



# GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 17 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 1990

Rare Bird Alert Phone Number: 912 987-1052

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## GOS FALL MEETING OCTOBER 12-14

The GOS Fall Meeting will be at Lakepoint Resort Lodge, Eufaula, Alabama, October 12-14. Daniel Drennen, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge Biologist, is anticipating a substantial fall bird migration and wintering waterfowl population because of habitat preparation at the refuge. He says birding opportunities should be great.

The meeting schedule will follow the usual format with the registration desk opening at the lodge at 4:00PM Friday, October 12, and dinner on your own. Daniel Drennen of Eufaula NWR will speak at the Friday evening program, beginning at 8:00PM, on the background, habitats, and birds of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. Following the program, field trips for Saturday and Sunday will be organized. Saturday evening will begin with the social hour, followed by the banquet and evening speaker. Dr. Tom Rogers of University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, will speak on Yucatan bird migration studies.

Rooms at the lodge are \$52.00 plus tax, double; \$44.00 plus tax, single. Cut-off for guaranteed reservations is September 15th, with space as available after that. The first night's deposit should accompany your request. A reservation form has been provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

Meeting registration is \$5.00, and the Saturday evening buffet is \$12.50 per person. A meeting and banquet reservations form is provided in this issue and should be returned no later than October 1st.

As a special treat, Frank McCamey has arranged with a local boatman to take groups of ten maximum on four hour tours around the refuge. These trips are limited to members and their dependents only because of the limited capacity. The cost of the trip is \$10.00 per person. (See registration form which includes this option.)

Field trippers should anticipate lunch in the field on Saturday. Those who can, should bring their own makings. Otherwise, box lunches at \$4.00 and up can be ordered from the lodge when you register Friday afternoon. The lodge normally opens for breakfast at 7:00AM, but will open the buffet at 6:30AM on Saturday to accommodate our field trip plans. For the 6:00AM boat trippers Saturday and Sunday, coffee and danish will be provided. REMEMBER THAT ALABAMA IS ON CENTRAL TIME.

## CONSERVATION ISSUES

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM: People are continuing to take part in the GOS "Making Earth Day Last" program by either pledging to plant a tree or trees themselves, giving them as gifts to others, or giving money to GOS to plant trees in honor or memory of loved ones. We will publish more names in addition to the ones below in the next GOSHAWK.

GOS may have a special spot in the Georgia Botanical Gardens in Athens for trees planted as part of this program. The trees will be labeled with the name of the person making the gift and with the name of the person honored or memorialized.

SWAMP OF TOA (ALBANY): GOS member Charles Erwin tells us that the Corps of Engineers, EPA, DNR, and the Fish and Wildlife Service have an eighteen month study of the Swamp of Toa underway. The person in charge is Rick Gooch, wetlands ecologist for EPA, who can be reached in Atlanta at (404) 347-2126.

WETLANDS (U.S.): We must keep reminding President Bush of his campaign pledge to enforce a "no net loss" wetlands program. Half of the original 215 million acres of wetlands in the continental United States are already lost, and we cannot afford further wetlands habitat losses. You have a chance to send in comments by September 28 to:

Wetlands Coordination Team  
Room 5138 Main Interior Building  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Georgine Pindar, Conservation Chairman

### GOS TREES PROGRAM

The Cherokee Audubon Society sent a donation for trees to be planted in memory of three of their past presidents:

Sybil Perkins Kerr  
Herbert Delano Crowe  
Frank DiGioia

### MERRY BROTHERS BRICKYARD POND

Merry Brothers Brickyard Pond, located about seven blocks from downtown Augusta and presently owned by the Merry Land Investment Company, hosts many endangered birds in Richmond County's purest water. At least 250 species of birds have been sighted, owing this abundance to the fact that the ponds have varied landscape and are close to the Savannah River, which most of the birds use as a migration marker.

Jack Cooper, life GOS member and Augusta attorney, is working with the Federal Government to buy out Merry Brothers Brickyard Pond and make it into a wildlife refuge. You will remember that the ponds survived a threat from proposed highway construction. Letters to Senator Fowler expressing your support of this government purchase would be quite helpful at this point. Address correspondence to Wyche Fowler, United States Senate, 204 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510.

Terry Johnson, Program Coordinator for Georgia's Nongame-Endangered Species Program, has asked GOS for assistance on two projects in which GOS members can be of great help.

One project is developing bird checklists for Wildlife Management Areas around the state. The other is authenticating unusual sightings. In the second project, Terry is especially interested in reports other than Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, which he is getting occasionally in connection with his Hummingbird Helper Program.

Ken Clark has been designated GOS's point of contact for responding to Terry's requests. If you are a frequent visitor to one or another Wildlife Management Area in Georgia and would be willing to help develop local bird checklists, and/or if you would be willing to respond to occasional requests to authenticate unusual bird sightings in your area, please let Ken know. His address is: 8247 Lower Thomaston Road, Route 2, Macon, GA 31210. Telephone: (912) 935-2178.

GOS members have a real opportunity to perform a valuable service in support of Georgia's Nongame-Endangered Species Program and exercise their birding talents in the process. Drop a note or call Ken Clark today and let him know you are willing to help.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Billy and Brenda Dunbar  
Gregory Greer  
Edward S. Jamnicky

Watkinsville, GA  
Marietta, GA  
Blairsville, GA

#### NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

At the American Ornithologists' Union's annual meeting in June, Emil Urban of Augusta was elected a Fellow. All American ornithologists aspire to become Fellows in the AOU, but comparatively few do. The election of Fellows is not by the general membership but by those who have already become Fellows and who know best those whose ornithological achievements have earned them such recognition. Emil joins Gene Odum as the only other AOU Fellow in the state, and should have the congratulations of all GOS members.

Chris Haney, now of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, spent much of June working on ornithology projects in the Soviet Union and Alaska. After leading a trip to Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, he stopped off at the Taku Glacier to see the Steller's Sea Eagle. He then joined Mark and Mardie Oberle (Georgians still temporarily in Seattle) for a drive to Hyder, the southeastern-most town in Alaska (1,020 miles north of Seattle by good paved road). They documented two rarities for Alaska: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird [sic]!

Didi Manns, GOS board member, has been elected president of the Georgia Environmental Council. Georgine Pindar is a past president of GEC.

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Deadline for next issue: November 10th

GEORGIA LISTERS REPORT

Patrick Brisse received only 15 responses to his request in the September, 1989 GOSHAWK for Georgia life lists. Fourteen Georgia life lists and eight 1988 lists were received. Fifteen persons answered; two were from Tennessee and the others were from Georgia. Among the interesting birds mentioned in 1988 were: Magnificent Frigatebird (BD), Cinnamon Teal (RW, PB), Rough-legged Hawk (PB), Swallow-tailed Kite in Atlanta (FM), Red-necked Phalarope (PB), Short-eared Owl (BD), Least Flycatcher (BD), Western Kingbird (JA,MA), Bewick's Wren (JA), Nashville Warbler (BD), Dickcissel (JA,MA), and Red Crossbill (BD). The results are listed below.

Patrick would like to continue and expand this "List of Georgia listers". If you are further interested, please send him your Georgia life list as of 1/1/90 and your Georgia 1989 year list.

Patrick Brisse  
4960 Gatehouse Way  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088

NAME	LIFE LIST (as of 7/1/89)	1988 YEAR LIST
Robert Manns	349	
Patrick Brisse	318	226
Anne Wyand	307	
Bruce Dralle	278	224
Terry Miller	261	
Jerry Amerson	258	208
Marie Amerson	254	203
Ty Ivey	251	
Paul Sykes	237	
Russ Wigh	231	130
Bill Blakeslee	230	
David Chaffin	209	73 (TN)
John Henderson	205	(TN)
Grant Weaver	168	66
Father Francis Michael		148

\* (Only the total was sent, no list received.)

GIVE AMERICAN KESTRELS AND BARN OWLS A CHANCE

Georgians can help in a statewide survey or build a nest box. In order to better determine the status of the nesting populations of Kestrels and Barn Owls in this state, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program is conducting a survey to gather data on nest sites for these two species. If you have any information on verified recent nesting records or currently used sites, please send the name of the species, date(s) of sighting, Georgia county, directions to site, owner's address, and site description (nesting structure, height, surroundings, etc.) to:

Georgia Nongame Wildlife Program  
Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area  
Route 3, Box 180  
Forsyth, Georgia 31029

## BLAIRSVILLE CHRISTMAS COUNT

Yes, it's actually time to talk about Christmas Counts. Last year, Blairsville, GA conducted their very first count which made headlines in the local newspaper. Dot Freeman, coordinator, says they would appreciate some help from GOS members and other experienced birders. The date is December 29, 1990, and as usual there is a \$4.00 participation fee. If you wish to help out with this count, contact Dot in Orlando, FL at (407) 275-1163, or Blairsville, (404) 745-5981, or write Dot Freeman, 4515 Montclair Road, Orlando, FL 32812.

## JIBS NEWS

The Jekyll Island Banding Station, a.k.a. JIBS, will offer a \$200.00 award to a deserving graduate student from Georgia or a student at a Georgia college or university. The award will go to the best applicant doing a project involving ornithological research using banding as part of the methodology. The project must be faculty approved.

To help finance this project, JIBS now offers a four color patch to anyone making a \$5.00 contribution to JIBS. To get your patches, a Lydia Thompson design, send a self addressed, stamped envelope and your check payable to the Jekyll Island Banding Station to P. O. Box 1908, Darien, GA 31305. Lets put Georgia on the map.

## FIELD NOTES

At Lake Blalock in Henry County (a new lake created by the Clayton County Waterworks) BD&PB saw one adult GREAT WHITE HERON. In Brunswick, MC put out the alert that there were ROSEATE SPOONBILLS at Andrews Island, July and August.

WOOD STORKS were plentiful in the Birdsville colony near Millen. 259 nests were counted. Young storks first fed at Silver Bluff Sanctuary 6/29 (2 birds). They continued to increase usage until there were 250 storks counted there 7/24 (A&VW).

BB, assistant prof. Biology Dept./Valdosta State College had a very interesting sighting on 5/4. A female OLDSQUAW was seen on Sapelo Island's South End Creek right near the UGA Marine Institute. The extreme spring date for this irregular wintering bird listed in the Georgia Checklist is 4/11.

TJ noted that departures at Rum Creek WMA seemed somewhat earlier this year, as compared to recent years, however, an excellent variety of ducks were seen on 3/4 including RING-NECKED DUCK, LESSER SCAUP, MALLARD, WOOD DUCK, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, BUFFLEHEAD, RUDDY DUCK and CANVASBACK. GADWALLS AND 2 RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS were seen on Rum Creek on 3/17.

On 6/21, ET saw a MISSISSIPPI KITE in rural Clarke County (near Athens). The silhouette was distinctive, and it was so low that the black tail and white wing patches were quite visible, and on 8/12, BD&AM observed 10 at Augusta Airport on 8/12. DS saw a SWALLOW-TAILED KITE at the Ocmulgee River near Eastman on 7/12. DC saw two SWALLOW-TAILED KITES on the Georgia side of the Savannah River across from Silver Bluff Sanctuary on 7/21. Two were seen again over the sanctuary ponds on 7/28.

An immature plumaged SHARP-SHINNED HAWK was making serious attempts to build a nest in AA and MK's yard in Atlanta in April but later gave up. FM reported a pair of AMERICAN KESTRELS nesting at Conyers Monastery during the month of April.

GOLDEN EAGLES were reported from near the Lookout Plateau hacking tower on 5/6 by BD&AM; they also saw an immature BALD EAGLE on the Georgia side of Eufaula N.W.R. on 7/28.

For the second year in a row, a BLACK RAIL was heard along the Andrews Island dike road (PB,HG,&TM-5/5).

Two PURPLE GALLINULE with four young were observed by BD&AM on the Georgia side of Eufaula N.W.R. on 7/28. COMMON MOOREHEN have summered in Merry Ponds several times in the past with no evidence of nesting. This summer A&VW saw two pairs of young beginning on 6/23. One pair of adults had five young and the other had four. This is the first confirmed breeding for the Augusta area.

JP reported a BLACK TERN at Lake Lanier on 4/28. PB,HG&TM had a breeding plumage ARCTIC TERN on Jekyll's South Beach on 5/5 for Georgia's second onshore record.

A BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO was seen in Dawson County by JP on 5/13. PR found a GRAY KINGBIRD at St. Simons Lighthouse on 5/19, which is a new location for this bird.

J&MA discovered a RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER nest on private land in Emanuel County 6/9.

Four species of swallows were seen by Ocmulgee Audubon on Rum Creek 3/17: BARN, NORTHERN, ROUGH-WINGED, AND TREE SWALLOWS.

D&JD had a BEWICK'S WREN in their sparrow trap 4/7 near Kathleen, GA. DF reports a CEDAR WAXWING at her cabin in Union County on 7/7. TJ spotted a SOLITARY VIREO at Rum Creek on 3/4.

A SWAINSON'S WARBLER was singing in an area of cane near Hiltonia, GA on BBS route 6/18 (A&VW). Atlanta Audubon Society spring walks continue to yield fewer warblers than in past years but some sighted were BLUE-WINGED ORANGE-CROWNED, CERULEAN, CONNECTICUT, and WILSON'S warblers. DF,VE,&PR saw a singing male BLUE-WINGED WARBLER in Union County on 6/2.

While doing their Breeding Bird Survey, D&PG saw a male and female DICKCISSEL in a field of young pines with heavy weed cover, and a male DICKCISSEL was seen in Marietta on 5/18 (NI).

The PAINTED BUNTINGS TI&PH turned up near Macon's sewage treatment plant 5/26 were still there mid-June.

DH found a BACHMAN'S SPARROW near his home in Henry County on 5/22. On 6/9, J&MA found a BACHMAN'S SPARROW in Emanuel County. One GRASSHOPPER SPARROW was found on Lincolnton BBS on 6/21 (A&VW).

CONTRIBUTORS: Anselm Atkins, Jerry & Marie Amerson, Brad Bergstrom, Patrick Brisse, Mike Chapman, Dan Connelly, Bruce Dralle, Don & Joyce Duncan, Virginia Felker, Dot Freeman, Hugh Garrett, Dan & Pam Guynn, Dale Hardee, Paul Hoinowski, Nancy Iha, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Margaret Kavanaugh, Francis Michael, Jerry Moore, Adrienne Myles, John Paget, Frances Rowland, Donny Screens, Eugenia Thompson, Anne & Vernon Waters.

LAKEPOINT STATE PARK RESORT  
P.O. BOX 267  
Eufala, AL 36027  
(205) 687-8011

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rooms Desired: Single \_\_\_\_\_ Double \_\_\_\_\_ Arriving \_\_\_\_\_ Departing \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$44+tx) (\$52+tx) (date) (date)

All rooms should be reserved 30 days prior to the meeting date,  
with a customary first night's deposit. If guaranteeing by credit card:

Type of Card \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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GOS REGISTRATION, FALL MEETING, OCT 12-14, 1990  
Lakepoint Resort Lodge, Eufala, Alabama

NAME(S) (for name tags) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration \$5 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Children under 16 do not pay, but list names  
above for name tags)

\_\_\_\_\_ Reservations for banquet @\$12.50 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Refundable if cancelled before Oct 11)

\_\_\_\_\_ Seats on the boat trips @ \$10 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify choice of times, 1st and 2nd choice)  
( ) Sat 6 a.m. ( ) Sat 10:30 a.m. ( ) Sun 6 a.m.

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to GOS and mail along with registration form  
by Oct 1 to Ken Clark, 8247 Lower Thomaston Rd., Rt 2, Macon, GA 31210.  
Telephone: (912) 935-2178.

MAKING EARTH DAY 1990 LAST

At our fall meeting in Savannah, we advocated that we celebrate Earth Day 1990 by planting trees for the birds.

This can be a longtime commitment, a pledge to "MAKE EARTH DAY LAST". Won't you join us in promising to either 1) plant trees yourself, 2) give trees as gifts for others to plant, or 3) give a gift of money to the GOS to plant trees in honor of or in memory of someone of your choosing or our choosing?

EARTH DAY PLEDGE

As a part of the Georgia Ornithological Society program to MAKE EARTH DAY LAST through planting trees for the birds, I will promise to:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Plant a tree or trees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Give a tree or trees to friends, neighbors, or relatives or to some program of my choosing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Make a donation to GOS to plant a tree or trees  
\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of or memory of someone the GOS chooses.

Your Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City/State : \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person in honor of or family of person in memory of, so that they may be notified of your gift:

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form (with Contribution, if that is your wish) directly to the Treasurer of GOS:

DOUGLAS S. PHILLIPS  
5110 MARBURY CIR., NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30327

Georgine Pindar, Conservation Chairman



THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY \*\* SALES LIST

	<u>POSTPAID PRICE</u>
<u>ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS</u>	
Prepared by the GOS Checklist Committee, J. Christopher Haney (chair), Patrick Brisse, Daniel R. Jacobson, Mark W. Oberle and John Paget. Lists 410 species with range, status, dates of occurrence, in Georgia. 55 pages, 6 x 9, 1986.	\$5.00
<u>AN INDEX OF GEORGIA BIRD RECORDS IN "AMERICAN BIRDS" AND "AUDUBON FIELD NOTES"</u>	
Compiled by Robert W. Loftin. Species listing (6th AOU Checklist order of all georgia bird records in the "Seasonal Reports", "Changing Seasons" and articles in "American Birds" and its predecessor "Audubon Field Notes" through 1983. 28 pages, 6 x 9, 1985.	\$4.00
<u>A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO GEORGIA (Third Edition)</u>	
Editor - Terry Chesser. Guide to birding locations throughout Georgia. Also lists bird clubs. 76 pages, 6 x 9, 1988	\$7.00
<u>THE BIRDLIFE OF BEN HILL COUNTY, GA. AND ADJACENT AREAS</u>	
Author - Milton N. Hopkins. Habitats, observations by the author and others from about 1939. 93 pages, 6 x 9, 1975	\$4.00
<u>THE BIRD OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER DELTA</u>	
Author - Ivan R. Tompkins. Gaviiformes through Charadriiformes. Habitats, observations; emergent theory. 68 pages, 6 x 9, 1958.	\$2.00
<u>GOS CLOTH PATCH</u> In color, size 3-1/2" diameter cloth patch	\$4.00
<u>GOS COLOR DECAL</u> Size 3-1/2" diameter, adhesive backing.	\$1.25
<u>GEORGIA FIELD CHECKLIST CARDS</u> Sold in sets of 10 checklist cards	\$2.00
<u>THE ORIOLE</u> Back issues, 1936 to date. Single copies are Write for price on complete sets or multiple copies.	\$1.00

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MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO GOS AND MAIL TO:  
G O S, P O BOX 1278, CARTERSVILLE, GA. 30120

NAME _____	ANNOTATED CHECKLIST _____ @ \$5 = _____
ADDRESS _____	INDEX OF GA. BIRDS _____ @ \$4 = _____
	BIRDER'S GUIDE _____ @ \$7 = _____
	BIRDS OF BEN HILL _____ @ \$4 = _____
	SAV. RIVER DELTA _____ @ \$2 = _____
	GOS CLOTH PATCH _____ @ \$4 = _____
	GOS COLOR DECAL _____ @ \$1.25 = _____
	CHECKLIST CARDS (10) _____ @ \$2.00 = _____
	ORIOLE BACK ISSUES _____ @ \$1 = _____

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## **GOSHAWK**

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QUARTERLY BY THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY.

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