

## THE GEORGIA GOSHAWK

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Vol. IX, No. 1

September 30, 1981

### Editorial Comment

Summer birding can sometimes be rather dull and uninteresting. This late spring-summer report carries some excellent sightings. As starters, two birds not on either the official or hypothetical list were spotted in Georgia. A Baird's Sandpiper was seen at Augusta and a male Lark Bunting was spotted at Conyers.

Other good finds include: a possible Red Phalarope at Columbus; Tree Swallows successfully nesting at Lake Chatuge; White Morph of the Great Blue Heron at Newborn. An adult Bald Eagle was seen off and on throughout the summer at Carter's Lake; a first June record Marsh Hawk was sighted at Indian Springs State Park.

Olive-sided Flycatchers turned up at the Reynold's Sanctuary and on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest. On this same district a Philadelphia Vireo was noted; one was also seen at Unicoi State Park. Connecticut Warblers were reported from Atlanta and Fairburn; a Golden-winged Warbler appeared in Dalton. Begging young House Finches were observed in East Point; a record late Evening Grosbeak was reported from Augusta.

Putting the cap on the interesting birds in this issue are sightings of an Anhinga in Bartow County; Glossy Ibis at Augusta; Sandhill Cranes at Lake Chatuge and a Sora in Atlanta.

### Round-up of GOS News

Spring meeting at Augusta on April 23, 24, and 25; hosted by the Augusta Audubon Society. More details in the December issue; but, make plans to attend this meeting. Put a big, red circle around this week-end and reserve it for the birds and for good fellowship with birders from across our state.

### Between Meetings Field Trip - Future

Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge and Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area. Meet at the Refuge headquarters at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, November 14. Refuge Manager, Ronnie Schell, will brief you on details. Area should be good for waterfowl, red-cockaded woodpecker, early winter birds.

### Past Field Trips

Two out-of-towners showed up for the Augusta trip. The weather forecast was gloomy and it poured rain Friday night. The trip, held on August 22, tallied up Black & White Warbler, six Spotted Sandpipers in winter plumage.

Clarence Belger, Coordinator

The confusing Fall Warbler Clinic held on September 12 and 13 at the Lake Conasauga Recreation Area on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest attracted 7 participants. On Saturday, the birds were few, although an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen and a Swainson's Warbler was heard. A large wave of warblers was seen; but, it was too distant for any identification. Sunday, the birds really poured through the area. There were so many birds it was hard to pick one to study; Tennessee Warblers were especially numerous. A Blue-winged Warbler was among the warblers studied.

Harriett DiGioia, Coordinator

Georgia Birds at a Glance

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 and dates in parenthesis are taken from this checklist.

Abbreviations used in this newsletter: Audubon Society - AS; National Wildlife Refuge - NWR; Ranger District - RD; National Forest - NF; State Park - SP; Lake - L; River - R; Creek - Cr; Island - Is; Mountain - Mtn; Fort - Ft; County - Co; adult - ad; immature - im; male - m; female - f.

All dates 1981.

- Pied-billed Grebe: 2, Atlanta - Piedmont Park, Dick Parks; July 11, Augusta, Augusta AS.
- Pelican, Brown: 40, May 19, Jekyll Is. - South Beach, Terrill Soules.
- Cormorant, Double-crested\*: 2, June 1, Augusta - Merry Ponds (MP), Clarence Belger.
- Anhinga\*: June 5, Bartow Co., Frank McCamey.
- Heron, Great Blue - 1(White Morph\*): June 21, Newborn, Patrick Brisse, etal.
- Heron, Little Blue: May 27, Fulton Co. Stadium, David Glass; June 28, Atlanta - Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC), Patrick Brisse; 100, May 29, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Egret, Cattle: 8, May 10, Douglas Co., Dennis McClure; 2400, June 1, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Egret, Great: May 10, Atlanta - CNC, Jean Bevis; May 8, Gainesville, John Paget; 12, June 1, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Egret, Snowy\*: 10, May 29, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Bittern, Least: May 2, Atlanta - Emory University President's Estate (EPE), Elizabeth & Hugh Garrett; 4, June 1, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Ibis, Glossy\*: August 22, Augusta - Swanpond, Augusta AS.
- Ibis, White\*: 800, June 1, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Goose, Canada: May 2, Atlanta - John Ward Swamp, Donna & Patrick Brisse.

- Teal, Blue-Winged: Week of August 30, Whitfield Co. - Cohutta Fish Hatchery, Frank Paruka; September 9, Pendergrass, Stacy Caudell.
- Duck, Wood: 24, May 29, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Kite, Swallow-Tailed\*: 2, May 16, Folkston, Elizabeth & Hugh Garrett.
- Kite, Mississippi: May 24, Augusta - Airport, Dennis McClure; May 25, Blichton, Terrill Soules.
- Hawk, Sharp-shinned\*: August 23, Hiwassee, Arthur Green.
- Hawk, Cooper's\*: July 9, Hiwassee, Arthur Green; August 20, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Eagle, Bald - ad.\*: June, July, September, Carter's L., Joe Blackmon.
- Hawk, Marsh\*: June 6 & 7, First June record, Indian Springs - SP, Helen Ogren.
- Osprey\*: May 9, Atlanta -Chattahoochee R., Donna & Patrick Brisse; May 16, Atlanta, Jean Bevis; August 30, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell; May 2, Augusta - MP, Augusta AS.
- Kestel, American\*: July 25, Augusta, Augusta AS.
- Grouse, Ruffed: 2, September 12, Cohutta RD -Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Turkey: May 13, Harris Co., Sam Pate; 9, June 14, Talbottom, Nan Pate; 15, September 25, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Crane, Sandhill\*: 3, September 1, L. Chatuge, Bill Terrell.
- Sora\*: May 3, Atlanta - CNC, Eileen Hutchinson.
- Coot, American\*: 2, June 27, Peachtree City L., Donna & Patrick Brisse.
- Plover, Piping: May 21 (May 14, 1938), Jekyll Is., Terrill Soules.
- Plover, Semipalmated\*: 6, May 17, Pendergrass, Patrick Brisse; 3, August 6, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Plover, Black-Bellied\*: May 19, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Sandpiper, Upland\*: May 6, Atlanta - Roger's Bridge, Patrick Brisse.
- Sandpiper, Spotted: July 13, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin; 5, August 16, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell; 4, August 28, L. Conasauga, Harriett DiGioia.
- Sandpiper, Solitary: May 17, Pendergrass, Patrick Brisse; 2, August 16, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell; August 11, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Yellowlegs, Greater: August 10, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Yellowlegs, Lesser\*: 3, August 10, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin; August 16, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell.
- Knot, Red: 500<sup>±</sup>, August 21, Jekyll Is.-South Beach, Terrill Soules.
- Sandpiper, Pectoral: July 31, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Sandpiper, White-rumped\*: May 17, Pendergrass, John Paget; 2, May 27, Pendergrass, Mark Oberle.
- Sandpiper, Baird's\*: May 29, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.  
(Editor's Note: Not on official or hypothetical lists for state).
- Sandpiper, Least: with young, May 15, Augusta - Swanpond, Terrill Soules; 10, August 16, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell.

- Sandpiper, Semipalmated\*: July 31, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin; September 9, L. Hartwell, Stacy Caudell; September 9, Pendergrass, Stacy Caudell.
- Sandpiper, Western\*: 2, August 5, Pendergrass, Stacy Caudell.
- Stilt, Black-necked\*: 2, May 25, Brunswick, Terrill Soules.
- Phalarope, Red\* (? This is a possible sighting - Ed.): Late June, L. Oliver-Columbus, David Johnston, et al. (Editor's Note: Accidental off St. Simons Is., March 8, 1975 & at Thomaston, October 29, 1970, specimen).
- Gull, Glaucous\* - im: May 15, Cumberland Is., Anselm Atkins.
- Gull, Herring\*: May 18, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger.
- Tern, Gull-billed\*: 2, May 21, Altamaha Waterfowl Area, Terrill Soules.
- Tern, Caspian\*: 2, July 22, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Tern, Black\*: 12 (one of largest inland counts ever recorded - Ed.), May 12, Pendergrass, John Paget; July 2, Columbus, David Johnston; 3, August 11, Augusta - MP, Clarence Belger; 2, August 11, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin.
- Cuckoo, Black-billed\*: May 11, Decatur, Mark Oberle.
- Owl, Great Horned\*: May 3 & 31, Tucker; Bill Thomas; August, Hiwassee, Arthur Green.
- Nighthawk, Common: 100, September 1, L. Chatuge, Bill Terrell; August 29, Hiwassee, Arthur Green.
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 12 (feeding at one time at feeder), Summer, Gilmer Co. - Forest Service Road 90, Lydia Sellers.
- Flycatcher, Willow\*: 2 pairs, May 28, Dillard, Frank McCamey; June 14, Dillard, Frank McCamey.
- Flycatcher, Least: May 28, Dillard, Frank McCamey; June 14, Dillard, Frank McCamey.
- Flycatcher, Olive-sided\*: May 17, Reynold's Sanctuary, Roger Green; Sept. 12, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia, et al.
- Swallow, Tree\*: (Laid eggs - failed to hatch), Hiwassee, Arthur Green; July 23, 24, 30, L. Chatuge, Robert Loftin (young seen in abandoned woodpecker hole; adult feeding young).
- Swallow, Bank\*: May 17, Pendergrass, John Paget.
- Swallow, Cliff\*: colony, May 23, Hartwell Dam, Dennis McClure; (May 12, 1928).
- Wren, Short-billed Marsh\*: May 16, Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (RNRA) - Atlanta, Peggy & Terry Moore.
- Thrush, Swainson's: May 26, Buckhead, Patrick Brisse; September 10, Dalton, Harriett DiGioia.
- Thrush, Gray-checked\*: May 3, Fulton Co., Dennis McClure; May 5, Decatur, Mark Oberle; September 9, Dalton, Harriett DiGioia.
- Waxwing, Cedar: June 4, Gainesville, John Paget; June 5, Bartow Co., Frank McCamey.
- Vireo, Yellow-Throated: September 5, Dalton, Anne Hamilton.

- Vireo, Philadelphia\*: May 7, Unicoi SP, Donna & Patrick Brisse; Sept. 25, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Black & White: June 11, Doraville, Frank McCamey; 2, June 28, Atlanta - CNC, Patrick Brisse; August 12, Columbus, Bob Terhune; July 1, Dalton, Anne Hamilton.
- Warbler, Swainson's: May 10-26, Northeast Georgia, Frank McCamey; May 12, Atlanta - EPE, Elizabeth & Hugh Garrett; May 17, Chattahoochee National Recreation Area, Atlanta AS; September 10, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Doug Phillips.
- Warbler, Worm-eating\*: August 13, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Golden-winged\*: September 19, Dalton, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Blue-winged\*: May 2, Augusta, Augusta AS; September 13, Cohutta RD-Chattahoochee NF, Sara Robertson; September 15, Whitfield Co., Harry White; September 19, Dalton, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Tennessee: (large wave) September 13, Cohutta RD-Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia, etal.
- Warbler, Magnolia: May 2, Atlanta EPE, Mary Ann Vernocy; September 13, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Sara Robertson.
- Warbler, Blackburnian: August 20, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Palm: September 7, Cohutta Work Center - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Kentucky: May 25, Atlanta, Terry Moore; September 13, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia.
- Warbler, Connecticut\*: May 10, Atlanta - Chattahoochee RNRA, Atlanta AS; May 16, Fairburn, Dennis McClure.
- Warbler, Canada: May 28, Atlanta - Roswell Rd., Jay Stohler; August 13, Cohutta RD - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGiois.
- Redstart, American: September 7, Cohutta Work Center - Chattahoochee NF, Harriett DiGioia; September 15, Whitfield Co., Harry White.
- Oriole, Northern\*: May 18, East Point, Don & Doris Cohrs; September 9, Dalton, Harriett DiGioia.
- Grosbeak, Evening\*: June 6 (May 23, 1976), Augusta, Peggy Gullingham.
- Finch, House\*: May 31, Atlanta, Patrick Brisse; 3 begging young, June 4, East Point, Don & Doris Cohrs.
- Sparrow, Savannah\*: June 3 (May 20, 1928), Pendergrass, John Paget.
- Bunting, Lark\*-m: May 12 & 13, Conyers, Sara Hall, etal. (Editor's Note: Not on official or hypothetical lists for state).
- Junco, Dark-eyed: singing, may be new breeding area, May 28, Patterson Gap.
- Sparrow, Lincoln's\*: May 3, Atlanta - Chattahoochee NRA, Peggy & Terry Moore.

### Escapes

- Goose, Egyptian: June 11, Atlanta - Northlake Mall, Jim Phillips.
- Chukar: May 6, Chamblee, Bob Wold.

## News of Members

Carolina Lane enjoyed a rowing trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. She said the birding wasn't all that good. "The most species I saw in one day was 13 (a total of 30 species was seen. Ed.), worse than the Emory President's Estate in the depths of winter, but the scenery was infinitely more varied in this geologic time machine."

The Arthur Greens enjoyed a trip in June up New England way.

## Miscellaneous

Juvenile Cattle Egrets are being colored banded this year and also in 1982 to study post-fledgling dispersal. One or both wings may be colored with red, green, yellow, gray paint. Leg bands will be red, white, blue, green, yellow and numbered. If you see any of these birds, please note color of wing, color sequence of leg bands and numbers if possible, date and place of sighting, number of birds seen and send to Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Md., 20811, and to Debbie Mignogns, P. O. Box 1490, U. of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Md., 21853.

Purple Martins have been painted on the breast, wings, tails with yellow, red, blue, orange paint. Several thousand have been colored banded on the legs. Late this winter, if you see any colored banded martins on return migration, please report date, place, number of birds and color of bands to M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Md., 20811.

Tom French, GOSer, working with the N. Y. Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at Cornell University wrote to the editor: "I thought I would drop you a note as a sort of warning or prediction of a crossbill invasion. In recent years, Red Crossbills seem to have been a rather regular occurrence in North Georgia; but, to the best of my knowledge, white-winged crossbills are still on the hypothetical list.

"I have just recently returned from coastal Maine and observed the greatest numbers of crossbills that I've seen there since 1972. During many summers and falls, I see no crossbills in Maine and when they do appear, Red Crossbills are usually, by far, the more common. This year I saw few reds; but hundreds of white-wings.

"They may all remain in the northern states; but, this is probably the best year in many to look for White-winged Crossbills in North Georgia." (I'm going to be out there looking! How about you? Ed.)

In a letter to the editor, Stephen Lowe of Ellijay asks for help in supporting the nongame/ endangered species program in Georgia. This program has been successful; but, funds are being cut. To obtain more information contact Phillip Hale, School of Forest Resources, Ecology Building, U. of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602.

Anyone interested in helping out on the only Christmas Bird Count to be held in the mountains of Georgia is encouraged and invited to participate. Date has not yet been set. For more information or to sign up, please contact the editor at the address below. This is the Chattahoochee National Forest Songbird Management Area CBC.

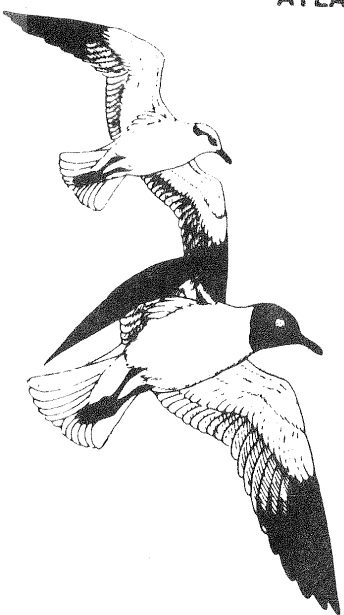
Thought for the Day

Support GOS!

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**G O S**

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