

December 31, 1979

THE GOSHawk SAYS -- A BIG GOS Welcome to these new members: Whittaker Mead, Sylvania; Joseph Imhof, Atlanta; Mark Oberle, Atlanta; Russell Wigh, Marietta; David Field, Charlottesville, VA; Robert Thompson, Atlanta; Terry Miller, Smyrna; Charles Haley, M.D., Decatur; Michael Harris, Institute of Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens; Gordon McWilliams, Atlanta; Thomas Tkacs, Macon; E. T. Cuddeback, Jasper; Dr. John Rappole, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens.

EDITORIAL COMMENT -- So far this does not seem to be a winter of irruptive species into Georgia. One report of Evening Grosbeaks, one sighting of Red Crossbills crossed the editor's desk. The regular winter birds seem not to be in the state in their usual numbers. Very few reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one report of Red-breasted Nuthatch, no Pine Siskin sightings have been received.

Here in Dalton, fewer Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows have been seen. However, Dark-eyed Juncos are in abundance on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem to be in normal numbers; with Golden-crowns, perhaps, a little on the up side. Christmas Bird Count results and late winter bird reports will present a truer picture of irruptive and winter species in our state.

Outstand^{ing} birds of the fall/early winter season include: Bald Eagle reports from various sections of Georgia--Dodge County; Carters Dam, Murray and Gilmer Counties; Nashville; Ocmulgee and Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Areas; Sapelo Island in August.

Eared Grebes were sighted at Pendergrass; a Reddish Egret was found on Sapelo Island in August. Peregrine Falcons were reported from Fortson and near Hollywood. Osprey sightings came in from Augusta, Columbus, Pendergrass, LaGrange. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was discovered in Albany; House Finches were at Augusta; House Wrens turned up at Augusta and Fortson.

Red Crossbills were on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest; a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen near Augusta, along with a Wilson's Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Brewster's Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher. A Mourning Warbler was seen on Sapelo Island last August; a Merlin was viewed on Jekyll Island, while a Louisiana Heron showed up at Augusta. Common Loons were on the waters at Clark Hill and Columbus. The only Evening Grosbeak sighting comes from Whitfield County.

A Groove-billed Ani at the Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge was reported from two sources. No indication was given as to whether the sighting took place on the Georgia or South Carolina side.

ROUND-UP OF GOS NEWS -- The October Jekyll Island joint meeting with the Carolina Bird Club netted approximately 159 species, with about 200 people registered. Weather? Well, you couldn't have asked for any finer. Warm sun, cool breezes to temper the temperature, azure skies, sparkling waters greeted GOSers each day.

Friday night's program, "Birds That Are Busy as Bees" by Page Armstrong, gave us insight into the feeding habits and remarkable beauty of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Armstrong presented some dramatic shots of hummers at his feeders and gave tips on photographing them.

Saturday's paper session was well worth attending. John Rappole presented "The Pickiness of Traveling Waterthrushes;" Paul Faulk discussed "The Status of the Dickcissel in the Carolinas;" Norman Brunswig gave "The Breeding Birds of the Francis Beidler Forest."

Dr. I. Lehr Brisbin, Jr., Ecologist from the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, University of Georgia, an affiliate of the Savannah River installation of the U. S. Energy Research and Development Administration and Adjunct Professor at Clemson University, presented the program Saturday night, "Amchitka Island Revisited." He gave a slide narrative about the effects of nuclear radiation on vertebrate life and the natural environment. This study focused primarily on the endangered species of the island.

The Hawk and Shorebird Workshops were well-received and helpful to those attending. The bird-banding operation conducted Sunday afternoon was an added bonus.

The following quote is from a letter to the editor from Carolina Bird Club member Millie Blaha: "...The Georgia group did a fine job of the week-end conference. We were especially pleased with Terry Moore and Vince Jackson's workshops on shorebirds and hawks. Don and Doris Cohrs, who seemed to be coordinators for the bird-banding operation were most helpful--especially Don, who explained procedures and let us really see each bird that was banded as it was released. We thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. The GOS is to be commended!"

The following slate of officers was elected:

- President: Dr. Frank McCamey, 4676 Andover Court, Atlanta 30360, 404/455-7533
- First Vice-President: Lee Gibbs (Mrs. W. A.), 816 Hammond Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841, 803/279-5302
- Second Vice-President: Jeannine Angerman (Mrs. Carl), 1326 Evans Road, Aiken, SC 29801, 803/648-1565
- Secretary: Jonny Howell (Mrs. Almonte), 280 Duncan Springs Road, Athens, 404/543-0697
- Treasurer: John Swiderski, 3735 Tulip Tree Road, Marietta, 30066, 404/977-8615

Nominating Committee: Milton Hopkins, Jr., Wilson Baker, Richard Parks

Others on the Executive Board are:

- Member-at-Large: Terry Moore, 2699 Twiggs Circle, Marietta 30067, 404/952-5952
- Member-at-Large: Virginia Culpepper (Mrs. W. J.), 217 W. Alden Ave, Valdost, 31601, 912/244-120
- Past President: Dr. Georgine Pindar, 2633 Ridgemore Road NW, Atlanta, 30318, 404/355-8454
- Past President: Norene Boring, 104 South Tibbs Road, Dalton, 30720, 404/278-6129
- Business Manager: T. McRae Williams, 755 Ellsworth Drive NW, Atlanta 30318, 355-4335
- Oriole Editor: Dr. Bill P. Lovejoy, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern College, Statesboro, 30458, 912/681-2516
- Goshawk Editor: Harriett Di Gioia (Mrs. Frank), 1309 Lakemont Drive, Dalton, 30720, 404/278-385

We look forward to two good years with this Executive Board.

A big thank you is in order for immediate past president, Georgine Pindar. You did a great job!

Dr. Bill Lovejoy is the new editor of The Oriole. Immediate past editor, Les Davenport, felt it necessary to resign after some twelve years. Editorship is quite often a hard and thankless task, and we thank Les for his fine guidance of The Oriole. Harriett DiGioia continues as editor of The Georgia GOSHawk.

Keep your letters coming to the GOSHawk editor, and Bill Lovejoy asks for contributions to The Oriole. Send in any material you have to Bill at the address above.

Dues rates are: Student \$3.00; Family \$12.00; Library \$8.00; Sustaining \$12.00; Regular \$8.00; Club \$15.00; Life \$100.00; Patron \$150.00. Send dues to Treasurer John Swiderski, Georgia Ornithological Society, P. O. Box 38214, Atlanta, GA 30334.

ARE YOU WITH US?

Georgia Ornithological Society has served the people of Georgia for forty-four years, helping them to understand the birdlife of the state. Let's plan to do more as we move into the new 80's. Everyone can help, and we need you!

REGIONAL PROMOTIONS

GENERAL MEETINGS

NEW MEMBERS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORIOLE AND THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

As the new president, I appreciate your vote of confidence. But the Executive Committee is the managerial team, with the assistance of standing committees. We will do everything we can to improve our programs and our public image. Communicate with any of us at any time, and let us know what you want your Society to do.

BANQUET SPEAKER -- The Saturday evening banquet program will be a slide lecture by Emil Urban on Birds of Africa. Dr. Urban, his wife Lois, and daughter Christine, lived in Ethiopia from 1964 to early 1975. While there, he did specific studies on the Great White Pelican, Sacred Ibis, and White-necked Cormorant. He has published numerous papers on the birdlife of Ethiopia and Africa.

In June of 1976, Dr. Urban became associated with Augusta College, where he is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biology. He received a BS degree from the University of Wisconsin, his MA degree from the University of Kansas, and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Urban, with Leslie Brown and Ken Newman, is undertaking a major work, Birds of Africa, to be published in four volumes by Academic Press. Volume I is scheduled for publication early in 1981.

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 to unusual species in the areas indicated.

An asterisk following the name of a bird denotes that it is listed as occasional, rare, uncommon, or casual for that particular area/season in the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds by 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 Marshlander--Ogeechee AS--Savannah--The Bill Lovejoys identified birds for Ogeechee Asers on a fall canoe trip up Brier Cr. Pileated Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Ws, White Ibis, E Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks were among the birds enjoyed. One of the several young people encountered swimming in the creek remarked, "I never met a bird watcher before." (This is true for a lot of people--Ed. From Oct/Nov newsletter)

At the Savannah R NWR, Betty Murphy reports a Groove-billed Ani has been titillating area bird watchers for some three weeks. Her description--"It was he--no mistaking. Black, scraggly feathers, beady black eyes, and an oversized grooved beak." (Editor's Note--Not on official or hypothetical Georgia lists. Smooth-billed Anis have been reported from the coastal areas. Please see another report of the same bird under Letters to the Editor from Grace Boddiford.

Later a young Bald Eagle* circled overhead, showing promises of the strength of its maturity. Regal Whistling Swans* glided over the ponds; Snow Geese* were seen. Also listed were a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*, Gadwalls*, Am. Widgeon*. (From Dec/Jan newsletter. Too bad no dates were given for these important sightings. Also, I do not know if these records are from the Georgia or South Carolina side of the refuge.--Ed.)

Arthur Thompson, his family and some friends went down to the Stephen Foster State Park in the Okefenokee NWR, 23 November. Am Robins were the most prolific birds listed. A Red-shouldered Hawk and a couple of Great Egrets were viewed. On 24 November at the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, two Sandhill Cranes were enjoyed.

The Fall Line--Ocmulgee AS - Macon -- Julia Smith sighted two Bald Eagles* in Dodge Co. (Oct newsletter. Again, no date - Ed.) On 21 October, Dick Lux saw Golden-winged Ws and reports the first White-throated Sparrow of the season. He also sighted Horned Larks at the Herbert Smith Airfield; Emory Rumble also saw them. Ray Mangham lists a Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowed W, Cape May W*, Cedar Waxwings. Yellow-rumped Ws were in abundance at Tobesofkee and, happily, numbers of E Bluebirds have been seen on wires about the countryside. (Dec newsletter)

Birding About--Withlacoochee Watchers--Valdosta--Dr. Clyde Connell took one of his Valdosta State College classes to Sapelo Island this summer. They found a Reddish Egret* on a fresh water pond 4 August. (Editor's Note--Accidental at St. Marys 20 April, 1877--specimen; Little St. Simons Is 14 September, 1967--specimen; Okefenokee NWR, 25 June, 1971. A Reddish Egret was turned in at the countdown at the April, 1979 GOS meeting in Valdosta. A quick check by some of the local members did not reveal just where the bird was seen and by whom. Please delete this sighting from the records.)

Virginia and Bill Culpepper report Tennessee Ws and Am Redstarts in their backyard 9-10 October. They were also visited by a late Great-crested Flycatcher 17 October (17 October 1916). A Swainson's Thrush appeared daily at the Criscuolo's bird bath for a month. A second thrush came, only to be chased away by the first one.

Ken George spotted Chestnut-sided Ws at Waycross in October. At Reed Bingham State Park, M. E. Crago saw Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 13 October and tells us about seeing a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird 14-15 October; Yellow-throated Vireo--five were in his yard 29-30 October. He also mentions seeing "a million" Am Coots in the area. Clyde Connell watched Am Robins along the Suwannee R. Lila Hart observed Brown-headed Cowbirds near Valdosta High School; two Red-tailed Hawks flew into Ann Smith's yard. One grabbed up a squirrel to share with the other one high in a pine tree (Nov newsletter).

The Albany Limpkin--Albany AS--Robert and Rita Hall have had a Yellow-headed Blackbird* in their yard in the northwest section of the city. (Oct. newsletter. No date--Ed.)

Rip Holman's magnolia tree has had an unusually large crop of seeds this year. Alan Ashley and Rip watched while Red-eyed Vireos, Am Robins, Mockingbirds, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Com Flickers, Brown Thrashers gulped down the seeds (Oct. newsletter).

Augusta AS--As far as can be determined, Fielding Dillard has come up with the second earliest date for Canada Geese. Earling on the morning of 14 September he spotted two Canada Geese on Swan Pond. Stoddard reported a flock in Grade Co 5 September 1945. He checked them closely and feels they were a subspecies, since they were somewhat smaller than the "real thing." They were gone on the 15th.

Field trip results--September--Am Kestrels, Red-shouldered Hawk; Herons: Great Blue, Little

Blue, Green; Egrets: Great and Snowy*; Veery; Rusty Blackbird; Barred Owl, and hordes of Com Grackles.

13 October--Warblers: Black and White, Tennessee, N Parula, Magnolia, Cape May*, Yellow-rumped, Chestnut-sided, Palm, N Waterthrush, Am Redstart; Painted Bunting; Louisiana Heron*; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

29 October--Ring-necked Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Killdeer, Com Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks.

From December newsletter--N Shoveler, Pintail*, Ruddy Duck; Redhead*, Lesser Scaup, Red-greasted Merganser*; Sparrows: Swamp and Vesper; plus a peculiar-looking Ring-necked Duck with a white V on its throat, white on top of its head, and a salt and pepper effect on its body.

Notes from the field--Clarence Belger gives us this news--24 September, a Com Grackle holding down a minnow with its foot. He did not see it eat the fish. 25 September, Palm W. He spotted a House Finch* on 31 October, then had one at his feeder 2 November. On 20 November he had three males, two females; 28 November brought five females, three males to his feeder. At Merry Ponds he found an Osprey* 17 November. While putting up martin gourds on 2 November he watched a House Wren* go into a gourd and figures it was roosting in it. At Clark Hill, 17 November, he saw three Com Loons*.

Going way back to September, Clarence made these sightings: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* at L Olmstead 8 September; Wilson's W* 9 September; Brewster's W* 11 September. He noted the bird didn't have yellow wingbars as shown in the books. (Editor's Note--Sighted five times in Georgia; once previously at Augusta.)

The Dick Blanchards found a stunned Am Woodcock on their driveway. They gave it shelter for the night, letting it fly off the next day. Living in Augusta, they were surprised to see this bird. (Woodcocks are sometimes found in city situations.--Ed.) An Acadian Flycatcher was in the Delma Knipps yard. (Nov. newsletter)

In a writeup of the fall migration, Anne Waters states that the Augusta fall migration "was the best migration in many years." She mentioned a Connecticut W* and an Olive-sided Flycatcher* were seen/ (No dates or observers given.--Ed.)

The Observer--Columbus AS--Bird news from the area. Two white Com Crows were viewed by Steve Butter along Bradley Park Drive; Becky Wilson saw a white Com Crow in Murray Hills 12 October. Steve found three Cerulean Ws* at Cooper Cr 31 September; while Sam Pate noticed a Marsh Hawk at Whitesville 16 September. On 6 September Frances Estes saw a m N oriole. David Johnston started the numerous Golden-winged W sightings by spotting one 8 September. Florence Lynn spied a Veery* in Harris Co 9 September; James Miller found one in Columbus 16 September.

Ospreys have been in the news. David Johnston watched one 9 September at Green Is; John Beck had four in view at the same time at L West Point, Pine Point Camp near La Grange 10 September and David again saw three at Green Is Hills 6 October. Harry Rainwater and Sam Pate enjoyed one at Bartlett's Ferry 29 September.

A N Waterthrush hit a window at David Johnston's home 15 September. Many warblers were reported from C Cr 22-23 September by David Flowers, including N Parula, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Blackburnian, Am Redstarts; plus two Red-shouldered Hawks and two Broad-winged Hawks.

A couple of Turkeys were found in H Co 21 October by Foster Northrop. He also found a Barn Owl* west of Callaway Gardens in the quail hunting area 25 October. Down in Eatonton Kevin Posey found 15 freshly killed Chestnut-sided Ws on top of a plant where there are large smokestacks. Jack Stutts found a Horned Lark the hard way in Columbus. On 3 November, upon arriving home at 11:30 PM, he noticed a small bird on his way into the house. Getting down on his hands and knees, he studied it for about five minutes. The droppings were milky, possibly indicating the bird had a problem.

David Johnston found over 100 Chipping Sparrows at Goat Rock Dam 10 November and a yodeling Com Loon*, at Green Is 12 November. James Miller got in a good find with four Tennessee Ws at Pine Mtn 13 November (9 November 1969). Peggy Spencer and Regina Topp had a good view of a Solitary Vireo at Callaway Gardens 29 August.

Sam Pate had the thrill of watching a Peregrine Falcon* cruise over his home 28 September, and David Johnston spotted three Blue-winged Ws* 29 September. Com Nighthawks were noted by Sam Pate flying over his place, directly south, 1 October. On 6 October, David Johnston spotted three Canada Ws; Gray-cheeked Thrush at C Cr. Sam Pate had the good fortune of finding a House Wren* in his yard 7 October, harrassing a Black-throated Green W and a Golden-winged W. Jane Knight called in an Ovenbird in her yard 10 October.

David Clepper and Sam Pate tell of massive numbers of Chimney Swifts over C Cr 11 October. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen by Florence Lynn 15 October. (This is the only Red-breasted Nuthatch reported for the season. There have not been many reports in the last few years. These birds have definitely decreased in numbers in Georgia the past two winters. It'll be interesting to see the number turned up on the Christmas Bird Counts.--Ed.) Florence also got Golden-crowned Kinglets on the same date.

A Worm-eating W and a Spotted Sandpiper were at Goat Rock Dam 15 October, reported by David Flowers and Sam Pate. At Bartlett's Ferry, about 20 E Bluebirds were building up a winter population, along with Palm Ws and Pine Ws and a couple of Great Blue Herons. Kevin Posey called in on 19 October that more Great Blue Heron activity was obvious at his place, with a sighting or two almost every day. Some of the Great Blues in our area are from Ohio, with two bands from Castalia, Ohio, as proof in recent seasons. Florence Lynn saw a Brown Creeper 18 October, while David Johnston at Green Is 14 October got three Great Blue Herons and a Sharp-shinned Hawk* and three Com Loons* 16 October.

Winter Birds--Florence Lynn sighted Dark-eyed Junco 27 October; Purple Finch; Hermit Thrush 5 November; Fox Sparrow 14 November; Orange-crowned W 10 November.

Sam Pate and his father found male and female Great Horned Owls* at I. Seminole by zeroing in on the calls. Sam mentions the sexes sound different. (December newsletter). Vince Jackson reports six Eared Grebe* at Pendergrass during the last week of September. (Editor's Note--Not on official or hypothetical lists for state). Sam Pate and David Flowers, also at Pendergrass, 6 October, found Yellow-rumped W, Osprey*, many migrating Broad-winged Hawks, Orange-crowned Wm N Shoveler*, Mallard, Savannah Sparrow. Later on the same day at Brasstown Bald, three Com Ravens* were enjoyed.

The Chattanooga Chat--Tennessee Ornithological Society, Chattanooga Chapter-- Kay Baisden in Rising Fawn (GA) noted Cedar Waxwings and Hooded Mergansers 5 November.

The Kingfisher--Cherokee AS--Dalton--Frank Parauka, Fishery Biologist and Manager of the US Fish Hatchery at Cohutta, phoned in that he and others on the staff discovered what they consider to be a m N Phalarope* 30 October. The bird stayed three days. When asked if the bird spun around in the water, they answered they didn't see this behavior. (Editor's Note--Rare spring and fall transient off-shore and in-shore....Accidental in interior at Augusta 9 May, 1950; Grady Co 30 October 1937; Pendergrass, Jackson Co. 23 May, 1976.)

Doris and Delano Crowe have been hearing a Great Horned Owl* about their home for the last two weeks. David heard it again on 3 November. The Crowes, along with Harry and Jean White, noticed a Great Blue Heron, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches at the Fish Hatchery 28 October. They got a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker there 11 November. Anne Hamilton enjoyed Golden-crowned Kinglets 24 October.

Lois and Mary Meidinger on 28 November spotted a lone Cattle Egret* out in their pasture. The bird got so near one of the cows that the cow kicked at it. This is a late date. (Editor's Note---rare to uncommon locally in winter in Coastal Plain; occasional in Piedmont in summer). They saw the coffee-colored stains on the head feathers. Harry White says he has had a Sharp-shinned Hawk* hanging around his place, last seeing it 3 December. Vernon Gordon spotted a Cooper's Hawk* 4 December and saw great flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Anne Hamilton has seen small flocks of these birds. Tome Smith gives us the first Evening Grosbeak sighting--30 in his yard the week of 25 November. Frank DiGioia found a Brown Creeper 21 October.

Paul Jaström, US Army Corps of Engineers, Assistant Resources Manager at Carter's Dam, called in the sighting of Bald Eagles. These are confirmed sightings seen by Joe Blackmon, Resource Manager, and other staff members-- 3 November, 2 sighting 5 November; 15 November, 27 November. The bird is mature, and the possibility exists the same bird was seen five times. The first date, the bird was seen from the Resource Manager's Office and at Harris Branch. Sightings are in Murray and Gilmer Cos. Other sightings from Harris Branch.

Harriett DiGioia--Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest sightings: Three or four Dark-eyed Juncos at the Rough Ridge Trailhead, Cohutta Wilderness Area, Fannin Co 27 August. Juncos are seen in this high elevation region at all seasons, and I feel they breed there. This does not constitute a first of season bird. Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows were noticed on Forest Service Rds (FS Rds) 1 and 1A, Doogan Mtn, Murray Co, 22 October; Purple Finch, Jacks River Fields, GA Hwy 2, Fannin Co, 5 November. Three Fox Sparrows, FS RD 16, Alaculsy Valley, Murray Co 3 December; six Winter Wrens--one singing a bubbling, light song, as if a music box had suddenly been turned on out in the logging debris, and she was surrounded by

15-20 Golden-crowned Kinglets on 6 December in logged-over area on East Mountaintown Cr, Gilmer Co. A Hermit Thrush was also there. Twenty Red Crossbills* were heard and seen flying over the Panther Cr Trail, Cohutta Wilderness, Fannin Co, 18 December.

Whitfield Co sightings; three Hermit Thrushes; Dark-eyed Junco 27 October; Swamp Sparrows 17 November.

Atlanta AS--No newsletter received for the past quarter.

Upper Flint River AS--Disbanded.

Floyd Co AS--Rome--Understand that they are disbanding.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR--From Phillip Jordan, Nashville (GA). "I saw something ...flying over Nashville that excited me greatly, and I just wanted to share it with you.

"On 6 September, with the sky slightly overcast, at about 3 PM, I was driving down a street in Nashville. I looked up at the sky and saw a large bird flying at about 250 feet. As it got closer I couldn't believe my eyes and almost wrecked before I could pull over. The bird had a white head. Yes, it was an adult Bald Eagle*....After passing directly over me, it soared in a circle, as if to show off for me, and then continued south.

"Berrien Co is full of cypress swamps and large bodies of water which would provide good habitat for eagles, but I have not in recent times heard of any being seen in the area.....I believe Hurricane David passing by on the coast a few days earlier brought in eagle in."

Terry Johnson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Rum Cr Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Forsyth writes, "I thought the readers of the GOSHawk might be interested that last year 17% of all acres for wildlife, participants indicated interest in managing their enrolled acreage for songbirds. It appears that interest in this important group of wildlife is growing in our state. If any readers are interested in receiving information about Georgia Acres for Wildlife, please contact me."

"The Area Manager of our Ocmulgee WMA, Bob Watson, reported he sighted an ad Bald Eagle* 9 September. Tom Bilderback, Area Manager, Cedar Cr WMA, spotted two im Mald Eagles* there 10 September." Terry W. Johnson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Georgia Acres for Wildlife, Rum Creek WMA, Route 3, Box 180, Forsyth, GA 31029.

Arthur Crowe, Marietta, sends in the following sighting. "Thought you might be interested in a sighting I made at Jekyll IS 17-18 October. My wife and I observed for some time a pair of Pigeon Hawks* (Merlin*). One seemed to be chasing the other as if in some courtship ritual. We observed them for quite a few minutes on the 17th and then on the 18th saw only one of the birds."

Eugene Cypert, Waycross, sends in this late sighting--"Yesterday (2 December) two of the boys who work at the Okefenokee Swamp Park, where I work, brought a Gray-cheeked Thrush* over to me to identify. The bird had flown into a glass window, but it did not seem injured.

"One of the boys carried the bird perched on his hand. He held the bird that way while I got out the field guides. I checked descriptions and examined the marks carefully while the bird just sat on the boy's hand. I even took a ruler and measured its length.

"After I had identified the bird, the boys took it out and set it on a railing. It sat there for a while and then flew off." (Editor's Note--7 November 1946.)

From Athens, Albert Kleckner writes--"On the afternoon of 18 December, my wife Jane and I were driving west from the center of Bishop, Ga, on our way to a Christmas tree farm, some five miles west of Bishop. About two miles out of town, at a small farm pond on the right of the road we stopped to look for birdlife. To our considerable surprise we saw an Am Bittern*. Wanting to get still closer, we finally flushed the bird when we were perhaps 75-100 feet away from it.

"Burleigh notes very few winter sightings around the Athens area. The pond is not very large, so if the bird is a winter resident he must cover a wider area to sustain himself. Hopefully other birders will spot it in this area."

Paige Harvey writes the following bird news from Demorest: "20 August, Mourning W* Sapelo Is. An im Bald Eagle* was captured that week by the GA DNR. (Editor's Note--Mourning W--occasional spring transient in northern part

of state). The Mourning W was seen by Carol Hancock and two others. They had a perfect close view and no doubt that it was a Mourning Warbler!

"From 10 September to 26 October I saw the following almost daily: Am Redstart, Yellow-throated Ws, Chestnut-sided Ws, Cape May Ws*, Magnolia Ws, Bay-breasted Ws, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers.

"14 September--N. Oriole--4 in Athens. 29 September, im Peregrine Falcon* perched on a telephone pole beside Highway 441 near Hollywood, GA. It remained there approximately 20 minutes while we watched, field guides in hand, double-checking every detail. 29 September--Hermit Thrush flew into window and was temporarily stunned. 8 October--Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Nancytown Cr. 10 October--Wood Ducks--8 on our pond--one pair remains. 18 October--Dark-eyed Junco, flock of Cedar Waxwings, Banks Co. 22 October--Yellow-billed Cuckoo, im and ad. Red-headed woodpeckers, Banks Co.

"Kinglets, both Golden- and Ruby-crowned have been abundant here since 26 October. I've seen flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglets on Lynch Mtn, Tray Mtn, Soque R, Shoal Cr, Nancytown Cr, Panther Cr, and daily in our backyard. Last year I saw only two or three of them all winter. 27 October--Brown Creeper; 29 October--Red-headed Woodpecker across from Phipps Plaza parking lot, Atlanta. 4 November--Solitary Vireo, Great Horned Owl*, Hazel Cr; Screech Owl in yard; 20 November--Ruffed Grouse, Sogue R."

From Grace Boddiford, Sylvania--"Sightings from 1 December, Screven-Burke Co Bird Group field trip to Savannah RNWR: Whistling Swan*--6; White Ibis*, Black and White W*, and members saw the Groove-billed Ani.* Personnel at the refuge said the ani had been there for about a month."

Milton Hopkins, Fitzgerald, gives us this news--"...birding has been slow; we had large flocks of Sandhill Cranes* over on 13-14 November...Here on the farm we are flushing Sora* in the cornfields. Ground Doves are still nesting--eggs and young in cornfields." From a letter dated 27 October.

MISCELLANEOUS. The following write-up is from John Rappole, Curator of Birds, University of Georgia, Museum of Natural History.

The Georgia Rare and Endangered Species Program

The University of Georgia Museum of Natural History (UGMNH), with funds provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), has undertaken a three-year evaluation of population trends for the state's vertebrate fauna. The main purposes of this evaluation are to identify species whose populations are declining and to define research objectives which will reveal the causes of these declines. Ron Odom (GDNR) and Joshua Laerm (UGMNH) are coordinating the program while UGMNH Curator of Birds, John Rappole, works with birds.

Up-to-date information on species is essential to an accurate assessment of population trends. We at the UGMNH spend considerable time travelling around the state, collecting as much data as possible. However, for a state as large and diverse as Georgia, the task is difficult. We need the help of experienced naturalists who make regular observations of the wildlife in their area.

A list of the bird species recommended for special attention is provided below. I encourage those of you who are interested to use your field skills in helping me monitor these selected populations in one of two ways:

1. Keep the list, and when you go to the field, keep notes on the sightings of all species. For each sighting, provide date, time, precise map locality, and biological notes of interest (nests, eggs, singing, foods used, social organization, habitat). ~~Send your notes to me (John Rappole)~~ care of the Univ. of Ga Mus. Nat. Hist., Univ. of GA, Athens, GA 30602.

2. If you have a population of one of the species in your area, you may wish to do a more intensive study. Contact me at the address given above, and we will design a study to monitor the population trends of the species.

Many of you have years of excellent field experience. That experience can be used to help preserve Georgia's Wildlife.

Bird Species Endangered (E), Threatened (T), or of Uncertain
Status (U), in the State of Georgia

Anhinga (U)	Peregrine Falcon (E)	Least Tern (U)
Brown Pelican (E)	Merlin (U)	Black Skimmer (U)
Wood Ibis (T)	American Kestrel (U)	Red-cockaded Woodpecker (E)
Glossy Ibis (T)	Sandhill Crane (T)	Ivory-billed Woodpecker (E)
Swallow-tailed Kite (E)	Black Rail (U)	Raven (T)
Mississippi Kite (T)	American Oystercatcher (U)	Bachman's Warbler (E)
Bald Eagle (E)	Black-necked Stilt (U)	Kirtland's Warbler (E)
Osprey (U)	Gull-billed Tern (U)	Bachman's Sparrow (U)

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources released some banded im Bald Eagles on Sapelo. If you should spot any of these banded eagles, please contact the GDNR.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY --"Everyone is born with a bird in his heart," Frank M. Chapman said a good many years ago. What he meant was that all of us have the potential of becoming dedicated birdwatchers. Indeed, no one, not even the city-dweller, can go through life without being exposed regularly to the wonders of birds, be they only smog-begrimed pigeons and starlings. To free that bird in the heart, what is needed is an unforgettable experience. Roger Tory Peterson, the most famous birdwatcher of all, calls this 'the spark.' Often, he notes, 'it is a particular bird that sets off the chain reaction that makes an ornithologist.'" The Audubon Society Book of Wild Birds--Les Line

Harriett G. Di Gioia, Editor
U. S. Forest Service
401 Old Ellijay Road
Chatsworth, GA 30705

GOS SPRING MEETING - MAY 2-4, 1980

Tumbling Waters is a mountain camp with a charming setting in a secluded wilderness area. Accomodations are dormitory style in cottages; the gals are accomodated in some cottages, and the guys in others. Meals are served in an open dining room in the treetops overlooking a beautiful lake fed by tumbling streams from the wilds of North Carolina. At night you will be lulled to sleep by bubbling creeks. Each person is to furnish his own towels, sheets and blankets. Electric blankets are ok to bring. May evenings in the mountains can be chilly so bring warm clothing.

If you prefer motel accomodations they are available in Clayton, some 12 miles distant from the camp, at Heart of Rabun, 404/782-4258; Dillard Motor Lodge, 404/782-4207; Commodore Inn, 404/782-4269; and Blue Ridge Motel, 404/782-3415. Campgrounds and trailer parks are found at Coleman River, Tallulah River, Moccasin Creek State Park, Black Rock State Park.

Tumbling Waters offers the following arrangements for GOS participants:

Saturday Breakfast	\$3.00	
Saturday Lunch	3.00	(a picnic lunch)
Saturday Dinner	5.00	
Sunday Breakfast	3.00	
Sunday Lunch	3.00	
	<u>\$17.00</u>	
Lodging (2 nights)	8.00	
	<u>\$25.00</u>	Per person
Registration	3.00	Individual 5.00 Family
Total cost of weekend	<u>\$28.00</u>	

To get to Tumbling Waters from Clayton take U.S. 76 (approx. 6½ miles) to the intersection at Persimmon Road. Turn right on Persimmon Road. This intersection is well marked with signs pointing to Tumbling Waters. Continue on Persimmon Road until hard surface ends at fork. Then bear to the right at Persimmon Church and continue for approximately 1.2 miles to an intersection. Here, turn left and travel to next intersection where a right turn will bring you directly into the camping area. Please refer to attached map and follow black arrows.

 GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, MAY 2-4, 1980

MAIL TO: Tumbling Waters Camp
 Clayton, Georgia 30525
 Ph: 404/782-3506

DEADLINE: April 15, 1980

I would like sleeping accomodations at Tumbling Waters for:

Friday Night _____

Saturday Night _____

I would like the following meals at Tumbling Waters:

Saturday Breakfast _____ Saturday Sack Lunch _____

Saturday Dinner _____

Sunday Breakfast _____ Sunday Lunch _____

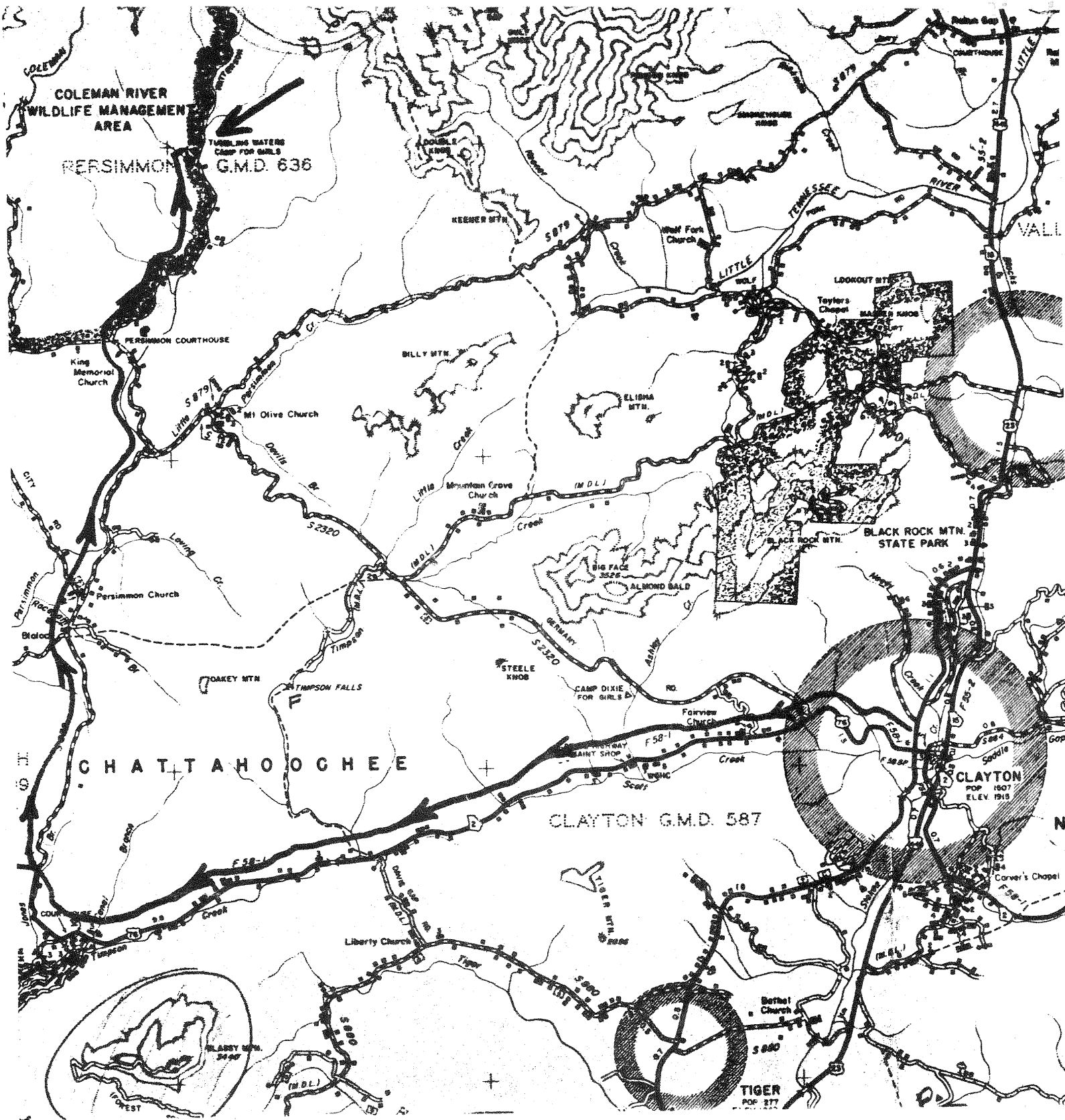
I enclose Registration Fee of \$ _____

I also enclose \$ _____ for above meals/accommodations.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____



Georgia Ornithological Society
 P. O. Box 38214
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

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SEE INSIDE

SPRING MEETING --- May 2-3-4, 1980
 Tumbling Waters, Clayton, Ga.
 Return Registration Form by April 15
THE ORIOLE --- Delay in Publication
 Current Membership List is Enclosed
 1980 Membership Dues ---
 Please forward to Treasurer

Dr. Herbert W. Kale, II
 Ornithological Research Division
 35 First Court, S.W.
 Vero Beach, Fla. 32960

Georgia Ornithological Society

Founded 1936

January 1980

Dear Friends,

Many of you are probably wondering what has become of the Oriole. The last issue we published was December of 1978 which came out about May of 1979. With that issue our long time editor Les Davenport resigned. A search was made for a new editor (and they don't grow on trees), and Bill Lovejoy has agreed to serve. As a result we are quite late with the 1979 issues but they are coming. I want to assure you that we have the funds in the bank to publish these issues and all of you who paid your 1979 dues will receive the 1979 issues.

In the meantime, the Society continues its activities and meetings in the current year. Your 1980 dues are now payable and we would appreciate your continued support of the Society.

This year please send your check payable to GOS to me at the following address:

John Swiderski, Treasurer
3735 Tulip Tree Rd.
Marietta, Ga. 30066

Dues are:

Individual	\$8	Family	\$12	Sustaining	\$15	Patron	\$50
Club	\$15	Student	\$5				

If you are a life member or have been an early bird and already sent me your 1980 dues please disregard this notice.