



GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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JUNE 1991

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SPRING MEETING NOTES

The Spring Meeting at Amicalola Falls Lodge May 3-5 was one of the best attended in recent times, with 78 for dinner and a half-dozen more in and out. In spite of rainy weather, field trips led by Anne Wyand, Dot Freeman, and John Paget produced 121 species for the countdown. Frank McCamey led a canoe trip expedition down the Chestatee River, and Park Ranger Paul Bradshaw led a sizable 20-or-so group on a nature walk through the park after briefing us the evening before on the Park's history and attractions. Excellent programs, arranged by Helen Ogren, featured GOS member Georgann Schmalz's entertaining and instructive "Birding by Ear" presentation Friday evening, and a well-illustrated talk on species preservation by US Fish & Wildlife biologist, Charles Hunter, which followed a delicious banquet on Saturday.

Next October 18-20, we return to favorite haunt Jekyll Island for our Fall Meeting. While room rates at other familiar hotels/motels on the island have skyrocketed, we are fortunate to be booked into the newly refurbished Ramada Inn for \$42.18 (tax included) single or double, and the banquet will run around \$13.50 per person. That's as good as you'll find on Jekyll anymore. Field trips are always great at Jekyll, and Helen Ogren is already lining up interesting programs. Full particulars will be published in the September GOSHAWK, but mark your calendars now and plan to be with us.

The above report is from Ken Clark, our meeting planner, who is an absolute perfectionist at tendings to details, thus creating extremely well organized and thoroughly enjoyable meetings.

NEW MEMBERS

Katie H. Anderson	Woodstock, GA
L. E. Beck	Canton, GA
William & Deborah Bishop	Austell, GA
Mark Davis	Atlanta, GA
Mrs. Virginia H. Douglas	North Augusta, SC
Ben & Jackie Harrison	Rome, GA
Mr. Gerald Kahan	Athens, GA
Charlotte Kirton	Dawsonville, GA
Rick Knight	Johnson City, TN
William & Dianne Laws	Brunswick, GA
Jo-Beth Mills	Sylvania, GA
David Sewell	Marietta, GA
Dixie R. Shields	Lula, GA
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Shriber	Lithonia, GA

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

George Dorsey, one of the founders of the Atlanta Bird Club (now Atlanta Audubon), died on April 10, 1991, at the age of eighty-three. His reply to a note "to anyone interested in birds" in the Carnegie Library copy of Frank M. Chapman's BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA led to the organization of the club. The first meeting was held on March 15, 1926, at the home of Carter Whittaker who had written the note. There were fourteen interested people present. It has met continuously since then with a present membership of over 4,000. He was honored at the Audubon Christmas banquet in 1976 on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Atlanta Bird Club. George was also a charter member of the Georgia Ornithological Society which was organized through efforts of the Atlanta Bird Club, and he remained an active member, attending most meetings including the latest in fall of 1990.

His early work was with the Boy Scouts; he was a nature counselor for Bert Adams Scout Camp at Vinings near Atlanta. After World War II, he attended Emory University and prepared himself for teaching, and until his retirement, he taught at Darlington School in Rome. In his younger days, he was best known for his whistled imitations of bird calls and songs and was often called on at meetings and other gatherings for a display of his talents. In later years he became interested in photography, and it was a familiar sight to see him in the field at GOS meetings loaded down with his photographic equipment.

*** Reflections by Dick Parks ***

A few days after her engagement as our Friday night speaker, Georganne Schmalz was hospitalized with an attack of gall stones. Hopefully, she will be her usual perky self by the time you read this.

Anne Hamilton, long time GOS member, is in poor health and confined to her home most of the time. Anne made a lasting impression on me (ed.) with her acute hearing and ability to recognize bird calls. When I was a beginner birder, it was always quite rewarding to be in her field trip group at GOS meetings as I always learned new chips and songs. Communication may be sent to:

Anne P. Hamilton
704 Greenwood Drive
Dalton, GA 30720

Congratulations to Ginny and Frank McCamey on their 50th wedding anniversary this June.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 4, 1991

Treasurer, Doug Phillips reported that as of 3/31/91, GOS had \$40,652.35 in assets. Since the last Executive Committee meeting, GOS had acquired two additional life members, had sold three additional Peterson prints, and as of 5/4/91 had received \$565.00 for Earth Day contributions.

President, Branch Howe reported on major correspondence since the last meeting:

1. 2/28/91 - The Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History requested a contribution to the Lorimer Moe Scholarship fund, established in 1988. The annual scholarships are for \$1,000.
2. 3/1/91 - Emmy Minor, Chair of the DNR Weekend for Wildlife '91 sent a copy of the program held on Sea Island, February 8-10, 1991. GOS donated a Peterson print of the Orchard Oriole as an auction item. It sold for \$190.00.
3. 3/1/91 - Judy Shuler, owner of Alaska Up Close Tour Co. sent information about natural history trips to Alaska for individuals and groups.
4. 4/17/91 - An invitation was sent from Zoo Atlanta for GOS to participate in Conservation Day '91 at the zoo on June 1. Georgine Pindar was contacted about this event.
5. 4/17/91 - An announcement from Terry W. Johnson of DNR regarding grants for nongame wildlife educational and research projects in Georgia. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 20, 1991. Grants will be made in the amount of \$2,000 or more. This will be an annual program.

Business Manager, John Swiderski reported that we currently had 205 regular members, 137 life members, and 69 library members. Several libraries have been unable to renew their memberships. It was noted that the UGA library exchange service was a valuable program. Only 24 members have not renewed to date.

There are 20 copies of BIRDER'S GUIDE left.

SELECTED COMMITTEES

Birder's Guide. Joel Hitt believes that the publication date for the new edition of the BIRDER'S GUIDE is on schedule (Spring 1992). Forty to fifty percent of the existing text has been returned with suggestions for change. New contributors have been contacted, and additional maps and updates of old maps will be drawn. It was recommended tentatively that 1,000 copies be printed. This will be discussed again at a later date.

Graduate Student Grant Committee. Branch Howe reported that the Committee had received a single application by the deadline, and the committee recommended that an award of \$470.00 be made to Ms. Dagmar D. Platt, UGA School of Forest Resources, Athens, for help in bird habitat analysis in her project, "Wildlife Diversity in Young Pine Plantations." The Board voted that the 1991 award be made to Ms. Dagmar Platt.

Pelagic Trip Committee. Didi Manns reported that an April pilot pelagic trip, leaving from Wilmington Island, had been short-lived due to a too powerful Northwest wind. She added that the boat, though small, was appropriate for future use.

NEW BUSINESS

Branch mentioned that he was working on the committee charged with updating the Georgia Protected Bird List for DNR and noted the small size of the list as presently proposed. The lists for fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals are also being revised.

After discussion, it was agreed that GOS would attempt to coordinate field trips with Atlanta Audubon and other state Audubon chapters if it begins to offer more field trips during the year.

Doug Phillips asked for clarification of the By-laws regarding payment of speakers who are GOS members. Historically, we appear to have paid the expenses for some and not for others. This matter will be reviewed by the By-laws Committee, and for the present time it was agreed that an honorarium will be paid up to the amount of the expenses incurred.

SOUTHEAST LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

Following the Committee Meeting, a General Business Meeting was held at which guest speaker, Dr. John Ripley Forbes spoke on behalf of the Southeast Land Preservation Trust, of which he is President. We are losing much of today's woods, fields, wildlife, and historic sites to developments, malls and industrial parks. The Land Trust is pursuing a 10-year program to save land and create plant and animal preserves and sites for nature centers in the rapidly growing Greater Atlanta Area. The Chattahoochee Nature Center was formed and surrounding marshlands saved through this trust. Dr. Forbes encouraged gifts of land, money or effort in helping preserve natural areas. For more information contact: Southeast Land Preservation Trust, 130 Azalea Drive, Roswell, GA 30075. (404) 594-9367.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee consisting of Jack Cooper, Dick Parks, and Anne Wyand (chair) will present a slate of officers at the fall meeting. The slate of nominees will be published in the Fall GOSHAWK and will be voted on at the Fall Meeting. Members may nominate from the floor at that time or nominate by contacting a member of the committee prior to the fall meeting.

FIELD TRIPS AROUND GEORGIA
BIRDING IN UNION COUNTY

Two of Georgia's highest mountains, Blood Mountain, elevation 4,458 ft., and Brasstown Bald, elevation 4,784 ft., are found in Union County. This mountainous area is well known for its spectacular views, cascading streams and scenic valleys. It is also a splendid area for birding. More than 125 bird species have been seen in recent years on the ridges, mountainsides and in the valleys lying between Blood Mountain and Brasstown Bald.

To reach this area, take US 19-129 by way of either Dahlonega or Cleveland to Neel's Gap where the Appalachian Trail crosses the highway. Stop at Walasi-yi Inn where quality birding and back-packing items can be purchased. Blackburnian Warblers can be seen here, during breeding season, in the trees near the terrace and also near the upper overlook behind the building. If Blackburnians are not seen at these two sites, walk the Appalachian Trail northbound. They should be heard and seen after walking no more than a quarter of a mile. Other birds that can be seen at Neel's Gap are: Chimney Swift, Gray Catbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, and Indigo Bunting.

Leave Walasi-yi and drive 0.5 miles north to Byron Herbert Reese Park. Acadian Flycatchers are found along the stream which flows through the wooded picnic area. This small park is the designated place to park your car when day-hiking to the summit of Blood Mountain. A blue-blazed approach trail leads 0.7 miles to the Appalachian Trail at Flatrock Gap and the White-blazed Appalachian Trail continues 1.5 miles southbound to the top of Blood Mountain. Species that have been seen along this pathway are: Pileated Woodpecker; Red-breasted (in an invasion winter) and White-breasted Nuthatches; Carolina Wren; Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers; Ovenbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The splendid views from the sparsely-vegetated stone crest of Blood Mountain make the hike worth the effort, but it is the chance of seeing a soaring Golden Eagle or Common Raven that draws the birder upward to the highest point along the Georgia Appalachian Trail.

From Byron Herbert Reese Park drive 1.5 miles north to Vogel State Park where public telephones and restrooms are available as well as campsites and cabins. Many bird species can be seen in the park. Some of them are; Spotted Sandpiper (transient); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (winter); Rough-winged and Barn Swallows; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter) and Scarlet Tanager.

From Vogel State park drive 0.5 miles north to Goose Creek Campground where cabins and campsites are available. Broad-winged Hawks have nested nearby annually and can be seen soaring and calling. Birds that have been found near the stream which flows beside some of the cabins and campsites are: Eastern Wood Peewee; Acadian Flycatcher; Wood Thrush; American Robin; Solitary, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos and Louisiana Waterthrush.

If not staying at Goose Creek Campground, park the car at the base of Cindy Cove Road, which is adjacent to the campground property. Walk the quarter mile hard-surface road to the crest of the ridge. Watch and listen for: Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Downy; Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Red-breasted (in invasion winter) and White-breasted Nuthatches; Winter Wren (winter); Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (winter); Chestnut-sided, Cape May (transient), Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Blackpoll (transient), Black-and-white, Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers; Scarlet Tanager; Indigo Bunting; Dark-eyed Junco and American Goldfinch.

From the crest of the ridge on Cindy Cove Road, the jeep trail to the right leads past private property into the Chattahoochee National Forest. Less than 0.5 miles from Cindy Cove Road, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey have been seen on this narrow lane. (Note: Wear international orange vest and cap while birding on U.S. Forest Service land during hunting season.)

From Cindy Cove Road drive northward on US 19-129 to Old Bald Mountain Road. Turn right and drive 0.1 miles to Old Sullivan Road. Turn right on this narrow gravel road and drive 0.3 miles to a place where a car can be parked and/or turned around. This is the location of an October 5, 1990 sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler (details sent to GOS Records Committee are presently under review). On foot and birding from the road, look for these species: Northern Bobwhite; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Carolina Chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Eastern Bluebird; Hermit Thrush (winter); Brown Thrasher; Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Yellow-throated and Black-and-white Warblers; Common Yellowthroat and Indigo Bunting. An added treat is a spectacular view of Brasstown Bald and its spur range. Continue on foot for another 0.3 miles for more of the same birding. Return to Old Bald Mountain Road and turn right.

Once again on Old Bald Mountain Road, drive or walk 0.5 miles to Salem Church Road. Birds that have been seen along this broad, cultivated bottomland of the upper Nottely River and Choestoe Creek are: Great Blue Heron (winter); Cooper's Hawk; the ubiquitous American Crow; Eastern Bluebird; American Robin; Indigo Bunting; Rufous-sided Towhee; Field and Song Sparrows; Fox and White-throated Sparrows (winter).

Continue on Old Bald Mountain Road as it turns right and passes Salem Church on the hillside to the left. Although it is no longer an active church, the church site is of historical significance in Union County and is used occasionally for special events. To the right of the road is Choestoe Creek, a rushing mountain stream. While walking or driving the 0.6 miles to GA 348, the Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway, many of the previously mentioned species can be seen.

At GA 348, turn left and go 150 ft. to GA 180. A turn to the right leads 11.0 miles to Brasstown Bald, Georgia's highest mountain where Common Raven, Canada Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak can be seen. A turn to the left on GA 180 leads 1.0 miles to US 19-129. At this intersection turn left to return to Neel's Gap, the point of beginning of this self-guided birding trip.

Dot Freeman

PELAGIC TRIPS REPORT

Bob Manns

On February 23, this year, Dr. Branch Howe, at an Executive Committee meet, mandated that I form a committee to study the feasibility of GOS sponsored pelagic trips into Georgia waters as an on-going activity. (He one tough president, that Mr. Howe) The committee was formed and, even more surprisingly, boats were found in Savannah.

As a trial run, six participants boarded a thirty footer on April 21 at 7 o'clock in the morning just out of Savannah. Ominously, I think, a light wind put ripples on the water as far inland as our channel, but weather reports had cleared us for the trip promising only three foot seas. Well. Well. And well, again. We weren't out two miles and a Common Tern in breeding plumage passed to the rear of the boat giving us our first bird of interest. Spring Commons are rare. And the water was into two foot seas. Nothing, really. We moved on, a bit surprised by the Sterna. At about four miles and the same number of foot of seas, there was a commotion from the rear. I was in the cabin. Bill Blakesley was pointing at the horizon. Joe Gould's binocular was levelled in the same direction. Paul Raney was quietly looking at me as though I was insane to be where I was, and Didi said, "Hurry, hurry." Well. I slipped and fell to one knee. I wasn't praying; I do things like that. I was excited.

The large bird at the horizon displayed a completely light underside and an equally complete brown upperside and the form of a Shearwater. Didi had spotted the earliest recorded date of a Cory's Shearwater.

A couple of seconds later a dark topped bird of medium size was seen to be harassed by gulls but was left undiagnosed, very possibly a Parasitic Jaeger.

At about five miles we were into six foot seas virtually without swells and we "put 'er about" and headed back to dock.

We had, thus, run the first of some six or eight projected GOS trips for this and next year out of Savannah for the purpose of examining Georgia marine avifauna. Marine birds, of course, are those which live at sea, eating and roosting there, and coming to land only once annually to breed. These are Jaegers, Shearwaters, Storm Petrels, Boobies, Pterodramas, the more pelagic gulls and terns, Albatrosses and others.

The boats are, for the most part, 30 footers, quick low to the water and very stable---ideal for the purpose. Sea birding, however, is like birding itself, I must tell you. It's addictive. But if you have a little curiosity---by golly, do it! Call and sign up for a trip or two. It's the Georgia Ornithological Society's way of saying, It's not all on terra firma, folks. Call Anne Wyand at 404 394-9277 or Bob Manns at 404 352-3679.

Note the weather condition -rain and fog most of the weekend. Despite this handicap, we managed to get 121 species while socializing, between warbler flurries and rain flurries, with birders from throughout Georgia.

Atlanta Audubon Society
**Checklist of the
 Birds of Atlanta**

Locality Amicalola Falls

Date 5-3 thru 5 Time _____

Weather Rain/Fog Total 121

Observers QOS Members

This checklist is the official list of birds occurring within a 30-mile radius of downtown Atlanta, Ga. It was compiled by the Atlanta Audubon Society and is designed to be used as a field check card. The status of a particular species reflects its most prevalent seasonal occurrence. Information concerning birds which are rare or accidental, or do not appear on this list, should be forwarded to the Atlanta Audubon Society, P.O. Box 38214, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Seasons	Status
Sp - Spring March-May	PR - permanent resident
S - Summer June-August	SR - summer resident
F - Fall Sept.-Nov.	SV - summer visitant
W - Winter Dec.-Feb.	non-breeding
	WR - winter resident
Abbreviations	M - migrant
A - abundant	IRR - irregular
C - common	.. - nesting verified
U - uncommon	.. - occurrence during this season
R - rare	

	Sp	S	F	W
LOONS				
Common Loon M	R	R		
GREBES				
Pied-billed Grebe WR,SV	U	R	U	C
Horned Grebe WR	R	R	U	
CORMORANTS				
Double-crested Cormorant M	R	..	R	
HERONS, EGRETS AND ALLIES				
American Bittern M	U	..	U	..
Least Bittern SR	R	R		
Great Blue Heron PR	U	U	U	U
Great Egret SV	R	U	..	
Snowy Egret SV	..	R	R	
Little Blue Heron SV	R	U	R	
Tri-colored Heron SV	R	R		
Cattle Egret M	R	..	..

	Sp	S	F	W
FLYCATCHERS				
Olive-sided Flycatcher M	R	..	R	
Eastern Wood-Pewee SR	C	C	C	R
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher M	..	..	R	
Acadian Flycatcher SR	C	C	R	
Willow Flycatcher SR	R	R	..	
Least Flycatcher M	R	..	R	
Eastern Phoebe PR	C	U	C	C
Great Crested Flycatcher SR	C	C	U	
Western Kingbird M	R	..	R	
Eastern Kingbird SR	C	C	U	
LARKS				
Horned Lark PR	R	R	R	R
MARTINS AND SWALLOWS				
Purple Martin SR	U	U	R	..
Tree Swallow M	U	..	U	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow SR	C	C		
Bank Swallow M	R	..	R	
Cliff Swallow M	R	..	R	
Barn Swallow SR	C	C	U	
JAYS AND CROWS				
Blue Jay PR	A	A	A	A
American Crow PR	C	C	C	C
Fish Crow PR	U	U	U	R
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE				
Carolina Chickadee PR	C	C	C	C
Tufted Titmouse PR	C	C	C	C
NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS				
Red-breasted Nuthatch IRR,WR	U	U	U	U
White-breasted Nuthatch PR	U	U	U	U
Brown-headed Nuthatch PR	C	C	C	C
Brown Creeper WR	U	U	U	U
WRENS				
Carolina Wren PR	C	C	C	C
Bewick's Wren WR	..	..	R	
House Wren PR	U	U	U	U
Winter Wren WR	U	U	U	U
Sage Wren M	R	..	U	..
Marsh Wren M	U	U	R	
GNATCATCHERS AND KINGLETS				
Golden-crowned Kinglet WR	C	C	C	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet WR	C	C	C	C
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher SR	C	C	U	..
THRUSHES				
Eastern Bluebird PR	C	C	C	C
Veery M	U	..	U	
Gray-cheeked Thrush M	R	..	R	
Swainson's Thrush M	C	..	C	
Hermits Thrush WR	C	C	C	
Wood Thrush SR	C	C	C	
American Robin PR	C	C	C	C
THRASHERS				
Gray Catbird SR	C	C	C	R
Northern Mockingbird PR	A	A	A	A

	Sp	S	F	W
Green-backed Heron SR	C	C	U	R
Black-crowned Night Heron SV	R	R		
Yellow-crowned Night Heron SR	R	U	R	
White Ibis SV	R	..		
DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS				
Tundra Swan WR	..	..	R	
Snow Goose WR	..	..	R	
Canada Goose WR	R	..	R	R
Wood Duck PR	C	U	C	C
Green-winged Teal M	U	..	U	..
American Black Duck WR	U	..	U	..
Mallard PR	U	R	U	U
Northern Pintail WR	R	..	R	R
Blue-winged Teal M	C	..	C	..
Northern Shoveler M	U	..	R	R
Gadwall WR	..	..	R	U
American Wigeon M	U	..	U	R
Canvasback WR	U	..	R	R
Redhead WR	U	..	R	U
Ring-necked Duck WR	R	..	C	C
Greater Scaup WR	..	..	U	..
Lesser Scaup WR	..	..	U	..
Common Goldeneye WR	R	..	R	R
Bufflehead WR	R	..	R	U
Hooded Merganser WR	R	..	U	C
Common Merganser WR	..	..	R	R
Red-breasted Merganser WR	R	..	R	R
Ruddy Duck WR	R	..	R	U
HAWKS, VULTURES AND EAGLES				
Turkey Vulture PR	C	C	C	C
Black Vulture PR	U	U	U	U
Osprey M	U	..	U	
Bald Eagle PR	..	..	..	..
Northern Harrier WR	U	..	U	U
Sharp-shinned Hawk WR	U	..	U	U
Cooper's Hawk PR	R	..	R	R
Red-shouldered Hawk PR	U	..	U	U
Broad-winged Hawk SR	U	..	U	U
Red-tailed Hawk PR	C	U	C	C
American Kestrel PR	R	..	R	R
Merlin WR	C	U	C	C
Peregrine Falcon WR	R	..	R	R
QUAIL				
Northern Bobwhite PR	C	C	C	C
CRANES, RAILS AND COOTS				
King Rail PR	U	U	U	U
Virginia Rail M	U	..	..
Sora M	R	..	U	R
Common Moorhen M	C	..	R	C
American Coot PR	R	..	C	A
Sandhill Crane M	U	..	U	..
SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES				
Black-bellied Plover M	..	..	..	..
Lesser Golden Plover M	R	..	..	..
Semipalmated Plover M	R	..	..	..
Killdeer PR	C	C	C	C

	Sp	S	F	W
PIPITS AND WAXWINGS				
Water Pipit WR	U	..	U	U
Cedar Waxwing WR	C	..	U	C
SHRIKES AND STARLINGS				
Loggerhead Shrike PR	U	U	U	U
European Starling PR	A	A	A	A
VIREOS				
White-eyed Vireo SR	C	C	C	..
Solitary Vireo WR	U	U	U	U
Yellow-throated Vireo SR	U	..	R	
Philadelphia Vireo M	R	..	R	
Red-eyed Vireo SR	C	C	C	
WOOD WARBLERS				
Blue-winged Warbler M,SR	U	U	U	
Golden-winged Warbler M	U	..	U	
Tennessee Warbler M	U	..	C	
Orange-crowned Warbler M,WR	U	..	U	R
Nashville Warbler M	R	..	R	
Northern Parula Warbler M,SR	U	R	C	
Yellow Warbler SR	C	U	C	
Chestnut-sided Warbler M	U	..	C	
Magnolia Warbler M	R	..	C	
Cape May Warbler M	C	..	U	
Black-throated Blue Warbler M	U	..	U	
Yellow-rumped Warbler WR	C	C	C	C
Black-throated Green Warbler M	U	..	U	
Blackburnian Warbler M	U	..	U	
Yellow-throated Warbler SR	C	U	C	..
Pine Warbler PR	C	C	C	..
Prairie Warbler SR	C	C	C	..
Palm Warbler M,WR	C	..	C	U
Bay-breasted Warbler M	C	..	C	..
Blackpoll Warbler M	U	..	C	..
Cerulean Warbler M,SR	U	U	R	U
Black-and-white Warbler M,SR	U	U	C	R
American Redstart M,SR	C	R	C	C
Prothonotary Warbler SR	U	U	R	
Worm-eating Warbler SR	U	U	R	
Swainson's Warbler SR	R	..	R	..
Ovenbird SR	C	U	U	
Northern Waterthrush M	U	U	U	
Louisiana Waterthrush SR	U	U	R	
Kentucky Warbler SR	C	U	C	
Connecticut Warbler M	R	..	..
Mourning Warbler M	R	..	..
Common Yellowthroat PR	C	C	C	U
Hooded Warbler M,SR	C	U	C	
Wilson's Warbler M	R	..	R	
Canada Warbler M	U	..	U	..
Yellow-breasted Chat SR	C	C	R	R
TANAGERS				
Summer Tanager SR	C	C	U	
Scarlet Tanager M,SR	C	R	C	

	Sp	S	F	W
Greater Yellowlegs M	U	U	U	
Lesser Yellowlegs M	U	U	U	
Solitary Sandpiper M	C	R	C	
Willet M	R	R	R	
Spotted Sandpiper M,SR	C	R	C	..
Upland Sandpiper M	U	..	..
Semipalmated Sandpiper M	R	R	R	
Western Sandpiper M	R	R	..	
Least Sandpiper M	U	..	U	
White-rumped Sandpiper M	R	..	..
Baird's Sandpiper M	..	..	R	
Pectoral Sandpiper M	U	..	U	R
Dunlin M	..	..	R	R
Stilt Sandpiper M	R	..	R	R
Short-billed Dowitcher M	R	..	R	R
Common Snipe WR	U	..	U	U
American Woodcock PR	U	..	U	U
GULLS AND TERNS				
Laughing Gull M	R	..	R	
Bonaparte's Gull M	R	..	R	
Ring-billed Gull WR	R	..	R	U
Herring Gull WR	R	..	R	R
Forster's Tern M	R	..	R	..
Black Tern M	..	..	R	
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
Rock Dove PR	A	A	A	A
Mourning Dove PR	A	A	A	A
CUCKOOS				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo SR	C	U	C	
Black-billed Cuckoo SR	R	R	R	
OWLS				
Common Barn-Owl PR	R	R	R	R
Eastern Screech-Owl PR	C	C	C	C
Great Horned Owl PR	U	U	U	U
Barred Owl PR	U	U	U	U
Saw-whet Owl WR	..	..	..	..
NIGHTHAWKS AND NIGHTJARS				
Chuck-will's-widow SR	C	U	R	
Whip-poor-will SR	U	C	R	
Common Nighthawk SR	C	C	C	
SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS				
Chimney Swift SR	A	A	A	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird SR	C	C	C	..
KINGFISHERS				
Belted Kingfisher PR	U	U	U	U
WOODPECKERS				
Red-headed Woodpecker PR	U	U	U	U
Red-bellied Woodpecker PR	C	C	C	C
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker WR	C	C	C	C
Downy Woodpecker PR	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker PR	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker PR	C	C	C	C
Pileated Woodpecker PR	U	U	U	U
CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS				
Northern Cardinal PR	A	A	A	A
Rose-breasted Grosbeak M	C	C	C	..
Blue grosbeak SR	U	C	U	..
Indigo Bunting SR	U	C	C	..
Dickcissel M,SR	R	R	R	..
Rufous-sided Towhee PR	A	A	A	A
Bachman's Sparrow SR	R	R	R	R
Chipping Sparrow PR	C	C	C	C
Field Sparrow PR	C	C	C	C
Vesper Sparrow M,WR	C	C	C	U
Savannah Sparrow WR	C	C	C	C
Grasshopper Sparrow PR	U	U	R	R
Henslow's Sparrow WR	R	R	R	R
Fox Sparrow WR	U	U	R	U
Song Sparrow PR	C	U	C	C
Lincoln's Sparrow WR	R	R	R	R
Swamp Sparrow WR	C	C	C	C
White-throated Sparrow WR	A	..	A	A
White-crowned Sparrow M,WR	U	U	R	
Dark-eyed Junco WR	A	..	A	A
BLACKBIRDS				
Bobolink M	C	..	U	
Red-winged Blackbird PR	A	A	A	A

FIELD NOTES

Two COMMON LOONS were counted on a 2/16 field trip in Union County (DF,AW et.al), and PG saw a COMMON LOON on 4/30 near Fargo. GB&BD reported two HORNED GREBES 4/13 at Lake Sinclair, and another 4/14 at Lake Spivey. A BROWN PELICAN near Stephen Foster State Park seen by JS in April was an interesting sighting.

SW saw a LEAST BITTERN and 175 GLOSSY IBIS at Altamaha Wildlife Management Area 3/30. Near Blackwater Plantation below Quitman, where 25 WOOD STORKS were seen on 4/7 and 31 on 4/10. BD et.al. reported a BLUE-PHASED SNOW GOOSE at Curtis Brothers South of Watkinsville on Rt. 15, and LESSER SCAUP on 3/16. BD, PR & GR, on a trip to Sapelo Island 3/9-10, saw 13 species of ducks. A&VW had one male EURASIAN WIDGEON at Savannah NWR on 11/23 in with a flock of AMERICAN WIDGEON; they placed it on the GOS Rare Bird Alert and many others saw it through most of December.

The mid-winter BALD EAGLE survey coordinated by DH, in which DC participated representing GOS, produced 23 adults and 8 immatures. A pair of BALD EAGLES have been seen at Lake Oconee regularly since March, and on 5/12 PR, BB, MK, PR, E&SMc, & AW saw one catch a fish, take back to a perch and begin feeding. A&VW feel that these birds have increased in GA and SC.-4 on St. Catherine's Christmas Bird Count (CBC).-1 at Meridian Dock, 4 at Sapelo Island CBC-and 3 at Silver Bluff on 12/13.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITES arrived in the Okefenokee area in February. A very early sighting was a MISSISSIPPI KITE soaring over Joree Millpond in Valdosta on 4/13 (BP). CB had three BROAD-WINGED HAWKS fly over his house near downtown Augusta on 2/9.

This seems to be the year of the BLACK RAIL-one was counted on the St. Catherine's CBC, and SW heard a BLACK RAIL on 3/30 at Altamaha WMA, plus several KING RAILS. PR, BB, MK, AW, & E&SMc saw a BLACK RAIL as close as 3 away, south of Watkinsville and at least one other was heard. BD et.al. reported five VIRGINIA RAILS south of Watkinsville 3/15-17, and PR, BB, MK, AW & E&SMc had one come out and pose at close range for quite some time (5/12) in another field near the BLACK RAIL. On 3/1, GB saw a SORA RAIL in a marsh in Woodstock, and a VIRGINIA RAIL there on 4/13. SW, on a Big Day Count in North Florida saw a YELLOW RAIL, as she covered a number of areas, you will have to ask her about the exact location. She also reports that the water levels are up in the Okefenokee, but as of May 9, still no sign that wading birds are nesting again. She is hoping a refuge check later in the month might reveal a few nests.

Another early report was 10 BLACK-NECKED STILTS reported on 3/30 by SW at Altamaha WMA. A headliner for the Macon group-5 UPLAND SANDPIPERS at Macon's brickyards 4/7 (K&AC). A spectacular sighting was an ICELAND GULL seen at South Beach, Jekyll Island by PS, JA, TI & CP. On the Sapelo Island trip, BD, PR & GR saw both LESSER & GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS. A&VW believe GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS are increasing on the Georgia Coast-formerly a rarity, they are seeing them in increasing numbers. The St. Catherine's CBC produced 4, Sapelo Island CBC had 2 and an Augusta Audubon trip to Tybee Island 1/26 saw 3. DS reports a COMMON TERN at Little Ocmulgee State Park on 4/3.

TP et. al., on a field trip to Dublin, saw a SHORT-EARED OWL (3/16), and 7 were seen near Cordele on 1/25 (TM, AA, PB & HG). Still another winter hummingbird report-TC had a RUFUS on 12/22 in Valdosta.

On the coldest day of the year with snow on the ground in N. Georgia, DF&AW(et.al) counted 10 HERMIT THRUSHES and 6 RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS. BP reports having a male VERMILLION FLYCATCHER at St. Marks Refuge on 1/22.

DH in Waycross reported a probable LAWRENCE'S WARBLER at his bird bath 4/28, he mentions yellow breast and on the head, black bib and through the eye. There was a confirmed sighting there 4/27/57. A CONNECTICUT WARBLER was heard and seen at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area 5/12 on the AAS birdwalk. Early reports are 3 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS, 3 PALM WARBLERS and a LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH on 3/30 at E. L. Huie Water Treatment Facility and Lake Blalock by BD. (S. Atlanta). An OVENBIRD see at Darien by D&DC on 1/7 was an interesting winter sighting.

DS had VESPER SPARROWS in his yard all winter in Eastman, GA. On a coastal trip 4/1, GB&BB saw SEASIDE, SHARP-TAILED, SONG & SWAMP SPARROWS at the Ski Rixen area on Jekyll Island. BP had a male NORTHERN ORIOLE 1/25-27 in her yard in Valdosta. GB had two PINE SISKINS at his house 3/22.

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THE RARE BIRD---GO FOR IT!

I will never forget my first visit to the Chicago Museum of Art, in which I discovered a Picasso blue period work I had never seen before. I simply turned around a wall that partially divided two rooms and there it was. I was struck. I just froze for a moment. Then I went slowly toward it, never removing my eyes.

It was my discovery. Sudden and electric, it had happened to me. But to me. Never mind the cloud of other people in the room. That painting, that discovery, was the object of my attention. A perfect subject-object relationship had been assigned by the magic of discovery. That was all there was to it. An existential piece of business of definite merit. And I revelled in it.

Same thing happened in New York years ago when Leonard Bernstein was conducting the New York Philharmonic. A friend and I had tickets to the Mahler 2nd Symphony. Lenny blew me out of the hall. Fortunately, The Russian Tea Room was just two doors from Carnegie Hall, and they weren't serving tea afterward. Nossir.

The very same thrill of exposure can happen to the birder who chances on the rare bird. It is simply his or her bird. It's the same degree of discovery, just as intense, as Clark's finding of a nutcracker over a century and a half ago. True, the jay was probably within its range when found and the rarity in North America today is not. But the emotional investment by the finder is the same. Surprise, shock and substantiation should be the three s's of discovery. They belong to every observer of anything who has made a discovery. In that sense, the explorer, the microbiologist, the artist, attorney, philosopher and a host of others experience shock, surprise and substantiation.

I would like to encourage every birder and bird-watcher to revel in the various blues, if not of Picasso, of the Blue Jay and Bluebird (not forgetting the incredible Lazuli bunting), the delicacies and subtleties of sparrows and the magnificent form of a crow on the ground. And to end there is to end on a substantial enrichment of one's life. No question about it. However, if you're a dessert eater---the crepe, the cake, the truffle, sherbet, all add something.

Today, remembering the thrill of finding my first Yellow-rumped Warbler (in Piedmont Park) I wonder how I could have been so naive. But it wasn't naivete, any more than Winston Churchill was naive for never having seen one. I was simply making an inquiry, and came up with a discovery. It was one of the earliest "wows" of my interest in birds, a true "piece of cake" to be sure, but still cake, nevertheless.

Indeed, the birder to come up with the next Long-eared Owl for Georgia will attract some attention. So will the person who "finds" the first Common Gull or Black-headed. I hope it's me but, if not, I hope the finder will let me share in his or her happiness---maybe bring the real truffle.

Bob Manns

NEW PELAGIC TRIPS FROM GOS

Boats have been found in Savannah for small pelagic (sea) trips to discover what birds favor Georgia's coastal waters. There may be Shearwaters, Petrels, Jaegers, and Albatrosses! Call Anne Wyand 394-9277 for a place on the next boat. Tentative dates are: July 21, or July 28; August 4, or August 18; September 8, 15, or 29. Call for definite dates. Cost approximately \$95.00.

THE 1991 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The 1991 General Assembly passed some good environment bills, among them the following:

HB 643. Mountain and River Protection Bill, which requires that local governments protect against development affecting water supplies and steep mountain slopes. Next year's General Assembly, to be sure, should go even further and address protection of the numerous steep slopes that are less than 2,200 feet above sea level and add protection of the corridors of our many smaller rivers and streams.

SB 97. Georgia Environmental Policy Act, which now requires the State for the first time to prepare environmental impact statements disclosing "the environmental effects of proposed state projects." The bill says that "State agencies should conduct their affairs with an awareness that they are stewards of the air, land, water, plants, animals, and environmental, historical, and cultural resources."

HB 274. Separation of The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to avoid conflicts; creation of an Environmental Advisory Council.

HB 709. Air Quality Act, which amends the 1978 act to give greater encouragement to industry to comply with clean air emissions standards, for instance by making violations a misdemeanor, and which guarantees that fines collected for violation will go to the state rather than to the federal government.

SR 129. Designation of a State Arboretum at UGA in Athens.

HR 110. River Assessment Study Bill, which urges the US Department of the Interior, through the national Park Service, to help Georgia complete its comprehensive assessment of its rivers. Completion of this study should stimulate a strengthening of the River Corridor legislation.

HB 283. Ad Valorem Tax for property to be based on current use; timber to be taxed at harvest. Long, detailed requirement.

SB 94, HB 652. Amendments to the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act, which assure that experienced, knowledgeable people are making the decisions, and which update the list of hazardous chemicals to conform with the Code of Federal Regulations effective February 1, 1991.

HR 19. Creates Wetlands Conservation Study Committee

HR 348. Creates Water Resource Conservation Management Study Committee.

GOS ORANGE NATURE TRAIL PROJECT State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Please put on your calendar SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1991 as the date for the formal dedication of the Orange Nature Trail at the State Botanical Garden as a GOS project. We will have the Dedication Service at 10 AM and then walk the trail before we have lunch (our own or one purchased at the Garden). Those of you who have contributed to the project or have been honored will find your name inscribed by a fine calligrapher in a book in the Garden office. More detailed directions will come in the mail closer to the event.

The following people have contributed recently to the fund:

Branch Howe, in honor of Georgine Pindar
Georgine Pindar, in honor of Archie Burdett
Lin Pollard and Georgine Pindar in memory of Jeanne E. Cardon
Helen Ogren in memory of George Dorsey.

Please keep our project in mind when you want to honor or remember someone specially.

Georgine Pindar
Conservation Chairman

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ORANGE NATURE TRAIL PROJECT

State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens, GA

I/we should like to make a contribution of _____

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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

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