

THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
December 31, 1980

Vol. VIII, No. 2

Editorial Comment

In the September issue, it was stated that the migration seemed off in Georgia. It was off in Dalton; other newsletter editors made no comment. From the sightings crossing my desk, it seemed an average fall migration. The Atlanta editor stated it was a better than average migration of landbirds. He tempers this with this statement: "Better than average coverage by Atlanta birders resulted in a greater number of sightings of rarer migrants this fall." A report from the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest said approximately 700 warblers, vireos and other passerine birds were piled up on the fog-bound shore of Lake Conasauga.

September and October did not produce any cold fronts to bear the birds southward. From early October till late in the month, cold fronts did bring down waves of birds.

Interesting bird sightings for fall include such finds as Snow Buntings and a Golden Eagle on St. Simon's Island; Bald Eagles at Macon, Columbus, LaGrange, Cohutta Ranger District. Whitling Swans were swimming on lakes at Augusta and Fulton County; Peregrine Falcons were at Atlanta and Jekyll Island. Greater Shearwaters were seen over the offshore waters of Jekyll Island and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were on the island. Sandhill Cranes cruised over Macon, Whitfield County, Hiwassee and the Cohutta Ranger District. American Avocets turned up at Griffin; Snow Geese came to Augusta and Columbus.

A Wood Stork drew interest at Macon; Red Crossbills were seen on the Richard Russell Highway and the Cohutta Ranger District. Brewster's Warblers made news at Augusta and Atlanta; as did a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Nashville and Wilson's Warblers were spotted at Atlanta, Jekyll Island and the Cohutta Ranger District. Merlins were found at Columbus and Atlanta.

Winter birds seem to be down in Georgia in good numbers. The possible exception is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed to have recouped their numbers and have been reported consistently from all over the state. White-crowned Sparrows have shown up; Evening Grosbeaks are in Georgia; as are Pine Siskins. Christmas Bird Count results will carry a more complete picture of winter birds in our state.

Round-up of GOS News

Remember what a tremendous time you had at Epworth-by-the-Sea last October? More of the same is in store at the spring meeting April 24-26 at Tallahassee, Florida. This will be a joint meeting with the Florida and Alabama Ornithological Societies. Tall Timbers Research Station is hosting this affair. Circle your calendar in red right now! See you there!!

A big GOS Welcome to these new members: R. G. Raymund, Atlanta; Bob Mutter, Atlanta; Teena Carne, Martinez; Marjorie Petro, Columbus; Lee & Kitti Reynolds, Lakemont; Mrs. Steve Knight, Columbus; Dr. & Mrs. N. T. Ivey, Macon; Irma Duncan, Atlanta; Jack Dozier, Tampa, FL; Elizabeth Ellwood, Brevard, NC; Dennie & Pam McClure, College Park; Courtney Gaines, Savannah; Gwen Murdock, Atlanta, George & Betty Songer, Lawrenceville;

Marjorie Williams, Norcross; Sue Chamblis, Columbus; Scott Aeson, Tifton; Matthew Kiley, Lawrenceville; Tom Hall, Columbia, MO. A welcome back-into-the-fold to Wally Dreyfoos.

Want to See Rare Birds in Georgia???
Now There's a Way!!!

Are you tired of hearing that last year someone found a Green Jay under a Live Oak at Savannah? Tired of reading in The Oriole that a year has passed since someone found an Ivory Gull at St Simon's Island? Have you learned to turn the other cheek when a friend tells you about the Rosy-bottomed Mergatrophe he saw a month ago?

THE GOS SOLUTION! On February 21st at 3:00 p.m., meet in the Planetarium at Macon's Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Rd., Macon 31210. Sponsored by the GOS, this meeting will propose a telephone hot line throughout Georgia for quick and effective information on rare bird presences in the state. The alert is for rare and/or particularly exciting species only. Clubs, natural history societies and Audubon chapters will want to send representatives. These will want to be acutely interested, or be representing acutely interested, observers. Individual observers and GOS members welcome, of course.

The cost factor is so minimal that any individual, any organization, may participate.

The Macon meeting is to establish policy guidelines, to elect the hot line committee, appoint a referee and to attend to the general business of instituting an on-going statewide network. The meeting's estimated duration is between one and two hours.

Please call Bob Manns (404-352-3679) with your reservation now. Remember, this is a policy making meeting; we need your input. Or write, if you prefer, to Bob at 2099 McKinley Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318 (No later than February 10, please).

P.S.: The Green Jay and Ivory Gull above are fictional. Just something to arrest the attention. Some non-fictional rarities of the last few years are: European White-winged Black Tern, Varied Thrush, Glaucous Gull, Eared Grebe, Hudsonian Godwit, Mountain Plover, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lapland Longspur, Tree Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Flamingo, Roseate Tern, etc. etc.

President's Comments

Review of 1980 - Achievements of GOS in 1980 seem substantial, if not spectacular. The membership supported efforts to bring enjoyable birding to Georgians and worked to publish significant information of lasting scientific value.

Two fine weekend meetings were well attended. At Tumbling Waters we found spring in the mountains (99 people, 116 species of birds), and from St. Simon's Island we enjoyed the coastal fall migration (157 people, 164 species). These meetings were outstanding because of membership discussion on Society affairs and the important ideas presented to help meet Society problems. The participation of members in general and committee meetings is surely helpful and always welcome.

Through abstracts of the Minutes, members are reminded of business transacted at the Society's general meetings. Please read these abstracts to review our discussions, and use them as background for raising questions and generating new ideas for Society activities.

At the St. Simon's meeting, financial affairs of the Society were discussed at length. Subsequently, the executive committee voted by mail to establish a new dues schedule, effective for 1981:

Regular Membership	\$12.00	Sustaining Membership	\$20.00
Patron	\$50.00	Student Membership	\$8.00

These are all annual rates for individuals or families, as requested by the members.

Life Membership \$100.00

This is a single payment for an individual, granting membership privileges for the lifetime of that person.

Library Subscription \$10.00

This is an annual rate for subscription only and does not include a voting privilege.

Editor Bill Lovejoy reports that The Oriole is slowly returning to a normal schedule of current publication. The recent double issue with 58 pages was a splendid accomplishment and a joy to behold! All should have found something of interest in it. We are most grateful to Bill for his strenuous efforts as editor, and we hope many of you will support him with contributions. DO write up your observations and records -- they are important!

The new program of field trips between regular meetings began with two days at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, November 23-23. The next one is announced in this newsletter, and we would like to plan another for early summer. How about the mountains in May or June? We need your suggestions -- all that is required is for you to suggest a locality of interest and a leader. This is something anyone can do to show the good birding areas in your part of Georgia. Let's have your ideas.

Into the New Year - 1981 -- NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the fall meeting in 1981, new officers will be elected to guide the Society through 1982 and beyond. The following nominating committee has been appointed to propose candidates for the elective positions:

Dr. L. B. Davenport, Jr., - Chairman
726 Windsor Road
Savannah, GA 31406

Mr. Milton N. Hopkins, Jr.
RFD 5, Box 113
Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Mr. Robert Manns
2099 McKinley Rd., N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318

Please offer your suggestions to any of this committee as to possible nominations for the elective offices -- and consider carefully what you can do if they should ask you to serve as an officer. Why not volunteer? The committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to fill a position.

THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK - We hope to keep The GOSHawk on a regular schedule of quarterly publication in 1981. To implement this, deadline dates for publication in The GOSHawk have been established:

March 15 June 15 September 15 December 15

Anything for publication in The GOSHawk should be sent to Editor Harriett Di Gioia before these dates for each quarterly issue. You can then expect to receive The GOSHawk when it is mailed on the following dates:

April 1 July 1 October 1 January 1

MEETINGS - Plan to be with us for the General Meeting April 24-26 at Tallahassee. Tall Timbers Research Station has planned a full weekend of activities and travel to nearby "birding hot spots". This will include St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge.

Registration forms and other details are inserted in this issue of The GOSHawk. *To be mailed so*

The fall meeting for 1981 will be at Savannah. Full information will be provided in The GOSHawk as soon as possible. Birding at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge will be a feature of the weekend.

FIELD TRIPS - Next Field Trip - Dublin, GA - March 28 - Want to see early migrants this year? Join a GOS field trip to explore the marshes around Dublin. Leader is Tommy Patterson, an experienced birder who has worked these habitats for several years. He expects rails, herons, bitterns and shorebirds to be seen.

Meet at the Holiday Inn, intersection of U. S. 441 and I-16, at 8:30 a.m., March 28. Bring lunch.

If you plan to go, please confirm with Tommy:

Thomas K. Patterson
1409 Edgewood Drive
Dublin, GA 31021

Tel. 912/272-1987

EXHIBITS - HELP! for Georgia Conservancy Meeting -- February 7 - The Georgia Conservancy annual meeting will be held at Callaway Gardens with some outstanding speakers on environmental matters.

GOS has been asked to lead bird walks for participants at the conference, and we want to tell these people about GOS through a display in the exhibit room. Any members who plan to be at the conference can help with these activities and we will be happy to see you. Please contact Frank McCamey, 404/455-7533, to let us know you will be on hand.

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A Great Field Trip --- 101 Species at Eufaula

Good birding and good weather combined to produce a very successful weekend at the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on November 22-23. Planned by Bob Manns, the trip brought together 18 GOS members and 5 guests, plus 4 birders from the Atlanta Audubon Society. Excellent accommodations were enjoyed at the Lakepoint State Park Resort, with rooms at the inn, cottages and the campground. Following the countdown on Saturday afternoon in the cottage, 14 of us prepared a do-it-yourself steak dinner enhanced with wine and mushrooms. It was a great way to share the day's experiences

and get acquainted.

Saturday was highlighted by eagles -- 2 immature Balds, an immature Golden and an adult Golden, all 4 seen from the roads through the refuge on the Alabama side. Further excitement was provided by 10 species of ducks, plus Snow Geese and Canada Geese, while 39 Sandhill Cranes flew south directly over the observers. Red-tailed Hawks were numerous, and Marsh Hawks were seen by all. Among other shorebirds, one Red Knot and 2 Willets were noted. There were many small birds, too, with 50 Water Pipits worthy of special mention.

On Sunday, we drove the roads over dikes on the Georgia side of the refuge. The big event was flushing a Barn Owl from the old silo and finding a young owl on the ground inside the silo.

Most of the ducks, geese and hawks were found again on the Georgia side, and 80 Brewer's Blackbirds were added to the list as a cold rain closed out the day.

Many thanks, Bob, for a splendid trip into an area we should visit more often.

Reported by Frank McCamey

Special Gifts

The special fund for better publication established by Joe Meyer's challenge gift at St. Simon's continues to grow. Since that night, eleven people have responded with special gifts to support their belief in the importance of GOS publications. These gifts, plus a little more from a few more members who have faith in our efforts, will close the gap between our income for 1980 and our obligations for publication expenses. The fund is approaching its goal of \$1,000 -- please consider now a special gift, big or little, to sustain the work of GOS. It's important!

To all of you who have already contributed; we are most appreciative of your support. It is a significant vote of confidence that is encouraging to the officers of the Society. All contributors to this special fund will receive a written acknowledgement, and at some future time we would like to list all your names when we report that we have reached \$1,000.00.

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.

The Piper - Coastal Georgia AS - Brunswick: In November Lysle and Elaine Young watched an im Golden Eagle on St. Simon's Is at Christ Church Cemetary. The same day they found two Snow Buntings* at East Beach at Gould's Inlet on the island.

Birding About - Withlacoochee Watchers - Valdosta: A Cooper's Hawk* killed itself by flying into a window at Tenney Griffin's home Nov. 1. Red-breasted Nuthatches are to be seen most any afternoon at the M. E. Crago's; first appearing on Nov. 3. Wayne Faircloth counted 50 Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks on a drive to Atlanta Nov. 6. All were seen on the east side of I-75. Am Kestrels are to be seen along the wires on all the roads, he said. On a bow-and-arrow hunting trip to Blackbeard Is, Ken George reports a long Osprey*. (From Nov. newsletter)

The Tony Criscuolos had an escape hanging around their feeder. A Zebra Finch fed with the Cardinals for about three weeks. (From Nov. newsletter)

The Fall Line - Ocmulgee AS - Macon: This year's hatch of Brown Thrashers was observed to be greater than usual by many of our members. Many successful E Bluebird hatches were also reported. Two members report seeing Prothonotary Ws, one feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird youngster. (From Aug/Sept newsletter)

Ty Ivey enjoyed watching a family of Mississippi Kites on several occasions near his property in the Country Club addition. Bob Herrington spotted 3 Wood Stork* on the Flint R. L Tobosofkee has hosted a Red-headed Woodpecker, at least 2 Black-crowned Night Herons* and an im Bald Eagle* in recent weeks. Gus Kaufman saw 75 Canada Geese on a lake near Thompson and a Golden-winged W near his Ingleside home. (From Oct. newsletter)

On Oct. 14, members sighted 43 species around the NW arm of L Tobosofkee, including a White-crowned Sparrow*, House Wren*, Am Woodcock and Marsh Hawk. Dick Lux reports a Red-breasted Nuthatch Nov. 7 and a White-crowned Sparrow* Nov. 9. Jim and Joyce Harrison found a Cooper's Hawk* at Ocmulgee Mounds Nov. 9; Arlene Clark counted approximately 140 Sandhill Cranes* passing over L Tobosofkee Nov. 4. Two Am Kestrels were noted by T. P. Haines on wires at the airport Nov. 22.

Augusta AS: Field Trip Results: Sept. 6 - im N Oriole, Sharp-shinned Hawk*. Sept. 20 - warblers - 13 species were sighted on this walk, including Golden-winged near the levee. Merry Ponds gave sightings of Lesser Yellowlegs*; Sandpipers - Spotted, Pectoral, Least; Semi-palmated Plover*; N Shoveler*; Blue-winged Teal among the 73 species listed.

Oct. 4 - Gadwall*; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Yellow-rumped W. Nov. 1 - Orange-crowned and Tennessee W; Snow Goose* (Blue Morph); 150 Ring-necked Duck; Ruddy Duck; Black Duck*; Am Wigeon. A Rough-winged Swallow was spotted, breaking the Augusta record by one day (Oct. 31, 1959). Nov. 15 - Ring-billed Gull; White-crowned Sparrow*; Yellow-throated W; f Painted Bunting (Oct. 21, 1944; occasional in winter in Coastal Plain); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*; Cedar Waxwing; Black-crowned Night Heron*; Great Blue Heron; Great Egret; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks; Am Kestrel. Nov. 29 - 4 Whistling Swans*, 2 ad, 2 im. One im had a black neck band with orange letters. (This information will be sent to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Everyone needs to send in their sightings of banded birds - Ed.)

Clarence Belger gives us these sightings: Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Veery* Sept. 19; White-crowned Sparrow*, Cape May W* on the levee between Lover's Lane and Bush Field; Pintail* Oct. 21. He mentions the Merry Ponds Egret Roost has dwindled down to 12 im White Ibis, 5 Little Blue Heron, 5 Cattle Egret. In late July and early August, thousands of Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets and White Ibises were roosting here. Black-crowned Night Herons* are returning to their old winter roost.

More from Clarence: 12 Com Loon*, Clark Hill, Nov. 2; 4 Horned Grebe*, Brown Creeper, Clark Hill. At Merry Ponds, Nov. 14, Am Bittern, Marsh Hawk, Com Gallinule, Hooded Merganser, Dark-eyed Junco - pink-sided subspecies, formerly Oregon Junco.

Anne and Vernon Waters lucked up on a Blue-winged W* and a Brewster's W* - the hybrid between the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Ws - and a Sharp-shinned Hawk* Sept. 14. A Vesper and a White-crowned Sparrow* were found Nov. 8.

Anne, Vernon and Clarence saw a huge flock of Brewer's Blackbirds on the levee between Lover's Lane and Bush Field on Sept. 27. Around the first of November, Clarence and Joe Knipp watched a Red-headed Woodpecker and about 100 Yellow-rumped Ws at Ft. Gordon. The first Evening Grosbeak of the season - a male - came to the feeder of Dick and Bobbie Moyer Nov. 30.

The Observer - Columbus AS: Bob Terhune gives us a Veery* Sept. 16; Orange-crowned and Worm-eating Ws Sept. 10. A mature Bald Eagle* was seen Aug. 31 fishing above Goat Rock Dam by Robert Ingram. Sam and Nan Pate in the early AM of Sept. 23 saw a Barn Owl* near Bradley Park Dr. On Oct. 17, he saw an ad Purple Gallinule, 3 Snow Geese*, with a couple of hundred Canada Geese, House Wren*, Great-horned Owl* at the Eufaula NWR - Alabama and Georgia sides.

Great Horned Owls* were studied by Mike Kennedy in the N part of Columbus. He noted he could tell the difference between the calls of the male and female. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was spotted by Florence Lynn in Harris Co Sept. 24 and Pine Siskins on Nov. 5. She tells us 3 Fox Sparrows and 6 Hermit Thrushes moved into her yard Nov. 22.

David Flowers and Sam watched 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks* at Goat Rock Dam Oct. 2 and on Nov. 14 spotted 3 Com Loons* at Bartlett's Ferry. Sam found a Cooper's Hawk* and a Sharp-shinned Hawk* at Ft. Benning Oct. 19. An Osprey* was seen at Brookstone School Oct. 16 by Rusty Ward and Brian Ditchfield. John Barnett reported two Bald Eagles* at Bartlett's Ferry Nov. 2; Jim Shirah gives us a Merlin* Oct. 26; while Peggy Spencer saw a Winter Wren Oct. 31. A Solitary Vireo was seen by Jack Stutts Nov. 6.

Atlanta AS: August Field Notes: Jeff Petit (JP) identified approximately 50 Greater Shearwaters* about 30 miles off St. Simon's Is Aug. 30. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen in NE Atlanta by Ben Iannuzzi (BI) Aug. 7. Two im White Ibis* were seen near Roger's Bridge on Aug 17 by Patrick and Donna Brisse (PB) et al. Scott Ranger (SR) reports a Sharp-shinned Hawk* at the L Conasauga Recreation Area on the Chattahoochee National Forest (this is part of the Songbird Management Area - Ed.) Aug. 15, while Frank McCamey (FM) saw one at L Lanier Aug. 8.

The second Georgia record for the Lesser Black-backed Gull* occurred on Aug. 31 when two, an ad and an im, were spotted by a group of birders led by Bob Manns (BM) on Jekyll Is's South Beach. This is exactly where the first record for this European gull was established in 1977. This bird was seen again on Sept. 30 and Oct. 12.

A truly unusual shorebird sighting was a flock of 12 Am Avocets* at the Griffin Reservoir on Aug. 1 by Hugh Garrett (HG). Three were seen by many observers Aug. 30 at Brunswick. About 10 Black-necked Stilts were found on the same pond, same date. A Parasitic Jaeger* was observed from Cumberland Is by BI. A Black Tern was watched at Pendergrass Aug. 3 by Terry Miller (TMI).

About 40 Tree Swallows* was seen on Aug. 30 by AASers on a field trip along the Chattahoochee R. A Bank Swallow* was seen on this same date by a group at Pendergrass.

A total of 25 species of warblers was reported by Atlanta observers for August. A Nashville W* was listed on Jekyll Is Aug. 29 by BI; a Wilson's W* in Atlanta by Don & Doris Cohrs Aug. 18. Another Wilson's W was spotted on Jekyll Is by BI Aug. 26. An early Canada W was reported from Collier Park Aug. 2 by PB (Aug. 6, 1949).

September-October Field Notes: Com Loons* were reported three times - 1 at L Lanier Oct. 19 by JP; 1 at Griffin Reservoir Oct. 31 by HG and 14 at the DeKalb Water Reservoir near Doraville Oct. 30 by FM. Horned Grebe* were spotted at the Griffin Reservoir by HG on Oct. 31. An im Yellow-crowned Night Heron along the Chattahoochee R and an im White Ibis* at Rock Eagle were observed by TMI Sept. 14.

A Black Duck* was found at Suches Oct. 24 by Susan Bagwell; Pintail* at Griffin Reservoir Oct. 31 by HG; Am Wigeon - 3 on Oct. 5 at Pendergrass by HG, et al; N. Shoveler*, same date, same place, same observers. Redhead* - 8 on DeKalb Reservoir Oct. 3 by FM. Ruddy Duck Oct. 31 at Griffin Reservoir by HG.

The only person to see groups of Broad-winged Hawks was Joel Volpi (JV). A few Sharp-shins* and Cooper's* were spotted but good numbers were not seen even by the bird-banding group led by the Cohrses on Jekyll Is. An early Sharp-shin* was seen at Roger's Bridge Sept. 7 by Jean Bevis (JB); he saw 2 Marsh Hawks there on Sept. 28. A rather late Osprey* was at L Lanier Oct. 2-3 seen by Van McWhorter. Russ Wigh gives us a Peregrine Falcon* at Peachtree Center September 16 and 22. Peregrines* were seen with fair regularity by banders on Jekyll Is - about 20 from Sept. 27 - Oct. 5. A Merlin* was at Roger's Bridge, reported by PB.

A Virginia Rail was watched by GOSers on the South Beach of Jekyll Is Oct. 12. Bill Pulliam (BP) reported a Black-bellied Plover* at Pendergrass Sept. 10. Fifteen Herring* and Ring-billed Gulls were observed by JP on L Lanier Oct. 5. Several large flocks of Com Terns were seen by GOSers on the pelagic trip of Oct. 12 well offshore of Jekyll Is.

About a dozen Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen at Roger's Bridge Sept. 14 by PB, et al. The biggest movement of Com Nighthawks occurred Sept. 3, JP reported 150-200 at Cumming. Over 100 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Roger's Bridge as told by PB et al. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher* on Oct. 4 was carefully studied by Vince and Trina Jackson (VJ). The very yellow throat and eyering were carefully documented. David Glass (DG) carefully documented an Olive-sided Flycatcher* in the Emory University area Sept. 16.

Red-breasted Nuthatches made news with many sightings. BP saw the first one Sept. 10 at Unicoi. Interesting wrens included a Long-billed Marsh Wren* at Roger's Bridge Oct. 4 by PB et al. and a Short-billed Marsh Wren* at Bobby Jones Golf Course Oct. 2 by PB and one at Freeman L Oct. 26 by BM. An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was recorded by PB in Fernbank Forest. (Earliest date reported in Vol. III, No. 1, Page 7, this newsletter by Bob and Lori Mutter on the Songbird Management Area (SMA), Chattahoochee National Forest, Aug. 17. An unpublished report was given me by SR on the SMA for Aug. 16 - Ed.). Two Philadelphia Vireos* were banded on Jekyll Is Sept. 29.

Thirty-three species of warblers were listed for September-October. Blue-winged* and Golden-winged Ws seemed to be more common with a high count of 5 Blue-wings* at Piedmont Park Sept. 7 seen by Dick Parks (DP). A late Blue-wing* was watched by PB at Bobby Jones Golf Course Oct. 19 (Oct. 4, 1967). A Brewster's W* was seen by BP Sept. 14 at Emory University President's Estate; one on Sept. 7 in Piedmont Park by DP. BP found 6 Nashville Ws* in one day in the SMA, Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest on Sept. 12. (This was reported in Vol. III, No. 1, Page 7 of this newsletter as 3. When I met Bill at L Conasauga, he gave me his list of what he'd seen for the day. At that time, he'd seen 3, adding 3 later on - Ed.) TMI saw a Nashville W* in the Chattahoochee Recreation Area Sept. 21. (This is part of the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, near Atlanta - Ed.) Nashville Ws* - one each - were seen by PB at the Bobby Jones Golf Course Sept. 27 and by Dennis Lacoss at Reynolds Park Sept. 14. Wilson's Ws* were in evidence - one seen by PB Oct. 5 at Roger's Bridge; one found by BP in the SMA, Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee Nat'l. Forest; one by PB at Bobby Jones Golf Course Sept. 22 - Oct. 12, perhaps 2 birds were involved; one at Freeman L Oct. 26 by BM.

A N Oriole was spotted by DP at Piedmont Park Sept. 7. A very probable Western Tanager* in early October at Stone Mtn was reported by a Mrs. Huff. Hundreds of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were found by VJ feeding in a field of milo at Roger's Bridge Oct. 5. A House Finch* was seen by AASers on a field trip to Mt. Oglethorpe, reported by VJ Sept. 21. BP saw a Red Crossbill* along the Richard Russell Highway Sept. 10; PB found the elusive Henslow's Sparrow* at Bobby Jones Golf Course Oct. 19. Bob and Lori Mutter on the SMA were frustrated by fog and couldn't identify many of the approximately 700 warblers, vireos and other passerine birds moving around in the trees at L Conasauga Sept. 20.

The Kingfisher - Dalton AS: Anne Hamilton sighted the first of the season Red-breasted Nuthatch for the Dalton area in her yard Oct. 13. McRae Williams, Anne and Harriett Di Gioia went on a birding expedition onto the Cohutta Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest Oct. 20. Among the birds listed were: Brown Creeper, Forest Service Rd. (FSRd) 18; Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped W, Stillhouse Branch Firewood Area, FSRd 90-A; Pine Siskin, Ball Ground Wildlife Opening, FSRd 68.

Delano Crowe gives us 30-40 Herring Gulls* Oct. 4; Harriett spotted a Gray-cheeked Thrush in her yard Sept. 28. Vernon Gordon watched 47 Sandhill Cranes* flying over his home Nov. 3 and observed Cedar Waxwings around Nov. 20.

Sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. Harriett gives these birds: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Stillhouse Branch Firewood Area, FSRd 90-A, Sept. 26 - these birds have been seen all over the district in good numbers; Gray-cheeked Thrush, same place, Sept. 27; 15 Turkey standing in the middle of the West Cowpen Rd (FSRd 17) Oct 1 with 20 Turkey feeding on grass seeds along Tibbs Trail (FSRd 78) Oct. 4; Hermit Thrush, FSRd 68, Oct. 1 Twenty Sandhill Cranes* were watched as they formed up a "V" and flew over L Conasauga Nov. 2. Red Crossbills* were observed at the Cohutta Work Center on the following dates: 3 on Sept. 25, 7 on Sept. 26, 5 on Oct. 3, 8 on Oct. 4, with the last observation of 3 on Oct. 9. This is a continuation of the Red Crossbill observations reported in Vol. III, No. 1, Page 7 of this newsletter. Cedar Waxwings were seen at Cottonwood Patch Hunt Camp, FSRd 16, Nov. 20.

Forest Service personnel spotted a mature Bald Eagle* circling the Cohutta Work Center twice on the morning of Oct. 16. They called Harriett, who was in the building at the time; all she was able to see was a large, flat, dark bird soaring off into the distance. Wayne and Beth Garrett, Forest Visitors on the SMA, listed 3 Marsh Hawks, a possible Peregrine Falcon* and a possible Cerulean W*.

Letters to the Editor

Terry Johnson, Senior Wildlife Biologist at the Rum Cr Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Forsyth, writes: "Aug. 4, Linda Guy reported 2 im White Ibis* and 2 Snowy Egrets*. I later substantiated the presence of these birds. This marks the first time White Ibis have been recorded here. During the latter part of Aug. and well into Sept. approximately 300-400 Cattle Egrets utilized timber flooded behind a coffer dam for a roost.

"Sept. 15, Area Manager Coley Cooper and I sighted an Osprey*. This was the first Osprey ever seen on the area. Area Manager Jim Hackley reported that a hunter sighted an ad Bald Eagle* on the West Point WMA near LaGrange during the week of Oct. 5. Larry Ross saw an ad Bald Eagle* Oct. 7 and L Tobesofkee near Macon."

Dennie & Pam McClure of College Park write: "Nov. 28 we saw 2 mature Whistling Swans* on one of the Bullock-Habersham Ls located on Highway 29 near Fairburn in southern Fulton Co. ... We inquired of a lady living near the lake when she first had seen the swans. She said she had first seen them on Nov. 23."

Arthur Green of Hiwassee writes: "F Marsh Hawk Oct. 24; Palm Ws - yellow race - common after Sept. 25; 1 Sandhill Crane* flew low over my head Sept. 27; Great Blue Heron Sept. 30; pair of House Wrens* Oct. 3; Cooper's Hawks* - 1 on Oct. 5, 1 on Nov. 5. Turkey Vultures overnighted near the house and have done so for years, according to neighbors.. Often see a kettle rising on the first thermals of the morning. Im Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Nov. 2; flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings and an im Red-tailed Hawk Nov. 12. Sharp-shinned Hawk* Nov. 15 and 23; several Great Horned Owls* hooting Nov. 19; 8 Evening Grosbeaks at feeder Nov. 20 and 21, with a pair Dec. 1. Three Com Loons*, 20 Scaup on L Chatuge Nov. 21. A new neighbor whose home is on the main lake told me he had a flock of ducks in front of his place Nov. 21. Didn't get to see them; but, they were apparently Com Mergansers*. Numerous Ospreys* migrated through."

News of People

Ruth Brent, wife of GOSer Joe Brent, passed away at her home on Jekyll Island after a long illness on Nov. 9. Our sympathies are extended to you, Joe.

Clyde Connell had heart surgery last October. He is recovering and goes to his office at Valdosta State College every day. Tillie Mathis also had surgery this past summer and is now recovered.

Milton Hopkins, Jr., was selected Georgia Tree Farmer of the Year for 1980 by the Georgia Forestry Association. This was published in the October issue of Georgia Forestry Magazine. Our congratulations to you, Milton!

Emil Urban attended the Fifth Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Lilongwe, Malawi last August. He presented a paper on time of egg-laying and number of nesting pairs of Great White Pelicans in Africa. Birds of Africa was co-authored by him.

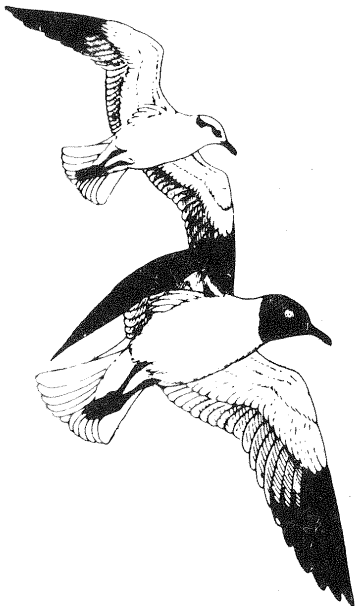
Thought for the Day

Good birding in 1981!

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor
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G O S

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