



GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XII, No. 4

August 1, 1985

Harriett G. DiGioia, Editor

Rare Bird Alert Phone Number

912/987-1052

From the Editor's Desk

Well, we have kind of bottomed out this quarter. Lately, we have been flying high with numerous reports of birds not on the official or hypothetical lists for our state. For this quarter, we could only turn up one bird not on either list. A Harlequin Duck was spotted off the jetty on Tybee Island.

Other interesting sightings for our state include a White-winged Scoter at Lake Lanier and a documented nesting record for Osprey at Lake Juliette.

Wood Storks were seen at Dublin and Jekyll Island; a Greater White-fronted Goose was at Callaway Gardens. Bald Eagle reports came in from the Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge, the Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area and Screven County. Sandhill Cranes flew over Lake Tobesofkee, Kathleen and Atlanta.

A Willow Flycatcher was listed for Lake Conasauga, and House Wrens were singing on territory at Watkinsville. A Blue-winged Warbler was noticed at Lake Conasauga and a Connecticut Warbler sighting came in from Augusta. A Western Tanager was photographed at Americus; while a Dickcissel sang in Whitfield County. Grasshopper Sparrows sang near Athens and at Augusta; a Henslow's Sparrow was spotted in Forsyth County. House Finches nested at Athens and Watkinsville; a Common Redpoll was at Atlanta and Evening Grosbeaks were seen on the Cohutta Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

GOS News:

Important weekend scheduled for October 11-13! GOS fall meeting at Jekyll Island! Headquarters: Wanderer Inn. Details as to field trips, programs, registration and reservation blanks will come to you in a separate mailing.

This is an important meeting as YOUR officers will be elected for the next two years. The nominating committee - Anne Wyand, Joyce Duncan, Delano Crowe - present the following slate of officers for your consideration: President, Tommy Patterson; First Vice-president, Don Duncan; Second Vice-president, Chris Haney; Secretary, Betsy Phillips; Treasurer, John Swiderski. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. To keep the record straight, current Second Vice-president Dave Reynolds resigned early this summer. Don Duncan was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

In-between-meetings field trips: Jay Stolar announces the following two field trips to which you are invited.

Date: November 9-10. Place: St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge, Florida.
Meeting Place: Refuge Headquarters on Saturday. Time: 8:00 a.m.
Leaders: Refuge Personnel.

Date: December 7-8. Combined GOS-Atlanta Audubon Society trip.
Place: Lake Lanier on a houseboat. Price: \$30.00 per day. Featured
Species: Raptors and Waterfowl. Call Frank McCamey at (404) 455-7533 for
more details.

Welcome to these new members: Hunter Patterson, Atlanta (Tommy's son - membership is a gift from Tommy); Stuart Coward, Athens; Arthur Crowe, Jr., Marietta; Gail Russell, Avondale Estates; McGarth Keen, Sr., Dublin; Lindsay Lilly, Jr., Daniels, W.V. (Life Member).

News of People

Vernon Waters has been hospitalized recently and had a pacemaker put in. We wish you a speedy recovery, Vernon.

Lee Gibbs broke her foot a while back and has been curtailed in her activities. Hope that foot is mended now, Lee.

Don & Joyce Duncan went to Southern California in May. They added 50 species to their Life List, including the California Condor! Ty Ivey also went west, to Arizona. He too had added 50 species to his Life List.

Gregory Valpey has moved from Albany to Gainesville, GA.

Abbreviations used in this newsletter:

ad	Adult	m	Male
AS	Audubon Society	Mtn	Mountain
Co	County	NC	Nature Center
Cr	Creek	NF	National Forest
f	Female	NRA	National Recreation Area
FSRd	Forest Service Road	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
Ft	Fort	R	River
GC	Golf Course	RD	Ranger District
im	Immature	SP	State Park
Is	Island	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
L	Lake	WTP	Water Treatment Plant

Records listed in this newsletter are largely unchecked and do not constitute an official sighting. Publication of these records is intended to bring interesting sightings to the attention of the membership and to remind them to be alert to unusual species in the areas indicated.

An asterisk (*) following the name of a bird denotes that it is listed as occasional, rare, uncommon or casual for 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 1985.

Deadlines for this Newsletter

To Editor

11/15
2/15
5/15
8/15

For Mailing on

2/1
5/1
8/1
11/1

Georgia Birds at a Glance

- Common Loon*: 50, offshore Jekyll Is, Feb. 9, Atlanta AS; 2, Sweetwater Cr SP, Mar. 30, PR; 2, breeding plumage, Clark Hill Reservoir, Mar. 31, CB
Horned Grebe*: Clayton Co WTP, Mar. 30, PB; Plant Scherer-Ash Pond, Mar.-April, TJ
Red-necked Grebe*: Winter-plumage, Clark Hill Reservoir, Mar. 31, CB
Northern Gannett: offshore Jekyll Is, Feb. 9, J&DD
Brown Pelican: 40, Jekyll Is-South Beach, May 25-30, B&BD - "great increase over previous 2 years at same time"
Double-crested Cormorant*: Clayton Co WTP, Mar 29, PR; 20, Jekyll Is, May 25-30, B&BD; Rum Cr WMA-L Juliette, Mar.-Apr., TJ; Augusta- Merry Ponds, 16 on Apr. 7, 8 on Apr. 29, 5 on May 4, AW
Great Blue Heron*: Murray Co-Grassy Mtn Rd, July 13, HD
Cattle Egret: Augusta- Merry Ponds Roost, 93 on Apr. 7, 95 on Apr. 16, 85 on May 4, AW
Black-crowned Night Heron*: 4, Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 16, CB
Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 2, Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 30, CB & 4 on May 14, A&VW
White Ibis*: Augusta-Merry Ponds Roost, 5 on Apr. 7 and 19 on May 4, AW
Wood Stork*: Dublin, Mar. 29, M&JA; 5, Jekyll Is, May 28&29, B&BD
Greater White-fronted Goose*: Callaway Gardens, Mar. 9-24, D&PM
Canada Goose: ad f, Gainesville-Gainesville Junior College, Jan.1, B&BD - found with orange plastic collar. Number sent in. Bird was banded 33 kms. south of Cape Churchill, Manitoba - part of a moulting flock, July 23, 1984
Harlequin Duck*: Tybee Is-jetty, Mar. 10, JC (Ed's Note: not on official/hypothetical lists for GA. Same bird as seen last year for first record?)
Northern Shoveler*: Augusta, Apr. 6, A&VW
Gadwall*: Augusta-Merry Ponds, Feb. 19, CB
Greater Scaup*: 2 m, Jekyll Is, Feb. 9, J&DD
Lesser Scaup: Augusta, seen to May 25 & 1 m on June 1, A&VW
Oldsquaw*: Jekyll Is, Feb. 10, J&DD
Surf Scoter*: St. Catherine's Is, Mar. 30, Ocmulgee AS
White-winged Scoter*: L. Lanier, Feb. 28 & Mar. 1 & 2, JP
Bufflehead*: Common, Plant Scherer-Ash Pond, to Apr. 13, TJ
Red-breasted Merganser*: Carter's L, May 15, HD (May 10, 1933); Macon-Cherokee Ponds, Feb. 16, TI; Albany-Newton Rd., Mar. 23, T&GJu; L. Juliette, Mar.-Apr., TJ
Ruddy Duck*: Macon-Cherokee Ponds, Feb. 16, TI
Osprey*: 13 nesting pairs, St. Catherine's Is, Mar. 30, Ocmulgee AS; Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 6 & 30 & May 12, AW; nesting, L Juliette, spring, TJ - documented by Dept. Natural Resources
American Swallow-tailed Kite*: Oliver, 1st week May, GB

- Mississippi Kite: Ocmulgee National Monument, May 11, J&MA; Macon-near home where have nested in past, Apr., TI; ad, Augusta-levee, Apr. 22, AW, (25 Apr. 1967); Oliver, 1st week May, GB
- Bald Eagle*: Savannah R NWR, Mar. 31, JC; im, Rum Cr WMA, Apr. 25, FG; im, Screven Co-Briar Cr, May 7, GB - flew so low over county road that it was struck and killed by the top of a pick-up truck - weighed approximately 8 pounds - turned over to Department of Natural Resources Game & Fish Division
- Northern Harrier: m & f flying together and calling, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Work Center, May 19, HD
- Red-shouldered Hawk: nest, Atlanta-Panthersville Rd, Mar. 27, RM
- Ruffed Grouse*: Sweetwater Cr SP, Mar. 30, PR - 2nd Atlanta area record; 6-8, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-East Cowpen Trail, July 4, JPa
- Wild Turkey: Commerce L, Mar. 3, HG, D&PB
- Sandhill Crane*: 65, L Tobesofkee, Feb. 23 & 52, Kathleen, Jⅅ 1,000, Atlanta area, Mar. 3 & 4 - IV&TJa, PB, D&PM, D&DC
- Semipalmated Plover*: Augusta, Apr. 29, AW & Merry Ponds, Apr. 30 CB
- Black-necked Stilt*: Savannah R NWR, Mar. 31, JC
- American Avocet*: 17, Athens-University of Georgia Campus, Apr. 27, B&BD
- Upland Sandpiper*: 16, Augusta-airport, Apr. 10, AW; Gainesville-airport, Mar. 31, JP
- Whimbrel*: Jekyll Is-Causeway, Feb. 9, PB, MO
- Semipalmated Sandpiper*: 22, Augusta-Merry Ponds, May 14 & 5 on May 25, CB, AW
- Western Sandpiper*: 1, Augusta-Merry Ponds, Mar. 9 & 2 on May 14, CB, AW
- Stilt Sandpiper*: Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 30, CB
- Short-billed Dowitcher*: 5, Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 6, AW
- Herring Gull*: 32, Atlanta-Howell Mill Rd Waterworks, May 22; Plant Scherer-Ash Pond, Mar. 5, TJ
- Caspian Tern*: Rum Cr WMA, Apr. 13, Ocmulgee AS; Savannah Spoils Area, Mar. 31, JC
- Forster's Tern: 50, Jekyll Is, May 5-30, B&BD
- Least Tern*: 50, Jekyll Is, May 5-25, B&BD
- Black-billed Cuckoo*: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Work Center, May 19, AH & Betty Gap, July 4, JPa
- Great Horned Owl*: Ocmulgee National Monument, Mar. 17, M&Ja; Savannah R NWR Mar. 31, JC
- Whip-poor-will*: Hepzibah, Mar. 31, JC; Screven Co, May 8 & 20, GB; Whitfield Co., Apr. 8, VG
- Red-headed Woodpecker: nesting, Augusta-Apple Valley, spring, AW
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker*: St. Catherine's Is, Mar. 30, Ocmulgee AS
- Willow Flycatcher*: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-L Conasauga, May 4, HD
- Western Kingbird*: Jekyll Is-Causeway, Mar. 30, D&PM
- Tree Swallow*: pair raised 3 young, Hiawasee, spring, AG
- Fish Crow: Rum Cr WMA, Mar.-Apr. - absent during winter, TJ
- House Wren*: Macon-Cherokee Ponds, Feb. 16, TI; pair singing on territory, Watkinsville, June 23, B&BD
- Veery*: Brasstown Bald, July, JS, D&PRe
- Gray-cheeked Thrush*: Augusta-levee, May 11, CB
- Cedar Waxwing: 12, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Work Center, May 19, HD; 1, Northeast Athens, June 1, B&BD
- Loggerhead Shrike: Murray Co-Grassy Mtn Rd, May 19, HD
- Yellow-throated Vireo: Rum Cr WMA, Apr. 13, Ocmulgee AS - first record for area

- Blue-winged Warbler*: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-L Conasauga, May 15, HD
Tennessee Warbler*: Dalton, April 25, HD
Orange-crowned Warbler*: Augusta-Dead Swamp, Mar. 2, Augusta AS; Forsyth Co -
remained until mid Feb., JP
Yellow Warbler: Whitfield Co-yard, Apr. 28, DCr; Augusta-Merry Ponds, Apr. 29-
May 25, AW
Magnolia Warbler*: Dalton, May 13, AH
Yellow-throated Warbler*: Rum Cr WMA, Apr. 13, Ocmulgee AS - first record for
area
Worm-eating Warbler*: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-FSRd 78, Apr. 29, HD;
Augusta-levee & Lover's Lane, Apr. 20, AW
Swainson's Warbler: Augusta-Phinizy Swamp, Apr. 20, AW
Ovenbird*: 3, Pine Mtn-trial, June 16, 20, 21, 23, SC, GW, F&PS, HL
Connecticut Warbler*: Augusta-Merry Ponds, May 25, CB, AW, JC
Canada Warbler*: Dalton, Apr. 27, AH; singing on territory, Traprock Gap,
July, JS, D&PRe
Western Tanager*: Americus-yard, Apr. 7-May 10, GS & seen on May 8, AA, RH -
photographed; photo sent to this editor
Dickcissel*: Whitfield Co, May 5, AH
Grasshopper Sparrow*: 13 singing male, Athens, June 1, B&BD - on Breeding Bird
Survey route; 1 singing, Augusta-airport, Apr. 30, AW
Henslow's Sparrow*: Forsyth Co, Feb. 17, JCa
White-crowned Sparrow*: 4, Augusta, spring, CB
Dark-eyed Junco: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-L Conasauga, summer, nesting,
greater numbers and in more locations than in other years, elevation
3,150+ feet, HD
Rusty Blackbird: Augusta-Dead Swamp, Mar. 2 & 30, Augusta AS
Common Grackle: Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-L Conasauga, 1 on May 2 and 2 on
July 8 & 15, HD - first record for the district in the higher elevations
Northern Oriole*: Dalton, Apr. 27, AH
Purple Finch: Forsyth, last seen Mar. 22, TJ
House Finch*: nest with 5 eggs & 1 m & 1 f, Athens, spring & 4 young banded
in nest, Watkinsville, June 23, B&BD - photographed
Common Redpoll*: Atlanta-Dunwoody-feeder, Mar. 2-5, BR
Evening Grosbeak: 20, Chattahoochee NF-Cohutta RD-Work Center, May 19, HD
Escapes/Exotics - Ring-necked Pheasant: 1 singing m, Jekyll Is-near South
Beach, May 27, B&BD

Contributors - Marie & Jerry Amerson, Alan Ashley, Clarence Belger, Grace
Boddiford, Donna & Patrick Brisse, Jack Carusos (JCa), Sue Chambliss, Jim Clark,
Don & Doris Cohrs, Delano Crowe (DCr), Harriett DiGioia, Brenda & Billy Dunbar,
Joyce & Don Duncan, Hugh Garrett, Vernon Gordon, Fred Granitz, Arthur Green,
Anne Hamilton, Rip Holman, Ty Ivey, Vince & Trina Jackson (V&TJa), Terry
Johnson, Tommy & Gloria Justice (T&GJu), Hazel Lewis, Robert Manns, Dennie & Pam
McClure, Mark Oberle, John Paget, Johnny Parks (JPa), Paul Raney, Bob Raymund,
Dave & Phyl Reynolds, Glenn Saucier, Fred & Peggy Spencer, John Swiderski,
Vernon & Anne Waters, Grace Whiteman *(D+PRe)

Miscellaneous: Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend: Abundance and Distribution
by John H. Rappole and Gene W. Blacklock. Summarizes in concise species
accounts seasonal occurrence, abundance, breeding period, preferred
habitats and migration patterns. A checklist of birds sighted in the area


and specimen documentation of locally rare birds included. Published by Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843. Price \$19.50.

The Chattahoochee Nature Center needs your help. "For an experience like no other, volunteer at the nature center! Positions are available in: trail guides, wild-life information and care, native plant garden, the Green Heron Shop, evening programs, adult workshops, reception desk, education department. No experience necessary! We welcome amateurs and experts. For more information, call Lisa or Carol at (404) 922-2055."

A Conference will be held at Georgia State University on Sept. 28 featuring extensive skills training workshops and issues workshops, including Right to Know, Hazardous Wastes, the Chattahoochee River, Plant Vogtle, State Growth and Development plans and others. Cost \$10.00 pre-registration, \$15.00 day of event. Includes lunch. For more information, contact Georgia State University, 175 Trinity Ave., S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303.

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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.