

THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society - Vol. VII, No. 4

June 30, 1980

Editorial Comment

From the reports crossing my desk, indications are that the spring migration was slow. Waves of birds were reported in only a few instances. Most species were accounted for, coming through in a slow trickle. Birds were coming into the state on a widely spread-out basis.

Headline birds of the spring season include: 11 Hudsonian Godwits near Shakerag; Wilson's Phalaropes near Atlanta. More Sandhill Crane sightings have been reported during this spring than at any other time during my editorship (seven years). Spring of 1979 comes in a close second. Either more Sandhill Cranes are being seen or more birders are out searching for these cranes. Reports came from Atlanta, Macon, Whitfield County, Forsyth, Carter's Lake in Murray County, and from the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Golden Plovers were seen at Rogers Bridge near Atlanta; Osprey sightings came in from Atlanta, Macon and Hiwassee. Like the Sandhill Cranes, Ospreys are being reported more and more. Again, this means more Ospreys or more people looking for Ospreys. Horned Grebe were on Lake Lanier and Lake Chatuge; Merlins were watched at Cartersville, Atlanta and Augusta. From Hiwassee comes a report of Tree Swallows carrying nesting material into a martin house.

Swallow-tailed Kites were watched at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and in Screven County. From Augusta and the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest, came House Wren sightings, while young were hatched in Atlanta. House Finches continue to be seen in Atlanta; a Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Philadelphia Vireo made news at Columbus; a Yellow-headed Blackbird was also in Atlanta.

Round-up of GOS News

The Spring Meeting at Tumbling Waters was g-r-e-a-t! 99 people registered; 116 species of birds were seen. All the ingredients spelling success were there - birds to study, birders with whom to compare notes, programs offering information and beauty. All that plus good home-cooked food and a peaceful mountain setting.

Weekend activities got under way with a Friday night slide presentation, "Songbird Management in a National Forest" by Harriett Di Gioia, U. S. Forest Service Biological Aide. Slides were shown of the Songbird Management Area, located in the Lake Conasauga Recreation Area, Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. This is the pilot non-game management area for Region 8 (Southern Region) of the Forest Service. Through a modified clear-cut operation, openings in the forest were created, making the management area attractive to both woodland and open area birds. Record keeping of bird sightings started in May 1976 with a pre-timbering survey; other surveys were conducted after the timbering was done. At last count (June 1980), 102 species have been seen in the area.

The banquet speaker was one of our own members, Dr. Emil Urban, Professor and Chairman of the Biology Department of Augusta College. He gave a most interesting and informative talk on "Birds of Africa". This was an opportunity for GOSers to see the birds of Africa and take an armchair tour of this interesting, complex continent.

The Fall Meeting will be October 10, 11, 13, 1980 at Epworth-by-the-Sea on St. Simon's Island. See details below.

Two Belated Christmas Bird Count Reports

Sapelo Island - December 29, 1979: 130 species. Best finds: Marbled Godwit*, White-eyed Vireo*, Solitary Vireo*, Seaside Sparrow, Sharp-shinned Hawk*. A Whimbrel* was seen on December 30.

Columbus CBC: Barn Owl* - first ever; White-winged Scoter*, Bald Eagle* 2.

From Your President

Your new president enjoyed presiding for his first time at Tumbling Waters in the general meeting, May 3, 1980. It was a beautiful setting that surrounded more than 100 birders gathered to share in the spring migration through north Georgia. The bird list reached 116 for the weekend.

Some 20 people were in the dining room at 3:00 to discuss the activities and future of the Georgia Ornithological Society, substituting this for a formal business meeting. I felt that reviewing our needs in open discussion with the members might be the best way to encourage membership participating in planning our work. Indeed, many helpful suggestions came from this informal session.

I reported briefly on actions taken by the executive committee immediately prior to this general meeting, and you will have an abstract of the minutes of these sessions. Need of the Society for people to work in various jobs were emphasized. I appeal to all of you to help meet these needs:

Regional Representatives in all parts of the state to further the Society's objectives. Contact Jeannine Angerman if you can help in this important effort.

Field trip leaders for anywhere, to expand our bird outings.

Publicity chairperson to generate news releases and channel them to appropriate outlets.

Assistant business manager to give T. McRae Williams a hand with sales and storage of publications.

Conservation enthusiast to represent GOS on environmental matters, primarily attending meetings to present our concerns.

Most urgent is the need for additional funding to support The Oriole and The GOShawk. About 100 new members, or an increase in dues, will be necessary to maintain our publications. All your ideas on this problem will be welcome.

Happy evidence of membership support for our programs appeared with two volunteers for important jobs. Joe Greenberg will edit a revision of The Birder's Guide to Georgia, our most popular publication and now out-of-print. Let him know of choice birding spots in your area that should be included. Tom Patterson, of Dublin, will plan field trips for the fall meeting at St. Simon's Island, and he will set up additional weekend trips in the following months. Let him know of your local habitats that would be interesting to a visitor in your area.

Bill Lovejoy has conquered the problem of a new editor with an old publication and the latest Oriole will be in your hands in July. Can you contribute an article for a future issue? Bill is counting on you.

Remember that the GOS exists for you and your enjoyment of birds in Georgia. I know the executive committee joins me in a promise to work hard to further your interests - just let us know what we can do for you.

Franklin McCaskey

4676 Andover Court
Atlanta, GA 30360

Tel. 404-455-7533

Important Announcement

Fall Meeting - - - - - October 10-11-12, 1980

Come join the fall migration by the sea. We will stay at the Methodist Center, Epworth-by-the-Sea, a small village on St. Simon's Island with a lodge, dining room, and motel room accommodations.

Rates are the best ever! Double occupancy, a room will cost \$38.00 per person, including meals Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.

3 to a room	\$17.00 per day, per person
4 to a room	\$15.00 per day, per person

All rates include 3 meals per day -- add 4% tax
GOS Registration - \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per family

Reservation forms and directions will come to you with the detailed program announcement in late August. The Friday night social hour will include plans and sign-up for Saturday field trips under the leadership of Tom Patterson. Saturday night will feature a guest speaker and a brief business meeting.

Fall meetings on the coast are always exciting -- Plan now to be with us for one of the best!!

NOTE dates for the Spring 1981 Meeting

April 24-26, at Tallahassee, Florida, hosted by the Tall Timbers Research Station. Joint meeting with Alabama and Florida societies.

May 3, 1980

Abstract of the Minutes, Business Session, Spring Meeting, Tumbling Waters

Minutes. To save space, an abstract rather than full minutes will be published in The Goshawk. Complete minutes are available to the membership by application to the secretary at the next general meeting.

Earle Greene Award. Members are urged to make suggestions for this to the selection committee chaired by Elbridge Freeborn, 122 Lamont Drive, Decatur, Ga. 30030. The award will be given to a member having made significant contributions to ornithology and GOS. (The stricture that this contribution should have been made in the previous calendar year is no longer in effect). Members whose names are placed in nomination (and not chosen for the award) will remain in nomination for future consideration. The award will next be presented at the Fall Meeting, 1980.

Appointments. Peggy Waters to handle mailing of The Oriole and The Goshawk. Joe Greenberg to edit a revised and updated Birder's Guide to Georgia. Emil Urban and Branch Howe to the Editorial Committee.

Treasurer's Report. Balance April 19, 1980, of \$6,804.03. The treasury looks healthy, but it will soon be depleted by subtraction of the publication costs of The Oriole. Membership stands at around 200. GOS needs at least 300 members in order to raise a budget that will sustain its activities and publications. McCamey asked members to suggest ways in which membership could be increased.

The Oriole. Editor Lovejoy reports that the March 1979 issue is at the printer; the double issue of June-September will follow about 6 weeks after the mailing of March 1979; the December 1979 issue is scheduled for a few months after that.

Needs. Volunteers are needed to work in the following areas: Conservation, publicity, membership, and publications sales.

Field Trips. Tom Patterson will be field trip coordinator for field trips to be held between the two regular yearly meetings. Members are urged to suggest places and leaders for field trips to him.

Miscellaneous. President Frank McCamey has represented GOS at the Georgia Conservancy Annual Conference in February 1980; a Fish and Wildlife Service conservation retreat at Rock Eagle; and the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the Audubon Society, Blue Ridge, N.C., May 16-18, 1980.

Upcoming Meetings. Fall Meeting: October 10-12, 1980, at Epworth-by-the-Sea, St. Simon's Island. Spring Meeting: Held jointly with Florida Ornithological Society and Alabama Ornithological Society on April 24-26, 1981, at Tall Timbers Research Center, Tallahassee, Florida.

-Jonny Howell, Secretary

Earle R. Greene Award for 1980

Who has done the most for ornithology in Georgia? We want to recognize them with the Earle R. Greene Award at the general meeting in October. Send your nomination to:

W. Elbridge Freeborn
Committee Chairman
122 Lamont Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Telephone 373-6806

Since 1975 this memorial award has been given by the Georgia Ornithological Society to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of ornithology, or to the GOS, within the state of Georgia. The award can also be made to an organization that meets this requirement of service.

The outstanding quality of past recipients suggests that there may be many others who have made substantial contributions in past years. Let Elbridge know who they are.

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 area 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 checklist.

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.

Atlanta AS - Jeff Petit reported a Com Loon* and 14 Horned Grebe* on L Lanier March 30. At the Emory University President's Estate (EPE), 13 N Shoveler* (9 m, 4 f) were seen by Peggy Fletcher March 30. Also at EPE a f Lesser Scaup was spotted March 23 by Patrick and Donna Brisse.

Vince and Trina Jackson report a small raptor migration over their house in Decatur March 9 and 15. Species sighted were Turkey Vulture, Hawks - Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered. The only Marsh Hawks found were 2 at Rogers Bridge March 22 by Patrick and Donna Brisse, Bob Manns, Didi Kelly. An Osprey* was observed over N.E. Atlanta March 23 by Peggy Fletcher and Terry Moore. Two reports of Merlins* came in. One at Cartersville March 18 by Bob Manns, and a very unusual sighting at Fernbank Forest March 23 by Georgann Schmalz.

Sandhill Cranes* were seen in normal numbers in early March; Bob Manns watched 29 of them flying north over Sandy Springs March 24. Richard Parks found a dead Sora* on 6th St. in late March. Five Golden Plover* were discovered by Jeff Petit at

Rogers Bridge March 21. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were seen beginning March 21, along with 5-10 Pectoral Sandpipers. Courting Am Woodcock were observed doing their courtship flights along the Chattahoochee R just north of I-285 all during March by Peggy Fletcher and Terry Moore.

One Great-horned Owl* was heard calling along the Chattahoochee R north of I-285 several times during March by Peggy and Terry. A belated report of a hummingbird* seen in late February was received from Nancy Chandler. Joel Volpi reports an early Rough-winged Swallow March 9 at Lawrenceville. An even more unusual record was a Barn Swallow seen near Trenton March 15 by Joe Greenberg. Jeff Petit noticed a 1000 + Am Robins at Rogers Bridge March 12.

Early warblers were a Black-and-White and a Yellow-throated at Reynolds Sanctuary by many observers on March 23. An early N Waterthrush was seen and well-documented by two groups on the Fernbank migration walk March 23, led by Georgann Schmalz and David Glass. A m Yellow-headed Blackbird visited Katherine McCarley's feeder intermittently during the month, last being reported by Mary Ann Vernocy March 22. A flock of Rusty Blackbirds generated interest when 9 were observed at EPE March 23 by Patrick and Donna Brisse.

Helen Ogren claims the largest number of Evening Grosbeaks, with about 50 at her feeder in Crabapple. Bill Hicks reports that since 1978 he has had House Finches* either nesting on his patio or at least using it as a feeding station. Bill lives on the 17th floor of an apartment building at Peachtree and North Ave. Five Vesper Sparrows were noted at the Regional Hospital March 9 by Patrick and Donna Brisse, Bob Manns, Didi Kelly.

Three Com Loons* were on L Lanier April 18 according to Dan McWhorter. Double-crested Cormorants* were spotted twice, once on April 16 at L Lanier by Dan and at Griffin on April 23 by Hugh Garrett. Two reports of Cattle Egrets came in, one near Parkaire Mall by Judy Jachimowicz on April 16 and one by Wally and Jean Dreyfoos near Rogers Bridge April 19. A Great Egret was found by Hugh Garrett near Griffin April 7. A rare sighting of Snow Geese* was made by Scott Ranger April 10 as a flock of 7 passed over Atlanta.

A Merlin* was seen by Tom Brockman April 9 in downtown Atlanta near the C&S Building. Ospreys were very well reported during this time period.

The Bird-of-the-Month (if not the year) Award goes to the flock of 11 Hudsonian Godwits* discovered by Joe Greenberg and Bob Manns April 15 near Shakerag. Unfortunately, no other birders were able to see them. This is the third sighting (first inland) of the Hudsonian Godwit and one of the very few eastern spring records. (This very definitely needs to be written up for inclusion in The Oriole - Ed.) Eight Wilson's Phalaropes* and 2 Upland Sandpipers* were also seen. Eight Upland Sandpipers* were at Rogers Bridge April 19, seen by many observers. Dan Forster saw one at Lockheed April 15. A record early White-rumped Sandpiper* was observed at Pendergrass April 26 by Joe Greenberg (7 May 1945 - Ed.). 20+ Willets* were observed in northeast Cobb Co April 26 by John Swiderski.

Ernie Duvoy reported 15 gulls of unknown species over Peachtree-DeKalb Airport April 11. Hugh Garrett gives us 2 Forster's Terns* April 25 at the Griffin reservoir. A Cliff Swallow* was noted at Rogers Bridge April 8 by Scott Ranger. Young House Wrens* were reported out of the nest April 27 in Stone Mountain by Peggy Fletcher. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported by more observers than usual this past spring with 4-5 observations. Swainson's Thrushes were generally reported in lower numbers. Eileen Hutcheson turned in a Nashville W* on April 24.

Better than average sightings of N Orioles were turned in. Many observers reported on the unusually high number of Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Evening Grosbeaks continued to be reported with 30 at the feeder of Ken and Barbara Acree. Last sighting was on April 25. House Finches are still around, mostly in the downtown area. A Lincoln's Sparrow* was seen by Joe Greenberg at Rogers Bridge April 18.

The Fall Line - Ocmulgee AS - Macon - Joyce and Jim Harrison led a field trip to Jekyll Is March 14-16. Thirty species were listed with plentiful Brown Pelicans and Black Skimmers, plus a Yellow-throated W and a Yellow-throated Vireo.

Several members reported flights of Sandhill Cranes* over Middle Georgia, some containing well over 100 individuals (April newsletter). Dick Lux saw 3 Evening Grosbeaks on March 3. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher came to his feeder March 26. Great-crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary W, White-crowned Sparrow* and an Osprey* were watched at L Tobesofkee (May newsletter).

A nature-loving family recently moved into a new home at Pinesworth-by-the-lake (Tobesofkee) and prepared to enjoy their hobby of feeding and watching birds. Instead, they became the watchees for a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers who not only peered into their windows, but systematically attacked the window frames.

The Albany Limpkin - Albany AS - Marge Botti saw 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers in dead pines and 8 N Parula Ws (May newsletter).

Birding About - Withlacoochee Watchers - Valdosta - Dr. Connell's class field trip to Grassy Pond netted 50 species. A Black-crowned Night Heron flew quite low over their heads. Sleek Gray Catbirds came back on March 24, in line behind the Blue Jays and Cardinals at the Culpepper's grits feeder. Virginia Culpepper wonders where all the House Sparrows were this past winter and thinks they may have been intimidated by the Chipping Sparrows.

Augusta AS - On February 14, Clarence Belger had a f N Oriole at his feeder; he had been enjoying a m off and on since January 1. House Finches* were about on February 14, with over 100 at his feeding operation. Forty-two Evening Grosbeaks were visiting on February 15. A House Wren* popped up at his home February 28 and he spotted a Merlin* at Gracewood February 16 and observed his first Purple Martin February 18. Anne Waters at the Lock and Dam watched a Brown Creeper, House Wren*, flocks of Cedar Waxwings February 23.

Anne wrote up her notes on the Cinnamon Teal and Cinnamon Teal hybrid that have been seen in Augusta in recent winters for the Augusta newsletter. She took some slides of the Cinnamon Teal on November 23, 1979. So far, 9 Cinnamon Teal sightings have been made by Anne and her husband, Vernon, beginning January 22, 1977 through January 2, 1980. Three Cinnamon Teal hybrid sightings have taken place, beginning March 12, 1977 through January 28, 1979. (This valuable information needs to be written up for publication in The Oriole - Ed.)

In his yard on March 11, Clarence Belger saw a Fox Sparrow and March 29 he had 23 Evening Grosbeaks, 40+ House Finches*, 2 Chipping Sparrows. On March 25, he took a long walk down Stink Ditch to Farmer's Field, seeing early Indigo Bunting, Little Blue Heron, 2 early Cattle Egrets. Near Farmer's Field, he found a Red-tailed Hawk on its nest. The March 22 field trip resulted in the listing of a White-crowned Sparrow* and Pintail*.

George Perkins found a Brown-headed Nuthatch had built a nest in the pipe of a swing set at his home. As of April 25, Clarence Belger had one pair of House Finches* left out of the 100 birds hanging around his feeder last winter. Fifteen Evening Grosbeaks have also been at his feeding operation. Also on April 25, he found a Black-crowned Night Heron*. April 19 at Stink Ditch, he saw 9 House Wrens*.

The Observer - Columbus AS - Robert Knight got a good look at a Red-shouldered Hawk right in town along the Hilton Ave. woodland March 20. Florence Lynn reports a Chuck-will's-widow March 28 and a Whip-poor-will March 20. Back on February 27, she had a f Evening Grosbeak and 8 were at her feeder March 3. A Worm-eating W turned up at her home March 14. Jack Clinton saw a m and 2 f Evening Grosbeaks at Bibb City. Peggy Spencer spotted a Philadelphia Vireo* March 25.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird* has been seen in a flock of blackbirds near Columbus College this past winter, according to Mike Fuller. David Flowers has had 11 House Finches* at a time at his feeder in late March. Sam Pate tells about a wave of birds passing through the area - Orchard Oriole, Cape May W, Red-eyed Vireo, E Kingbird, Summer Tanager - on April 20. An Am Coot with nylon fishing line wrapped tightly around one of its legs was brought to Sam. Gangrene set in and Sam amputated the leg, ministered to the bird for a few days, then released it at Cooper Cr.

Florence Lynn gives us a Yellow-billed Cuckoo April 8. Sam Pate had plenty of Prairie Ws at his place the same date. The Brookstone School ornithology class saw 6 hawks on campus - 2 Red-tails, 2 Red-shoulders, 2 Broad-wings. April 14, Max Goodby saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at his place. Sam Pate and H. Rainwater found 4 Com Loons* at Callaway Gardens April 13. Peggy Spencer watched 2 Cerulean Ws* and a Blackpoll W at her home April 16.

The Kingfisher - Cherokee AS - Dalton - Sandhill Cranes* still in the news! On March 15, Jim Bassett had the pleasure of watching 120 cranes pass over his home. Vernon Gordon, March 17, saw 30-40 of them. Eric Carlson, March 22, noted 10 cranes flying over Carter's Dam. Then on March 24, Eric and Harriett Di Gioia on their way to work had the thrill of seeing 16 Sandhill Cranes* down in the flooded bottoms on the Conasauga R at the Ga. Highway 286 bridge. As they watched, the cranes walked about, finally taking off and circling very low over their heads, uttering their guttural cries. Sandy Pangle reports seeing many cranes passing over. Counting the 432 cranes previously seen this spring, the known total for northwest Georgia is 518 Sandhill Cranes* sighted.

Shannon Coker called in a blue morph Snow Goose* March 15 and said it had been in their pond four days. Eric Carlson feels he saw a Peregrine Falcon* April 10 on the West Cowpen Rd. (Forest Service Rd. 17 - FSRd) on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. The falcon flew across the road in front of the Forest Service van, then perched on a tree. Other Forest Service personnel in the van also saw the falcon. Sandy Pangle observed a Cattle Egret March 18 on Foster Rd.

Fourteen Evening Grosbeaks were listed on the Spring Count. 107 species were recorded on this count April 26.

Harriett Di Gioia - sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest: 2 House Wrens*, Songbird Management Area March 25; Black-throated Green W gathering nesting material April 17 on FSRd 18; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher building nest April 22 in the Alaculsy Valley, Ga. Hwy. 2; Black-throated Blue W, Chestnut Lead Trail, Cohutta Wilderness April 24; Swainson's W, Songbird Management Area May 31; 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, Tearbitches Trailhead, FSRd 68 on June 5. At Fort Mtn. State Park, April 19, she saw an early Chestnut-sided W.

Letters to the Editor

Sandy Beasley of Savannah writes: "April 25, 26, a friend and I traveled to the Okefenokee NWR and Stephen C. Foster State Park to take part in their annual Birding Weekend. It was a birder's delight! We went on guided tours of the River Narrows and Sill Area and Minnie's L." She listed 32 species as seen in her letter, including: Laughing Gull*? - no one able to make a positive identification, did have a black head; Carolina Chickadee (according to her notes, the Department of the Interior in their pamphlet, "Birds of the Okefenokee" lists the Carolina Chickadee as unusual - Ed.); Cape May W* (again listed as unusual - Ed.); Great Horned Owl*; Swallow-tailed Kite*; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (listed as unusual in pamphlet); Snowy Egret (also listed as unusual). "All in all it was a very worthwhile and enjoyable weekend."

Terry Johnson, Senior Wildlife Biologist at the Rum Cr. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Forsyth, gives us these sightings: "Below I've listed some of the more notable sightings I'm aware of in the Central Georgia area since the first of the year.

"Snow Geese* that showed up last fall on the West Point WMA, LaGrange, are still present (as of May 1). These 3 birds can be seen in the goose management enclosure most of the time. Cooley Cooper, Area Manager of the Rum Cr WMA reports he and his wife, Sharon, saw approximately 25 Snow Geese* on the area April 3.

"Young Adult Conservation Corps enroller Linda Guy and I sighted over 100 Sandhill Cranes* passing over Rum Cr WMA March 13. Purple Finches appeared to be more common in the Forsyth area this past winter. Finches were at my feeder well into March. My wife Donna and daughter Angela first spotted Evening Grosbeaks February 2. They were seen regularly until April 23 when the last sighting was made at my feeder in Forsyth. Cooley Cooper and I made the first sighting of a Upland Plover (Sandpiper)* on the Rum Cr WMA April 28. The bird was seen in an overgrown pasture at a distance of about 20 feet."

Arthur Green of Hiwassee tells us of his bird news: f Ruddy Duck March 3, 3 Hooded Mergansers last seen March 9. "I had never seen Horned Grebes* in spring plumage except in North Dakota and Manitoba. This spring we had a number around, 5 on March 23 with the last one on April 1. There is apparently quite a colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers at Cedarcliff, a mile from our house. I had 3 in view at one time. We had 41 Evening Grosbeaks March 15. They were still dropping in occasionally up to mid-April. My son heard a Black-billed Cuckoo* April 27; the first of many Ospreys* passed through April 10. Six Snow Geese* were on the lake (Chatuge) first weekend in March, reported by a neighbor.

"The first migrating Tree Swallows* were on March 23, 31. This noon (May 4) I was wandering around my yard and one came winging in off the lake, lit on the railing of my martin house, went inside, rested 10 minutes, then flew off...

"On May 4, I saw a Tree Swallow* in my martin house. On May 5, a pair were going in and out; the next day I saw 5 about. On May 8, a pair were carrying nesting material into a compartment; May 9, five were around again. I have seen the pair (Tree Swallows*) mating on the wires in front of my house and this afternoon (May 18) took several pictures of one on the house. (Needs to be written up for The Oriole - Ed.)

"Saw a f Wilson's W* in a plum tree near the carpost May 18. No wing bars, red streaking or eye ring. Studied it for several minutes."

Grace Boddiford tells us this news from Screven Co: William and Katherine Pfeiffer observed a total of 50 Swallow-tailed Kites* and Mississippi Kites May 25. Grace Boddiford saw 4 Swallow-tailed* and 20 Mississippi Kites May 26. They were seen in fewer numbers during the remainder of the week. On June 2, Grace and Anne Hamilton watched 3 Mississippi Kites near Briar Cr.

News of People

We are saddened to report the death of the wife of a former GOSer. Donna Pangle, 20, wife of Sandy Pangle died suddenly April 23; they have been married less than a year and a half. Our sympathy to Allan and Elain Gates in the death of his father at Rochester, N.Y.

Congratulations to two of our members: The dedication of The Dorsey Trail, named in honor of George Andrew Dorsey, naturalist and educator at the Darlington School, was held on May 4 at the Marshall Forest in Rome. George is one of our Charter Members.

Georgine Pindar was awarded the Special Conservation Achievement Award presented by the Georgia Wildlife Federation. She is a former president of GOS.

Don and Doris Cohrs traveled to Augusta to present the May program to the Audubon Society - "What Bird Banding is all About". Harriet DiGioia was the banquet speaker at the Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage of the Georgia Botanical Society in Clayton. She gave a slide narrative "Cherokee Cures" featuring old timey and modern day medicinal use of plants.

Rip and Carolyn Holman listed 127 birds on a trip to Florida including a Dickcissel at Alligator Point. Frank DiGioia on two trips to Florida enjoyed Bald Eagle, Osprey, Anhinga, Fish Crows and Frigatebird.

Billy Pulliam tells us he has added 33 lifers since Christmas including Yellow-billed Loon, Tufted Duck, Black-headed and Little Gulls, while at the University of California at Stanford.

Miscellaneous

Lil Dubke, editor of The Chattanooga Chat, Tennessee OS, ran this interesting item: ... Richard, home for a few day's visit, related this observation. He works on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas. During a recent storm, birds fell exhausted on the rig, 100 miles offshore. He saw a Screech Owl feeding on the birds. How did the owl get there; how long had the owl been on the rig?

Ga. Department of Natural Resources wants to know the location of active Osprey nests, Osprey sightings and the nesting areas of all large wading birds. Also, if you see a juvenile Bald Eagle or a Bald Eagle with green and white tags, please contact DNR. Address to use for both the above is: Ron Odom, Endangered Wildlife Program, Rt. 2, Box 119A, Social Circle, GA 30279. Or call: 404-557-2532.

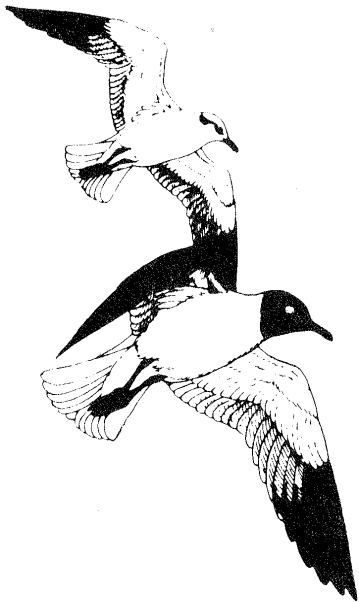
Thought for the Day

The web of life is spun into billions of force lines radiating in every direction. These lines contain signals and memories, adaptations and coordinates, color messages and intuitions. All this effort blends into one mighty objective: the struggle to survive and live as long and as fruitfully as possible. When some of these secret animal signals are better understood, man himself may benefit in ways he cannot now imagine. The Secret Life of Animals - Lorus and Margery Milne, Franklin Russell.

Harriet G. DiGioia, Editor
U. S. Forest Service
401 Old Ellijay Rd.
Chatsworth, GA 30705

G O S

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 38214
ATLANTA, GA. 30334



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