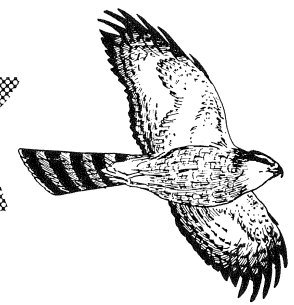


THE GOSHAWK NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 21 NO. 2

JUNE 1994

GEORIGIA RARE BIRD ALERT: (404) 509-0204

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 1684
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 \$16.00 _____ Sustaining \$25.00
_____ Patron \$50.00

(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)

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

NAME _____

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It has been both a pleasure and a privilege for me to serve as *GOShawk* editor for the past 4-1/2 years. I married Russell Mursch in January, and in April he accepted a position with General Motors covering a territory encompassing parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland. After a period of house-hunting, we found "our place" on the Bush River, a northern river off the Chesapeake Bay, in Aberdeen, Maryland. Bald eagle is already counted as a "yard bird" and is known to eat fish while perched on a tree in the front yard!

While I am looking forward to becoming active in the Maryland Ornithological Society, I will miss being near my many birding friends in Georgia. However, I plan to continue attending GOS meetings, and will especially look forward to these reunions. I would like to extend to each of you a personal invitation to visit with me in Maryland and to go birding in that part of the country.

GOS is fortunate to have Carol Lambert as the new *GOShawk* editor. Her literary and computer experience, her professionalism, and her knowledge of birds and wildlife are all attributes and talents which will be greatly utilized to enhance this and future issues of the *GOShawk*.

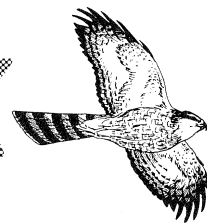
Anne L. Mursch
1808 Park Beach Drive
Aberdeen, MD 21001

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the GOS membership, I would like to thank Anne Mursch for the outstanding job she has done as editor of the *GOShawk*. Anne's many contributions over the years to GOS, and the birding community, in general, are greatly appreciated. She will be missed by all of her friends, but goes with all of our best wishes.

We welcome on board with this issue, the new *GOShawk* editor, Carol Lambert. She comes highly qualified and recommended, and with much enthusiasm. She will make a fine addition to our group, and we are all looking forward to working with her.

Helen Ogren, President

GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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© WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! ©

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Deadline for the next *GOShawk* is August 1st.



We are saddened to report the death of GOS member, Paula Arnold, who passed away in early May. Paula was known to many of us as a wonderfully enthusiastic and kind person, and a dedicated birder. She was involved in many humanitarian efforts and had been active in the environmental community. Paula graced many a field trip with her wit, insightful observations, and encouragement to beginners. She will be badly missed, and we extend our sympathy to her family.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Georgine S. Pindar, Conservation Chairman
(O) (404) 355-8807; (H) (404) 355-8454

GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Awards Picnic. In the March *GOShawk*, the GEC Awards Picnic was announced as scheduled for June. The date is now the last Saturday in July. Awards are given to legislators and environmentalists who have made the largest contribution to conservation in 1993/94. For information as to the exact time and place, call Georgine Pindar at the numbers listed above.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND FOR GEORGIA

EFG recently took part in an event at Stone Mountain designated as "EARTH JAM," which proved to be a smashing success. The EFG will realize over \$50,000 from the event, and in August GOS will receive its share from this, as well as from payroll deductions for the environment. Congratulations to EFG and its Executive Officer, Alice Rolls!

The Georgia General Assembly amended current law to allow workplace giving federations, made up of both local and statewide organizations, to qualify for the state Payroll Deduction Program. We hope that EFG and GOS will be included on the state employee payroll deduction pledge cards.

1994 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- S.B. 606 The Georgia General Assembly, recognizing that "water is a basic and essential element for sustaining life on the planet," designates the third week in October of each year as "Clean Water Week."
- S.B. 10 is designed to protect our water supply by further regulating its use.
- S.B. 608 amends and substantially strengthens the "Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975."
- S.B. 432 makes more stringent rules for handling hazardous wastes and forbids owners/operators of a cement kiln to burn hazardous waste as fuel while the EPA is still developing its hazardous waste strategy.
- H.B. 1521 amends and strengthens the "Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act."
- H.B. 1435 amends the Code Section relating to permits for certain solid waste handling and disposal facilities.
- H.B. 1619 amends the "Georgia Underground Storage Tank Act," making it more stringent.

RONALD PULLIAM NAMED DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Dr. H. Ronald Pulliam, a GOS member, was named Director of the National Biological Survey in Washington, DC on May 2, 1994 by U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt. Dr. Pulliam has taken a leave of absence from the University of Georgia, where he is Professor of Ecology and was formerly Director of the Institute of Ecology.

A new bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Biological Survey (NBS) is to provide scientific knowledge that America needs to protect its eco-systems in a manner that will be compatible with economic progress and an improved quality of human life. The NBS will gather, analyze and disseminate scientific information, useful for good stewardship of natural resources by government, developers, wildlife managers, land owners and others.

DR. ROGER TORY PETERSON PRINT "ORCHARD ORIOLE"

Georgia Ornithological Society has available a limited number of "Orchard Oriole" prints produced from the original painting by Dr. Roger Tory Peterson. Each print is numbered and has been personally signed by Dr. Peterson.

You may be interested in the events which led up to the production of this special print. Dr. Peterson is a founding member of GOS and his monochrome sketch of the Orchard Oriole graced the cover of our journal, *The Oriole*, for 50 years. As part of the Society's 50th anniversary celebration in 1986, Dr. Peterson agreed to paint the "Orchard Oriole" in color to be used to prepare a full color cover for our journal. In addition, he allowed the Society to prepare a limited number of prints from the original painting.

Our resident Georgia artist, Richard A. Parks, closely monitored the production of the print to assure that it is of the highest quality, and it is truly a beautiful print done on 11"x14" heavy stock.

The Society will send you this unique print for a fully paid donation of \$125. Your check should be made payable to GOS. Print numbers will be assigned in the order received, and your print will be sent promptly to you, flat in a heavy mailing box.

The mailing address is: GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ PRINTS @ \$125.00 each

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ Payable to GOS

WILSON'S WARBLER. It seems that somewhere around the state one of these birds spends the winter. This year AS of College Park had a Wilson's in his yard. Spotted on three days, starting 12/22, the bird was not found after 1/1.

FOX SPARROW. For a bird noted for being seen at feeders only after severe weather, remarkably G&BB had 4-5 birds at their feeder throughout February. T&PM reported an even larger flock at their feeder, with a high count of 15 on 2/6.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Despite Atlanta birders' fears that development at the Pendergrass "sparrow field" would dislodge the wintering colony of this species, good numbers were still found in the area of habitat not bulldozed. Ten birds were seen on 1/12 (JS,PH). Two birds were seen in the Dalton area on 12/31 (HD,BD,JS,CL).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW. This species is shown as accidental in ACOGB, so the report of one bird in Greene County by PS on 2/19 caused a rush of birders to the spot the following day. All were disappointed.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Of several flocks found around the state, the largest was one of about 150 birds seen 2/14 by GB at the AMS which remained for several days.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. This western blackbird was also reported more than usual. The largest flock continues to be found in Laurens County, where 200+ were reported on 2/6 (JS,BD). Four other small flocks were found around the state.

NORTHERN ORIOLE. Two reports were received of this rare winterer. One bird from Savannah on 12/23 (AA,MK) and one from the Macon CBC in December.

RED CROSSBILL. Five of this rare, elusive wanderer were seen on the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 12/19 (HD).

EVENING GROSBILL. It is safe to say that this species invaded Georgia this year. Reports came in from all over the northern half of the state. The largest flock reported was 15-20 birds in Roswell at the feeder of T&PM which stayed for a few days in February, and a similarly sized flock that spent much of the winter at a feeder in Gordon County (N&TH).

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

AMS	Atlanta Motor Speedway, Henry Co.
ACOGB	Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds
CBC	Christmas Bird Count
CRNRA	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
ELHLAF	E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.
MBBP	Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds, Augusta
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
SCSP	Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Jerry Amerson, Anselm Atkins, Atlanta Audubon Society, Giff & Becky Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Jack Bluster, Patrick Brisse, Jack Carusos, Mike Chapman, Ken Clark, Harriett DiGioia, Bruce Dralle, Mary Francel, Hugh Garrett, Chris Geller, Dan Guynn, Bruce Hallett, Lanny Henson, Jackie Heyda, Noel & Terri Holcomb, Pierre Howard, Paul Johnson, Margaret Kavanaugh, Carol Lambert, Ray Mangham, Denny & Pam McClure, Terry & Peggy Moore, Mark Oberle, John Paget, John Parrish (JPr), Barbara Passmore, Hunter Patterson, Tom Patterson, Paul Raney, Bob & Martha Sargent, Georgann Schmalz, Aubrey Scott, Louise Scruggs, Jeff Sewell, John Swiderski (JSw), Paul & Joan Sykes, Janice Thompson, Emile Urban, Joel Volpi, Anne & Vernon Waters, Tim Whitehouse, Withlacoochee Watchers.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 10-19	First Annual Kirtland's Warbler Festival	Mio, MI	800/800-6133
June 13-19	American Birding Assoc. Biennial Convention	Minot, ND	800/850-2473
October 4-6	Seventh North American Crane Workshop	Biloxi, MS	
October 7-9	GOS Fall Meeting	Jekyll Island, GA	
November 3-6	Raptor Research Foundation Meeting	Flagstaff, AZ	602/774-0041
November 11-15	National Audubon Society Convention	Fort Myers, FL	303/499-3622
November 18-20	Audubon Population Conference	Miami, FL	303/499-3622

GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

The Graduate Student Research Grant for 1994 has been awarded to James B. Berdeen in support of his research on nocturnal field use by wintering American Woodcock. Mr. Berdeen received a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine and is now a Master's degree candidate in the Warnell School of Forest Resources at the University of Georgia.

The recipient of the Graduate Student Research Grant in 1991, Dagmar Platt Thurmond, has received her Master's degree from the University of Georgia, and is now a Wildlife Biologist in the USDA Forest Service, Talladega National Forest, Heflin, Alabama.

SPRING 1994 GOS-AOS MEETING - DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA

The joint GOS-AOS meeting at Dauphin Island was magical. A record number of participants was a planning challenge when it came to handling programs and the seafood banquet. It all worked. There were excellent field trips to birding hotspots, including the Shell Mounds, Audubon Sanctuary, airport marshes, and Fort Morgan. The birds were easily found...and numerous, as evidenced by the final checklist count of 212! (See pages 4-5).

The Saturday night program by Kenn Kaufman was excellent, as he took us through the various stages of birding, and explained that it is a never-ending process. "There is always something else to learn in the world of birding."

Finally, it appears from the success of this meeting that joint meetings with other ornithological organizations is definitely a plan to be considered again for GOS.

FALL 1994 GOS MEETING - JEKYLL ISLAND

October 7-9, 1994

The Fall 1994 meeting will be back on the coast with headquarters at the Holiday Inn on Jekyll Island, October 7-9. A block of rooms will be available for GOS members at a cost of \$45 + 10% tax, and the banquet fee will be \$18 (incl. gratuities). Room reservations should be made well ahead of time. Check on the cancellation policy when making reservations. Conference registration forms and all other details will be published in the September issue of *GOShawk*.

Volunteers Needed!

We would like to offer a special field trip on Saturday morning (October 8th) at the Fall GOS Meeting. This will be a birding and nature field trip for children and beginners. We need volunteers to serve as leaders/teachers. These leaders should be experienced in the areas of birding, botany, beach ecology, and nature in general...bugs, beetles, butterflies, turtles, etc. If this proves successful, we plan to offer it again in the future.

To volunteer, please call Jack Cooper (706)733-1380, or write him at: 2804 Palmer Place, Augusta, GA 30909.

The Spring 1995 meeting will be held in Augusta, May 5-7.

FIELD CHECKLIST - 212 Species
Spring GOS Meeting - Dauphin Island, AL
April 14-17, 1994

LOONS	Clapper Rail	Mourning Dove
Common Loon	King Rail	Common Ground-Dove
GREBES	Virginia Rail	CUCKOOS, ROADRUNNERS, and ANIS
Horned Grebe	Sora	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
BOOBIES and GANNETS	Purple Gallinule	TYPICAL OWLS
Northern Gannet	Common Moorhen	Great Horned Owl
PELICANS	American Coot	GOATSUCKERS
American White Pelican	PLOVERS and LAPWINGS	Lesser Nighthawk
Brown Pelican	Black-bellied Plover	Common Nighthawk
CORMORANTS	American Golden-Plover	Chuck-will's-widow
Double-crested Cormorant	Wilson's Plover	SWIFTS
DARTERS	Semipalmated Plover	Chimney Swift
Anhinga	Piping Plover	HUMMINGBIRDS
BITTERNS and HERONS	Killdeer	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Least Bittern	OYSTERCATCHERS	KINGFISHERS
Great Blue Heron	American Oystercatcher	Belted Kingfisher
Great Egret	STILTS and AVOCETS	WOODPECKERS and ALLIES
Snowy Egret	Black-necked Stilt	Red-headed Woodpecker
Little Blue Heron	SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, and ALLIES	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Tricolored Heron	Greater Yellowlegs	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Reddish Egret	Lesser Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker
Cattle Egret	Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Flicker
Green Heron	Willet	TYRANT FLYCATCHERS
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Spotted Sandpiper	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Upland Sandpiper	Acadian Flycatcher
IBISES and SPOONBILLS	Whimbrel	Eastern Phoebe
White Ibis	Long-billed Curlew	Great Crested Flycatcher
SWANS, GEESE, and DUCKS	Marbled Godwit	Eastern Kingbird
Canada Goose	Ruddy Turnstone	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Wood Duck	Red Knot	SWALLOWS
Mottled Duck	Sanderling	Purple Martin
Mallard	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Tree Swallow
Blue-winged Teal	Western Sandpiper	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Northern Shoveler	Least Sandpiper	Bank Swallow
Gadwall	Dunlin	Cliff Swallow
Lesser Scaup	Stilt Sandpiper	Barn Swallow
Red-breasted Merganser	Short-billed Dowitcher	JAYS, MAGPIES, and CROWS
AMERICAN VULTURES	Long-billed Dowitcher	Blue Jay
Turkey Vulture	Common Snipe	American Crow
KITES, HAWKS, EAGLES, and ALLIES	Wilson's Phalarope	Fish Crow
Osprey	SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, and SKIMMERS	TITMICE
American Swallow-tailed Kite	Laughing Gull	Tufted Titmouse
Mississippi Kite	Bonaparte's Gull	NUTHATCHES
Bald Eagle	Ring-billed Gull	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Northern Harrier	Herring Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Great Black-backed Gull	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Cooper's Hawk	Gull-billed Tern	WRENS
Red-shouldered Hawk	Caspian Tern	Carolina Wren
Broad-winged Hawk	Royal Tern	House Wren
Red-tailed Hawk	Sandwich Tern	Winter Wren
CARACARAS and FALCONS	Common Tern	Sedge Wren
American Kestrel	Forster's Tern	Marsh Wren
Merlin	Least Tern	OLD WORLD WARBLERS
Peregrine Falcon	Black Skimmer	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
PARTRIDGES, GROUSE, TURKEYS, QUAIL	PIGEONS and DOVES	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Northern Bobwhite	Rock Dove	THRUSHES
RAILS, GALLINULES, and COOTS	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Eastern Bluebird

BALD EAGLE. The best count came from A&VW who saw five different birds in Augusta over the winter. Three were together (2 adults & 1 imm.) on 12/26. Four seen on the St. Catherine's CBC on 12/18 was a good count (fide A&VW). Other reports included one in Macon on 2/3 (GL); one adult at Darien on 12/11 (BD); an immature bird on Jekyll on 12/12 (PR); an immature in Bartow County was spotted on 1/2 (JS,PH); and one immature in Spalding County also on 1/2 (PR).

NORTHERN HARRIER. Only two reports: one on 12/5 at ELHLAF (AAS); and one on 12/26 at the AMS (PB).

GOLDEN EAGLE. Away from the hacksite on Lookout Plateau, Golden Eagles are very rare. One was spotted in the Chattahoochee National Forest CBC on 12/19. On Lookout Plateau, two young birds, probably recent releases, and one adult, origin unknown, were seen on 1/24 (AAS).

MERLIN. A rare winter appearance was one on 1/14 at the Hall County Landfill (JP).

PEREGRINE FALCON. Good sightings for the winter months were one 2/18-2/20 seen on the lower Georgia coast (WW), one on the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 12/18 (fide A&VW); and again on St. Catherine's Island HP saw one on 1/15.

YELLOW RAIL. Rail fans should get out their rubber boots! One bird was reported on the Glynn County CBC by DG on 1/1 (fide MC).

SANDHILL CRANE. We received too many reports to list. Approximately 450 birds were tallied in the Atlanta area between 12/4 and 12/31 (13 reports). Four reports from the Macon area totalled 245 birds on three different days (RM,PJ,KC). On 12/27 D&PMc saw 508 in the Okefenokee Swamp. In February, the cranes headed north again, the first report of one being on 2/10 (JSw) in Walker County, and the last being 38 birds on 2/28 in Sumter County (JV). Other good sightings came from Rome of 200+ on 2/26-27 (LH); 145 birds over Dublin on 2/12 (TP); and 70 birds at Lake Oconee on 2/13 (BH).

PIPING PLOVER. The only report received was of 8 seen 12/18 on the St. Catherine's CBC (fide A&VW). Surely, there are more than this on the coast. Please report this species when you see it so that we can monitor the numbers of this rare plover in Georgia.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. The usually reliable spot for this species, the rock jetties at Tybee Island, proved less so this winter as two birds were spotted only once on 12/10 (BB), and were not seen on several subsequent attempts by other birders.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. Though still seen only one or two at a time, this species now seems regular in winter on the coast. The north end of Tybee Island proved a reliable spot for this species, at least for one bird, as reported by BD on 12/24. JS & BD had one on 2/5, and A&VW saw one on 2/27. Away from Tybee, PR had one bird at East Beach, St. Simon's Island on 1/22.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. Also becoming a common winterer on the coast, as evidenced by the following reports. Sixteen on 1/1 on the Sapelo Island CBC (fide A&VW); one on St. Simon's Island on 12/11 (A&VW); one at Jekyll Island on 1/16 (JS,CL) and 6 at Tybee Island on 2/5 (JS,BD).

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE. Received numerous reports of this newly arrived (to Georgia) species at its usual spot in Brunswick. PR saw the most birds, four, on 1/22.

SHORT-EARED OWL. Since the southeast Clarke County site became unsuitable habitat (a field where these birds have been regularly seen in recent years, but which has now grown up in pine trees), this rare species has been difficult to find. Several fanatical listers from the Atlanta area have not been able to find the species anywhere in the state for two years. Therefore, it is ironic that our only winter report was of one bird, seen in the north Atlanta metro area of Duluth (near Rogers' Bridge Rd.) on 12/7 by JV. Subsequent attempts to locate the bird were unsuccessful.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. Winter reports of this species are getting almost too numerous to mention. Six reports were noted from Waycross (fide JA), Valdosta (BP), Augusta (EU), Duluth (JB), Marietta (DG), and Dalton (HD). To our knowledge, all were banded by Bob and Martha Sargent, except the DG sighting.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD. Amazingly, JT of Cartersville had both this species and an Allen's (see below) at her feeder at the same time! The Black-chinned that appeared on 11/11 and left on 1/15 was Georgia's sixth record for this species. It was banded by the Sargents on 1/9.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD. Even more incredible, an Allen's that came to JT's feeder on 1/7 and was banded along with the Black-chinned (see above) on 1/9, had previously been banded by the Sargents in Chattanooga, 80 miles north, on 12/27!

HORNED LARK. Three nice flocks were reported from around the state. A flock of about 60 birds was discovered by BD at the AMS on 12/23, and stayed through the period, thinning out toward the end of February (m.ob.). BD saw 55 birds at the Super Sod Farm in Peach County on 12/25, and counted 19 there on 2/19. AAS reported 10 birds from Lookout Plateau on the 1/24 field trip. A flock has also been observed at the Etowah Indian Mounds in Bartow County since 1/94 (JSw).

COMMON RAVEN. One bird seen 12/31 at Brasstown Bald by CG.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. This species was reported in more than usual numbers. JH had one at her feeder in Doraville for several days beginning 12/1. Two were spotted at Fort Mountain State Park on 1/16 (MF). Lookout Mountain produced 3 birds on 1/24 (BB,MO,JS,etal); and PB saw one on 2/19 at the Russell Lake WMA.

SEDGE WREN. For the second year in a row JS found one of this rare inland resident at the Suwanee Creek Section, CRNRA on 1/12.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. One bird seen at Youman's Pond in Liberty County on 1/28 was a rare winter discovery (AA,PB,TM,HG).

FIELD NOTES

by Jeff Sewell

Note: You will notice a different and expanded format to the field note section of *GOShawk*. It is hoped that the sightings listed will be interesting and useful to our readers. Reports in this issue cover only the three winter months of December, January and February. Except for extremely "good birds," sightings already listed in the March issue of *GOShawk* will not be repeated here. Sightings for the Spring months (March, April, May) will appear in the September issue. This method will allow time for more reports to come in without being scattered over two or three issues. All Spring sightings should be sent to me by August 1 for the Fall *GOShawk*. I would like to make a special appeal to GOS coastal members to please send your reports in. As you can see in this issue, most coastal sightings have not been reported by coastal residents.

SEND SIGHTING INFORMATION TO: JEFF SEWELL, 4608 WESTHAMPTON DRIVE, TUCKER, GA 30084.

December 1993 - February 1994

RED-THROATED LOON. 60 counted on the St. Catherine's Island CBC on 12/18 was the high count reported (fide A&VW).

"Fairly good numbers" were seen 1/29 off Jekyll Island by AA,PB,HG,TM.

HORNED GREBE. The usual number could be seen from the Buford Dam area of Lake Lanier beginning with single digit numbers in December to a high count of 18 on 1/20 (BD), with as many as seven remaining well into February (JS). A&VW reported one on the Augusta CBC 12/26 that stayed for three days.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. This very rare coastal visitor (none reported 1993) was spotted on Sea Island 2/2 by LS.

ANHINGA. Two interesting reports of this species were received. 16 were found on the Augusta CBC on 12/26 (A&VW), following a trend of increasing numbers of winterers in that area. JP and JC found one on 12/12 in Forsyth County in the same location as one on 12/2/84.

GREAT WHITE HERON. Amazingly, this color morph of the Great Blue Heron was found on 12/18 on the Marietta CBC by a party led by GS. Locals said it had been there since the summer. Of several recent area sightings, this is the latest that one has stayed.

GREEN HERON. PR saw one on 1/2 at the Griffin Reservoir for a rare winter record.

GLOSSY IBIS. Three late, or perhaps overwintering, birds were seen by A&VW on 12/11 at the Altamaha Wildlife Refuge.

WOOD STORK. Some birds remained on the lower Georgia coast this winter as evidenced by the following sightings by A&VW: one on 12/12 on Jekyll Island; 20 on 12/18 on the St. Catherine's Island CBC; 8 on 1/1 on the Sapelo Island CBC.

ROSS' GOOSE. One of the best finds of the period was a Ross's Goose, discovered in February by JPr on a small farm pond with Canada Geese near Excelsior in Candler County. This is only the second Georgia record of this small western goose. The landowner said the bird arrived about 12/31. It was last seen 2/22 by MO.

CANVASBACK. More reports than usual during this period. Nine were seen on Garden Lake in Rome on 1/15 and 1/17 (BD,BB); 6 on a Cedartown lake on 1/16 (LH); one on 1/23 at ELHLAF (BB); and 8 at Andrews Island, Brunswick on 1/29 (AA, TM, PB, HG, MC).

REDHEAD. In Augusta, A&VW report that as this bird has grown scarce at the MBBP, one on 12/4 and four on 1/29 were good finds. Elsewhere, particularly inland, sightings seemed more numerous this winter. Two stayed at ELHLAF through most of December and much of January, last being seen on 1/13 (JS). LH had as many as five on Garden Lake in Rome through January and a week into February. On the coast, a good count of 35 was seen off Jekyll on 1/15 (JS, CL).

GREATER SCAUP. More reports than usual of this species were received. Two found at ELHLAF on 1/22 grew to six by 1/30 (JS, CL). At the DeKalb Reservoir in Atlanta, five first seen on 1/23 remained through the end of February (JS). SCSP hosted one on 1/30 that stayed for several days (JS, CL). Finally, Garden Lake in Rome had one on 2/14 (LH).

OLDSQUAW. Two reports for the period were good. One on 12/11 off Jekyll Island (BD, PR); one on St. Catherine's Island on 1/15 (HP).

SURF SCOTER. Two on 12/18 on the St. Catherine's Island CBC (fide A&VW); and two off Jekyll on 1/16 (JS, CL) were to be expected, but one on 12/12 on Lake Lanier was a good find (JS).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. Ditto for this species. Three at St. Catherine's on 12/18 (fide A&VW); one at Garden Lake, Rome 12/4-12/8 (LH); and one at Stone Mountain Park 2/19-2/26 (TW) were good finds.

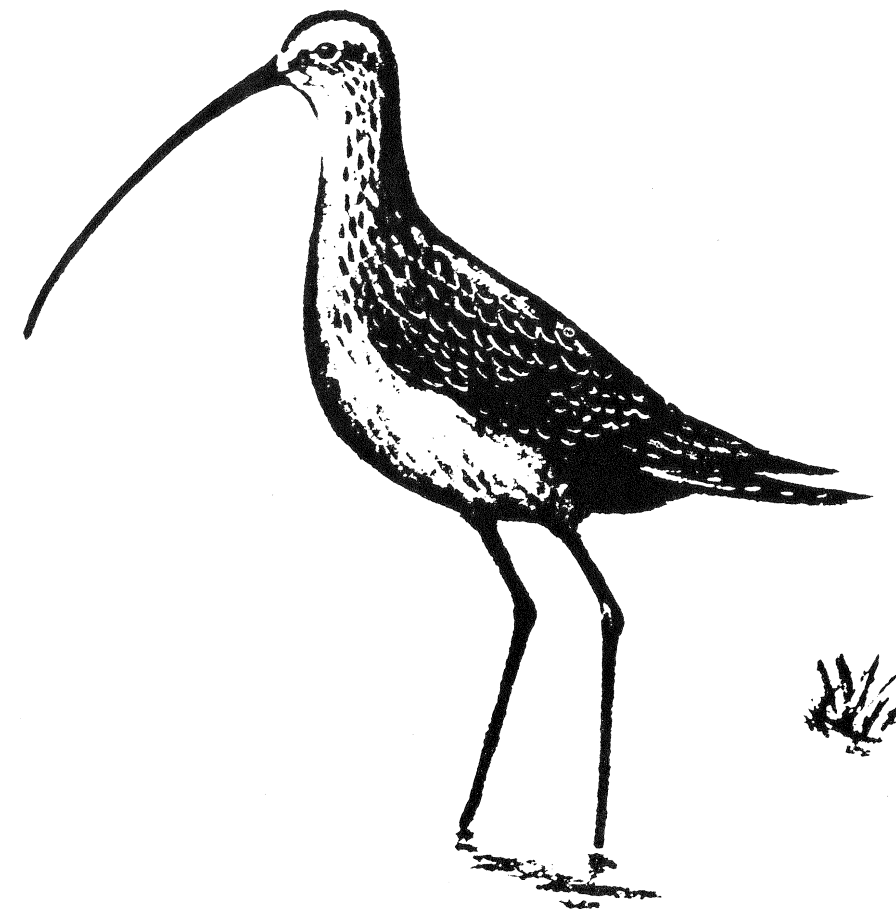
COMMON GOLDENEYE. Continuing an impressive array of wintering waterfowl, this species seemed to have been sighted more than usual this winter. Two sightings from the coast were one on 12/11 at Pomona Lake, Liberty County (BD), and two females at Andrews Island, Brunswick (AA, PB, TM, MC, HG). The North Georgia finds are especially noteworthy, since in recent years this species has been hard to find inland. PR must have scored some sort of record on 12/25 when he found a pair on Lake Spivey, Clayton County, and four at SCSP, Douglas County. Garden Lake in Rome produced one on 1/15-1/16 (LH, BD).

COMMON MERGANSER. A rare sighting in Georgia of this bird at Lake Lanier where JS reported two on 12/12.

OSPREY. Only one Osprey was reported this winter at the MBBP in Augusta on 12/14 and 12/29 (A&VW).

CHECKLIST - Continued

Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS, and ALLIES
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
WAXWINGS
Cedar Waxwing
SHRIKES
Loggerhead Shrike
STARLINGS and ALLIES
European Starling
VIREOS
White-eyed Vireo
Solitary Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Black-whiskered Vireo
WOOD-WARBLEDERS
Blue-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Swainson's Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS, and CARDINALS
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel
SPARROWS, TOWHEES, JUNCOS, ALLIES
Rufous-sided Towhee
Savannah Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Boat-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
Northern Oriole
FINCHES and ALLIES
House Finch
American Goldfinch
OLD WORLD SPARROWS
House Sparrow



RARE BIRD ALERT RECAP

March-May, 1994

In an effort to applaud those who have taken advantage of the Georgia Rare Bird Alert (RBA), and to encourage others to do the same, we are printing the highlights of sightings reported to the line. We would like to thank Bruce Dralle and Adrienne Myles for the time and effort they have expended to maintain the line and communicate the information called in. Also, thanks to Jeff Sewell for compiling log book information into the report below. This line is one of our best means of communication. For any of you who have not yet taken advantage of the RBA, we offer the following. Some people say they sometimes hesitate to call in a good bird because "the bird only stayed for a few hours." We would still like to receive calls on these birds. Many birders will drop everything (including Thanksgiving dinner) to "chase" a bird. It is always possible that the bird is still somewhere in the vicinity. Whether or not the bird is seen again, the report (even unconfirmed) is still important to those of us who track such information. Others may not be reporting birds for fear of birders intruding on private property. No locations of birds reported on private property will be given out on the line until permission from the property owner has been received. All birders should refer to Bill Blakeslee's article on "Birding Etiquette" in the March 1993 *GOShawk*. Please share your sightings of rare birds, and call in to see what's new around Georgia...wouldn't you just hate to miss that Ivory-billed Woodpecker called in from the next subdivision?!

An impressive array of wintering waterfowl was called into the RBA during this period: GREATER SCAUP, COMMON GOLDENEYE, REDHEAD, and WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. Each of these species turned up in Atlanta area lakes and were seen by many, thanks to the RBA. The most exciting reports were of a RED-THROATED LOON on Lake Lanier on April 2, and an EARED GREBE that showed up for a few days at Lake Spivey near Jonesboro (April 17).

From the coast, calls were received reporting a LONG-BILLED CURLEW on St. Catherine's Island on April 2, as well as PEREGRINE FALCON, MARBLED GODWIT AND PIPING PLOVER. More accessible was a LONG-BILLED CURLEW that spent several days at the old marina on Jekyll Island called in on April 5.

The Altamaha Wildlife Refuge near Darien is the source of many good sightings, and therefore, RBA calls. Seen there on March 26th were GLOSSY IBIS (65), SORA AND OSPREY. Also along the coast, calls continue to inform us about the spread in Brunswick of the EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE.

Back in the Atlanta area, the hotline received many calls of the good shorebirds that regularly turn up at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County. Among the species called in for the period were such early migrants as LEAST and PECTORAL SANDPIPER and both YELLOWLEGS, but the best call was received on May 11 of a WILSON'S PHALAROPE, only one of very few spring records of this species in the Atlanta area. The WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS that usually arrive in May were also reported this year. These calls sent many birders scrambling down to the "Huie."

For calls of the odd and unexpected, nothing beats the MONK PARAKEETS building a nest in Chamblee, DeKalb County, in a Georgia Power sub-station. More exciting to many, though, was the OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER called in from the Chattahoochee River in Cobb County on May 15, which, thanks to the RBA, many birders were able to see. Other good birds called in were not so easily found later. A good example of this was the CONNECTICUT WARBLER called in from Kennesaw Mountain National Park at about 7:30 a.m. on May 10 that could not be found again later that morning.

Finally, toward the end of May, a flock of 30-50 DICKCISSEL (seen in mid-May) were reported to the RBA by an Athens area birder. Several of these rare visitors to Georgia were located in the same field over the next several days by grateful birders from around north Georgia.

Callers: Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, John Brunjes, Patrick Brisse, Jerry Bruner, Kevin Dancheson, Mark Davis, Nelson Dobbs, Bruce Dralle, Barbara Feiman, Joe Greenberg, Lanny Henson, Joel Hitt, Pierre Howard, Brock Hutchins, Joseph Knapp, Carol Lambert, Bob & Didi Manns, Ellery McClintock, Terry & Peggy Moore, Adrienne Myles, Mark Oberle, Barbara Passmore, Hunter Patterson, Paul Raney, Chuck Saleeby, Jeff Sewell, Joel Volpi, Shirley Weller.

ANNOUNCING THE GOS T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

We have had numerous requests to produce and sell a GOS t-shirt. If you have a design in mind, draw it up and send it to: Business Manager, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120 by July 30, 1994.

The creator of the winning design will receive the first two shirts produced free (as well as widespread public recognition in the Georgia birding community, and the everlasting gratitude of GOS).

John Swiderski reported that as of April 14, twice as many members as from previous years (67) have allowed their GOS memberships to lapse. We currently have 211 regular members, 139 life members, and 67 institutional members.

Joel Hitt hopes to have the new edition of *The Birder's Guide to Georgia* ready for publication by the end of 1994.

Branch Howe reported for Terry Moore that the new desktop publishing equipment to produce *The Oriole* has been purchased and is in use. Volume 56, December 1991 was prepared using this equipment, cutting printing costs in half.

Didi Manns reported for Georgine Pindar that GOS should receive some funding from the Environmental Fund for Georgia as early as August 1994. The first funds will come from Piedmont Hospital. Other funds will come from other private employees and from Federal employees throughout Georgia.

Kristi Avera reported that GOS membership will be promoted in birding journals, newspapers, biology departments of Georgia colleges, and to Georgia ABA members. Kristi also reported that data collection for the *Breeding Bird Atlas* project will take approximately six years, with publication preparation taking another two years.

GOS member Barbara Passmore, Trustee of the Price Campbell Foundation, announced that GOS will receive a gift of \$2500 from the Foundation. She suggested that these funds be used to purchase a laptop computer for use at this time by the Chair of the Membership Committee. The Executive Committee agreed on this use and accepted this generous donation.

It was agreed that a \$200 donation to the Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuary would be made by GOS. This donation has been made.

Anne Wyand Mursch was thanked for the outstanding job she has done for several years as editor of *GOShawk*, and was wished well with her upcoming move to Maryland.

1994 GOS PELAGIC TRIPS
GULF STREAM/CONTINENTAL SHELF

HAVE YOU SEEN CORY'S SHEARWATER, GREATER SHEARWATER, AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER, WILSON'S STORM-PETREL, LEACH'S STORM-PETREL, MASKED BOOBY, POMARINE JAEGER, PARASITIC JAEGER, BRIDLED TERN, SOOTY TERN OR BROWN NODDY? All these and more were seen on GOS pelagic trips last year.

Cost for trips is \$175.00. All trips leave from Wilmington Island, Savannah, GA. Directions, a list of accommodations, and full details will be sent with your reservation confirmation.

Trips not filled 30 days prior to departure (when deposit is due to the boat captain) will be canceled. PLEASE RESERVE EARLY! Full payment must be made in advance. Refunds will be made only if a replacement can be found. For more information, call Bill Blakeslee at (404) 881-6570.

PELAGIC TRIP RESERVATION FORM - Sunday, August 28, 1994

Indicate the number of people in your party: _____ August 28

Checks payable to: GOS

Mail to: Bill Blakeslee; 1722 Noble Drive, N.E; Atlanta, GA 30306-3142; Phone: (404) 881-6570

Your Name _____

Address _____ Home

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

RELEASE (MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS)

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the pelagic trips of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS). Therefore, each registrant knowingly and voluntarily grants to the GOS and its officers, committee members, and any other persons engaged in activities in connection with this pelagic trip, a full release from any claim, liability, or cost of any nature on account of personal illness or bodily injury, loss of life, or loss or damage to property directly or indirectly arising out of the registrant's participation in this pelagic trip. Further, I agree with the cancellation/refund policy.

NAME (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

NAME (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____