



# GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 NO. 1

MARCH 1991

RARE BIRD ALERT NUMBER 404 509-0204

---

## SPRING MEETING

The GOS spring meeting will be held at Amicalola Falls Lodge, Dawsonville, May 3-5. Friday night's program (NOTE: Friday's program will begin at 7:30) will feature Georgann Schmalz of Fernbank Science Center (you'll be disappointed if you expect a totally serious program), and Charles Hunter, a wildlife biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, will speak on Saturday evening. Sign up for field trips will follow Friday's program, and for those late arrivals, information about the field trips will be left on the registration table after the meeting and sign-up. There will be a GOS board meeting Saturday afternoon which all members are encouraged to attend.

In addition to a choice of land trips, two canoe trips will be available on the easy, gentle Chestatee River below Dahlonega, upstream from the GA 400 crossing. This is an attractive, scenic stream with good birding in the morning. Cost will be \$15.00 per person, to cover cost of renting canoes and shuttle service back to the beginning. Reservations, with check, must be made before April 22.

**SATURDAY MAY 4, 8:00AM - BIRDING ON THE RIVER** - Start at Appalachian Outfitters on Route 60, 3 miles south of Dahlonega, finish before 12 o'clock at the starting point. This is a bird watching trip for knowledgeable canoeists with some experience--there will not be time for instructing novices and practicing. Led by Frank McCamey.

**SATURDAY MAY 4, 1:30PM - EXPLORING THE CHESTATEE RIVER** - An easy trip, drifting the river for about 6 miles, it requires only minimal skills in paddling a canoe. Instruction, with emphasis on safety, and brief practice in controlling the canoe will be offered for those who wish to have it. Led by Bill Timpone, of Murrayville, an experienced leader of outdoor recreation activities in north Georgia.

Reserve a spot for either of these trips by sending your \$15 deposit along with your choice (trip 1 or 2) to Frank McCamey, Route 2, Box 2974, Dawsonville, GA 30534 before April 22.

Saturday evening's social hour follows a slightly different format. Ice and glasses will be available and soft drinks will be sold, but it's BYOB for those who want beer, wine or cocktails.

Though the special mailing and reservations form stated that there was a March 5th cutoff, don't despair. Contact the Amicalola Falls Lodge, P. O. Box 215, Star Route, Dawsonville, GA 30534 (404) 265-8888 and see if they can still fit you into the Lodge. Or you may want to call (404) 265-2885 about cottage/camping possibilities. Lodge rooms are \$55 single and have two double beds, but can sleep four at \$6.00 per added person beyond the single. Cottages of one, two or three bedrooms are \$50, \$60, or \$70. Double up and save money.

For those who prefer a motel, some suggestions are:

DAWSONVILLE (18 miles),	Amicalola Lodge 265-3115 -\$25-28 - 1-2 persons.
DAHLONEGA (21 miles),	Dahlonega Inn 864-4343 - \$32.50-\$35.50, 1-2 persons.
	Days Inn 864-2338 \$35-\$39, 1-2 persons
	Golden Inn 864-6191, \$45, 1-2 persons

Banquet reservations are \$12.50 and registration fee is \$5.00 per person. Make checks for registration and banquet payable to GOS, and send to Franklin McCamey, Route 2, Box 2974, Dawsonville, GA 30534. Frank says if you need more information, or help locating a place to stay, call him at (404) 216-2164 after 8PM. So get busy and plan to join the fun and fellowship!

### GOS RARE BIRD ALERT REPORT

The new GOS Rare Bird Alert was installed on October 15, 1990. Since then, the alert has produced 77 species with 38 observers. Included were: BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD (12/24), RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS, GLAUCOUS GULL (1/22), LESSER and GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULLS, VARIED THRUSH (1/26), PACIFIC LOON, EURASIAN WIDGEON, another BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, and others. This means that rarer than rare birds can be seen in our home state when you know about them.

The advantages are both aesthetic and financial. The VARIED THRUSH, for instance, is from the mountainous areas of California. The value of this system is obvious when you consider nine observers called from out of state at their own expense. Please make sure your chapter membership is informed! Put the GOS Rare Bird Alert number somewhere in large letters in your newsletter masthead. This service is for ALL Georgians interested in their state wildlife.

### STATE PARK INTERPRETER - HISTORIC SITE INTERPRETER Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites

Applications for seasonal positions are now being accepted. Responsibilities: Plan, organize and conduct interpretive and recreational programs for park visitors. Historic site interpreters conduct tours, prepare special events and assist in the visitors' center. Most positions run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Some start in March; some continue through October. Seasonal interpreters receive preseason training, orientation, and field supervision. Starting salary is \$5.00 per hour/\$200.00 per week with lodging provided when available on the park. For more information and application please contact:

Chuck Gregory  
Chief Naturalist  
Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites  
205 Butler Street, Suite 1352  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
(404) 656-2770

### DEADLINES

Deadline for the summer issue of GOSHAWK will be May 10th. The best dates for the spring and fall issues (which precede our meetings) to be in members' hands are March 1, and September 1. The business manager needs the copy in his hands at least 3 1/2 weeks prior to these dates; therefore, the fall 1990 deadline will be July 21st, and the spring 1992 deadline will be February 23rd. Not that you are expected to remember that far ahead, just a reminder to myself!

## FIELD NOTES

EARED GREBE were seen at Plant Scherer (Monroe County), Ash Pond throughout Nov. with three being seen on 3/10 by JG et.al. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS were flourishing with 93 seen at E.L. Huie Land Application Facility (South Atlanta) on 10/21 (AAS), and they continue to use the Augusta area with 225 viewed flying south over Merry Ponds in two V-formations on 11/10, which is a large number for an inland area (A&VW).

ANHINGAS continue to increase their usage of the Merry Brickyard Ponds, with 8 being spotted on 8/19; additionally, 4 were in an oxbow pond off Augusta levee on 11/12 (A&VW). BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERONS were reported by JP in Forsyth County from 9/1-6 and E. L. Huie LAF on 9/16 (AAS).

Although WHITE IBIS are more common on the coast, 132 adults and 2 immature seen at Savannah Spoils Site, SC, on 11/22 was a good number (A&VW). A rare sighting for the Atlanta area were two GLOSSY IBIS at E. L. Huie LAF on 9/1 by AM&BD. WOOD STORKS which nested in middle Ga. and at several SC sites used Silver Bluff Plantation Audubon Sanctuary in SC (across the river from Augusta) to feed through Aug. with 59 immature there on 8/11 (A&VW).

DH spotted a lone blue-phase SNOW GOOSE on Rum Creed WMA on 11/28. GREEN-WINGED TEAL arrived on 10/6 at Merry Ponds, a BLACK DUCK on 11/3, and LESSER SCAUP on 11/4. Much more unusual inland was a male GREATER SCAUP seen in Merry Pond on 11/11 (A&VW). Two HOODED MERGANSER males were in Merry Pond on 11/10, and 3 males the next day, while TJ reports having seen 65 on Plant Scherer Ash Pond on 11/21. A&VW saw PINTAILS, one male and one female on 11/11. Unusual in Merry Pond was a REDHEAD male seen on 11/11 and 11/12 (A&VW). BD,PB&JS spotted 23 REDHEAD DUCKS on Lake Blalock (2/23). Up to 9 CANVASBACK DUCKS were seen 11/15 on Lake Juliette (TJ). A&VW while visiting Savannah National Wildlife Refuge spotted a male EURASIAN WIDGEON among approximately 20 AMERICAN WIDGEONS.

JG et.al. reported the first MERLIN ever identified on the Rum Creed WMA on 11/10. MH reports having had both eagles on his property near Fitzgerald in Nov., and BALD EAGLES were common visitors to the Augusta area during fall and early winter. RP saw an adult BALD EAGLE at Lake Allatoona on 10/25.

BLACK RAILS have been heard along the coast periodically, but PR actually saw one of the elusive little creatures on 12/17. Nine COMMON MOORHEN were raised in Merry Ponds this past summer by two pairs of adults (A&VW).

An early flock of 60 SANDHILL CRANES were reported flying over Roswell by PM. PH reported at 43 SANDHILL CRANES in a large rye field near his house in Lee County (Albany area) on 1/2. FM reported 8 SANDHILL CRANES on 2/16 in Alpharetta and 20 on 2/21 in Dawsonville. DS saw a flock of about 80 SANDHILL CRANES circling over his house in Eastman on 2/21, and toward sunset on 2/24, AW saw a flock of 30 in Dunwoody.

A&VW reported 4 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS 8/11 at Silver Bluff and 3 in Merry Pond on 8/19. A&VW counted 183 AVOCETS feeding in Savannah spoils site, SC near Savannah on 11/22. FM has had a WOODCOCK singing his evening nuptial song every day starting in Jan. and continuing into Feb.

A SOOTY TERN was seen and photographed on Jekyll's South Beach 9/2 by EMc&JW. On 1/22 at the South Beach on Jekyll Island, BD saw a first winter GLAUCOUS GULL, a rare sighting in Georgia.

A scelasphorus hummingbird was at JS&CL's feeder on 8/6, probably a RUFIOUS but no way to eliminate the ALLEN's. A RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD reported in Forsyth was banded on 11/4; however, most exciting was Georgia's first BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD which appeared at Birdwatcher's Supply Co. feeders in Roswell on 12/24(RC). Many observers saw the bird feeding at the feeders behind the store through the first week in Jan. Quite a few people came because of Atlanta newspaper and TV coverage.

A BROWN CREEPER on 10/20 was an early arrival at Silver Bluff (A&VW). RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES were reported at Conyers on 10/13 (FM), and st Smyrna on 10/25 (AM).

Fall warblers in the Augusta area included BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS (8/11, 9/8 & 10/20), GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS (9/1, 9/3 & 9/15), BLUE-WINGED WARBLER (one male 9/8 & 9/15), WILSON'S WARBLER (9/29), CONNECTICUT WARBLER (9/22 & 9/29), and OVENBIRD ((/22 & 9/29). JP had male and female WILSON's WARBLERS in Gainesville from Nov. on, with sightings as recently as 2/16.

One BREWER's BLACKBIRD was found by JG & class and TJ near Brent in Monroe County on 11/10. BD,PR&PB saw one male EVENING GROSBEAK at a feeder east of Lake Oconee 2/9, and two females at the same feeder on 2/10.

CONTRIBUTORS: Atlanta Audubon Society, Patrick Brisse, Richard Cole, Bruce Dralle, Joe Greenberg, Dwight Harley, Pat Holton, Milton Hopkins, Terry Johnson, Carol Lambert, Ellory McClintock, Francis Michael, Peggy Moore, Adrienne Myles, John Paget, Russell Plunkett, Georgann Schmalz, Donny Screws, Jeff Sewell, Anne & Vernon Waters, Jeanie Wright, & Anne Wyand.

#### NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Congratulations to GOS member Sara Robertson on being the first recipient of the Jekyll Island Banding Station's award of \$200 to a student doing postgraduate work in a project involving ornithology and/or banding. Sara's project is to be carried out on Applidore Island, Maine. She is studying stopover behavior of migrants spring and fall.

Eugene Cypert, a member of GOS and the Okefenokee Bird Club for many years, died in November. He was a former biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and while serving at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge he compiled the first checklist for the swamp. He was the author of many reports on the effects of fire in the Okefenokee. As an officer in the Okefenokee Bird Club, he set up the first city counts for Waycross and began the club's participation in the Christmas Bird Counts. He was 84 at the time of his death.

George Dorsey is currently in a nursing home in Rome, GA, and T. McRae Williams is now at Bud Terrace Nursing Home in Atlanta.

George Dorsey  
Winthrop Manor Nursing Home  
12 Chateau Drive, S.E.  
Rome, GA 30161  
(404) 235-1422

T. McRae Williams  
Bud Terrace-507  
1833 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

#### NEW MEMBERS

Giff Beaton	-	Marietta, GA
Robert D. Carpenter	-	Atlanta, GA
Richard & Nancy Cole	-	Marietta, GA
Barbara A. Edwards	-	Macon, GA
Tom Gilmore	-	Decatur, GA
Malcolm Hodges	-	Kennesaw, GA
Phillip Jordan	-	Monticello, GA
Dennie & Pam McClure	-	College Park, GA
Adrienne Myles	-	Marietta, GA
Pittman Vickers	-	Douglas, GA
Willie Mae Purvis	-	Douglas, GA
The Nature Conservancy	-	Georgia Chapter

GOS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS  
1990-1991  
(Revised)

CONSERVATION

Georgine Pindar,  
Chair

CHECKLIST

Patrick Brisse, Chair  
Daniel Jacobson  
Tye Ivey  
John Paget  
Emil Urban

MEMBERSHIP

Helen Ogren, Chair  
Barbara Passmore  
Kate Swiderski

EDITORIAL

Milton Hopkins, 1991  
Terry Johnson, 1993  
Edith Manns, 1993  
Allen Rhodes, 1991  
John Paget, 1995  
John Parrish, 1995

FINANCE

Branch Howe, Pres.  
Doug Phillips, Treas.  
Edith Manns, Sec.  
John Swiderski, Bus. Mgr.  
Dennis LaCoss, at-large

EXECUTIVE

Branch Howe  
Helen Ogren, 1st VP  
Ken Clark, 2nd VP  
Edith Manns, Secy.  
Doug Phillips, Treas.  
Tommy Patterson, Past Pres.  
Terry Moore, Ed. ORIOLE  
Anne Wyand, Ed. GOSHAWK  
John Swiderski, Bus. Mgr.  
Joel Hitt, Member at Large  
Bill Van Eseltine, at Large

PELAGIC TRIPS

Bob Manns Co-chair  
Bruce Dralle Co-chair  
Patrick Brisse  
Anne Wyand

NOMINATING

(ad hoc)

AUDITING

(ad hoc)

EARLE GREENE AWARD

Dick Parks, Chair  
Doris Cohrs  
Jack Cooper

REGISTRATION

Ken Clark, Chair  
Frank McCamey  
Tess Cumbie  
Susan Richmond

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Branch Howe, Chair  
Bill Lovejoy  
Ronald Pulliam  
John Swiderski  
Emil Urban

RARE BIRD ALERT

Bob Manns, Chair  
Patrick Brisse  
Anne Wyand

BYLAWS REVISION

(ad hoc)  
Branch Howe, Chair  
Frank McCamey  
Dick Parks  
John Swiderski

BIRDER'S GUIDE TO GEORGIA

Joel Hitt, Chair  
Kenneth Blackshaw

DNR AUTHENTICATION/  
BIRD LIST

Kenneth Clark

## GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

The Georgia Ornithological Society offers an annual graduate student research grant funded from income from the sale of prints of an Orchard Oriole painted by Roger Tory Peterson for the 50th anniversary of the GOS in 1986. The amount of the grant, set annually by the Executive Committee, is up to \$500, funds permitting. A Research Grant Committee of five GOS member appointed by the President accepts and judges grant applications and recommends a grantee to the Executive Committee for approval.

The guidelines for grant applicants are as follows:

1. The applicants must be enrolled as graduate students in an institution in Georgia during the grant period or must be from Georgia if they are enrolled as graduate students in an institution outside of the state during the grant period.
2. The research of the applicants must be conducted under faculty direction and must involve ornithology, at least in part.
3. The grant will normally be for a period of 12 months, but application for renewal is permitted. The grant will not fund the grantee's salary, tuition, or indirect costs.
4. The typewritten grant application should include a brief resume of the applicant, a description of the research project, an itemized budget, a statement of other financial support, and two letters of recommendation, one of which should be from the directing faculty member. The grant application and letters of recommendation should reach the chairperson of the Research Grant Committee no later than April 1. The grantee will be announced by or before June 1.
5. At the end of the grant period, the grantee is required to submit to the Research Grant Committee a brief written report of research results and grant fund expenditures. In addition, the grantee is encouraged (but not required) to present an oral report of the research at a semiannual meeting of the GOS or to submit a report of the research for possible publication in the journal of the GOS, THE ORIOLE, or both.

Research Grant Committee Chairperson  
Georgia Ornithological Society  
P. O. Box 1278  
Cartersville, GA 30120

## CONSERVATION NEWS

**JEKYLL ISLAND** - In the early 1970's, the Georgia Assembly passed a law restricting development on Jekyll Island to 35% of the acreage. The intention of the Proponent of the bill was that this should be 35% of the upland acreage. Through some mistake, the bill has been taken to mean 35% of the total acreage, including the marshes, and development continues apace. Not long ago, a new campground was built, and now plans are underway for a large new residential development.

Members of Coastal Audubon, P.O. Box 1726, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, are circulating the following petition:

WHEREAS we, the undersigned, are concerned about the loss of natural areas on Georgia's barrier islands and  
WHEREAS Jekyll Island has some of the largest undeveloped areas readily accessible to the people of Georgia and its visitors  
BE IT RESOLVED: that at least 65% of Jekyll Island be preserved in its natural state for the benefit and use of the people of Georgia and its visitors.

You might make up such a petition yourself, asking people to sign their name and address and whether they are Georgia voters, and sending their petition to Coastal Audubon. It will help prove to Georgia legislators that people all over the state care about Jekyll Island.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 23, 1991

President, Branch Howe, reported on major communications received since the last meeting. Thank you notes were sent to Terry Johnson, Jerry Wilson and William Burkhead for their contributions to the last meeting.

Bob Manns sent a letter detailing the Rare Bird Alert's procedures.

Georgine Pindar thanked Branch on behalf of the Georgia Environmental Council for GOS's contribution to the GEC Environmental Council held on December 1 and 2, 1990, at Georgia Tech.

Robin Russell, coordinator of the Weekend for Wildlife Auction, thanked GOS for its donation of a Peterson print.

Branch reported that he had received a letter from a Michigan birder planning to visit Georgia. Branch suggested that he purchase a copy of The Birder's Guide to Georgia.

Treasurer, Doug Phillips, reported that GOS's finances remain strong.

Business Manager, John Swiderski, reported that of the total membership of 389 persons, 186 are Regular, 134 are Life, and 69 are Library memberships. Seventy-three renewals are pending.

Forty-three copies of The Birder's Guide to Georgia remain in the inventory. Joel Hitt reported that to date, he and Ken Blackshaw as co-editors have finished putting the current edition of the computer and will store back-up copies in at least four different areas in Metropolitan Atlanta. They will ask the previous authors to update their sections (by March 31, if possible) and indicated that they are open to suggestions for additions or augmentation of any of the previous materials.

Two membership renewal requests were returned for a better address: Anyone having the address of Virginia Evans or Elina Mabe should let John know.

Branch reviewed the policy and procedures for the graduate student research grant awards. They have sent flyers to several appropriate places. The deadline for this year to submit a proposal is April 1. The award will be made on June 1.

Rare Bird Alert - Bob Manns reported that the Rare Bird Alert commenced on October 15, 1991. Sixteen weeks later, it had reported the presence of 77 species in the state with 38 observers making those sightings. It was suggested that should an auction be held in the future, part of the funds raised should go to support the Rare Bird Alert.

On another matter, Bob Manns suggested that GOS reinstate pelagic trips in conjunction with the Atlanta Audubon Society, if they were interested, and any other interested group. A suitable boat has been found in Charleston, SC, and at the present time, no one is monitoring the coast for pelagic birds. Branch asked that Bob, Bruce Dralle, Anne Wyand and Patrick Brisse be a committee to make recommendations for this project.

Finally, Ken Clark mentioned that out of 51 invitations, 40 persons had agreed to be authenticators for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Non-Game program. Twenty-one of the 40 had agreed to be listers.

Tall Meeting at Jekyll Island, October 18-20. It was suggested that the current president of the Coastal Audubon Society, Phyllis Bowen, be asked to organize the field trips for this meeting.

Spring Meeting at Hickory Knob State Park, SC, April 24-26, 1992. Ken Clark has received a letter from Ricky Davis of the North Carolina Bird Club indicating that he liked the idea of a regional meeting, but that Hickory Knob's facilities would be inadequate for both groups to be there at the same time. He will explore options and will get back in touch with Ken. Meanwhile, Ken will continue to plan the meeting at Hickory Knob State Park.

GOS TREES PROGRAM

Many thanks to those of you who have already made contributions to GOS in memory or honor of friends and family. The plans are now complete. Your President, Branch Howe, and you Conservation Chairman, Georgine Pindar, have signed a contract with Dr. A. Jefferson Lewis, III, Director of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens for GOS to "adopt" the ORANGE NATURE TRAIL. Contributions will be used for the enhancement and upkeep of the trail to improve the habitat for birds and opportunities for birding. This will include the introduction of native species of plants that would provide additional food and/or shelter for birds, yet keep the trail as natural as possible.

A sign at the start of the trail will acknowledge GOS support. All contributions will be noted, with names of donors and honorees, in a book displayed at the Visitor Center. A special plaque will acknowledge gifts of \$250 or more.

We hope to have a formal ceremony at the Garden, perhaps in late May or early June, dedicating the Orange Nature Trail as a GOS project.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ORANGE NATURE TRAIL PROJECT

State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, GA

I/we should like to make a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Address of person to be notified: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In honor of or memory of someone the GOS chooses

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

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

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

Please mail or give this form, with your contribution, directly to the Treasurer of GOS:

Douglas S. Phillips  
5110 Marbury Circle, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30327



BECOME A GOS MEMBER

In addition to fun and informative meetings twice a year, GOS sponsors many activities which promote the value and preservation of birds and wildlife in Georgia. If you or a friend might wish to become a member, please fill out the application below and send it in.

Mail application to:

TO: John Swiderski  
Georgia Ornithological Society  
P.O. Box 1278  
Cartersville, Ga. 30120

Please enroll the undersigned as a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the calendar year. Dues are enclosed as follows:

_____ Regular	\$12.00	_____ Sustaining	\$20.00
_____ Patron	\$50.00		
(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)			
_____ Life Membership	\$150.00	_____ Student	\$ 8.00/per year

Please send me a list of the publications available from the GOS.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(Include Zip Code)

*Share This  
Membership  
With A Friend!*



# GOSHAWK



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARTERSVILLE, GA
PERMIT NO. 97

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
 P.O. BOX 1278  
 Cartersville, GA 30120

---

## GOSHAWK

---

THE GOSHAWK NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED  
 QUARTERLY BY THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL  
 SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.....BRANCH HOWE  
 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT...HELEN OGREN  
 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT...KEN CLARK  
 SECRETARY.....DIDI MANNS  
 TREASURER.....DOUG PHILLIPS

ANNE L. WYAND, EDITOR  
 1741 TOLLESON CT.  
 DUNWOODY, GA. 30338

---