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GOSHAWK

VOLUME XII, NO. 1

EUF AJIL A NATIONAL WILDLIFE ABERTUSES TO COME!

Weet as time! The leader to be dreed by Want to Come!

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The GOSHAWK newsletter is published quarterly by the Georgia Ornithological Society. Founded in 1936, the GOS is a nonprofit corporation with membership open to anyone interested in birds.

Editor. Harriett G. DiGioia
President Robert Manns
Secretary. Betsy Phillips
Treasurer. John Swiderski

Birders are encouraged to submit items of interest to GOSHAWK, Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor, U.S. Forest Service, 401 Old Ellijay Road, Chatsworth, GA 30705.

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GOSHAWK

VOL. XII, NO. 1

November 1, 1984

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor

PLAN AHEAD -- SPRING MEETING Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge April 19, 20, 21, 1985

This will be a good one! Eufaula is an excellent area for birds—water, shore, land. Put a big, red circle around the weekend and reserve it for the birds and fellow birders. See you there!!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We had four birds reported this quarter that are not on the official or hypothetical lists for Georgia. Black-capped Petrel off the coast, Harlequin Duck on Tybee Island, Say's Phoebe at De Sota and a Painted Redstart from Crooked River State Park. The Harlequin Duck and Say's Phoebe were first reported in the last issue of this newsletter.

One hypothetical list bird was seen - a Franklin's Gull at Lake Chatuge. Three accidental birds were sighted: Cory's Shearwater off Savannah, Audubon's Shearwater off Savannah and an Arctic Tern off our coast.

Other noteworthy birds reported for the past quarter included: Greater Shearwater and Wilson's Storm Petrel off Savannah and the coast; Snowy Egret at Atlanta and a Tricolored Heron in Murray County. A Roseate Spoonbill was spotted at Brunswick and Wood Storks were at Americus and Riceboro. A Tundra Swan turned up at Atlanta and an Oldswuaw were at Augusta.

Bald Eagle sightings came in from Albany, Commerce Lake, Darien, Lake Harding, Harris County and McIntosh County. A Golden Eagle was seen on the Lookout Plateau (before the hacking began). A Virginia Rail was at Richmond Hill State Park and Sandhill Cranes were over Atlanta, Pendergrass, Dillard. A Black-bellied Plover was watched at the Clayton County Water Treatment Plant; a Willet was in Atlanta. Also from the water treatment plant comes a Wilson's Phalarope. Bridled Terns were off the coast; a Warbling Vireo showed up in Atlanta and a Sutton's Warbler was sighted in Screven County.

MINI REVIEW OF GOS MEETING JEKYLL ISLAND - OCTOBER, 1984

155 species sighted by approximately 100 birders. Ideal weather. Great program by Chris Haney on pelagic birds and Len Schuman of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on Sandhill Cranes. Special bonus—Manatees were sighted off the fishing dock by Stan Gilliam and Anne Hamilton, Vernon Gordon, Mable Faulkner, and Harry and Jean White.

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

Joe P. Myers needs your help to study staging areas. "Damage to some habitat along the migration route of certain shorebirds may be more devastating than might first appear. There exist special 'staging areas' at which migrating birds customarily halt to replenish exhausted energy. A whole population may pass through one of these bottlenecks. To the extent that the site is destroyed by wetlands reclamation or other human activity, the entire population of the species using that staging area will be endangered. Volunteers are needed for further research on these staging areas." Contact J. P. Myers, American Shorebird Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, 19th & The Parkway, Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

More Help for Shorebirds Needed

The Pan American Shorebird Program needs volunteers to search beaches and estuaries for marked shorebirds. They can also use coordinators to act as a local clearinghouse for their areas. If interested, contact John Maron at the above address of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AUGUST 5, 1984, AT THE HOME OF ROBERT MANNS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Final plans for the Fall meeting on Jekyll Island were discussed as was the location for the Spring 1985 meeting. Joe Greenberg and Dave Reynolds are working on this. Two possibilities are Fitzgerald, Georgia or a joint meeting with Alabama Ornithological Society, possibly in Eufaula.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCES

John Swiderski reported we currently have 363 members, of whom 20 have not renewed their memberships. He also said he is holding cash on reserve for the publication of A Birder's Guide to Georgia, but has invested some funds in a money market investment. He reported the ABA is planning to buy some of our stock of check lists.

A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO GEORGIA is in the final revision stages which were discussed at this meeting. Bob Manns will write the Editorial Committee giving them our thoughts. Publication should be fairly soon.

RARE BIRD ALERT

Don and Joyce Duncan, who are located geographically in the center of the state, have agreed to coordinate this project. They will be forming a committee to handle this. We have asked them to check into answering machines for which we have some funds from the previous attempt. Hopefully, the RBA will be reactivated soon.

GEORGIA CONSERVANCY

We have decided to renew our membership but will use Harriett DiGioia's address so that she will have access to Georgia environmental news should she want to include it in the Goshawk.

MISCELLANEOUS

Terry Moore reported that the Carolina Bird Club is having a winter meeting in Savannah in which some of our members might be interested. Printing of the Goshawk in its present format is fairly expensive, and will probably be reviewed in the near future. The Executive Committee has decided guidelines of the officers' duties to compliment and/or elaborate on those in the by-laws is a good idea. Each member has been asked to draft a copy for review. The Check List Committee's proposed criteria for inclusion on the state list were presented.

300 CLUB ORGANIZED

Robert Manns has recently organized a 300 Club for Georgia. The requirement for membership is the sighting of 300 species in Georgia. So far, there are eight members—Joe Greenberg, Terry Moore, Robert Manns, Hugh Garrett, Patrick Brisse, Mark Oberle, Billy Pulliam, Chris Haney. Do you qualify and would you like to belong? Contact Bob Manns, 2099 McKinley Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30318. Phone (404) 352-3679. The editor stands at 274 species—not counting the Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Athens: Ronald Pulliam, Nancy Saunders, Mrs. Roger Belanger. Marietta: M. E. Kling, Tess Cumbie. Decatur: Beth Bassett. Martinez: Steven Guy. Bogart: Brenda Rice. Ringgold: Katherine Boyles. Albany: Gregory Valpey. Smyrna: Dale Adkisson: Dublin: Earl Woodard. Lawrenceville: Mrs. Charles Bagwell. Dyersburg, TN: Randy Stringer. Yulee, FL: Jeffrey Petit.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

The Reverend Donald G. Mitchell recently celebrated his 90th birthday. A party was given for him at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Dalton to mark the occasion. Don was the first rector of this church. We wish you many more happy birthdays, Don!!

Bob and Dorothy Potts journeyed up Churchill, Manitoba way in June. They saw over 200 species of birds in breeding plumage. Among the birds seen were: Ross' Gull, Sabine's Gull, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Smith's Longspur, 's Sparrow. They had a "hands on" experience with a polar bear.

Don and Doris Cohrs attended the National Wildlife Federation "Summit Conference" held in Nova Scotia this past summer. Don got 11 Life Birds and Doris got 8. They learned about bogs, dunes, wildflowers, lobster, osprey, photography. They highly recommended these summit conferences.

CONTRIBUTION MADE TO GOS

Ben and Lula Coffey have made a contribution to GOS in the memory of Albert F. Ganier and George R. Mayfield. They were two of the founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Thank you Ben and Lula for this memorial contribution. It is much appreciated.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Charles Erwin needs your help! He is anxious to obtain copies of the following papers and will be happy to pay for them. Also, he doesn't mind if they have been scrawled upon.

Greene, Earle R., 1945, Birds of Georgia, Occasional Paper of GOS, No. 2 with 111 pages.

Norris, Robert A., 1951, Distribution & Populations of Summer Birds in Southwestern Georgia, Occasional Paper of GOS, No. 3 with 67 pages.

Tompkins, Ivan R., 1960, Pocket List of Georgia Birds, GOS, 57 pages.

Contact: Charles Erwin, 2403 Temple Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707.

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Ring-necked Duck*: 1 m, Sweetwater Cr, summered; 4, Peachtree City L, summer, D&PM, PB.

Oldsquaw*: Augusta, early March, CH, & Gordon Highway, March 15, DW-seen thru April 11 by A&VW and many observers.

White-winged Scoter*: 6. Jekyll Is, March 3 & 9, St. Simons Island - Gould's Inlet, D&PM.

Bufflehead*: Sweetwater Cr SP, April 25, D&PM.

Red-breasted Merganser*: 32 on April 10 and 28 on April 21, Sweetwater Cr SP, D&PM, & May 5, PR.

Osprey*: Columbus, April 25, TW & spring, TMe & July 7, SP; Augusta-Merry Ponds, March 31, April 9 & 21 with 3 at airport April 21, A&VW; Hiawassee, April 7 & 21, AG; Fairburn-Twin Ls. June 12, D&PM.

American Swallow-tailed Kite*: 2, Folkston, April 7, D&PM and 3, April 28, TM, PB, HG, VJ.

Mississippi Kite: few, Everett, May 28, PB, CH, DJ; 13, Augusta-levee, May 5, A&VW.

Bald Eagle*: Albany, June 14, M&JB; Commerce L, April 1 & 20, JP; Darien, April 2 & 3, D± im, L Harding-Mtn Cr-Cook Landing, May 12, LB; ad, Harris Co, May 17, WH; ad, McIntosh Co-I-95, June 9, SP.

Sharp-shinned Hawk*: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Grassy Mtn Fire Tower, Aug 6, HD.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 tending young, Columbus, April 30, BB; 2, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Grassy Mtn Fire Tower, Aug 6, HD.

Broad-winged Hawk: Screven Co-Rocky Ford, April 22, J&JL-remarked to be unusual for this area; Harris Co, summer, FL-2 coming to feeder for meaty bones.

Golden Eagle*: Lookout Plateau, March 4, JG, CA.

Ruffed Grouse: 7, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Group Camping Area-Lake Conasauga, Aug 31, HD.

Virginia Rail*: 5, Richmond Hill SP, April 7, BP.

Sora*: Atlanta—Regional Hospital, April 21; 10, Richmond Hill SP, April 7; 5, Eufaula NWR, April 22, BP.

American Coot: 4, Peachtree City L, June, PB.

Sandhill Crane*: 14 reports of 1,000 birds, Atlanta area, March 1 - April 9, TM; 17, Pendergrass, March 4. PB. CH, P&TM; 1 heard & seen, near Dillard, May 12, DL, L&HG.

Black-bellied Plover*: Clayton Co WTP, March 25, PB-7th Atlanta area record and lst since 1975 (Ed's Note: ...rare transient in interior in May...).

Semipalmated Ployer*: 5, Clayton Co WTP, May 26 & June 4, PB & 1, May 30, CH; Augusta-levee, May 12, A&VW.

Willet*: Atlanta-Chattahoochee RNRA, April 29, Atlanta AS, 7th record.

Upland Sandpiper*: Atlanta-Roger's Bridge, March 17, BP.

Semipalmated Sandpiper*: 30, Clayton Co WTP, May 20 & June 9; 37, Peachtree City L, May 12, PB.

White-rumped Sandpiper*: 1, Clayton Co WTP, May 5 & June 2, PB & 3 on May 26, PB, P&TM.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3, Atlanta—Roger's Bridge, March 4, BP; 2, Hiawassee, May 17, AG (15 March 1931).

Stilt Sandpiper*: 1, Marietta—John Ward Swamp, May 2, TMi; Clayton Co WTP, May 12, PB, FM, EM.

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Short-billed Dowitcher*: Clayton Co WTP, April 14, PB.

American Woodcock*: Atlanta-Chattahoochee RNRA, June 23, P&TM-rarely reported in Atlanta in summer.

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Wilson's Phalarope*: f. Clayton Co WTP, May 19, PB, CH-3rd Atlanta record (Ed's Note: ...accidental in interior...).

Franklin's Gull*: Hiawassee, May 4, D&AGr (Ed's Note: On hypothetical list for state).

Laughing Gull*: Sweetwater Cr SP, April 22, D&PM.

Bonaparte's Gull*: 14 on March 25 & 15 on April 10, Sweetwater Cr SP, D&PM.

Arctic Tern*: 5, off coast, May 27, Atlanta AS-photographed (Ed's Note: Accidental...).

Forster's Tern*: Sweetwater Cr SP, May 9, D&PM.

Least Tern*: Augusta-Merry Ponds, April 9, A&VW.

Bridled Tern*: 13, off coast, May 27, Atlanta AS; 5, off Savannah, June 16, HG, DG,

Ringed Turtle Dove: Dalton-yard, June, DF and yard, Aug 15, HD.

Black-billed Cuckoo*: Dobbins Air Force Base, May 16, PR; Columbus, May 5, JS; Augusta-levee, May 12, A&VW.

Chuck-will's-widow: Atlanta, May 14, CL.

Whip-poor-will: singing, Harris Co, June 15, FL; singing, Chattahoochee NF--Cohutta RD-L Conasauga, Aug 6, HD.

Red-headed Woodpecker: ad feeding young, Piedmont NWR, June 16, Ocmulgee AS; 5 nesting pairs, A sta-neighborhood, spring, A&VW.

Hairy Woodpecker*: Screven Co-Rocky Ford, April 22, J&JL

Red-cockaded Woodpecker*: 2 Albino, Hitchiti Forest, Summer, KW.

Olive-sided Flycatcher*: Palmetto, May 12 & Douglas Co, May 20, D&PM.

Say's Phoebe*: Still seen DeSota March & April-reported in Vol XI, No. 4 this newsletter (Ed's Note: Not on official/hypothetical lists for state).

Gray Kingbird*: Brunswick, May 28, PB, CH, DJ; 2 ad, 1 young, Sea Island--Cloisters, June 18-21, D&PM.

Horned Lark: Cordele, April 1, BP, HG, PB; Lookout Plateau-Mtn Cove Farm, April

Tree Swallow*: Convers, March 9, FM; nesting for 5th year, Hiawassee, spring, AG; 2, Clayton Co WTP, June 2, PB.

Bank Swallow*: Clayton Co WTP, April 15 & 2, June 2, PB & May 25, FM.

Cliff Swallow*: Clayton Co WTP, April 7, PB & April 18 & 21, FM; Atlanta-Emory University-President's Estate, April 21, BP.

Bewick's Wren*: South Fulton Co, March 26, D± Pendergrass, March 12, JP.

House Wren*: Screven Co-Rocky Ford, April 22, J&JL.

Sedge Wren*: 5 singing, Eufaula NWR, April 22, BP.

Marsh Wren*: Atlanta-Chattahoochee RNRA, May 11, PR.

Cedar Waxwing*: 2 ad, 4 juvenile, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Work Center, Sept. 1, HD.

Loggerhead Shrike: Whitfield Co-Ga 286, June 1; Murray Co-US 76, July 26, HD.

Solitary Vireo: Jekyll Is. June 18, D&PM.

Warbling Vireo*: Atlanta-Chattahoochee RNRA, April 29, Atlanta AS.

Philadelphia Vireo*: Atlanta—Chattahoochee RNRA, April 29, Atlanta AS.

(continued on page 6)

GA BIRDS AT A GLANCE (continued from page 5)

Nashville Warbler*: Atlanta—Chattahoochee RNRA, April 23, BP, RM & Northwest, May 5, PR; Conyers, spring, FM & May 1, FM, JG.

Sutton's Warbler*: Screven Co-Rocky Ford, April 22, J&JL (Ed's Note: Reported from Demorest 10 May 1949).

Painted Redstart*: Crooked River SP, April 13, DGa (Ed's Note: Not on official/hypothetical lists for state).

Worm-eating Warbler: Screven Co-Rocky Ford, April 22, J&JL.

Swainson's Warbler: Screven Co-Mile Branch-on territory April 22, J&JL; Stone Mtn, May 1-10, PB; Northwest Atlanta, May 2, PR.

Ovenbird: Augusta—levee, April 29 & Merry Ponds, May 11, A&VW—not generally seen in Augusta; Stone Mtn, June 24, PB—non-nesting in Atlanta.

Northern Waterthrush: 2, off coast, May 27, Atlanta AS (23 May 1939).

Connecticut Warbler*: Atlanta-Chattahoochee RNRA, May 13, D&DC, CL.

Mourning Warbler*: m, Carroll Co, May 20, D&PM.

Wilson's Warbler*: Forsyth Co, April 25, JP; Southwest Atlanta, May 5, D&DC, CL.

Dickcissel*: Dublin, 4 pairs and 2 nest sites, May 17, TP, CH & 2 fledglings, June 2 & 6 young & 4 adult pairs, June 15; 6 m on territory, Dublin, June, TP; 1 f, Eufaula NWR, April 22, BP.

Bachman's Sparrow*: South of Atlanta, June 2, P&TM.

Grasshopper Sparrow*: Americus, June, MO; Dublin, May 17 & observed on nest feeding young, June 9, TP.

Henslow's Sparrow*: Atlanta-Emory University President's Estate, April 21, BP.

Lincoln's Sparrow*: Atlanta-Emory University President's Estate, April 21, BP.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: m, L Tobesofkee, May 27, K&AC.

Brewer's Blackbird: 30, Ga 39 near Eufaula NWR, April 1, BP.

Northern Oriole*: Hiawasee-Friendship Store, May 12-15 & pair, yard, May 14, AG.

House Finch: Columbus—Vocational Technical School & 47th St, May 3, JS (6 March 1972 & 15 Aug 1976, accidental in summer).

CONTRIBUTORS

Carol Anderson, Clarence Belger, Bill Birkhead, Marjorie & John Botti, Patrick Brisse, Lyle Bundt, Ken & Arlene Clark, Don & Doris Cohrs, Harriett DiGioia, Don Franks, Dot Garrett (DGa), Hugh & Liz Garrett, David Glass, Dorothy & Arthur Green (D&AGr), Joe Greenberg, Anne Hamilton, Chris Haney, Walter Holland, Ty Ivey, Vince Jackson, Carolina Lane, Janice & Joshua Lee, Florence Lynn, Robert Manns, Dennie & Pam McClure, Trip Meine (TMe), Francis Michael, Genie Milam, Terry Miller (TMi), Peggy & Terry Moore, Polly & Billy Nunn, John Paget, Sam Pate, Tommy Patterson, Billy Pulliam, Jim Shirah, Anne & Vernon Waters, Dan Waters, Tom Williams, Earl Woodward, Keith Wooster.

BIRDER'S GUIDE TO GEORGIA — AVAILABLE

A new revised version of a <u>Birder's Guide to Georgia</u> is now available. This second edition was revised by Dr. Joe Greenberg and Carole Anderson and the cost is only \$5.00. The guide contains detailed directions to key birding areas throughout the state. To purchase your copy of the book, write: Caroline H. Lane, 869 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. Please include \$1.00 for postage. Copies will also be on sale at the Spring GOS Meeting.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations used in

this newsletter:

ad Adult

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AS Audubon Society

Co County

Cr Creek f Female

FSRd Forest Service Road

Ft Fort

GC Golf Course

im Immature

Is Island

L Lake

m Male

Mtn Mountain

NF National Forest

NRA National Recreation Area

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

R River

RD Ranger District

SP State Park

WMA Wildlife Management Area

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 one of the locations where it was seen according to the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, J. Fred Denton. Editor's notes and dates in parentheses are taken from this checklist. Dates are 1984.

DEADLINES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

To Editor	For Mailing or
11/15	2/1
2/15	5/1
5/15	8/1
8/15	11/1

GEORGIA BIRDS AT A GLANCE

Nomenclature and order following the 6th AOU Checklist, 1984.

Common Loon*: 3, Sweetwater Cr SP, March 20 and 25 on April 21, D± 9, Clayton Co WTP, April 21, BP.

Pied-billed Grebe: Fairburn-Twin Ls, mid-June, D& PM.

Horned Grebe*: 2, Sweetwater Cr SP, April 18 & 22, D&PM.

Cory's Shearwater*: 13, off Savannah, June 16, HG, TM, DG (Ed's Note: Accidental, one record on Cumberland Is Sept. 1973, specimen).

Greater Shearwater*: 3, off Savannah, June 16, HG, DG, TM.

Audubon's Shearwater*: 3, off Savannah, June 16, HG, DG, TM (Ed's Note: Accidental on Little Cumberland Is 25 Jul 1966, specimen, & on Cumberland Is 27 Sept, 1973, specimen).

Black-capped Petrel*: 1,65 mi off coast, May 27, Atlanta AS (Ed's Note: Not on official/hypothetical lists for state).

Wilson's Storm Petrel*: 2, off coast, May 27, Atlanta AS; 2-3, off Savannah, June 16, HG, DG, TM.

Double-crested Cormorant*: Sweetwater Cr SP, April 22-24, D± nest with 1 young thought to have been found Oconee NF-L Oconee—Redlands Boat Ramp, last of July/first of Aug, KW.

Great Blue Heron: Ad reported with young, Murray Co, summer, reported to HD—birds not seen by any birders.

Great Egret*: Atlanta—Chattahoochee RNRA, April 23, BP & RM; Conyers, May 4, FM; 2, Augusta—Merry Ponds, A&VW; 2, Murray Co—Carter's L, July 23, HD & AH.

Snowy Egret*: Atlanta—Roger's Bridge, May 6, PB, PR, BP—first Atlanta record in 10 years.

Tricolored Heron*: Murray Co-Grassy Mtn Rd, July 15, HD.

Cattle Egret*: Atlanta—Stadium, April 3, L&HG, DG, & Roger's Bridge, May 6, PB, PR, BP, & Regional Hospital, May 20, PB; 6, Clayton Co WTP, April 21, BP; 5, Douglas Co, May 6, D± 90, Augusta—Merry Ponds, May 11, A&VW; Hiawassee—Friendship Store, May 15, AG.

Black-crowned Night Heron*: im, Murray Co-Grassy Mtn Rd, July 15, HD.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: im, Murray Co—Grassy Mtn Rd, July 15, HD; im, Atlanta—Chattahoochee RNRA, June 23, P&TM.

White Ibis*: 6 im, Murray Co-Grassy Mtn Rd, July 15, HD, and 8 im, July 18, HD & AH; 4 im, Carter's L, July 23, HD & AH.

Roseate Spoonbill*: Brunswick, June 20, D&PM.

Wood Stork*: 25, near Americus, July, P&BN; Riceboro-I-95, June 9, SP.

Tundra Swan*: Atlanta—near Stadium, March 9, JG & CA.

Harlequin Duck*: m, Tybee Is, last seen March 10, BP, PB, MO-first reported in last issue—Vol XI, No 4—this newsletter (Ed's Note: Not on official/hypothetical lists for state).

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