

THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

VOL. VIII, No. 4

June 30, 1981

Editorial Comment

The word from over the state was almost unanimous; the spring migration was poor. Some editors of local newsletters felt it was the worst migration within memory. There were two bright spots in this lackluster migration picture. Columbus and the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest both reported migrants moving through their areas.

Weather, or rather the lack of it, was a big factor in this poor showing of birds. Fair, settled weather may be great for us, but it doesn't produce birds. Birds tend to overfly the state or swing to the west of us in fine weather with no fronts. Note that the two bright spots were in the western part of the state. Columbus has the Chattahoochee River Valley; the Cohutta Mountains are among the most westward mountains in Georgia. My feelings, over the years, have been that birds tend to follow river valleys and mountain ridges while migrating. No fronts to amount to anything occurred in Georgia during migration. Perhaps the autumn migration picture will be brighter.

Despite the dull migration, record-making birds were sighted. A Franklin's Gull, on the hypothetical list for the state, was spotted at Lake Lanier, along with a Caspian Tern. At Roger's Bridge, Atlanta, a Rough-legged Hawk, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Dickcissels were noted.

Tree Swallows once again were watched as they carried nesting material into a birdhouse at Hiwassee. House Wrens did nest there. A Red-necked Grebe was observed at Rome last November; Willets were listed at West Point Lake. A Warbling Vireo put in an appearance at Atlanta, while a Least Flycatcher was on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. House Finches lingered in Dalton; Brewer's Blackbirds were at White; a Short-eared Owl was noticed in Atlanta.

Lawrenceville produced a Horned Grebe. Bald Eagles were watched at the Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge and West Point Wildlife Management Area. A White-fronted Goose was observed at the Savannah NWR back in January. Merlins turned up at Macon, Atlanta area, Gainesville.

Round-up of GOS News

If you missed the April combined GOS, Alabama and Florida OS meeting at Tallahassee, you missed a lot. No record is available to the editor at this writing as to the number of birds seen or number of participants. Suffice it to say, there were plenty of each, although the warblers were lacking. Tall Timbers Research Station did their usual "good-host" routine in dishing up a delicious barbecue dinner. Thank yous are in order to all who helped make this weekend a success.

On To Savannah!

... for the Fall Meeting, October 2, 3, 4. Details as to reservations, field trips, etc. are included at the end of this newsletter. Plan now to attend this important meeting. Officers for the next two years will be elected. Hosts: Armstrong State College and Ogeechee Audubon Society.

Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers to be nominated for 1981-83:

President:	Franklin McCamey
1st Vice President:	Terry Moore
2nd Vice President:	Branch Howe
Secretary:	Virginia Culpepper
Treasurer:	John Swiderski

L. B. Davenport, Jr., Chairman
Milton N. Hopkins, Jr.
Robert Manns

From the President

"The Honor of Your Presence is Requested...."

Participating by members in the Society's affairs is all-important to the functioning of the Society. Your input is needed - for ideas, for planning, for committee work.

Only 6 membership votes were available for conducting business at the semi-annual general meeting of the Society in Tallahassee. By-laws changes were adopted, a budget was set up, two new programs were established for Society sponsorship, and the next general meeting was discussed.

In this GOShawk you have an abstract of the minutes for our meetings on April 25. Please read it to see what's going on, and offer your comments or suggestions to any member of the executive board. (This is attached at the end of this newsletter.)

Several positions required in the work of the Society are to be filled. Openings exist in these committees:

Editorial
By-laws Review

Finance
Conservation

We are seeking an assistant to help T. McRae Williams with sales and correspondence related to publications and back issues of The Oriole. After a period of familiarization, this assistant could become the Society's business manager.

With the election of officers in October, there will probably be two members-at-large to be appointed to the executive board. Suggestions for these important vacancies will be welcomed by the president. How about you?

Many people in the Society can help with these needs, and we must have your participation to keep the Society viable. But we won't know about you unless you tell us. Please do!

Earle R. Greene Award

A presentation of the Greene Award is being considered for Savannah in October. Remember to send your nominations to the committee chairman:

W. Elbridge Freeborn
122 Lamont Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Telephone: 404/373-6806

The Award is given annually to a person or organization showing significant achievement in, or outstanding contribution to, ornithology or the Society in Georgia.

Breeding Bird Survey -- A New Responsibility

For several years, many of us have participated as volunteers in the annual Breeding Bird Survey directed by the Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Survey is organized by states, and the work of the coordinator in Georgia has become increasingly difficult in recent months. To help Joe Greenberg in his efforts as coordinator, the executive board voted on April 25 to sponsor the Breeding Bird Survey in Georgia as a regular feature of the Society's programs. Members are urged to assist in this effort by running the bird census routes in June. You don't have to be an expert, just somewhat knowledgeable of the birds in your area. Any of us can do it. Helping to monitor the natural environment through this national program is one of the really important things we can do as amateur birders.

The Oriole

That bright red Oriole recently in your mailbox brings us 3 months closer to being up-to-date. Bill Lovejoy is catching up, and with some double issues planned in coming months, we should be nearly current. Many thanks, Bill, for the long hours and hard work you devote to The Oriole. We look for each issue, and we're all going to get those articles together that we have been thinking about. Seriously, we must, because an editor can only publish what a writer sends him.

Editorial Committee

This committee has a new chairman in Dr. H. Branch Howe, professor at the University of Georgia, Athens. We are pleased to have Branch accept responsibility for this important committee that guides production of our bulletins, so critical to keeping the Society together. Get in touch with him if you have suggestions for the editorial committee:

Dr. H. Branch Howe, Jr.
130 Bishop Drive
Athens, GA 30606

Telephone: 404/543-1577

Other members of the committee are George M. Dorsey in Rome, Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. in Fitzgerald, and Emil K. Urban in Augusta.

Branch is filling the position recently vacated by Dr. Robert L. Crawford, biologist at Tall Timbers Research Station. Bobby has been on the editorial committee for several years and served as chairman for the last two. We are grateful for all the effort Bobby has put into guiding the work of this committee, and we hope he will continue to contribute to our publications. We welcome the well written articles that come from research biologists -- many thanks, Bobby.

Future Plans

A great weekend is developing for the Savannah area. Margaret Waters has coordinated all the organizations and people involved to provide the program announced in this GOShawk. Study the details and be sure to get your reservations in the mail to meet the deadlines.

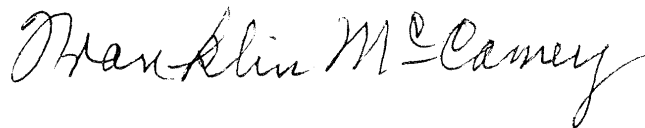
Between-meeting field trips are going well (note reports in this issue) and Tommy Patterson wants to know where to plan the next ones. Suggest a good birding place in your area, and get on the GOS map of Georgia. Write out the details, or telephone:

Thomas K. Patterson
P. O. Box 4103
Dublin, GA 31021

Telephone: 912/272-5131

Tentative plans for a general meeting at Augusta in the spring of 1982 are under way. As soon as details are worked out with the local host group, GOShawk will announce them.

For now, plan to be at Savannah -- I'll see you then.



President

Between Meetings Field Trips - Past

DUBLIN - About 20 people showed up for the field trip in Dublin with Tommy Patterson. The group visited the habitat areas in Laurens County which have been included in Patterson's notes in The Oriole. A total of 95 species were recorded, including a few returning summer residents and a very few transients. The promised marsh wade produced 4 American Bitterns, a Sora, a King Rail, and 2 Marsh Wrens. The birding was good, and the fellowship was even better. Many of those attending report that the field trip was one of the best planned they have attended.

Tommy Patterson, Coordinator

MOUNTAIN FORAY - The northwest corner of Rabun County was explored by eager birders in quest of information on the status of breeding birds in the mountains. The data collected can now be consolidated to show distribution of some species with respect to the environment.

For the 2-day effort, 66 species were listed in the area studied, covering about 8 square miles from an elevation of 2,000 feet at the Tallulah River to 4,000 feet on the ridges north and south of Patterson Gap. This was the eastern and southern parts of the Coleman River Wildlife Management Area.

A few interesting observations can be gleaned from the field notes available at this writing: Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse with young; Black-billed Cuckoo on nesting territory at 3,250 ft.; Acadian Flycatchers were numerous, with 3 Willows and one Least recorded; Swainson's Warbler at 2,400 ft., at least 3 singing; Black-throated Blue Warblers were numerous; Canada Warbler found with young in the nest at 3,400 ft.; Orchard Oriole at 2,200 ft.; Carolina Junco were noted at several points with well-developed fledgling young being fed by adults, 3,500 ft. to 4,000 ft.

Franklin McCamey, Coordinator

Between Meetings Field Trips - Future

AUGUSTA - Field Trip in Augusta on Saturday, August 22. Clarence Belger will lead the group to some of Augusta's prime areas for fall shorebirds and herons. Meet at 4th and Laney Walker (dead end of 4th at the Farmer's Market) at 8 a.m. Please notify Clarence of your plans to attend at least a week in advance.

Clarence Belger, Sr.
539 Tubman St.
Augusta, GA 30904.

CONFUSING FALL WARBLER CLINIC CAMPING/DAY TRIP - September 11, 12, 13. Harriett Di-Gioia will lead a fall field trip specializing in confusing fall warblers on the Songbird Management Area, Lake Conasauga Recreation Area on Grassy Mountain. This is on the Cohutta Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

She is planning to camp in the campground the nights of September 11 and 12. A \$2.00 fee is charged - no electricity, no hook-ups, no showers. Running cold water, tent pads, grills, fire rings, picnic tables, rest room provided. Five units in the Overflow (Group) Camping Area are available at no cost. No grills or running water.

Cohutta Lodge - 404/695-9601 - is nearby. Fort Mountain State Park - 404/695-2621 - may have cabins available. Fort View Motel - 404/695-2934 - is located in Chatsworth.

This clinic is available for day birders. If you can't stay overnight, plan to come for the day on Saturday or Sunday.

Directions from Atlanta - Exit at the Chatsworth - U.S. Highway 411 exit off I-75 in Cartersville. Go to Eton (next town north of Chatsworth) on U.S. 411. Turn right at only traffic light. Paved road will make a "Y" with TP's Country Store in grassy area of "Y". Take left hand leg of "Y". After pavement ends, bear left all the way up the mountain to Lake Conasauga. Day birders will be met in Picnicking/Swimming Parking Lot at 8:00 a.m. both days. Food, beverage, jacket, tank of gasoline are musts for all birders. Nearest store is 20 miles down the mountain!

If you plan to attend, either camping 1 or 2 nights or day-birding, please let Harriett know by writing or calling at address/phone number at end of newsletter. Office open 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. If calling, please give secretary your name and message.

PIEDMONT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - Arrangements are made, but as yet incomplete for a field trip into the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge and Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area. We'll meet at Refuge headquarters at 8 a.m. on Saturday, November 14. Refuge Manager Ronnie Schell will have a trip leader for us. Any changes, plus other trip details, will be announced at our fall meeting.

This area should provide us with a good show of wildfowl, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and other seasonal and permanent residents.

Georgia Rare Bird Alert

Under the auspices of the GOS, a statewide telephone hotline was established this Spring. The hotline is known as the Georgia Rare Bird Alert and is used to rapidly spread the word about sightings of unusual birds. Hopefully this will allow more people to observe rare birds in the state. This Spring the hotline was initiated with sightings of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Duluth, a Glaucous Gull on Cumberland Island, a Franklin's

Gull on Lake Lanier, a Warbling Vireo in Decatur, and a Lark Bunting near Conyers. At this time, there are twelve stations located around the state: Elaine Young 912-638-2240, St. Simon's Island; Burt C. Rhyne 912-882-4336 or 912-882-4719, St. Mary's; Milton N. Hopkins, Jr. 912-423-4043, Fitzgerald; Terry Johnston 912-994-2568, Forsyth; W. C. Holman, Jr. 912-436-2549, Albany; Sam Pate 404-327-2574, Fortson; Thomas K. Patterson 912-272-5131 or 912-272-1987, Dublin; Terry Moore 404-952-5952 or 404-885-6429, Atlanta, Harriett DiGioia 404-278-3858, Chatsworth; Jeff Petit 404-887-5130, Cumming; John M. Paget 404-532-6834, Gainesville; Ron Odom 404-557-2532, Social Circle.

For a \$5 membership fee you may join GRBA and receive information about sightings. If you are near a present station, arrangements will be made for you to receive the information from the station master, otherwise you can establish a new station. Whether or not you join, we would appreciate notice of your rare bird sightings. This is done by calling AS IMMEDIATELY AS POSSIBLE the nearest station and providing information such as: 1) pertinent field marks; 2) original observer; 3) when seen, and 4) where seen and directions.

The \$5 membership fee is used to reimburse people for their long-distance phone calls, and will be re-assessed as needed to meet expenses. For more information about GRBA contact -

Jean H. Bevis
1197 Mayfield Drive
Decatur, GA 30033

Welcome to Our New Members

Herman & Ellin Hagan, Sylvania; Stacy Caudwell, Baldwin; Rod Smith, Gainesville; Marjorie Hornsly, Atlanta; Edward & Daisy Bourne, Doraville; James Phillips, Atlanta; Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Iannuzzi, Atlanta; Ruth Kern, Atlanta; Mrs. Robert Price, Atlanta; Greg Kratow, Atlanta; Richard Yow, Marietta; Lee Murphy, Atlanta; Hugh Garrett, Atlanta; Jay Stolar, Atlanta; Laura Goggans, Augusta; Bob Loftin, Jacksonville, FL; Ralph Ramsay, Atlanta; Jack & Lula Stewart, Columbia, SC.

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.

Late Christmas Bird Count Report: Macon - December 20 - 71 species, 4,236 individuals. Com Loon* seen during count week.

Withlacoochee Watchers - Valdosta: Reaching back to March, we have this winter bird news - Pine Siskins seem more plentiful this year than ever. Red-breasted Nuthatches have been frequent visitors. Purple Finches have been at almost every feeder and Evening Grosbeaks have been around the area.

Ocmulgee AS - Macon: A pair of Hooded Mergansers are repeatedly being seen feeding on a farm pond near L Tobasofskee (from February newsletter). On February 14, a Merlin* was clearly observed at rest at a distance of 450 feet and in flight by six birders equipped with a 20x45 scope.

Coastal Georgia AS - Brunswick: The Jekyll Is Bird Survey was held April 11. The island was combed from shore to shore by 50 birders. Strangely, we didn't find the large numbers of migratory birds we expected, the winter birds had left, many summer residents had not yet arrived. Our total was only 94 species. We've decided to make the Jekyll Is Survey an annual event.

A field trip to the Harris Neck NWR May 16 netted Canada Geese, Snowy Egrets, Black- and Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Bobolinks. Our trip to Little St. Simon's Is brought us views of Long-billed Curlew*, Marbled Godwit* and Whimbrel on March 28.

Ogeechee AS - Savannah: On a field trip to Blackbeard Is April 25 and 26, an active Osprey* nest was discovered. A lone Cattle Egret was noted, along with the expected Black-crowned Night Herons, Snowy Egrets, Anhingas and Am Goldfinches.

Augusta AS - Field Trip results: March 7 - A Marsh Hawk was watched as it killed and ate an Am Robin. March 21 - Tree Swallow*, pair of Red-shouldered Hawks.

At Merry Ponds, Clarence Belger observed Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned* Hawks, 2 Barred Owls and a Fish Crow on February 24. Reaching back to January 10, Vernon & Peggy Waters observed a White-fronted Goose* at the Savannah NWR. Clarence Belger reported seeing a Red-bellied Woodpecker catch an Evening Grosbeak on March 2. A flock of White-crowned Sparrows* were seen by him March 22.

Columbus AS: Florence Lynn tells of hearing a Hermit Thrush sing on April 6. She said the song has been heard on her Harris Co property only 4 times in 25 years! She sighted a Yellow-billed Cuckoo April 10 and a Worm-eating W April 12. During April, she reports a bumblebee ran a Carolina Wren out of its gourd (literally!).

Atlanta AS - February field notes: 4 Gadwall* at the Chattahoochee Nature Center by Frank McCamey (FM) Feb. 22. 20 Bufflehead* were at Peachtree City Lake reported by Patrick Brisse (PB). Vince and Trina Jackson (VJ) tell us that Sharp-shinned Hawk* sightings were more numerous at their Decatur location than ever before; the birds appeared to be migratory rather than ones doing local hunting. Hugh Garrett (HG) made an interesting observation of a Peregrine Falcon* hitting a pigeon at I-75 and Lakewood Freeway on Feb. 19. This bird is brown-backed as opposed to the blue-backed one seen in the downtown area. Helen Ogren watched a Merlin* at Crabapple harrass a Cardinal Feb. 22.

PB round a large flock of 50 Rusty Blackbirds at Bobby Jones Golf Course Feb. 24. The greatest numbers of Evening Grosbeaks appeared to be 120 in Kennesaw reported by Mike Kettman.

Georgia Reports - Red-throated Loons have been more widely reported from most of the coastal area than is usual. Dan & Ann Forster (D&AF) reported many more than usual off Jekyll Is Feb. 23. Sam Pate sighted a Red-necked Grebe* from St. Mary's Feb. 21. Gannets were observed on Feb. 14 close in to Savannah Beach on an Atlanta AS field trip. Ten Redheads* were seen by Frank Thompson at Garden Lakes, Rome Feb. 15. He also watched 50 Am Wigeon* at Floyd Jr. College, Rome Feb. 28.

White-winged Scoters* were spotted Feb. 14 from Savannah Beach by Atlanta Auduboners and 25 more from Jekyll Is Feb. 23 by D&AF in with several hundred Black Scoters*. Two Red-breasted Mergansers* were seen Feb. 15 at Hard Labor Cr State Park by Donna and PB and HG.

A Bald Eagle* was among the birds listed at the Savannah NWR Feb. 15 on the Atlanta field trip. A very interesting sighting of 2 Spotted Sandpipers was made on Feb. 27 by Joel Volpi (JV) at Pendergrass. It would be interesting to know if these birds were very early migrants or rare winterers (March 30, 1944 - a few in winter). On the Atlanta AS trip to Savannah NWR, 3-4 Purple Sandpipers were recorded at Savannah Beach Feb. 14. Good numbers of gulls - Ring-bills and Herrings*, were seen Feb. 15 at Lake Oconee by D&PB and HG.

Two or 3 Brewer's Blackbirds* were at White Feb. 15 seen by Bob Manns (BM). The Snow Bunting* reported on and off throughout the winter from Jekyll Is South Beach was still there Feb. 23 according to D&AF.

March Field Notes - FM spotted an Am Bittern at the Chattahoochee Nature Center March 13. Tim Rose (TR) found 2 N Shovelers* there March 30. The only Cooper's Hawk* was one at the Chattahoochee River Recreation Area (CRRA) March 22 by Terry Moore (TM). Ospreys* were seen twice - one at Freeman L March 4 by JV and one at Murphy-Candler L March 25 by TR. Dick Parks noted the downtown Peregrine Falcon* in early March. On March 9, Jay Stoler reported a large brown-backed falcon in the CRRA. Whether this was an im Peregrine or perhaps the very infrequently reported Prairie Falcon is unknown. A Merlin* was seen by Jeff Petit (JP) at Roger's Bridge March 9.

Nine separate reports totalling over 1,000 birds were received concerning Sandhill Cranes*. Dates were from March 1 - 9, with the peak apparently on March 4. Golden Plover* made brief appearances at their usual spots near Roger's Bridge, with 9 there and 5 at McGinnis Ferry Rd. March 21 seen by PB. A very early Solitary Sandpiper was at Murphy-Candler L March 17 seen by TR and equally early Greater Yellowlegs were at the Regional Hospital March 14, PB and BM. Pectoral Sandpipers were record early arrivals at Roger's Bridge and Shakerag March 9, JP (March 15, 1931). Two Herring Gulls* were unusual for the CRRA March 16, TR.

FM reports Barn Owls* on the Kennesaw College campus during the month. A very rare Short-eared Owl* was discovered in poor condition near John Ward Swamp March 30. It was taken to the Chattahoochee Nature Center where it was fed and released a few days later (fide FM). Jean Bevis (JB) reports 25-30 Water Pipits at Roger's Bridge March 22.

Georgia Reports - A Horned Grebe* was spotted by Susan Bagwell (SB) March 31 near Lawrenceville. Two Swallow-tailed Kites* were watched by FM during a canoe trip in the Okefenokee Swamp March 21-26. A Merlin* was watched as it captured a Starling near Lawrenceville March 3, SB. The earliest known Pectoral Sandpiper record for the state was one seen March 8 at Pendergrass by Ginny & Terrill Soules (TS) (March 15, 1931). Avocets* appeared to be plentiful at Jekyll Is with 30 along the causeway and 25 on South Beach March 7 and 8, along with a Great Black-backed Gull*, D&PB. John Paget (JPa) found Bonaparte's Gulls* on L Lanier March 20 and 21; SB saw a Tree Swallow* March 11 near Lawrenceville.

Field Notes for April - Very rarely do we get sightings of truly wild Canada Geese. Therefore the sighting of 4 near Roger's Bridge April 5 by JB is interesting. Hawk reports were few in number with only a few Broad-wings reported scattered over the area. A Rough-legged Hawk* was seen at Roger's Bridge April 5 by JB. This will be written up for The Oriole. Two Ospreys* were at the Chattahoochee Nature Center April 7, TR, and another was at Shakerag April 4 and 24, HG.

TR closely observed a Virginia Rail* at the Chattahoochee Nature Center and HG saw a King Rail at Shakerag April 12. The most significant shorebird sighting was that of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper* discovered near Roger's Bridge by FM April 11. This may be the first spring record for the state and is definitely the first record for the Atlanta area. An Upland Sandpiper* was also seen with the Buff-breasted.

An apparently record-early Barn Swallow as at the CRRA April 5, fide TM (Listed as occasional in winter - ed.). The rare Warbling Vireo* was found by Carol Anderson at the Emory University President's Estate April 13 and lingered until April 24, Mary Ann Vernocy. SB found a Swainson's W at Roger's Bridge April 8; while Mark Oberle (MO) saw a Cerulean W* in Decatur April 19. He also watched 30+ Bobolinks at the CRRA April 26. These birds remained through the end of the month. Two Dickcissels* were spotted at Roger's Bridge April 25 by Stan & Pat Chapman, staying until the next day. This is the first sighting for this area in several years. Jim Enterkin reported 100+ Evening Grosbeaks in SW Fulton Co on April 18 for one of the larger totals this year. A Lincoln's Sparrow* was seen at the CRRA April 26 by P&TM.

Georgia Reports - JP saw a good count of 17 Com Loons* on L Lanier April 12 along with 10 N Shovelers*. PB reports a large number - 100+ - of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers at Pendergrass April 25. The rarest gull observed was an ad Franklin's Gull* on L Lanier April 28 by JPa. (Editor's Note: On hypothetical list for state. One was seen at Columbus April 24, 1965.) Also spotted were 2 Bonaparte's Gulls* there by JP. A Caspian Tern* was sighted at L Lanier by JPa when he found the Franklin's Gull. (Editor's Note: ... occasional in interior in late summer and fall). Two Black Terns* were early at Pendergrass April 2, SB.

Cherokee AS - Dalton: Margery Hicks saw 35 large birds she felt to be Sandhill Cranes* passing over Dalton March 13. Nelda Hicks, March 16, sighted 17 of these birds flying over their Whitfield Co home. Two Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Lois Meidinger's Whitfield Co home March 18 and 21. Janice Kreisler had lingering Evening Grosbeaks April 19 and a m House Finch* at her feeder April 21 and 22. Bud and Margaret Newman did not see House Finches at their feeder after the week of April 5.

Harriett DiGioia - Sightings from the Cohutta Ranger District on the Chattahoochee National Forest: Yellow-throated W - Cohutta Work Center, March 30; Black-throated Green W - Murray's L, March 31; Black-and-white W - Muskrat Rd, April 1; Louisiana Water-thrush - Bray Field in the Cohutta Wilderness, April 5; Prairie W - Cohutta Work Center, April 9; Least Flycatcher* - Bear Cr Dispersed Camping Area (DCA), April 13; N Parula W - same place, same date; Black-throated Blue W - Songbird Management Area, April 13; Ovenbird and Hooded W - Hickey Gap DCA, April 13. Chestnut-sided W - Forest Service Rd (FSRd) 18, April 23; Worm-eating W* - FSRd 68, April 29; Swainson's W - Songbird Management Area, May 1.

While walking along the Jacks River Trail, Cohutta Wilderness, she watched a Red-shouldered Hawk take off from the river's edge with 7 snakes dangling from its talons on March 25. On a trip to Gainesville March 24, she saw a Merlin perched on a roadside wire.

Letters to the Editor

Rod Smith of Gainesville - "On April 5 the following were observed by Rod Smith and Stacy Caudwell ... at the Toccoa Cr arm of L Hartwell, Stevens Co. Red-breasted Mergansers* approx 30; Great Egret; Am Wigeon*, approx. 20; Am Coot, approx. 200; Lesser Scaup, approx. 20; Pied-billed Grebe, approx 15; Wood Duck, pair; Blue-winged Teal, approx. 50; N Shoveler*, approx. 50; single Osprey*. Many common winter songbirds were present..."

Eugene Cypert, Waycross - "I received a call from W. B. Owen of Blackshear today (April 26) to tell me Am Robins were nesting in his yard again this year. This is the third year they have nested there. Of course, a little further north robins are common summer residents, but down here we only have them in winter. The fact they have been nesting in Blackshear for the past three years may mean they are extending their nesting range...." (Editor's Note: Permanent resident over most of state, nesting commonly to Fall Line and locally and erratically in Coastal Plain....)

Arthur Green, Hiwassee - "Numerous flocks of Tree Swallows* passed through April 23. A pair started building April 28 and I believe are now incubating. Have House Wrens* in one of my bird houses. March 18, Sandhill Cranes* - 18, flew low over the area. Heard Black-crowned Night Herons* passing over at dusk April 13. April 23 brought a surprising Cattle Egret* in a pasture at Young Harris.

"Migrating Sharp-shinned Hawk* April 16; m Ruby-throated Hummingbird April 19; April 11, Chuck-will's-widow. A friend whose farm is in a cove backed up to Brasstown Bald hears a Whip-poor-will. April 28 Orchard and m N Oriole. May 2 Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. A Magnolia W was seen near our home...."

Terry Johnson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Rum Cr Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Forsyth - "...An Evening Grosbeak was an unexpected bird feeder visitor April 15. Double-crested Cormorants* were new additions to the bird list for this area and West Point WMA. The birds were fairly common along reservoirs in both locations. Wildlife Technician Jim Hackley and Ranger Frank Crook sighted an im Bald Eagle* on the West Point WMA while searching for Canada Goose nests threatened by rising water April 25. Wildlife Biologist Tom Hicks, Hackley and I sighted Willets* - 5 on West Point L April 28. Five N Shovelers* were seen on the Rum Cr WMA by Wildlife Tchnician Coley Cooper and myself March 31. This is a first sighting."

Frank Thompson, Cartersville - In a list of birds seen by him, he lists a Red-necked Grebe* for Garden Ponds, Rome Nov. 11, 1980.

News of People

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Carl and Jeannine Angerman in the death of their four-year old granddaughter, Amie, last April.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., of Fitzgerald, in the recent loss of his wife. Mary Hopkins died in a Macon hospital on June 19, 1981, following several months of illness.

Mary was known to many of us as a friendly, charming and happy lady, whose presence in any group was a joy to those around her. She supported her husband enthusiastically in his work for the GOS and other similar causes. Many birders on excursions in south Georgia were fortunate to experience her gracious hospitality in the Hopkins' Osierfield home.

Mary will be missed by us all. We share with Milton a sense of deep, personal loss.

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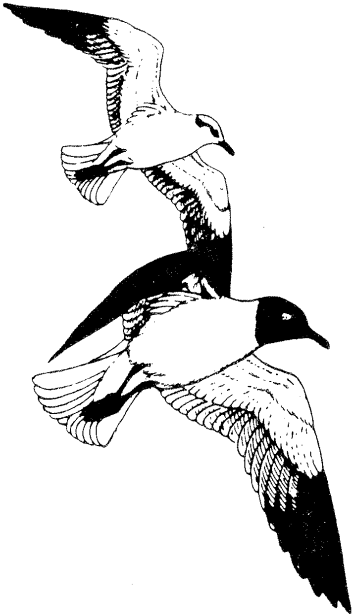
Joe Myers travelled down to Albany to present a program "Wildlife of the Okefenokee". Frank Thompson of Yorkshire, England - an exchange teacher at Cartersville for this year - presented a program to the Atlanta AS.

Jeannine Angerman is now doing bird banding for the Nongame Migratory Bird Studies Division of the Department of the Interior. The information she gathers is fed into a computer which compiles changes, trends, fatalities of birds in the area. She is employed at the Savannah R Ecology Laboratory. Harriett DiGioia was featured in an article appearing in the May issue of Rural Georgia magazine about the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest.

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