

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

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: 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)



GOSHAWK

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GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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RARE BIRD ALERT PHONE NUMBER: 404 509-0204

GOS 1992 SPRING MEETING

New horizons to explore will characterize the GOS spring meeting April 24-26, 1992, at Hickory Knob State Resort Park, just across Clark Hill Lake in South Carolina. Comfortable accommodations, good food, pleasant meeting facilities with a variety of interesting habitats in easy reach, and all at reasonable prices are what recommended this venue about 40 miles north/northwest of Augusta on the edge of Sumter National Forest. Motel-style rooms with double beds are \$36 plus 8% tax, single or double occupancy. A few rooms have two twin beds, same price. One-bedroom cabins have two double beds plus a day-bed in the sitting room: \$50 plus tax. They are holding 40 rooms and 5 cabins for GOS up to March 24th, so get your reservations in early! A one night's deposit is required with the reservation.

GOS member, Emil Urban of Augusta, an ornithologist who has spent years in Africa and has authored a definitive work on African birds, will share some of his knowledge and experiences with us Friday evening (7:30PM in the Conference Center at the lodge). First Vice-president, Helen Ogren, is lining up another interesting program for us following Saturday night's banquet.

Augusta GOS'r Anne Waters is checking out field trip possibilities, with help from Dwight Harley of Georgia Nongame program. Both have birded extensively in the general area. Pre-registration for field trips, which worked so well at Jekyll last October, wasn't considered as appropriate at Hickory Knob because we are unfamiliar with the alternatives and wouldn't know what we were signing up for anyway. Nor do we have any trips requiring advance payment from participants. The common room at the lodge, by the way, features a priceless display of large, signed, limited-edition prints depicting each state bird. A walk around this room is a field trip in itself!

To get to Hickory Knob, get a Georgia state map and find Lincolnton, about 20 miles north of I-20 at Thomson on U.S. 378. Cross Clark Hill Lake on 378 and look for signs. If you get to McCormick, SC you've gone too far. It's a very popular place, and there are no decent alternative accommodations within easy reach, so reserve early. On the GOS registration form is a place to indicate whether or not you will be arriving for dinner on your own on Friday. That will enable us to alert the dining room to expect you.

At the social hour before the Saturday evening buffet, ice and glasses will be furnished and soft drinks may be purchased. It's B.Y.O.L. for those of us who might like beer, wine or a highball - same as it was at Amicalola Falls last spring. A little inconvenient, perhaps, but thrifty! If you have any questions, call Ken Clark at (912) 935-2178.

Postscript. The registration fee charged all participants in our meetings is intended, as you probably know, to cover all expenses incident to planning, arranging and producing the event. This includes meeting room and audio/visual equipment rental, accommodations and meals for guest speakers (if they are not GOS members who would have attended the meeting anyway), surcharges for extra staff at our social function, extra meals ordered or consumed but not paid for (it happens!) and all the other little surprises that meeting

facilities come up with. Also, we like to keep the banquet cost to individuals to around \$25 per couple, and with tax and tip it is increasingly difficult to find a private-function buffet at \$12.50 a person, drink and dessert included. Sometimes we subsidize a little from registration receipts. All of which is to prepare you for the announcement that, lately, the \$5 registration fee we've charged for years no longer quite covers our expenses. The Executive Committee has approved an increase to \$8 effective with the Spring '92 meeting. That is still less than a movie with popcorn, and this is a double feature!

BE A PARTNER WITH THE BIRDS

How would you like to be a partner with the birds? Be a partner in non-game management. The U.S. Forest Service is looking for partners, either individuals or organizations, to help maintain the Lake Conasauga Songbird Management Area. this Songbird Area is located on Grassy Mountain on the Cohutta Ranger district of the Chattahoochee National Forest at an elevation of 3,200 feet.

The partnership can be that of money or time. You or your birding organization can give time to do bird surveys, habitat studies or help with maintenance work on the trails. money may be given to carry out the necessary upkeep on the area. A parking lot for birders needs to be built, for instance. the money will be matched to take care of the needs of the area. The Songbird Management Area covers 120 acres and includes a beaver swamp, 1.6 miles of trails and an observation deck.

This partnership is really for the birds! Here's your chance to help the birds and their habitat, and to increase the public's awareness of birds. All donations are tax deductible. Checks or money orders should be made out to the U.S. Forest Service and marked "Songbird Management."

Need more information? Wish to donate money or time? Please contact Harriett DiGioia, U.S. Forest Service, 401 Old Ellijay Road, Chatsworth, GA 30705 (404) 695-6736.

SEA TURTLES FLOCK IN '91 TO RENOURISHED BEACH

Sea turtles apparently like the renourishment of Sea Island Beach. During the 1991 season, they flocked to the beach in record numbers. State officials report that 114 loggerhead turtles visited the beach to deposit their eggs. That is an increase of 63 from the previous year and 95 from 1989, the year before the beach was renourished.

Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist, Mike Harris said they were surprised at the number they saw as they didn't expect that many would nest there. Sea Island has become a favorite island of the nocturnal visitors, behind only Cumberland, Blackbeard and Ossabaw. The Sea Island beach stretches for about five miles, two miles of which were renourished by replenishing and cleaning the sandy stretches and protecting against further erosion. According to statistics gathered by Sea Island Co. employees and volunteers for the DNR, 60 of the nests were found on the renourished beach and 54 on the natural beach. The renourishment "created a habitat where there wasn't any before, so from that standpoint, it was a good thing.

The nests on the renourished beach also had a higher hatch rate. About 83 percent of the eggs laid on the renourished beach hatched, compared with 73 percent on the natural beach. These facts substantiate belief that the best thing man can do to protect and promote sea turtles is to provide a sandy dry beach for nesting and to use common sense in the use of night lights that might disorient hatchlings. A county ordinance bans lights shining directly on the beach during the nesting season.

HOTLINE UPDATE

One of the recent prizes on the Georgia Rare Bird Alert Hotline (404) 509-0204 was the huge Glaucous Gull, a Newfoundland breeder, found by Jeff Sewell at the DeKalb waterworks. Other exciting finds on the RBA tape at this time include a Prairie Falcon and a Rough-legged Hawk in Colbert GA, with specific directions for locating these birds, and a NORTHERN GOSHAWK in Athens. Tundra Swans near Madison, Ga, White Pelicans near Darien, and an Allen's Hummingbird in Alabama (second state record) are also included in this week's report.

**GOS REGISTRATION, SPRING MEETING
HICKORY KNOB STATE RESORT PARK
APRIL 24-26, 1992**

NAME(S) (for name tags) _____

Address _____ Phone() _____

Registration(s) @ \$8.00 per person \$ _____
(Children under 16 do not pay, but list names for name tags)

Reservations for banquet @ \$12.50 per person \$ _____
(Refundable if canceled before April 21st)

Will you be having dinner at the lodge Friday evening? Yes _____ No _____

Dining room open 5:30PM to 9:00PM.

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

Mail room reservations directly to the address below. Cancellations should be made at least 48 hours prior to arrival to receive a refund minus \$10 handling fee.

HICKORY KNOB STATE RESORT PARK
Route 1, Box 199-B
McCormick, SC 29835
(803) 391-2450

Name _____ Phone() _____

Address _____ Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Request the following accommodations: Room, Twin beds _____ (\$36/night, single or double)

Cabin _____ (\$50/night) Room, double bed _____ (36/night sgl. or dbl.)

Reservations should be made at least 30 days in advance, accompanied by one night's deposit or guarantee by Master Charge or Visa. (others not accepted).

Type of card: Visa, MC, Account No. _____ Expiration _____
(Circle one)

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

Signature _____

PS found a record early VESPER SPARROW in Greene County on 9/28. On a Nov. 12th field trip to Dublin, GA, GB, BH & BB saw VESPER and GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS. M & JA saw a VESPER SPARROW in Laurens Co. on 10/20, and a week later they found lingering BLUE GROSBEAK and AMERICAN REDSTART in Bibb and Jones counties.

On 11/3, M & JA visited Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and found TENNESSEE WARBLER, HERMIT THRUSH and ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. Also, a trip by DG, TI, K & AC to Oaky Woods WMA yielded HERMIT THRUSH, SOLITARY VIREO, CHIPPING, FIELD, VESPER, SWAMP, SONG and WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS and DARK-EYED JUNCOS. An excellent find by JW was a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW near Lake Lanier in Hall County on 11/17. We haven't had a good PINE SISKIN year for a while. A & VW report one having been seen with a flock of GOLDFINCHES on the Savannah River in Yuchi Wildlife Management Area.

(NOTE: 10/19 & 10/20 coastal sightings were part of GOS Fall Meeting field trips, and 12/21 sightings in Dublin resulted from that Christmas Bird Count.)

Also, with the concern that KESTRELS are on the decline as year-round residents in Georgia, Dwight Harley with the Non-game/Endangered Species Program would appreciate any information of Kestrel sightings from mid-April to August. Route 3, Box 180, Forsyth, GA 31029, or (912) 994-1438.

CONTRIBUTORS: Marie & Jerry Amerson, Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Patrick Brisse, Arlene & Ken Clark, Bruce Dralle, Hugh Garrett, Georgia Ornithological Society, Dan Guinn, Bruce Hallett, Dwight Harley, Nancy Iha, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Carol Lambert, Denny & Pam McClure, Peggy & Terry Moore, John Paget, Tommy Patterson, Paul Raney, Bob Sargent, Jeff Sewell, Paul Sykes, Anne & Vernon Waters, Price Webb, and Jeannie Wright.

FOS/WOS COMBINED MEETING

The Wilson Ornithological Society which hosts joint meetings with various ornithological groups throughout the country, will combine with Florida Ornithological Society April 9-12 in Kissimmee, FL. Call Herb Kale (407) 260-8300 for more details.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Fort Frederica - We win a few environmental battles. One of these victories is saving Fort Frederica from degradation by a large marina on adjacent land. When the GOS met down on the coast not so long ago, some of us visited this quiet and beautiful area and determined that we would do all we could to preserve it. With the help of many like-minded citizens we succeeded!

Tax Breaks in Georgia for Unspoiled Natural Areas - On Wednesday, January 29, 1992, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted a new ruling that would allow for tax breaks for landowners who want to preserve "environmentally sensitive" land and are willing to follow rigorous guidelines. The six categories to qualify for a possible tax deduction are: steep mountain slopes, wetlands, ground water recharge areas, undeveloped barrier islands, land with endangered or threatened species, and certain river corridors. Is there a catch? Yes, the General Assembly has not yet voted any funds to handle applications.

ORANGE NATURE TRAIL CONTRIBUTION

Georgine Pindar in memory of Dr. Wade Gilbert

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MATERIAL FOR THE GOSHAWK IS MAY 8.

HARVESTING A HERITAGE: CHAIN SAWS ABUZZ ON SAPELO

Standing before reporters in his Atlanta office, Governor Zell Miller proudly announced that his Preservation 2000 program had acquired for Georgia the 200-acre "lighthouse tract" on Sapelo Island - the last major piece of land the state did not own or control on the scenic barrier isle. He stated that we will be able to preserve the entire island in its natural state, but even as he spoke, chain saws on Sapelo's northern end were felling acres of soaring pines to help feed the voracious appetites of paper mills and saw mills on the mainland. Environmentalists feel that the timber harvesting which the state says creates space for deer hunting and the governor's promise of preservation are in direct conflict.

Hans Neuhauser, senior vice-president of the Georgia Conservancy says "Sapelo is a very beautiful island, particularly in those areas that have been allowed to generate naturally. Artificially manipulating the timber just for revenue or additional habitat for deer indicates the state really doesn't know how to manage the island." The state says it is striving to protect Sapelo, particularly by fending off developers who want a piece of the 16,000-acre island. But Sapelo's most visible blight is the logging, aided and abetted by the state itself.

Three weeks after Miller made his announcement, a tract of about 25 acres in the island's wildlife refuge was being stripped of most of its trees and other vegetation. Caterpillar tractors were dragging the logs to waiting trucks, leaving deep gashes in Sapelo's fragile soil. Elsewhere, logging roads recently slashed through the island's jungle-like growth provided evidence that cutting will continue. The island's timber is a lucrative investment for the state which harvested nearly 12,000 cords of wood from Sapelo in the past two years alone, and has netted \$218,000.

Eugene Odum, University of Georgia professor emeritus of ecology, whose pioneering research on Sapelo in the 1950's helped earn him the designation "Father of Ecology" says there's no excuse for what's happening. Further he states that the island is part of Georgia's natural heritage and should be left alone for the public to see and appreciate. "We already have more deer than we know what to do with in Georgia, so let's let a special place like Sapelo alone." Dr. Odum has called for Sapelo as well as state-owned Ossabaw Island to be removed from under the Game and Fish Division's stewardship, whom he believes is more interested in creating habitat for deer and turkey than environmental education and protecting non-game species, like songbirds and woodpeckers.

DNR Commissioner Joe Tanner says Game and Fish already is spending much of its time on non-game birds and animals and natural areas that would be off-limits to hunting. Game and Fish's recent survey indicates that the public may want substantial change. The random survey of 1,000 Georgians last fall showed that only 37 percent wanted more money spent on hunting. Twelve percent wanted less money spent on it. The survey found that nearly three-fourths of the state's adults watched, fed or photographed wildlife in the last year, but only 20 percent went hunting. Two-thirds of Game and Fish Division's \$27 million budget comes from hunting and fishing fees. Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses also has helped the state buy more than 60,000 acres of wildlife management areas over the past few years.

GEORGIA 300 CLUB

Have you seen 300 species of birds in Georgia yet? If so, you're already an accredited member of the Georgia 300 club. You are an elite birder and didn't even know it. If you're close to 300 birds seen in Georgia, then you're almost elite. However, if you're a new birder, and you want to exhaust the avifaunal possibilities around you in a hurry (in other words, if you're burning with curiosity) just make sure you keep a list of your Georgia birds so that someday soon (we hope) you will want to know that you are ready to become a member of the Georgia 300 Club. All aspirants, close to's and 300 club members are invited to the Georgia 300 Club social activity held once a year. If you couldn't care less, then you're just downright careless.

The Georgia 300 Club exists with about 13 members (plus a number of those aspiring to see 300 in GA), which constitutes Georgia's elite core of birders. If you wish to affiliate with the Georgia 300 Club and take part in our next great event, please notify member Anne Wyand (404) 394-9277.

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Steve Craven | Athens, GA |
| Dr. Sherri L. DeFauw | Rome, GA |
| Guy W. Firor, Jr. | Atlanta, GA |
| Steve Holzman | Atlanta, GA |
| Paul Johnson | Macon, GA |
| Keith and Margaret Landry | Tucker, GA |
| Louis J. and Ann K. Laux, Jr. | Blairsville, GA |
| Frank and Connie Madea | Woodbine, GA |
| Jeff and Marilyn Ragland | Stockbridge, GA |
| Jayne Stewart | Rome, GA |
| Rebecca E. Stone | Blairsville, GA |
| Wild Birds Unlimited | Marietta, GA |

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE

Congratulations to Peggy and Terry Moore (and Matthew) on the birth of a daughter, Jillian Fletcher Moore, who weighed in at 6lb. 9 oz. on December 18th.

Long time GOS member Mary Ann Vernocy was hospitalized in December and again in January due to a congenital kidney ailment. She is out of the hospital now, and is on a wait list for a transplant sometime within the next two years. Despite all this, Mary Ann's sense of humor is still in top form, as evidenced by her description of her most recent hospital experiences.

Ginny McCamey is recovering nicely after a shoulder tendon and ligament operation on January 9th.

Our sympathy to Lydia Thompson upon the death of her father John Thompson. John earned a degree in forestry from Cornell University, and was a forestry consultant, managing land in four states. It was through John's tireless work and dogged persistence that Coastal Georgia Audubon Society was successful in moving the site for filming the battle scenes in the movie *GLORY* from a nesting area to a more appropriate site, and to require that the selected site be completely restored. He also had a deep interest in saving the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker from extinction and contributed an article on the subject in the December, 1989 issue of *GOSHAWK*. He served as a member of a forestry committee to draw up guidelines to protect the dwindling population of the woodpeckers, documenting the minimum area necessary, feeling that reasonable restrictions would encourage cooperation of tree growers and property owners.

A fund is being established in memory of John Thompson to help take the Red-cockaded Woodpecker off the endangered list. If you would like to contribute, make checks payable to Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, earmark it for the "John Thompson RCW Fund" and mail to CGAS, P.O. Box 1726, St. Simon's Island, GA. The money will go to ongoing Red-cockaded Woodpecker projects, i.e. relocating isolated colonies.

BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by David A. Brown (Personal friend of the author)

Homan, Tim. *A Yearning for Wilderness: Environmental Quotations from the Writings of Henry David Thoreau*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, Ltd., 1991. 166 pp. \$9.95.

Tim Homan, as he says in his introduction to this volume, is a "green-collar worker". Well known in his adoptive home state for his definitive work: *The Hiking Trails of North Georgia* (Peachtree, 1981), Mr. Homan gets his back into his living. Not content (as others are wont to do) simply to compile and pirate information from other sources, Tim has personally hiked every foot of trail mentioned in his guides--many more than twice. The original Georgia Guide was updated in 1986 and Tim, true to form, re-hiked all the old trails as well as 250 miles of new ones. It was in a similar manner that he brought the present book to light. during parts of 1983 and '84, Mr. Homan mined this book of gems from the vast and digressive body of Thoreau's Journals (and other works), while working the 11 to 7 shift at an Athens, Georgia convenience store. Any person who loves the wilderness, loves nature, nature writing, naturalists, and/or Henry Thoreau will appreciate the concentrated wisdom and beauty of this book. This is the one to take with you into the wilds.

FIELD NOTES

On a GOS pelagic trip out from Savannah 11/16, over fifty COMMON LOONS and eight AUDUBON'S SHEARWATERS were reported, as well as seventeen RED PHALAROPES, two PARASITIC JAEGERs, one LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, ten COMMON TERNS and two BRIDLED TERNS.

Eight HORNED GREBES made a brief appearance at Merry Ponds during bitterly cold weather on 11/9&10 (A&VW). DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS are on the increase inland near Augusta, with 37 at Merry Ponds on 10/11, 113 on 11/2, and 170 on 11/23 (A&VW).

A SNOWY EGRET was a late find in Douglas County on 9/21 (D&PM). A&VW saw three ROSEATE SPOONBILLS in the Savannah Spoils site on 9/2, and one in a pond on Little St. Simon's Island 10/20.

WOOD STORKS feed at Kathwood Pond in Silver Bluff Audubon sanctuary near Jackson, SC in ponds lowered especially for them, with the sanctuary manager reporting 189 on 8/12. They fished out the ponds and left by the end of August (A&VW).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL, usually an early duck, were reported with 60 at the Savannah Spoils site (SC) on 9/2, along with six SHOVELERS, and one GADWALL. In a pond on Little St. Simon's Island on 10/20, thirty-nine BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen along with one RUDDY DUCK, and two RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS (A&VW). They also saw six NORTHERN SHOVELERS on 9/2 in the spoil area and 21 on Merry Ponds 11/23. Merry Ponds hosted large numbers of RING-NECKED DUCKS, possibly due to bad weather of 11/9, which brought in great numbers to swell the total to approximately 625 (A&VW). CL,JS&BD saw one COMMON GOLDENEYE on Lake Lanier 12/1, and three on Lake Juliette 12/7. They also report having seen two REDHEAD ducks at E.L. Huie Land Application Facility on 12/7.

AW says BLACK SCOTERS were early in coastal waters off Jekyll Island. The GA Annotated Checklist states, "Common in winter on coast, rare at other seasons." The earliest date in GA is 10/15/83. She saw 28 in two flocks on 10/19/91. Also BD&PR reported 200 on 11/15 and 2,000 on 11/16, a single SURF SCOTER and three WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS on 11/15. DH found ten COMMON MERGANSERS on Lake Juliette on 12/4.

Two PEREGRINE FALCONS at E.L. Huie Land Application Facility circled the ponds periodically on 9/21 (PB,BD), and a single bird remained on 9/22(PW). The ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK which has been on the Hotline appeared as early as 12/11 on Colbert, GA (CL,JS,BD). TJ says the BALD EAGLES at Rum Creek are rebuilding the nest they lost last May, and you may see several hundred WOOD DUCKS come to the M.A.R.S.H. Pond there at dusk to roost.

PLAIN CHACHALACAS, permanent residents on Sapelo Island but infrequently reported, was a good find by NI with having been seen. Many observers noted LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER from 9/13 through 9/23, and another from 11/10 through 11/17 (PB,HG,TM,JS&CL). Twenty-five BONAPARTE'S GULLS on Lake Lanier 12/8 was a good sighting by CL&JS. A good sighting was a PECTORAL SANDPIPER on 12/21 in Laurens County (CL&JS). Single BLACK TERNS were at the ELHLAF on 9/8 (JC,CL) and on 9/10 (PB).

AW reports two AMERICAN AVOCETS at Jekyll Island, GA on 10/19, and two at Little St. Simon's 10/20, along with nine MARBLED GODWITS, and three PIPING PLOVERS. AMERICAN WOODCOCK, always a nice sighting, was near Roswell on 11/12 (PM). What was later decided to be a RED PHALAROPE (third Atlanta record) was seen at ELHLAF, 9/19-9/22.

A second Georgia record for the BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD was one banded at Georgetown on 11/9 (BS). RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRDS have been around again this year with one having been seen in Alpharetta on 12/14 (JS,CL,BB,BD). However, two banded by BS on 11/10 proved to be RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS. On 11/8-10, TP had a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER at Jackson's Pond in NE Laurens Co, and on 11/10, he saw a GOLDEN EAGLE there.

JP turned up a very early WINTER WREN in Gainesville on 9/18. Two late GRAY CATBIRDS on 11/23 appeared at Barnwell Road, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CL&JS). Fifteen HERMIT THRUSHES at the Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area on 11/29 was a very good count (BD,JS).