

THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society - Vol. VIII, No. 1
September 30, 1980

Editorial Comment

No migration pattern could be discerned from the news crossing my desk. Not enough fall bird movement had yet been reported at the time of this writing to say how the state migration was faring.

Dalton's migration was lackluster, with one reported small wave of birds. The few birders I talked with from the Atlanta area reported poor findings. There were no major cold fronts moving down over Georgia to carry the birds along. The December newsletter will have more detail on the fall migration. Migration movement over the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest, especially around the Songbird Management Area on Grassy Mountain, was very rewarding.

Immature White Ibis felt the wanderlust, being seen in such diverse and unlikely spots as Shakerag, Dalton and in the mountains of the Cohutta Ranger District. Not to be outdone, Sandhill Cranes were seen near Americus. Bald Eagle reports, always welcome, came from Columbus and Carter's Dam. Osprey were reported from around the Atlanta area.

Dickcissels sang at Pendergrass and at Hendersonville; with Bachman's Sparrows in song at Stockbridge. A Willow Flycatcher appeared at Shakerag; while an im. Bonaparte's Gull was seen in Whitfield County. An American Coot and a Common Loon were on Lake Chatuge near Hiwassee in July. A Horned Grebe was swimming in Lake Lanier. Red Crossbills, adults and immature; with one female feeding an immature, have been regularly observed on the Cohutta Ranger District. A Philadelphia Vireo and a Lawrence's Warbler were also seen on the District. House Finches still make news at Augusta and in Atlanta as do House Wrens in the Atlanta area where they raised young. Black-necked Stilts were seen near Savannah.

Noteworthy spring sightings being carried over are a Magnificent Frigatebird at Blackbeard Island; King Eider at the mouth of the Savannah River; Double-crested Cormorant at Lake Lanier; Swallow-tailed Kite on Jekyll Island. Connecticut Warblers were seen in Atlanta. Finishing off these editorial birds is a report of Tree Swallows seen in July near Hiwassee.

A Word From the President

Fall Meeting - October 10-12, 1980. St. Simons proved to be a splendid area for the regular fall meeting, and the weekend was a great success. The relaxed atmosphere and outdoor setting of the accommodations at Epworth-by-the-Sea were enhanced by beautiful weather to encourage us as we face up to approaching winter. Good birding and good fellowship were enjoyed by the 157 people registered, one of the largest GOS meetings in recent years.

The countdown on Sunday showed 160 species had been seen. On the pelagic trip, Cory's Shearwater and Bridled Tern were special sightings, in addition to numerous terns, gulls, pelicans and cormorants. On the Jekyll beach, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Gull-billed Tern were highlights, with Peregrine, Merlin, Knots, Skimmers and several other shorebirds.

Dr. Odum's talk on Saturday evening was a comprehensive review of coastal ecology, and he inspired us with hope for the future in pointing to some new ways to meet environmental problems. We were pleased to have his authoritative analysis of conditions that birders often note in their field studies.

A well-attended business meeting on Friday evening produced stimulating discussions of the Society's current problems. Finances, memberships, publications and future activities were covered. Details of these matters will be provided in minutes of the meeting in the next GOShawk.

Everyone expressed sincere concern that the Society continue to function with adequate financial support and membership participation to assure meeting our goals. Immediate assistance toward current needs was stimulated by Joe Meyers in presenting a challenge gift of \$50.00 to be matched by anyone who felt the Society's programs were worthy of support. The challenge was quickly accepted by loyal members, and \$460.00 was pledged, or paid, before the meeting concluded. With such an example, let's try to bring this special fund to \$1,000.00. Your check to the treasurer today will assure that our 1980 budget is balanced.

Successful programs for GOS require active participation by all members. Can you help in these areas of need?

Regional Representatives
New memberships
Nominating Committee

Finance Committee
Conservation Committee
Assistant Business Manager

If you can't help, do you know of someone who could? Let us have your ideas and comments.

For the Executive Committee



President

Field Trip for Hawks and Ducks

Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge - November 22-23, 1980
Meet at 8:00 a.m. (Georgia time) at Refuge Headquarters (Ala. 165, 7 mi. north of Eufaula) both mornings.

Here is a splendid opportunity to explore the wildlife refuge with experienced field birders. Drive the dikes on the Alabama side Saturday, walk into the marshes on the Georgia side on Sunday.

We will reserve cabins at Lakepoint Resort (Hwy. 431, 5 mi. north of Eufaula, on the Alabama side) for Friday and Saturday nights, sharing to reduce expenses. Rooms at the Inn and a campground are also available.

Pre-registration is required by November 15 if you wish to join us. Include a \$10 deposit if you want to reserve space in one of our reserved cabins. Send a note to Frank McCamey, 4676 Andover Court, Atlanta 30360 (404-455-7533) if you are going on the field trip. Call Lakepoint Resort State Park if you wish to make your own reservation for rooms or cabins (205-687-8011).

This is the first event planned in response to the interest expressed by the membership at Tumbling Waters in May, asking for more field trips. Please suggest additional locations we might like to see at some other time of year.

General Meeting Schedule

Spring 1981 --- Tallahassee, Florida

For April 24-26, we will be guests of Tall Timbers Research Station with an interesting program of birding and research projects in southwestern Georgia. Alabama O.S. and Florida O.S. will be there also. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us. Full details will be in the December GOShawk.

Fall 1981 -

Savannah! A new area to explore! If you know of birding areas, or can help with arrangements, contact our chairperson for arrangements, Jeannine Angerman, 1326 Evans Road, Aiken, South Carolina 29801 (803-648-1565).

Spring 1982 -

Where do you want to meet? Let Jeannine know some possibilities.

Les Davenport Receives Greene Award

Dr. L. B. Davenport, Jr. was honored at the fall meeting as the recipient of the Earle R. Greene Award for 1980. It was the unanimous decision of the award committee that the recently retired editor of The Oriole be recognized for his contributions to the Georgia Ornithological Society and to the study of ornithology in Georgia since 1966. In making this announcement, Dick Parks noted that the important editorial function filled by Les for 13 years was the most demanding and time consuming of all the Society's offices.

This memorial award is made by the Georgia Ornithological Society to an individual or organization that has made the most outstanding contribution to the field of ornithology or to the Georgia Ornithological Society within the state of Georgia. The award was established in 1975 in memory of Earle R. Greene to commemorate the contributions that he made to ornithology in Georgia, and it is presented at the general meeting of the Society in the fall by an award committee appointed for this purpose.

In past years the award has been made to:

Harriett G. DiGioia	1975
Richard A. Parks	1976
Dr. J. Fred Denton	1977
Milton R. Hopkins, Jr.	1978

It was fitting a timely that the award, made on October 11, 1980 at St. Simons Island, go to Dr. Davenport with the deep appreciation of the Georgia Ornithological Society for his many years of devoted service.

Lost and Found

Left behind at St. Simons were two ladies jackets, windbreaker type. One is navy, white flannel lined, with a GOS patch; the other is white, no lining, with hood and single front zippered pocket. Write to Frank McCamey for them if they are yours.

Round-up of GOS News

Here is a message from Joe Greenberg:

I am attempting to revise "A Birder's Guide to Georgia". This is being done at the behest of the Executive Committee of GOS. I would like to maintain the excellent quality of the Guide and, if possible, increase its coverage. To do this, I will need your cooperation.

First, there are errors which need correction - distances between points, for example. There are "good" areas which have been destroyed by human intrusion. There are "good" areas which have not been included in the Guide. I believe maps would be helpful.

Please let me know of any errors in the Guide, areas no longer good, and any favorite areas of yours. Follow the style of the current Guide.

Do you have any experience drawing simple maps? I could use a volunteer or two in this department.

Do you know any other areas in which "much wanted" birds can be found? These species are listed in the back of the Guide. Most particularly, do you know where red-cockaded woodpeckers, Swainson's warblers, or Bachman's sparrows can be found?

Tel.
404-636-3768

Joseph Greenberg
1546-A Woodlake Drive
Atlanta, GA 30329

We welcome the following new members: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Brent, Jekyll Island; Marilyn Bailey, Alpharetta; Elma Beynon, Gainesville; J. H. Carter, Southern Pines, NC; Nancy Cathcart, Hilton Head Island, SC; Joyce Mixson, Valdosta; Elsa Stratton, Aiken, SC; Clare Westhead, Statesboro; Howard White, Dallas; Cheryl Crosby, Stateboro; Michael Owens, Pembroke; Betty McIlwain, Brevard, NC; Margaret Stewart, Statesboro; Roger Feldman, Decatur; Scarlet Simmons, Jesup.

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; County - Co; Common - Com; American - Am; Warbler - W; Eastern - E; Northern - N.

The Piper - Coastal Georgia AS - Brunswick: On Blackbeard Is last April, Dr. George Sciple sighted a rare Magnificent Frigatebird* and a flock of Cape May Ws* were seen by birders.

The Marshlander - Ogeechee AS - Savannah: On April 9, 2 im Bald Eagles* were noted in the Argent Swamp on the Savannah R NWR. A Peregrine Falcon* was also noted on the refuge. (No date given. It is unknown to me if these were GA or SC sightings - Ed.). In April an im King Eider* was seen at the mouth of the Savannah R.

Augusta AS - Gen. Hoover of Ft. Gordon has had under observation for two years, four colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. On May 30, Joe Knipp observed the colonies. There are three colonies about a mile apart around the ponds area, all in Long-leaf Pines. The fourth is about 5 miles away, again in Long-leaf Pines. One m was seen in one colony. In another colony, a f was feeding nestlings.

Sam Pursley, living on the grounds of the Gracewood School, watched a Monk Parakeet building a nest or a roost in an oak tree in his yard. On May 21, he found the wing of a parakeet. F. X. Randles of Martinez saw 30-40 Snow Geese* flying overhead May 21.

Report on annual wade-in May 31: Pond #3 was checked with one White Ibis being found. No nests were seen. The '79 census showed 150 nesting White Ibis. Only 1 Anhinga nest was observed, although a dozen birds circled the pond. Little Green Heron 1; Little Blue Heron 15 pairs; Wood Ibis 1, were listed. The Cattle Egret count plummeted this year.

Clarence Belger reports downy young Least Bitterns in the cattail field at Merry Pond. Over at Bush Field, he watched a dozen Mississippi Kites soaring in the air. On August 12, he spotted a Broad-winged Hawk* over Highway 25 at Lumpkin Rd. and has had 1-5 House Finches* at his feeder. (August newsletter) A heron-egret roost has been found by him at Merry Ponds, containing White Ibis, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret.

Field Trip Results: July 19 - Am Redstarts* on Lover's Lane and Black-and-white Ws*. Mississippi Kites were sitting in trees and hawking for dragonflies like kingbirds. August 2 - Louisiana Herons. August 23 - Mature and im White Ibis and a Semipalmated Plover* at Merry Ponds.

The Fall Line - Ocmulgee AS - Macon: Ray Mangham reports a family of Chipping Sparrows near his home.

The Observer - Columbus AS: Capt. Stoneman, shile fishing at River Bend Park, saw a Bald Eagle* June 15. He saw the eagle catch a fish. Bob Terhune saw a N. Oriole at his place July 2 (August 23, 1975).

Atlanta AS: Georgann Schmalz and Doris Cohrs found a Connecticut W* on the Walk of May 8 at Fernbank. A House Finch* was found on the Reynolds Sanctuary Walk of March 23.

Van McWhorter spotted a Double-crested Cormorant* at L. Lanier (LL) May 15 for a fairly late date. Up in Augusta, Bob Manns saw a pair of lingering N Shovelers* in early May (April 26, 1932). He and Didi Kelly observed a Swallow-tailed Kite* at Jekyll Is (JI) May 3; a Sharp-shinned Hawk* was seen by Van at LL May 14; while Terry Miller found an Osprey* along the Chattahoochee R (CR) just north of Atlanta May 8. These two men also report Spotted Sandpipers - Van 1 on the CR below Buford Dam May 15; Terry 1 at Sweet-water Cr State Park May 18. These are rather late dates and raise the question of possible nesting within the state. Bob gives us White-rumped Sandpipers* at Augusta in early May; Peggy Fletcher and Terry Moore saw one at Pendergrass May 4.

Black Terns* were reported by Joe Greenberg at Pendergrass May 8. Two sightings of Black-billed Cuckoos* came in. Terry got one at Fernbank May 10; Terry Moore listed one at the GOS meeting at Tumbling Waters May 4. House Wrens* were seen at Fernbank May 25 and Madge Holmes tells us a pair raised young in College Park (July newsletter).

Dick Parks sighted a Connecticut W* in Piedmont Park May 18. Dickcissels* were in the news. A f was seen at Pendergrass May 12 by Joe and a m was found on a Breeding Bird Survey May 31 near Perry by Terrill Soules and Mary Ann Vernocy (Please see Mark Oberle's letter in Letters to the Editor - Ed.)

A Com Loon* (June 11, 1937) and a Horned Grebe* (May 7, 1949) were spotted by John Padget at LL June 22. Susan Bagwell noted a f Blue-winged Teal* on the lake at Lawrenceville City Park the latter half of June. Black-necked Stilts* were observed by Joe at the Corps of Engineers spoil area near Savannah (August newsletter). Anselm Atkins tells us that Barn Owls* nested in the quadrangle at Agnes Scott College. Liz Bradshaw and Hugh Garrett heard a Whip-poor-will at Hollonville, south of its usual range.

Vince Jackson heard and saw a Willow Flycatcher* near Shakerag June 26. This is one of the few local nesting areas for this species. Frank McCamey found the nest of an Ovenbird at Bent Tree; John reported a pair of Scarlet Tanagers near Cumming. There appear to be a few pairs of this species nesting S of its usual range in the mountains (from June Field Notes in August newsletter). Peggy Fletcher and Terry Moore heard 2 singing m Bachman's Sparrows* near Stockbridge June 22.

An im White Ibis* was seen by Jeff Petit at Shakerag July 25. What was probably the same bird was reported July 26 by Hugh and Joel Volpi. Jeff saw a Cooper's Hawk* near Cumming July 27, attacking E Bluebirds. An Osprey* was seen by him at LL July 27. Terrill gives us a very unusual observation of 18 Sandhill Cranes* near Americus July 15. An early Greater Yellowlegs was at Pendergrass July 26, seen by Hugh and Joel (July 27, 1952).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been reported more this summer than usual. Whether this indicates more hummers or more feeders is unknown. A pair of House Wrens* is raising their second brood in Dunwoody, told to us on July 27 by John Whitacker. Black-and-white Ws were at Shakerag July 25 and at Piedmont Park July 27, seen by Jeff and Dick respectively. An Am Redstart, a rare nester in the area, was in Ben and Ellen Ianuzzi's NE Atlanta backyard from July 21 to the end of the month. A Scarlet Tanager was seen by Dick at Woodstock July 20. House Finches* - 12 to 15 - remained at Bob Raymond's feeder until July 13.

The Kingfisher - Cherokee AS - Dalton: Sandy Pangle starts the bird news rolling with this good sighting - an im White Ibis*. He told Anne Hamilton and Harriett DiGioia about it. On August 4, they went to the home of Mrs. Burchfield on the Dug Gap Rd. and saw it feeding in the creek. Mrs. Burchfield has been seeing the bird regularly and mentioned there were two of them around last summer (1979).

Doris and Delano Crowe, August 17, spotted an im Bonaparte's Gull* at the Cohutta Fish Hatchery. Frank Paruka, hatchery manager, also saw the bird (September 21, 1918). Ken Tarpley found an im Yellow-crowned Night Heron* August 18.

A Bald Eagle* has been watched at Carter's Dam and Lake. On August 5, Mr. Mauldin reported to Carter's personnel a mature eagle in the Re-regulation Dam area. It was again seen August 13. Paul Jastram, Assistant Resource Manager, photographed it August 14. On August 15, he saw it catch and eat 2 fish. Rangers Carl Etheridge and Dan Hensley, back in June, feel they saw a Peregrine Falcon*. They also mentioned Rock Doves are seen going in and out of holes in a rock cliff.

Harriett DiGioia - sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest. Red Crossbills* are being seen regularly at the Cohutta Work Center. On August 14, 20 were seen sitting in the top of a partially dead tree. They were a mixture of males, female-plumaged birds, immatures; with a f feeding a begging im. This raises the exciting possibility these birds nested in the state. Dates and numbers seen: 10 on August 16, 8 on August 20; 6 on August 22; 1 on August 30; 1 on September 3; 7 on September 5; 4 on September 14. These birds were often seen eating grit and soap, bathing and drinking in the area where the trucks are washed and were very tame. Always they were calling and quite often singing.

Songbird Management Area (SMA): Cooper's Hawk* August 15; an immense wave of birds swept through the area including Philadelphia Vireo*, Golden-winged W, Blue-winged W* and the recessive hybrid between these two, the Lawrence's W* August 31. The warblers were seen within 3-4 minutes of each other (Phila. Vireo September 11, 1954). This is a first area record for the Lawrence's W. Waves of birds swept over the area September 1, 3, 4, 5 and 11. Two Turkeys were spotted on Tibbs Trail (Forest Service Rd. (FSRd) 78) September 13.

Still on the SMA, Bob and Lori Mutter reported a Ruby-crowned Kinglet August 17 (September 13, 1954). Billy Pulliam and his mother listed Sharp-shinned Hawk*, Philadelphia Vireo*, Nashville W* 3, Cape May W* 2 (one seen with Harriett), Veery* 2, Dark-eyed Junco, plus "warbler, species - lots" September 12.

Neal Watson, David Faucett, Alan Robbins, enrollees in the Forest Service's Young Adult Conservation Corps, found a im White Ibis* on Mill Cr Rd. (FSRd 630) August 21. Some of the Older Americans employed by the Forest Service saw 12 Great Egrets July 14 at Hill's L.

NW Ga Area sightings by Harriett: 6 Great Egrets at L Marvin on the Armuchee Ranger District July 11; 8 Red Crossbills* flying over the Chattahoochee Forest Trout Rearing Station on the Toccoa Ranger District July 29. John Fulton, biologist at the station, told her he had seen them previous to that date. August 1, 2 Great Egrets at Queen City L, La Fayette.

Chattahoochee Valley Natural History Club is now disbanded.

Letters to the Editor

Kent Tankersley, Athens, writes: "On August 3, my sister, Tammy, and I observed on the upper end of Hill's L (off E. Mountaintown Rd, Gilmer Co) 2 im White Ibis* feeding. In addition, there were 8-9 im Little Blue Herons..."

Eunice and Everett Christensen, Thomasville: "Just wanted to report from April 14-21 a m Painted Bunting visited the feeder of the Larry Highsmith's in Boston (GA). I saw the bird on the 17 and 21.... Various neighbors also saw it..."

Mark Oberle, Atlanta: "Terrill Soules....sighted a singing m Dickcissel near Hendersonville May 31. They heard the bird again June 1. On June 6, I visited the location and saw the m and a f as well.... The f came out to investigate a taped call. About 10 minutes later, the m ventured forth and sang twice. Later both m and f were visible within a yard of each other..." (Elizabeth McCain saw them on June 8 - Ed.).

Arthur Green, Hiwassee: "I saw no more of the Tree Swallows after June 1. (Please see write up in this newsletter Vol VII, No. 4, Page 9 - Ed.). Dr. Loftin stopped at the house July 3 and said he'd just seen a pair. Two pair were seen May 28, so another pair may have nested in the vicinity. When we had the (Martin) house lowered for inspection, 4 Tree Swallow eggs - correct measurements - in a feathered lined nest were found.

"On June 20, I watched a E Phoebe splashing in the water after insects in the fashion of a Kingfisher, disappearing momentarily from view in the splash....Black-billed Cuckoos* were observed May 26 and July 24. Dr. Loftin reported an Am Coot* just down the road July 3 and a Com Loon* July 18 (please see Ed note in Atlanta news) at Cedarcliff. July 1, a House Wren* arrived and filled a gourd birdhouse with sticks and has been singing all month...."

News of People

Our sympathies are extended to T. McRae Williams, Business Manager of The Oriole, in the death of his wife, Mozelle, May 14. Mozelle was an active GOSer and her presence at our meetings will be missed. Our sympathies are extended to Elizabeth Newsom in the death of her husband, Jesse, June 24, 1980. Former GOSer Emily Clow died in early September at Sardis.

Travelers - Sam and Nan Pate took a student group to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Bridled Quail-doves, Saffron Finch, Hooded Manikin were among the many birds enjoyed. To top things off, while returning to Miami over the Devil's Triangle, their plane was struck by lightning. The storm didn't show up on the sophisticated equipment and the effect was like being hit by a trainload of cement blocks.

Anne and Vernon Waters took a 2-month birding/camping trip through Texas. They added 23 life birds and saw 250 species. Verdin, Olive Sparrow, White-collared Seedeater were among the birds listed. The K. B. Clarks on a trip to the Blue Ridge Assembly in NDC enjoyed Ovenbird, Swainson's W, Scarlet Tanagers.

Miscellaneous

250 juvenile White Ibis have been marked near Georgetown, SC with orange wing tags. Tags are on one wing only and have black letters/numbers. If you see any of these birds, please send date, location, tag number (if you can't read numbers, still send in observation) to Peter Frederick, c/o Zoology Dept., Wilson Hall, O 46-A, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

A Directory is being planned for birdwatchers and ornithologists who would like to temporarily exchange their homes for vacation or hospitality purposes. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Max Lazar, 55 Grand Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570.

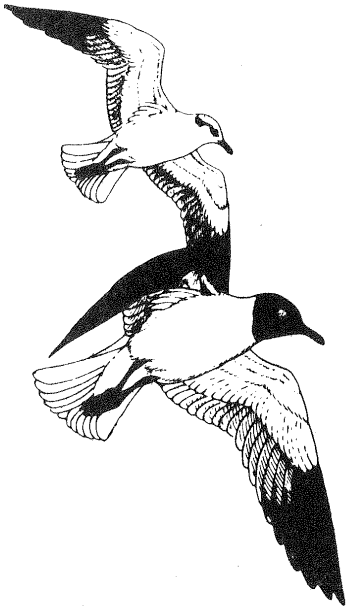
Anyone interested in helping on the Chattahoochee National Forest Songbird Management Area Christmas Bird County - date to be decided later - please contact the editor at the address below. Phone 404/695-6736. Help is needed and welcomed!

Thought for the Day - Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares drop off like autumn leaves.

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor
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G O S

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