

The Georgia GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society - Vol. VII, No. 3

March 31, 1980

We welcome the following new members:

Phil Smith, Pensacola, FL	Mrs. Thomas Hawkins, Thomasville
Edith Kelley, Atlanta	Douglas Beck, Jefferson
Mr. & Mrs. Stoughton Richmond, Cadwell	Mrs. Dee Bradley, Hogansville
Bobbie Bynum, Albany	Mr. & Mrs. Don Sheppard, Jr., Sylvania
Thomas Anderson, Duluth	Mr. & Mrs. William Guthrie, Eatonton
George Asbell, Statesboro	Dr. Carolina Lane, Atlanta
Doug & Betsy Phillips, Atlanta	The library at Abraham Baldwin
Sara & Jimmy Robertson, Atlanta	Agricultural College, Tifton

Editorial Comment

Christmas Bird Counts turned up Bald Eagles at Macon and Atlanta, White Pelican and Great Black-backed Gull at Glynn County, Green Heron in Atlanta, House Wren and 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches at Dalton and House Wren and Red Crossbills on the Chattahoochee National Forest Songbird Management Area.

Winter irruptive species still haven't invaded Georgia to any extent. Evening Grosbeaks have been sprinkled over the northern portion of the state with the heaviest concentration in Whitfield County. Pine Siskins also are sprinkled about the northern portion, again with the greatest number from Whitfield County. Red Crossbills still are on the Cohutta Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

On the whole, the winter regulars seem to be on the low side, especially Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Yellow-rumped Warblers; Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated and Fox Sparrows, and the kinglets seem to be stable in numbers.

Two outstanding birds not on the official or hypothetical lists were seen - an Eared Grebe at Pendergrass and a Varied Thrush at Trenton. One bird listed on the hypothetical list, a Clay-colored Sparrow, was banded at Jekyll Island.

House Finches continue their invasion of Georgia, being reported from Atlanta, Columbus, Augusta, Washington and Athens. Four Western Tanagers, 2 male, 2 female, came to a feeder at Waycross. Bald Eagle reports continue to cross my desk from Macon, Harris County, Bartlett's Ferry Dam, Lake Seminole, Twiggs County, Cumberland Island. Peregrine Falcon sightings are up, being seen over the G.O.S. weekend at Jekyll Island and 2 reports from downtown Atlanta, with 27 being banded on Cumberland Island. A Golden Eagle was spotted in Harris County.

A Least Flycatcher and a Connecticut Warbler were banded back in the fall on Jekyll Island. A LeConte's Sparrow was recorded in October on Cumberland Island. At Kennesaw, a Red-throated Loon was seen. A Cinnamon Teal has returned to Augusta. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen near Brunswick and Northern Phalaropes were found off Jekyll Island. Bridled Terns were about Jekyll and Cumberland Islands. A White-winged Scoter was watched near Kennesaw Mountain. Fifty Osprey were seen on one day

in October on Jekyll Island.

Sandhill Cranes have really been moving; first south, now north. Reports came in from Valdosta, Cumming, Bent Tree, Atlanta, Decatur, Georgia side of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, Whitfield County and the Cohutta Ranger District in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Round-up of G.O.S. News

The Spring Meeting will be at Tumbling Waters Camp near Clayton on May 2, 3 and 4.
Speakers: Friday Evening slide narrative about the Songbird Management Area on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest by Harriett DiGioia, U. S. Forest Service Biological Aide.
Saturday Banquet - Dr. Emil Urban, Professor and Chairman of the Biology Department at Augusta College, will present a slide lecture "Birds of Africa".

You have the details in hand; come and enjoy the beautiful North Georgia mountains - good birding along with good fellowship and good food.

Christmas Bird Count Results

Macon - December 15: 75 species; 4,128 individuals. Bald Eagle*; swallow* sp.

Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge: 108 species. King Rail 2; Am. Bittern 1 (first for count); Water Pipit 1.

Glynn County - December 29: 145 species; 16,901 individuals. White Pelican* 2 off Sea Island (Editor's Note - Rare visitor on coast 8 May 1964 - 28 November 1950...); Com. Tern* 8 on Sea Island; Great Black-backed Gull* 1; Prairie W* 1 on St. Simons Island; Am. Woodcock* on St. Simons Is. High numbers - Am. Robin 1,030; Lesser Scaup 2,533; Ring-billed Gulls 1,068; Western Sandpiper 1,058. Several species of sparrows were completely missing. Species breakdown - Jekyll Island 102; Brunswick area 95; St. Simons Island 94; Sea Island 81.

Atlanta - December 16: 91 species; 19,262 individuals. All species listed represent new high for count, except for Pintail, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, White-crowned and Fox Sparrows. Great Blue Heron 9; Green Heron* 2; Pintail* 1; Hooded Merganser 85; Sharp-shinned Hawk* 7; Cooper's Hawk* 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 23; Bald Eagle* 1 (new to count); Bonaparte's Gull* 2 (new to count); Mourning Dove 614; Screech Owl 34; Great Horned Owl* 3; Belted Kingfisher 48; Com. Flicker 103; Pileated Woodpecker 45; Downy Woodpecker 101; Eastern Phoebe 38; Blue Jay 1,110; Carolina Chickadee 782; Tufted Titmouse 273; Red-breasted Nuthatch 1; Brown Creeper 34; House Wren* 5; Carolina Wren 238; Short-billed Marsh Wren* 2 (new to count); Mockingbird 218; Hermit Thrush 34; Eastern Bluebird 473; Cedar Waxwing 1,254; Pine Warbler 126; House Sparrow 602; Eastern Meadowlark 585; Evening Grosbeak 4; Pine Siskin 2; Field Sparrow 982; White-crowned Sparrow* 1; Fox Sparrow 15.

Dalton - December 15: 75 species; 4,967 individuals. Great Blue Heron 7; Black Vulture 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk* 3; Cooper's Hawk* 2; Am. Kestrel 14; Am. Woodcock* 1; Com. Snipe 3; Screech Owl 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4; Red-breasted Nuthatch 4;

Brown Creeper 3; House Wren* 2; Eastern Bluebird 63; Loggerhead Shrike 8; Solitary Vireo 1; Evening Grosbeak 4; Pine Siskin 14; Am. Goldfinch 131; Fox Sparrow 8.

Chattahoochee National Forest Songbird Management Area - December 16: 49 species; 1,829 individuals. Cooper's Hawk* 1; Red-tailed Hawk 2; Red-shouldered Hawk 1; Am. Kestrel 1; Turkey 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3; Brown Creeper 1; House Wren* 1; Winter Wren 4; Water Pipit 1; Loggerhead Shrike 1; Evening Grosbeak 10; Pine Siskin 2; Am. Goldfinch 148; Red Crossbill* 9; Vesper Sparrow 1; Fox Sparrow 9.

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, 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.

Chattanooga Chat - Tennessee Ornithological Society, Chattanooga Chapter. On February 17, Mr. and Mrs. William Presley had a Varied Thrush* come to their feeder in Trenton. It was seen the next day, then disappeared for a week, re-appeared and has been seen regularly. Many observers have seen the bird and photographs have been taken. (Editor's Note: Not on the official or hypothetical lists for Georgia. To my knowledge, this is the first sighting for the state.)

Albany Limpkin - Albany AS.

Jessee Rivers reports 50-60 Pine Ws about their Lee Co home. She has a Belted Kingfisher hanging around her goldfish pond and believes it's responsible for the disappearance of some of her prize fish. (February newsletter)

The Fall Line - Ocmulgee AS, Macon.

Dick Lux and Ken Clark participated in two Red-tailed Hawk rescues. Ken and Arline discovered an injured hawk near their home and took it to a veterinarian who treated its injured wing. They cared for it for a few days, then released it. Several days later, Joe Parham contacted Ken to report an injured hawk. Ken got in touch with Dick who helped capture the bird. It was carried to Griffen and placed in the care of a licensed caretaker of injured and orphaned birds.

Barred Owls and two Bald Eagles* have been sighted in the area recently. A Red-shouldered Hawk with a blaze of white feathers on its head and a white-headed Cardinal were reported by Ken and Arline Clark. (March newsletter)

The Observer - Columbus AS.

On December 29 Sam and Nan Pate had the good fortune to see a mature Golden Eagle* flying south over I-85 at mile-marker 27, Harris Co. It was just outside the

Callaway Gardens CBC count circle. Keith Sumrell spotted an Osprey* 3 miles north of Hamilton in Harris Co December 26. Bob Terhune gives us a partial albino Chipping Sparrow at his feeder January 13.

On January 13, during the mid-winter eagle survey sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, Sam found an im Bald Eagle* at Bartlett's Ferry Dam. He also noted Com. Loon*, hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls, 5 Herring Gulls*, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks - all at Barlett's Ferry Dam. On the way to the survey area, he saw Am. Kestrels, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks along I-185, and a perched Cooper's Hawk beside Mulberry Cr. at River Rd. Great day for birds of prey.

Peggy and Fred Spencer have had a N. Oriole visiting their feeder that's quite adept at opening sunflower seeds. Peggy writes: "For an insect/fruit eater she has gotten very good at using her sharp, rapier-like bill on the sunflower seeds. She threatens any other would-be diners while she's around." She heard a Barred Owl calling on February 8 and adds that on February 11 they had an unusual sight at a columnar three-holed feeder. A Carolina Chickadee was at the top hole, a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the second hole, while a White-breasted Nuthatch was at the bottom hole. (This is the only Red-breasted Nuthatch reported, save for the few on the CBCs - Ed.)

Five im Bald Eagles* were seen at the same time by Foster Northrup in Harris Co. His photos verified this report. (March newsletter. Too bad there is no date given for an important record like this. - Ed) According to this same news item, 2 Bald Eagles* have been at Bartlett's Ferry and a mature Bald Eagle* wintered at L. Seminole.

Two hawks met an untimely end. A Cooper's Hawk* carrying a chipmunk was killed when it crashed into a window. An Am. Kestrel was killed when hit by a vehicle in Pine Mtn. Valley.

House Finches* are in the news. Peggy Spencer had them on February 10; Jack Stutts entertained them January 18 - February 12; Thelma Dawson was visited on February 2. Seven Fox Sparrows were seen at the same time on February 10 by Florence Lynn in Harris Co. David Johnston watched a Sharp-shinned Hawk* kill and eat a Yellow-rumped W during February at Green Is. On February 21, Jim Shirah had a m Purple Martin at his place.

James Miller was "Johnny-on-the-spot" recently. When an oil spill hit the water on Cooper Cr L, he reported it immediately. Next day, February 22, Jane Knight and Peggy Spencer checked the area and found several dead and dying ducks.

Birding About - Withlacoochee Watchers, Valdosta.

Liz Mixon reports the white dove she's observed in her yard for the past 6-8 months to be a Ringed Turtle Dove. She also reports a Wood Thrush* in their garden. (January newsletter. Wood Thrushes occasionally pop up on CBCs in Georgia, mostly to be discounted. I know of no bona fide winter record for the state and do not know its winter status in Florida. - Ed.)

On December 9, Sandhill Cranes* flew over Bill and Virginia Culpepper's yard, circling time and again, making their odd croaking sound. There were 19 of them. An occasional N Oriole - m and f - calls at their feeder.

Maxine Scala reports Brown-headed Nuthatches, Black-and-White W*, while Fredeva Ogletree had had Am. Goldfinches and Purple Finches. The Criscuolos have had a Merlin* hanging around their feeding operation. M. E. Crago gives us Chipping Sparrows and Yellow-rumped W at his feeder. The Fred Flateau's have had m and f N Orioles, plus a f Rose-

breasted Grosbeak* at their feeder (February newsletter). Gloria Price called in on February 10 and said there were hundreds of Cedar Waxwings in the tops of her trees. A large Red-shouldered Hawk was perched in a tree on N Valdosta Rd. not more than 3-4 weeks from the road.

A m Purple Martin was reportedly found in Naylor by Eaton Barber around the gourd houses February 1. On a trip to Grassy Pond January 6, Tony Criscuolo put his scope on Spotted Sandpiper* and a Willet*, when one of the party turned and saw a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher* in an oak. Then another flew in and soon a third.

Augusta AS

House Finches* have invaded our city but they're particular as to whose feeder they visit. Only Clarence Belger has been favored by their company. On December 12, he had 21 at his feeder; December 23 found 23 visiting him.

Jean Cockran was surprised to look out her window and see an Am. Kestrel sitting in a haw three in her yard December 12. On December she spotted a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Bill Gibbs noticed a dozen Ring-billed Gulls on Regency Mall's black top parking lot December 29. He watched an Am. Kestrel perched along I-20 eating prey on December 19.

Laurie Jones reports from Washington that she has had House Finches* (February newsletter). On January 14, 4 Evening Grosbeaks were in her yard. She is alarmed at the diminishing number and variety of birds this winter, not only at her feeder, but also at Anthony Shoals on bird walks.

On the January 12 field trip to Merry Ponds, 8 roosting Black-crowned Night Herons* were spotted, along with Spotted Sandpipers*, 4 Least Sandpipers*, Cinnamon Teal* (Editor's Note: Not on official or hypothetical lists for state, but seen regularly for the last couple of winters at Augusta) and a Cooper's Hawk*. January 15 Clarence Belger spied a Greater Yellowlegs at Merry Ponds. Large flocks of Am. Robins were watched and thousands upon thousands of blackbirds are still roosting in the river bottoms.

Atlanta AS

Eared Grebe Report - "On September 25, about 12:15 p.m., I saw an Eared Grebe* on one of the ponds at Wayne Poultry Company, Pendergrass. I called Jack Carusos, who told me he would contact Terry Moore. I understand that he did and that Terry got up to see the bird that afternoon.

I returned on September 28, 2 birds were present. On September 29 there were 6. October 1 two remained; I was present October 2-4. Since I'm told this is a new state record, I would like to write it up for the Oriole and would appreciate any additional sight records of these or other birds or of any photographs to be included in the Oriole study. Since I was unable to check the ponds October 5-7, I would be especially interested in whether anyone saw them and how many were present. Also, if they were there and how many on September 26 and 27. John Paget, 1530 Vine St. N.E., Gainesville, GA 30501. Phone - 404-532-6834.

September-October field notes - Birders at the G.O.S. meeting October 6-7 at Jekyll Is. (JI) got glimpses of the Roseate Spoonbill and Flamingos which were first reported in August. A Surf Scoter* was seen by John Paget at Pendergrass on October 22. (Editor's Note: Uncommon winter resident on coast, more numerous offshore..., accidental in interior on L Chatuge, Towns Co, May 18, 1976.)

Joel Volpi banded 27 Peregrine Falcons* on Cumberland Is during September and October, as opposed to 6 last year. A Peregrine Falcon* spent a few hours in downtown Atlanta on the 26th floor of the Peachtree Center Bldg., October 31, reported by Dennis Lacoss. During the G.O.S. weekend (October 6-7) several Peregrine Falcons* were seen at JI along with a fairly small number of Sharp-shinned Hawks*. Bald Eagles* adult, were turned in by Jim Hill on October 8 in Twiggs Co, and an im was spotted at the G.O.S. meeting. An Osprey was also seen on this G.O.S. meeting, with about 50 seen by Vince Jackson on October 7.

Am. Avocets* and Black-necked Stilts* were seen in the dredge area on Andrews Is near Brunswick. On September 1 and 3, about 30 Wilson's Phalaropes* were seen in this area. On the pelagic trip of September 2, 6 N Phalaropes* were identified approximately 30 miles off JI, along with a dozen Bridled Terns*. Joel Volpi observed a Bridled Tern* sitting on the Cumberland Is Beach October 5, and Jack Carusos saw one flying over a parking lot on JI September 9.

Western Kingbirds* were seen during the October 6-7 G.O.S. weekend and were banded the following week on JI by Don and Doris Cohrs. One was also banded on October 13. A Western Kingbird* was seen by Joe Greenberg's ornithology class at the Regional Hospital October 20. A Least Flycatcher* was banded on JI on October 10 for one of the few coastal records.

Bob Manns and Patrick Brisse observed a Cliff Swallow* at Roger's Bridge September 15. Richard Parks reported a House* and Long-billed Marsh Wrens* in Piedmont Park October 14. A Connecticut W* was banded on September 9 at JI. A Nashville W* was seen near White on October 12 by Bob Manns and Patrick Brisse and a Wilson's W* was seen at Emory University President's Estate September 6 by Carol Atkins.

A f Evening Grosbeak appeared at Barbara Acree's feeder on September 21 (October 23, 1975). Two Pine Siskins and 6 House Finches* were spotted near Roger's Bridge October 27 by Terry Moore. Joel Volpi records a LeConte's Sparrow* on Cumberland Is October 10. The best bird banded on JI was a Clay-colored Sparrow* on October 14 by Terry Moore. The bird was photographed and should finally add this species to the official list (now on hypothetical list - Ed.). White-crowned Sparrows* were seen near White by Bob Manns and Patrick Brisse October 17 and 3 were banded on JI October 13, 14.

There were more than the usual number of loon reports for November. Terry Miller saw 9 Com Loons* at Sweetwater Cr November 11; Ben Ianuzzi saw 1 on Murphey-Candler L November 12; Terry Moore and Peggy Fletcher saw a Com Loon* near Kennesaw November 18. A Red-throated Loon* was sighted by Jack Carusos near Kennesaw November 17 for the second known Atlanta area record. Jack and Bob Gilbert found a White-winged Scoter* near Kennesaw Mtn November 23.

Two reports of Sandhill Cranes* were received. The first was a flock of 14 near Cumming by Jeff Petit November 13; the second was a flock of 28 over Bent Tree November 28 by Frank McCamey. House Finches* are literally flooding the feeder of Bob Raymund near Brookwood Station. At the end of November he counted 42 at one time either on his feeder or on nearby trees.

Two im Snow Geese* were seen at the north end of Tybee Is December 26 by Mike Jones. He also saw a Gadwall* January 6 near the Chattahoochee Nature Center. Terry Miller reported a large flock of 20 Redheads* on L Acworth December 9. Com Goldeneyes* were more frequently observed than usual - Terry Miller saw a m on L Acworth

December 9; Joe Greenberg, Mike Jones, Peggy Fletcher, Terry Moore saw a f near Rome January 12, and Jeff Petit saw a f at the Cumming Water Plant January 13. The Cumming Water Plant had large numbers of Bufflehead* with 28 on December 10, 180 on January 30 as told by Jeff Petit.

Jeff also noticed a flock of about 60 Turkey and Black Vultures heading south near Cumming December 10. A large Cooper's Hawk* was in the backyard of Vince and Trina Jackson December 3. A Bald Eagle* was noted by Liz Bradshaw and Hugh Garrett on Cumberland Is December 31. Another Peregrine Falcon* was recorded and photographed in downtown Atlanta December 17 by Darrell Harris. Peregrines inhabit cities feeding on pigeons. Remember, Am Kestrels live downtown, so don't assume that any falcon is a Peregrine. A Merlin* was reported at the Atlanta Regional Hospital December 9 by Tom Brocklin.

A covey of 12 Bobwhite were seen in the urban setting at North Highland and Copenhill Ave. January 23 by Peggy Fletcher. Sandhill Cranes* were still moving in mid-December. Tom Sinclair saw 80-100 over Northlake Mall December 10; Carol Estes Youorski and Marion Estes saw two groups over Decatur on that same day; there were more observations on December 11 and 17. Two were seen on the Georgia side of the Eufaula NWR January 12 by Atlanta Auduboners on a field trip.

A Greater Yellowlegs was a late straggler at L Acworth December 9 spotted by Terry Miller. An ad Great Black-backed Gull* was seen on Cumberland Is December 31 by Liz Bradshaw and Hugh Garrett. Liz and Hugh noticed Parasitic Jaegers* three times - 2 different birds - from the Cumberland Is Beach December 31. Anselmi Atkins reports that by January 1 a pair of Great Horned Owls* were roosting in their yard. Joe Greenberg noted a very unusual straggler, a swift*, at the dam above Fort Gaines, Georgia side December 2. Whether this was a very late Chimney Swift or a wandering Vaux's will never be known as they're very difficult to tell apart in the field. Since there are records of the Vaux's Swift in the Southeast in winter, there's a very good chance it was a Vaux's. Thirty Horned Larks were seen on the Lookout Plateau January 12 by Mike Jones, Joe Greenberg, Peggy Fletcher, Terry Moore.

A late straggling Tennessee W* was seen in southeast Marietta on December 2, 9 and 16 by Peggy Fletcher and Terry Moore. This evidently represents the first wintering record of the species in Georgia (November 9 1969). For the second year in a row, Jane Ryan reports a male N Oriole at her feeder, appearing on December 8 and 15.

Treadway Foley reported a m Yellow-headed Blackbird* January 2 in his backyard in Decatur with other blackbirds. The complete yellow head, black body, white wing patch were carefully observed. This is the first known carefully authenticated record in Atlanta. House Finches* have staged an astounding invasion of the Atlanta area this winter, especially from downtown Atlanta to Decatur. The traditional area around Bob Raymond's feeder near Brookwood Station is overrun with them; Terrill and Ginny Soules saw 125+ at the Bobby Jones Golf Course January 26; Bob Manns saw 50+ in Marietta January 16; Vince and Trina Jackson reported their first one January 26 and Parker Smith banded around 50 at his feeder. Joe Greenberg reports Fox Sparrows in good numbers at Pendergrass February 2; 1 was at Ruth Rosenberg's feeder January 27.

The Kingfisher - Cherokee AS, Dalton

Back on November 27, Sandy Pangle feels he saw a Saw-whet Owl* in Rich Mtn, Fannin Co. Frank Paruka, Manager of the U.S. Fish Hatchery, Cohutta, mentioned that a N Shoveler* was present for a week, the call being received December 8. Linda Coker and her family watched 75-100 Sandhill Cranes* pass over their home on December 9 and saw 4

more on December 10. David Shoemaker feels he saw 25 Sandhill Cranes* on December 8 and 9.

Ollie Munn phoned in that she had a visit from a m and f Evening Grosbeaks at her feeder February 9. Maureen King has a hundred or so descending on her feeder and totally cleaning them out (February newsletter).

On January 24, Mary Garrison related this bit of news - a Mallard hen laid 23 eggs about 2 months ago. About 2 weeks ago, 9 eggs hatched, but they died. Another hen laid 10 eggs and is sitting on them. The nest is covered with leaves when she goes off the nest. Harriett DiGioia reports 2 Evening Grosbeaks at the Lake Conasauga Recreation Area and enjoyed 20-25 Red Crossbills moving from pine tree to pine tree to feed on seeds at the Bray Field Gate, Hickory Cr Trailhead, Cohutta Wilderness Area on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. As they flew from tree to tree, they gave a sprightly, lively, joyous call. An Orange-crowned W was at her suet feeder in her yard January 16.

Sandhill Crane news - On March 4, Eric Carlson and other Young Adult Conservation Corps enrollees working for the Forest Service on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest saw 200 cranes* passing over. Other Forest Service personnel said they noticed cranes passing over the district March 3. On March 10 Eric Carlson noted 10-12 cranes going over the Stillhouse Branch pine plantation on the district. Delano Crowe watched 40 cranes pass over his house on March 9. Birders on a field trip March 9 at the Cohutta Fish Hatchery enjoyed seeing 180 cranes fly over. That's a total of 432 Sandhill Cranes reported.

Jim Bassett watched 80 Canada Geese wing over his home about the first week in March.

Letters to the Editor

Whit Mead thinks he saw an im Golden Eagle* in northeast Screven Co December 13 and has been seeing numerous Ring-necked Ducks.

Lois Groszmann of Waycross writes - "On February 1, I saw a bird that had me puzzled for over a month. At first I thought the bird was an im Baltimore (Northern) Oriole because we have had several pairs over the years; but, it didn't quite fit the description. After getting a good look about the middle of the month, I decided it was a f Western Tanager*. I discussed it with several members of the Club (bird club) but they were as skeptical as I because the sightings are rare in Georgia. Then on March 1 there was no mistaking as the male showed up. What a thrill to see such a gorgeous bird on my feeding board. This morning, March 9, 2 males and 2 females came to my feeding board. They came again this afternoon. My mother, Mrs. W. C. Hafford, has observed the birds, too. ..."

Albert Kleckner of Athens sends this item in - "House Finches* are not very common in the Athens area during the winter months. A small flock has been regular visitors to a neighbor's feeder since January 22. I have observed and photographed them on several occasions to date (March 11). One of the males carries a leg band on the left leg."

Arthur Green of Hiwassee tells us about his sightings - "December 18, Sharp-shinned Hawk*; December 31, flock of Evening Grosbeaks; January 2, Marsh Hawk, Phoebe, Cedar Waxwings; January 14, pair of Hooded Mergansers; January 19, Horned Grebe*, Com. Loon*;

January 23, Sharp-shinned Hawk*; February 4, more Evening Grosbeaks - a pair, with a flock of 25 two days later. Today (March 15) counted 41 in the trees. February 4, 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers; February 5, Red-headed Woodpecker; February 8, White-crowned Sparrow* in plumage; March 1, f Ruddy Duck. On March 7, my son saw a N Parula W* (my son is a wildlife biologist who has just compiled the bird list for a National Park in Benin, West Africa. He has worked in Africa 6 years and will be returning there shortly)." Arthur Green felt he might have had a Black-capped Chickadee* at his feeder December 24 and just might have seen a pair of Red-necked Grebes* March 14.

News of People

Doris Crowe is recovering from surgery. We wish you a complete and speedy recovery!

Milton and Mary Hopkins were quoted in the March 15 Atlanta Journal and Constitution about the thousands of Purple Martins that descend annually on Fitzgerald.

Louise Nunnally, a former G.O.S.er, was married last December in Gatlinburg to Ralph McLeroy.

Billy Pulliam, attending college in California, says he has identified California Quail, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brown Towhee, California Thrasher around the Stanford campus.

Our ornithological teachers are at it again! Georgann Schmalz taught a bird course at Clayton Jr. College; Joe Greenberg continues his Ornithological Evenings at Emory University; Frank McCamey teaches "Learning Birds - How and Where" at Oglethorpe University.

Travelers - Martha Smart journeyed out Texas way during the Christmas holidays. She saw 18 Whooping Cranes, some of them close enough to see the bands on their legs and to watch them feed. Bill and Lee Gibbs counted hawks on a trip to Jackson, MS. On the way over, they bagged 70 Red-tails and 7 Am Kestrels. While in Jackson, they drove 30 miles to Vicksburg, counting 65 Red-tails and 5 Am Kestrels. Coming back, they counted 88 hawks - the counting was from Atlanta to Atlanta.

Daniel Jacobson took a trip deep into the rain forest of Mexico. A letter dated September 8 said "a great trip ... good birding - over 245 seen!" Dorothy Connell added a Stellar's Jay to her list when visiting the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Bill and Virginia Culpepper saw Mute Swans at Easton, MD and Glossy Ibis at Chincoteague, VA. The Criscuolos spent 6 weeks in Spain; they enjoyed the European Storks. On a trip to Denver, CO, Hazel Flateau added Mountain Bluebird, Clark's Nutcracker, Magpie to her life list.

Thought for the Day

Human beings belong out-of-doors as much as stars and flowers. But there is no denying that the rush of living and working has had the effect of making us unfamiliar with the natural world. And, in one important way, many of us are aliens. We need to relearn what our forefathers knew and native people still seem to understand intuitively - and that is the practice of frugality. That's what conservation is all about - never taking more from nature than we really need, never leaving behind unnecessary traces of our presence, and not inflicting wounds on the earth.

The Joy of Nature

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor

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