



GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 1991

Rare Bird Alert Phone Number: 404 509-0204

GOS FALL MEETING

The GOS fall meeting will be back at a favorite haunt - Jekyll Island - at the recently refurbished RAMADA INN (between the Buccaneer and Holiday Inn on South Beachview Drive). Registration form for both the meeting and the motel are included in this issue of GOSHAWK. It's not too early to fill them out and send them in!

Phyllis Bowen, President of Coastal Audubon, has lined up some absolutely outstanding field trips and the knowledgeable leaders to make them exciting. They are so good that a separate form is included in the GOSHAWK for pre-sign up - first come, first served!

First Vice President, Helen Ogren, has likewise lined up some stimulating fare for our speakers. Friday evening's speaker, Mike Harris, a Biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, will present a program on sea turtles. Five species occur in Georgia's waters and all populations have declined from loss of nesting habitat, overharvest for meat, eggs, leather, and trawls, predation of nests, and other factors. Mr. Harris will discuss projects that are underway to conserve turtles in Georgia, as well as future needs. Saturday's program will be presented by GOS member, Elaine Young (fondly known to some groups as Mother Nature), well known barrier island ecologist, lecturer, and instructor. As part of her presentation, "Using Salvaged Birds for Education," she is bringing her extensive collection of birds which she has salvaged and freeze dried, allowing us to hold and examine them. Mrs. Young will also share her extensive knowledge of coastal birds and their habitats.

The format is familiar. Registration will open at 4:00PM Friday, October 18th (coincident with check-in time at RAMADA). Dinner is on your own, with Friday's program beginning at 8:00PM.

Breakfast, buffet or table service will be available from 6:30AM both Saturday and Sunday, allowing an early departure on those exciting field trips. An Executive Committee meeting, which all members are invited to attend, will be squeezed in Saturday afternoon, followed by a general business meeting at 5:45PM, social hour at 7:00PM and dinner at 7:45PM.

All field trips will be duplicated on Sunday if there is enough demand. Jekyll in October has always been a great drawing card for GOS members, but this year's programs and trips promise to be exceptional. Get your reservations and registrations in early!

**GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT
Call for Applications**

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 \$500.00, funds permitting. A research Grant Committee appointed by the President recommends a grantee to the Executive Committee for approval.

The guidelines for grant applicants are as follows:

1. The applicants must be enrolled graduate students in Georgia during the grant period or must be from Georgia if enrolled out-of-state.
2. The research must be at least partially ornithological and must be conducted under faculty direction.
3. The grant will normally be for a period of 12 months. 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, and a statement of other financial support. Two letters of reference are also required, one of which should be from the directing faculty member. The grant application and the letters of reference should reach the Research Grant Committee no later than January 15, 1992. The grantee will be selected by April 1, 1992.
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
Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 1278
Cartersville, GA 30120

1992 ABA CONVENTION
April 20-26, 1992

The 1992 American Birding Association Convention will be held in the Southeast with headquarters at the Stouffer Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, Alabama. Field trips include Ft. Morgan, Dauphin Island, Blakely Island, Mobile Delta, and the Mississippi Coast, workshops conducted by top field experts, entertaining and informative evening programs, and Pete Dunne as the banquet speaker. If you have questions call (800) 835-2473.

ELECTION OF GOS OFFICERS

The nominating committee consisting of Jack Cooper, Dick Parks and Anne Wyand has selected the following slate of officers to be nominated for re-election at the fall GOS meeting:

Branch Howe	-	President
Helen Ogren	-	First Vice President
Ken Clark	-	Second Vice President
Didi Manns	-	Secretary
Doug Phillips	-	Treasurer

CUMBERLAND ISLAND WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT
Carol Ruckdeschel and Bob Shoop

Cumberland Island National Seashore was established by Congress in 1972. A large portion of the Georgia barrier island was Congressionally a Wilderness Area in 1982. Except for the remaining private land, the island is manager by the National Park Service (NPS). Cumberland Island has approximately 17 miles of uninterrupted, wide sand beach, the largest freshwater lake on any of the Georgia barrier islands, maritime live oak forests along with other plant communities, and is Georgia's largest barrier island. Three of the five public campgrounds on the island are in the wilderness.

The NPS has not yet developed a Wilderness Management plan and as a result, incompatible uses continue to occur. Some activities presently allowed in the Wilderness area are in conflict with goals established by conservation groups and the NPS in the past, as well as with NPS general management policies. To date, management of the natural ecosystems has been guided by game management and forestry tenets rather than ecological principles. If such management is continued, Cumberland Island will become, in essence, a game farm (Wildlife Management Area) and thereby lose much of its value as a Wilderness area.

Some of the incompatible activities presently allowed in the Wilderness Area include bicycle riding and access to the area by any means, at any point, at any time, with any vehicle as long as the visitor stays only for the day. Boat access for longer periods is allowed at Brickhill campground and bicycles can be transported by boat to that location. Charter boats are permitted to land at all NPS docks and the northernmost Wilderness campsite. The dock at Plum Orchard can be used to unload visitors and supplies, but boats must be moored away from the dock. Visitors accessing the island by their own means of transportation (i.e. not the government ferry) are not counted in the 300 per day limitation set by NPS policy in conjunction with conservation groups.

The number of NPS associated personnel living on the island should be restricted to the minimum necessary for efficient protection of the park. Additional people increase the impact on the island by use of personal vehicles, generation of garbage, and general use of park resources.

The NPS established public deer hunting within the Wilderness Area although hunting is prohibited in Wilderness Areas by NPS general policy. Since public deer hunting is provided for in the enabling legislation, hunts could be conducted outside the Wilderness Area on the south end of the island and fulfill both needs.

If we are to have long term, naturally functioning ecosystems in this country, Wilderness Areas are among the logical places to establish them. Part of the purpose Congress has in establishing Wilderness Areas is to "...assure that the increasing population... does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States..., leaving no lands...in their natural condition..." (PL 88-577, 1964). To manipulate an area as a game farm is to modify it. Wilderness management must protect natural systems from further anthropogenic modification. This has not been done on Cumberland Island. For instance, a large number of bobcats have been introduced to the island with no substantial assurance bobcats were ever on the island (bobcats are not found on other barrier islands lacking bridges) and with no baseline studies to enable determination of the impact of bobcats. The public deer hunts selective alter the deer population structure. Feral hogs and horses continue to roam the island, having an impact on the vegetation and competing with native wildlife for food. The NPS has (draft) plans to modify one plant community through the use of fire.

A Wilderness management plan that addresses the above issues is needed. The NPS will soon be developing a Wilderness management plan for Cumberland Island and your comments and suggestions will help.

WRITE: The Regional Director
 National Park Service
 75 Spring Street
 Atlanta, GA 30303

U.S. Transportation Policy and the Environment

The kind of transportation policy Congress fashions for us in the coming weeks or months will seriously effect the environment. Let's write our Congressmen urging 1) more use of our gasoline tax dollars for mass transit, 2) continued protection of our parklands from unnecessary highways and of our wilderness areas from new or improved trails, 4) opposition to H.R. 1572 because it will immeasurably weaken existing laws protecting the environment by giving non-environmentalists the final say-so, and 5) opposition to the idea that no harm is done to the environment if man-made wetland are substituted for natural wetlands.

GOS ORANGE NATURE TRAIL PROGRAM

On Saturday morning, July 13, 1991, we had a fine ceremony at the State Botanical Garden in Athens, Georgia dedicating the Orange Nature Trail as a project of the Georgia Ornithological Society. Dr. Jefferson Lewis, Director, welcomed us warmly, Georgine Pindar explained the undertaking as a project of love, and Branch Howe talked engagingly about the Georgia Ornithological Society. After the ceremony, Lenetta Root, Project Coordinator of the Garden, invited us to enjoy delectable refreshments, and Branch Howe led us on a two-mile walk of the beautiful trail as far as the river and back.

Here is what Lenetta wrote to us afterwards:

"Again, I wish to express our gratitude to GOS members for adopting the Orange Trail at the Garden. Your hard work and dedication are great contributions to the Society, the Garden, and wildlife.

The Orange Trail adoption ceremony on July 13th was lovely - the birds were singing, the weather was beautiful, Bob Burton's music fit the occasion perfectly, and the guests were delightful. We hope that GOS looks forward to enhancing this beautiful nature trail and will visit often.

We would like to have more birding educational programs at the Garden. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. I personally look forward to a wonderful relationship with GOS Fondly, Lenetta."

Since the last newsletter, we have had the following most generous contributions to our project:

Langford Cousins of Hillery Carol Parish	in memory of	Hillary Carol Parish
Grady Horne	in memory of	Almonte C. Howell, Jr.
Kathryn N. Howell (Jonny)	in memory of	Almonte C. Howell, Jr.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ORANGE NATURE TRAIL PROJECT

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
2450 South Millledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605 (404) 542-1244

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

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 4, 1991

The Executive Committee of the Georgia Ornithological Society met Saturday, May 4, 1991 at Amicalola Falls State Park, GA.

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 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. 3/26/91 - An announcement from Northeast Georgia Earth Day of the Earth Day celebration at Sandy Creek Park and Nature Center in Athens, April 21.
5. 4/17/91 - Invitation from Zoo Atlanta for GOS to participate in Conservation Day '91 at the zoo on June 1.

Second Vice President, Ken Clark reported that there was no new information regarding future meetings. The first and second vice presidents will work even more closely together in the future. Elaine Young has offered to assist on the field trips for the Fall meeting. Phyllis Bowen will be asked to coordinate our field trips.

Business Manager, John Swiderski reported that we currently had 195 regular members (+10); 136 life members (+1); 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 still 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 included. It was recommended tentatively that 1,000 copies be printed. This will be discussed again at a later date.

Graduate Student Research Grant Committee Branch Howe reported that the Committee had received a single application by the April 1 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 Trips Committee Didi Manns reported that an April pilot pelagic trip leaving from Wilmington Island, Georgia had been short-lived due to a too-powerful Northwest wind. She added that the boat, though small, was appropriate for future use.

OLD BUSINESS

There was discussion centering around the fall meeting time at the coast. It was suggested that GOS might meet during the first or second week in November in 1992, in order to see birds that might not yet be present in numbers during our usual early-mid October meeting times on the coast. Ken Clark will make inquiries as to the best birding dates on the coast.

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. Other committees also are updating the lists for fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals as well as for invertebrates and plants.

Branch asked if the year each member joined GOS might be included on the membership list issued periodically to the members, as done by the American Ornithologists' Union and certain other ornithological societies. This practice seems to enhance membership loyalty and gives some indication of the duration of the members' interest in birding. John Swiderski will investigate the feasibility of searching back records.

Doug Phillips asked for clarification of the By-laws regarding payment of speakers who are GOS members. For the present time, it was agreed that an honorarium will be paid up to the amount of the expenses incurred.

The Executive Committee agreed to offer another Peterson print for auction at the 1992 DNR Weekend for Wildlife.

COMPOSTING

During the summer and fall, yard and household wastes can comprise 70-80 percent of the total waste generated and disposed of in solid waste landfills. The biodegradable nature and relative purity of these waste materials make them the least practical to landfill and the best to compost.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources recommends homeowners compost leaves, grass clippings, coffee grounds, wood chips, and fruit and vegetable scraps to reduce waste and conserve landfill space. Compost to help reduce the amount of yard and household garbage going to our rapidly filling landfills. For more information, write to:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Suite 1258, East Tower
205 Butler Street, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30334

PELAGIC TRIPS

GOS sponsored Pelagic Trips continue to run. New dates for sea birding are November 23, 1991 and January 18, 1992. Please call Anne Wyand at 394-9277 for reservations. Deposit should be made very early, as each boat takes a limited number of birders.

The July 29th trip yielded Greater, Audubon's and Cory's Shearwaters. A bonus was a trip to the South Beach at Jekyll Island where a Pormarine Jaeger was spotted on the beach!

Expectations for the winter trips include Black-legged Kittiwakes, Glaucous Gull, Black-backed Gull, Manx Shearwater, some Phalaropes and, someday, Georgia's first Albatross.

FIELD NOTES

Breeding Bird Surveys around Georgia during the month of June produced some of the sightings reported in this issue; however, it was reportedly difficult to judge spring migration since there was a lot of rain most weekends which hampered birding. Paul Sykes was part of a foursome which established a new Big Day record for Georgia with 169 species; I believe the prior unofficial record was 147.

A rare waterfowl sighting was a RED-THROATED LOON seen at Lake Spivey on 4/13 by PB. A&VW saw 3 half-summer plumaged COMMON LOONS 3/23 at Clark Hill Reservoir, and one HORNED GREBE in the same plumage 4/20 at Merry Brickyard Ponds. CL&JS reported 3 COMMON LOONS at DeKalb Reservoir (Atlanta) on 5/13, with one remaining on 5/31.

JP found an AMERICAN BITTERN in Dawson County on 3/31. B&DM,&BB spotted a REDDISH EGRET at Jekyll South Beach 7/27. JG spotted a CATTLE EGRET near the E. L. Huie Land Application Facility (Atlanta). AW saw one WOODSTORK flying over a tree hedge in Jefferson Co. while doing a BBS route, and DS had two near Cochran 6/27. BBI found an early ROSEATE SPOONBILL on the Jekyll Island Causeway on 4/20. GB&BB observed ROSEATE SPOONBILLS at Altamaha/Harris Neck on 5/16.

Ducks which stopped over at Merry Ponds are CANVASBACK female, 3/2, BUFFLEHEAD-two males 3/2, REDHEAD-one male 3/7, LESSER SCAUP-three males on 3/2, two females on 3/29, and one male on 4/20, which was a late migrant, GREEN-WINGED TEAL-one male, one female on 3/22, AMERICAN WIDGEON-five males on 3/22, and numerous BLUE-WINGED TEAL from 3/9 to 4/1. A RED-BREASTED MERGANSER male on 3/2, HOODED MERGANSER-four males, 8 females at Silver Bluff Sanctuary on 4/20 (A&VW).

Always a good GA bird is the RUFFED GROUSE seen by BB on 5/27 at Cooper's Creek WMA, and GB&BB also saw one at Suches Gap, Chattahoochee National Forest on 5/22.

A&VW found two KING RAIL nests in March in Merry Ponds area, JP saw one in Dawson County on 3/31, and GB&BB saw KING and VIRGINIA RAILS at Curtis Bros. Marsh Area 5/20, and two VIRGINIA RAILS at Woodstock March 6/6 and 6/29. GB estimated 30 to 40 WHIMBREL seen at Jekyll/St. Simons 5/15. On 2/2, BB reported seeing two very early AVOCETS, and much later, 22 BLACK-NECKED STILTS on 5/4.

One RED-NECKED PHALARLOPE was at E. L. Huie Water Treatment Facility on 5/26 (BB). A first winter GLAUCOUS GULL was seen at Jekyll South Beach by GB on 5/15. Merry Ponds yielded three PECTORAL SANDPIPERS which are unusual there now (A&VW). The presence of two SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS at Merry Ponds 4/1 surprised A&VW. A&VW saw around 100 GREATER YELLOWLEGS and 140 LESSER YELLOWLEGS from 3/20 to 4/20.

MISSISSIPPI KITES which normally nest in the Augusta area were first seen 4/27 (A&VW). DG, on one of his trips to make a checklist for Oaky WMA in Houston County, had a TURKEY hen run into the side of his truck! His BBS, near Vienna, GA, produced a SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (June).

PM had the first WHIP-POOR-WILL report in Roswell on 3/25. A&VW heard both CHUCK-WILL's WIDOWS and WHIP-POOR-WILLS all spring in Augusta area, both were heard at Yuchi WMA 5/25, at Girard, Ga. (Burke Co.) 5/25, and 6/1 at Jackson, SC. They believe both to be uncommon nesters in their area. Also, WHIP-POOR-WILLS are increasing in middle GA according to OAS, and DG has one at his home in S. Houston Co. (Elko). CLIFF SWALLOWS nested under U.S. 278 bridge over Lake Oconee (CL&JS).

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD was the most abundant species on JP's Bike across GA trip (630), second was NORTHERN BOBWHITE (185). GB&BB had 22 CEDAR WAXWINGS in Woodstock on 5/2.

CB saw GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER near Silver Bluff on 4/20. AAS had 20 ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLERS at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (Atlanta) on 4/13. PB reported an early CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER on 3/13 near Stone Mountain. There were four CERULEAN WARBLER reports in the Atlanta area from 4/13-4/22 (AAS,JH,JS,CL). Five WORM-EATING WARBLERS were at Fernbank on 4/13 (AAS).

AR&DS reported numerous GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS and six HORNED LARKS at the Dublin Airport on 7/1. An unusual sighting was two immature DARK-EYED JUNCOS in Woodstock on 6/27 (GB&BB). PAINTED BUNTINGS nest in Augusta with the first seen on 4/20 (A&VW). Thirty BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS were seen 3/7 near Merry Ponds, and three RUSTY BLACKBIRDS on 3/3.

An adult male and female RED CROSSBILL with two fledglings were at a feeder in Cedartown, GA and observed by JS,CL,BD&AM for approximately 30 min. on 5/19, and GB&BB saw 4-5 at Suches Gap, Chattahoochee National Forest of 5/22.

Contributors: Atlanta Audubon Society, Giff Beaton, Clarence Belger, Bill Blakeslee (BBI), Patrick Brisse, Becky Brogan, Joe Greenberg, Dan Guynn, Joel Hitt, Bob & Didi Manns, Peggy Moore, Ocumulgee Audubon Society, John Paget, John Parrish, Carol Lambert, Allen Rhodes, Donny Screws, Jeff Sewell, Paul Sykes, Anne & Vernon Waters, & Anne Wyand.

NEW MEMBERS

Phyllis Bowen	-	St. Simons, GA
Katherine Caperton	-	Atlanta, GA
Jeff Dixon	-	Calhoun, GA
Lanny Henson	-	Cedartown, GA
Steven & Lady Kendrick	-	Atworth, GA
Mike Kirton	-	Dawsonville, GA
George Anna M. Watson	-	Rockmart, GA

Fall at the coast usually results in a sizable increase in membership. Invite a non-member friend to attend this best ever coastal meeting.

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Adrienne and Paul Myles are the proud new parents of a baby daughter, Danielle. Adrienne is the person who efficiently handles the GOS Rare Bird Alert by compiling incoming bird reports and announcing the weekly updates.

Best wishes to GOS member Sara Robertson, daughter of Betsy and Doug Phillips, who was married to Robert Morris, a Brunswick native, on August 10th in Atlanta.

Bruce Dralle deserves a special thank you for handling the Rare Bird Alert hotline during Adrienne's absence.

John Parrish, Biology Department, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, compiled an impressive list of 65 species (6/15-6/23-some sightings included in field notes) while traveling 50-75 miles a day in the annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia event (BRAG)...his trip was also with (BWAG)...Bird Watching Across Georgia!

**GOS FALL FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION
JEKYLL ISLAND
October 19-20, 1991**

Phyllis Bowen has arranged some outstanding field trips for participants in the GOS fall meeting at Jekyll Island, and because she is so well organized, we are able to publish the choices beforehand and give you a chance to sign up in advance.

If the demand is there, all trips will be offered both Saturday and Sunday. Two of the trips are "all day," (returning in time for the Executive Committee Meeting at 4:00PM Saturday).

Phyllis will lead trips to Little St. Simons Island both days, departing the RAMADA at 7:30AM. There is a limit of 10 participants each day at \$6.00 per person for boat fare and soft drinks. GOS members will be signed up in the order their pre-paid registrations are received in the mail. (Trust Ken and the U.S. Postal Service!)

Mike Chapman will lead a second all-day trip to Harris Neck, no limit on numbers. Bring your own lunch for either trip.

A shorter trip to Butler Island Wildlife Management Area near Darien and to Emmy Minor's Rehabilitation Center, "Sanctuary on the Sapelo" near Pine Harbor will afford a check on the duck migration, if any, and a chance to see river otters at play and visit with two immature bald eagles.

St. Simons' East Beach, Gould's Inlet, Ft. Fredrica, etc. will excite the warbler fanciers and, of course, Jekyll Island offers South Beach, the Bird Banding Station, Marina Basin and Ski Rixen, etc. If numbers are sufficient, two groups may be formed for the Jekyll journey, criss-crossing enroute. Both St. Simons and Jekyll are "half day" excursions, back in time for late lunch.

Fill out the following field trip form and send it in with your registration.

**FIELD TRIP FORM
Mail With Registration**

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
I.	Little St. Simons (\$6.00 per person enclosed)	7:15AM		
II.	Harris Neck	7:20AM		
III.	Butler Island WMA	7:30AM		
IV.	St. Simons	7:35AM		
V.	Jekyll Island	7:40AM		

Name(s) _____

NEW VISITATION SYSTEM FOR BLAKELY ISLAND, ALABAMA

Blakely Island, the premier shorebirding spot on the Alabama coast, is now open to birders under a new and simplified permit system. The Alabama State Docks Department property near Mobile has been closed since 1989, in large part due to the poor compliance of certain birders with a previous permit scheme. Two years of negotiations with the State Docks have yielded this new plan, which is less cumbersome than the prior protocol.

The property consists of several large diked ponds containing waste material previously deposited by an aluminum company. The State Docks is engaged in a process of neutralizing some of the more toxic substances, and the ponds are currently used as a dredge waste disposal site. Severe injuries have occurred at this location from contact with material in the ponds, and understandably the property owners are nervous about letting the public into an active and potentially hazardous area. The real danger lies in the ponds, and only with direct contact with the wastes. As long as birders always remain on the roads, there is little chance of encountering these materials.

In order to visit the area, you must sign a liability release once each year, and then notify the security personnel by phone at least a day prior to each visit. Entry is to be by foot only. You must remain on the established roads at all times. The property is patrolled, and violations of the rules will likely result in our permanent banishment. Birders should prepare for exposure to sun, high humidity, and insects; no facilities are present.

This area can be extremely productive for shore and water birds at all seasons and has no match for many of these birds in this area of the coast. Permits can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed, legal-sized envelope to Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244. An alternative is to sign a form at the Protections Unit office just inside the main gate of the State Docks in Mobile (not on Blakely Island); the main gate is reached by travelling north on Water Street in Mobile and following the signs to the State Docks. Call Greg D. Jackson at (205) 987-2855 for further information.

RECYCLING FOR A CLEANER, SAFER ENVIRONMENT

Solid waste disposal in Georgia is reaching a crisis. Georgia's citizens generate approximately 13,500 tons of trash each day, or about 4.5 pounds per day per person. Unless our disposal habits change, this figure will likely increase even more by the year 2,000. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources estimates 75 percent of the state's 180 municipal landfills will be filled to capacity in the next three years.

Georgia passed a progressive Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act in 1990. It calls for a reduction of statewide waste generation by 25% by 1996. Also, each community must develop a plan to reduce total garbage generation. Many Georgians are already recycling, precycling and using other methods to reduce their waste generation. You can help:

- Recycle aluminum, glass, plastic, ferrous metals and paper products, even used oil. Also, composting is a way of recycling household and yard wastes.
- Precycle by choosing products with less packaging. Don't buy one- use items.
- Reuse containers. Purchase only as much of a product as needed.

GOS REGISTRATION, FALL MEETING
RAMADA INN, JEKYLL ISLAND
October 18-20, 1991

NAME(S) (for name tags) _____

Address _____ Phone() _____

_____ Registration(s) at \$5.00 per person \$ _____
(Children under 16 do not pay, but list names for name tags)

_____ Reservations for banquet at \$13.50 per person \$ _____
(Refundable if canceled before October 16th)

Will you be staying at the Inn? Yes _____ No _____

Make checks payable to GOS and mail along with registration form to the address below. Early registration makes planning easier and will be appreciated.

Ken Clark
8247 Lower Thomaston Road
Macon, GA 31210
(912) 935-2178

RAMADA INN
150 South Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31520
1-800-835-2110

(Make reservations directly to Ramada)

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ Arrival Date _____

(Check-in 4PM)

_____ Departure Date _____

(Check-out 12 noon)

Number of Rooms _____ Number of Adults _____ Number of Children _____

(\$42.18, single or double, tax included. Reservations should be made at least 30 days in advance, accompanied with one night's deposit or guarantee by major credit card. Deposits will be refunded for cancellations received 72 hours prior to arrival).

Type of card: VISA, MC, AMEX Account No. _____ Expires _____

Special request(s): Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____ Handicapped equip. _____

Signature _____



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

GOSHAWK

THE GOSHAWK NEWSLETTER IS
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DUNWOODY, GA 30338

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