible to identify them all. Tennessee Ws, especially, were seen in the hundreds. Could it be the migrants swung to the east of Dalton passing over the Cohutta Mtns to harvest the heavy outbreak of caterpillars found in the birch trees?

The crop of immature birds, notably E Wood Pewee, Black-throated Green W, Chestnut-sided W, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee seen in September-October was most rewarding. This has been a good raising year for Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite, Turkey, due, in part, to the dry spring.

Bob and Helen Dennard on Valley Drive in Dalton had an Am Woodcock for about two weeks in their yard. Anne Hamilton saw it 7 October. Harry White mentions hearing 20 Canada Geese and 25-30 Evening Grosbeaks passing over his house approximately 23 October. Delano Crowe, in Chatsworth, looked up 30 October to see Turkey Vulture-82 flying abreast in a south-westerly direction. (There's a vulture roost at Carter's Dam-Ed.) Lois and Mary Meidinger tell of Am Kestrel hanging around their bird feeders. (Hawks are increasingly turning to feeders for easy pickings-Ed.)

Resource Manager Joe Blackmon of Carter's Dam turns in the sighting of a mature Bald Eagle\* 13 June and a possible im sighting 16 August both in the Reregulation Dam area, Gilmer Co.

Harriett Di Gioia, Dalton, records Black-throated Green W 23 September, im Nashville W\* and Magnolia W 30 September. Am Wigeon-20 Thread Mill Lake (TML), House Wren-2 West Hill Cemetery (WHC) 24 October. Redhead-1 M, 1 F at TML 31 October; Savannah Sparrow WHC 5 November. Frank and Harriett watched Turkey Vulture-55 milling about in the sky over Lakeshore Park 31 October. (There's a vulture roost in southwest Whitfield Co-Ed.)

Sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest; Murray and Fannin Cos by Harriett Di Gioia. Palm W Forest Service Road (FSRd) 64 19 September; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Emery Cr Logging Area, FSRd 78 3 October; Winter Wren, Veery\*, Purple Finch FSRd 630 4 October; M and F Cardinals carrying food into thickety area indicating a late nesting, Yellow-rumped W, Jacks R Game Plots, Georgia Hwy 2 5 October; Marsh Hawk Millstone Cr Release Cutting FSRd 18 11 October.

Golden-crowned Kinglet Rice Cr Camp Trail, Cohutta Wilderness, 19 October; Cedar Waxwing FSRd 68, Evening Grosbeak 15 flying over a clear-cut FSRd 49 4 November. Sandhill Crane\*-75 milling about and calling over FSRd 630 at 11:00 a.m. before forming into a scraggly V and heading southeast over Fort Mtn. Forest Service workers told her of seeing/hearing four flocks of "geese" passing over the district about 9:00 a.m. Were they geese or Sandhill Cranes? She noted Sandhill Cranes\*-4 flying over Eton at 7:45 a.m. same date. On 11 December, she felt she heard them in the distance FSRd 51. House Wren\*-3 were noted in the Emery Cr Logging Area FSRd 78 24 November.

From 14 February to 31 November, 1978, 11,390 individuals were recorded by her on the district (108,000 acres). The species count stands at 119 for the district. Some caution needs to be applied to the individual count as overlap occurred when the Timber Site Improvement Crew/Other Work Crews went into an area for a few days.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -- Bill Terrell sends this - 12 October, a Merlin\* north of Gainesville and an Osprey\* at Lake Chatuge. He found a Wilson's W\* in his Atlanta backyard 17 September.

Two White Ibis\* sightings from North Georgia. Clifton Hoffman, Athens, writes - ... On 15 August I saw something I couldn't believe, a im White Ibis\* at our cabin in Fannin Co about seven miles north of Blue Ridge and a couple of miles northwest of Blue Ridge L.

The bird came in about 7:30 p.m. to roost in a maple on the bank of our four acre pond. After a long feather preening exercise the bird crossed the pond to another roost in a Sycamore tree for the night. No sign of the visitor in the morning.

Long decurved beak and immature coloration - quite distinct - were unmistakable. The proximity to Blue Ridge L helps to explain why the bird was there; but, so far inland really threw me.

Jeff Dixon of Dalton has this - "On 5 September 1978, I saw the birds (White Ibis) flying over the La Fayette L from the direction of a swampy over-spill area. They were flying just above the horizon, approximately 10-15 minutes after sundown. There were three at first and one alone about five minutes later.



I watched them through my 7 x 50 binoculars. They were dark in appearance except for the underpart of the wings which were light colored. They had distinctly curved bills and were flying with their necks in an outstretched position." Sighting was made in La Fayette.

Joe Jones, Albany, writes - "On 24 August, 1978, W. C. Holman and Charles Erwin saw a Wilson's Phalarope\* on a pond at the Ellsworth Cattle Ranch. Color slides were taken. (Editor's Note: ...accidental in interior at Atlanta 30 July 1971, Augusta 1 June 1975 (photograph), 13-16 September 1962 and Eufaula NWR 13 April 1975.)

"Charles Erwin, 21 November, saw three ad Whistling Swans\* on a pond at the Ellsworth Cattle Ranch in Sumter Co. Next day, 22 November, W. C. Holman, Charles, myself went to the ranch and found them still there. W. C. Holman got good photographs.

"The third brood of Barn Owls\* are now going strong in and out of the hollow oak here on Tift Avenue in Albany. This makes three broods fledged from this old hollow oak in 1978."

Carol Hancock and Paige Harvey, Demorest, tell us - "Tennessee W-6 or 8 on banks of Demorest L 23 September; Orange-crowned W, grey race, Demorest 18 September; Cape May W\* 19 September, 30 September at Tallulah Falls and Clarksville. Black-throated Blue W-12, 13 August Tray Mtn vicinity; one im noted in Demorest late September; pair of Kentucky W 1 July at Panther Cr - a M with a tiny fish in his beak adamantly defending his nest. The F also made a brief appearance; Wilson's W\* 18 Septmeber, a F pecked on screen of my bedroom window. Am Redstart - saw at least 5 mature M and 8-10 F between 12 August and 30 September. Green Heron - pair at Demorest L until 20 September; N Oriole\* 5 September, Demorest; wounded Screech Owl 16 October at Nanceytown L in the L Russell Wildlife Management area. It did not survive."

Grace Boddiford, Screven Co, passes along this news - 28 November Com Snipe, Whistling Swan\*-3 seen with Ada Love Hinson and on 7, 23 December; Hooded Merganser-3. 1 December - Canada Geese-10; 7 December - Snow Geese\* (Blue Morph)-2 on Millhaven Plantation, Ruddy Duck\*-4. 10 December, a Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl\*-2, Barred Owl were heard calling around her home. The Great Horneds\* were heard again on 13 December. A Cooper's Hawk\* has been noted in the county.

Results of a field trip to the Savannah R NWR on 1 December included Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, White Ibis\*-8, Snow Geese\*-8, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Am Wigeon, N Shoveler\*, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback\*, Cooper's\* and Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagle\*, Am Kestrel, Whistling Swan\*-10 Ruddy Duck, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher\*.

NEWS OF PEOPLE -- illness - Gerald Knighton, Ollie Munn, Maurine King, Harry White have all been hospitalized since the last newsletter. We wish you all a speedy recovery. L. A. Wells is still at Oak Manor Nursing Home, Room 224, Columbus. We're thinking of you, L.A.!

Wyatt and Jerrilyn Bruce, El Paso, TX, have a new arrival at their home - a daughter, Stacy, born 23 July. Wyatt is in the army and is currently a medic. In January he will begin nurse's training. He mentions seeing a Sage Sparrow and Gray-headed Junco.

Travelers - Mabel Faulkner toured New York State and eastern Canada in late September; Ken Nance went down New Orleans way about 24 October and said there were Com. Nighthawks everywhere. Fred and Peggy Spencer spent a few days in October at the home of author Ron Rood in Vermont. They especially enjoyed the foliage.

Jane Whitman took a 2500 plus mile fall trip to Arizona. Ben Harrison added 15 birds to his Life List while on a hiking trip through the Himalaya Mtns at summer's end. Anne and Don Mitchell saw a Magpie on their trip to Spain. Gerald Knighton spent five weeks in California on business, but was able to add 40 plus birds to his Life List. Bill and Virginia Culpepper added several birds to their list including a Dipper in a cold mountain stream in Utah, Roadrunner in Arizona, pair of Golden Eagles circling the ranger station at Blue Lake Mesa.

Carol Hancock and Paige Harvey found a M Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 14 June very close to the North Carolina-Georgia line on the Standing Indian segment of the Appalachian Trail. Along with Dorothy Neal, they saw a flock of 20-30 Red-winged and White-winged Crossbills in spruce trees on the Blue Ridge Parkway in July.

Rafe and Ilze Henderson, GOSers now residing in Geneva, Switzerland, write - "... Our only (bird) news comes second hand - two reliable birders on separate occasions have observed a Cattle Egret about 30 Km north of Geneva in fields near an auto route. It was seen in early December and was seen to be eating field mice, swallowing them live! Later it was seen among horses.

"Our Christmas Count during four hours (8:00 a.m. - 12 noon) on a 50 Km circuit around Geneva produced 35 species, the most numerous being Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*) and Pochards (*A. ferina*) together in a flotilla, numbering about 10,000 individuals."

Bill Matheny has moved to Tucson, Arizona. Some of his bird finds include Townsend's, Audubon's, McGillivray's Ws, Gambel's Quail, Curve-billed Thrasher. Frank McCamey, Dan and Ann Forster led Atlanta ASers on a November field trip to St. Mark's NWR, Wakulla Springs, Southwood Plantation, Panacea, Florida and Greenwood Plantation, Thomasville. 140 species were tallied, including Ad and Im Bald Eagles, Am Avocet-4, Virginia and Sora Rails with Limpkins at Wakulla Springs.

In the last newsletter we had a write-up of Master Banders in Georgia. Joe Myers was listed as banding under the University of Georgia license. Joe writes - "I am a Master Bander (since 1976) and Jim Richardson of U GA, Department of Zoology is also a Master Bander. We both have mist net permits also. I'll be banding for the next three years at the Okefenokee NWR. Color banding will be used to determine avian population model for two-three major habitats in the swamp."

MISCELLANEOUS -- Ann plus Dan Forster has an interesting project going. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is working up bird check lists for our state parks and historical sites. (Ann called and asked why there were no lists available and a project was born.) Ann will prepare lists based on physiographic regions and have them at various park headquarters. When you visit a park, grab a list, check off species seen, return the list to the park office. DNR will then determine which parks offer the most in the bird line and individualized lists will be made for these "bird parks".

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY -- The Gentle Rain -- "One inch" of rainfall is actually 65,000 tons, or more than 15,000,000 gallons of water falling on each square mile that experiences the shower. From Harvard Magazine -- March/April 1977.

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WHAT'S INSIDE ?

1. 1979 DUES NOTICE
2. VALDOSTA SPRING MEETING
3. THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK