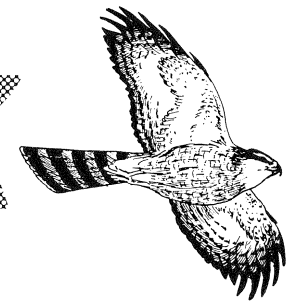


THE GOSHAWK NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 21 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 1994

GEORIGIA RARE BIRD ALERT: (404) 493-8862 (NEW!)

ALABAMA: (205) 987-2730
FLORIDA: (813) 984-4444
N/S CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473
TENNESSEE: (615) 356-7636

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

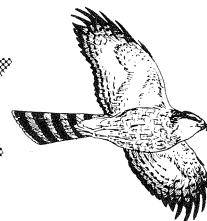
(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)
_____ Life Membership \$250.00 _____ Student \$8.00/per year

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

NAME _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS _____

GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FALL GOS MEETING HOLIDAY INN - JEKYLL ISLAND, GA October 7-9, 1994

As previously announced, the Fall 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/night + 10% tax. Be sure to call the hotel directly as listed below, and identify yourself as a GOS member. For room reservations, contact: Holiday Inn Beach Resort, 200 South Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA 31527 1-800-7-Jekyll or 912-635-3311. Reservations must be guaranteed by one night's lodging with a major credit card, and may be cancelled up to 72 hours prior to arrival. The Holiday Inn has agreed to open its breakfast buffet at 6:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday to accomodate birding schedules. Check-in time is 4 P.M./Check-out is 11:00 A.M. There will be a cash bar reception Saturday evening before the banquet. You may register for the meeting and Saturday night banquet using the form on page 3.

Friday night's activities will center around a slide show of members' favorite slides. This event was such a success at the Spring Dauphin Island meeting, that we've decided to repeat it. Please limit your presentation to 10 slides so that we can show everyone's without oversleeping Saturday morning and missing those great field trips.

The Saturday banquet speaker is Paul Sykes, whose topic will be "The Bird of Fire: The Story of the Kirtland's Warbler." Many of us know Paul as one of the most vigorous and knowledgeable birders in the country. His tales of bird chases are legendary, and almost as interesting as the birds he finds. He is a wildlife research biologist, currently working with the National Biological Survey, and worked for many years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Research and Migratory Bird Research Branch. Paul has published 114 papers, reviews and notes; and is currently working on the Snail Kite account for *The Birds of North America*. See his account of a Spring 1994 trip to Attu Island on p. 4.

Field trips on the coast are always great. Field trip coordinator, Mike Chapman, is lining up a good selection of trips and leaders. Sign-up sheets will be posted Friday night.

Volunteers Still 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 must have volunteers to serve as leaders. 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, but we still need volunteers!

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

Deadline for the next GOShawk is November 1st.



WETLAND WATCH

On March 26th a very successful orientation meeting was held to educate GOS, Atlanta Audubon, Sierra Club, and Georgia Wildlife members about wetland delineation and the identification of wetland trees, shrubs, and other plant markers. We hope to be able to recognize and be able to alert the Corps of Engineers and EPA to any encroachment of developers on this most valuable environmental resource in our neighborhoods.

Butch Register of the Army Corps of Engineers and Lee Pelej of the EPA gave exciting lectures on regulation and identification of wetlands, and took participants into the marsh at Noses Creek to get their feet wet. They have offered to be on tap for future educational seminars.

In addition to the attendees, there have been many calls from those who were unable to attend the training session. The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, September 24th**. The plan is to organize groups in watershed and zip code areas to assist the governmental organizations in protecting wetlands. If you find this an interesting project, please plan to attend this meeting, and call **Lolly Lederberg at 633-9384** or **Jackie Heyda at 934-2185**. There are already some areas in which we have been able to work with the governmental agencies and have made a difference.

CURRENT STATUS OF GEORGIA'S PROTECTED BIRD SPECIES

- E - Endangered: A species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range.
- T - Threatened: A species which is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all or part of its range.
- R - Rare: A species which may not be endangered or threatened, but which should be protected because it is so scarce.
- U - Unusual: A species which has special or unique features that make its survival important.
- C - Candidate: This species is known as a candidate for the list; however, this class is under investigation as to its need for protection.

	GEORGIA	FEDERAL
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	R	C
<i>Campephilus principalis</i>	E	E
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T	T
<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	R	
<i>Corvus corax</i>	R	
<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	E	E
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	R	
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	E	E
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	R	
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	T
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	E	E
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	E	E
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	R	
<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	T	
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	R	C
<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	E	E

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program

**GOS REGISTRATION, FALL MEETING
HOLIDAY INN, JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
OCTOBER 7-9, 1994**

NAME(S) (for name tags, print) _____

(Children under 16 must be registered _____
but are charged no registration fee)

Address _____ Phone(____) _____

_____ Registration(s) @ \$8.00 per person \$ _____

_____ Reservations for banquet @ \$18.50 per person \$ _____

Make checks payable to GOS and mail with this form to: Eugenia Thompson, 2015 Morton Road, Athens, GA 30605. Early registration makes planning easier. Cancellations received 72 hours in advance of meeting (October 4) will be refunded.

The GOS requires registration for participation in the meeting and also requires all registrants to sign the following release. If the participant is a minor, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must sign this release.

Note: No portion of registration or banquet fee is tax deductible.

RELEASE

Each registrant named, both adult and minor, desires to participate in the field trips and other activities at this meeting 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 meeting, 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 meeting.

NAME (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

NAME (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

NAME (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT - NEW NUMBER - (404) 493-8862

You may have noticed the new hotline number on p. 1. Jeff Sewell is manning the rare bird alert as of August 1. Many thanks to Adrienne Myles and Bruce Dralle who have handled this line since its inception in October 1990. As mentioned in the June issue of *GOShawk*, we strongly feel that RBA is one of our best means of communication. The line is our only formal method of alerting birders to interesting sightings. It is used by birders who live in Georgia and call it regularly, by birders travelling to or through the state, and birders in other states who regularly check hotlines nearby. In addition, some computer-friendly birders, such as Mark Oberle, monitor the line and via electronic mail, post good bird sightings in Georgia on the Internet and Bird Chat bulletin boards, which are viewed across the country.

According to Jeff, since the line has been installed, there are probably as many as 10 calls per day, with more as the weekend approaches. While some callers leave messages of sightings, the majority are just listening...they want this information. Currently, the Rare Bird Alert is being financed solely by GOS. The financing plan originally involved several Georgia Audubon chapters around the state. Although some contributions have been made, in general, GOS foots the bill. Individuals are encouraged to contribute to this effort, and any amount is appreciated. We strongly request all other birding organizations in Georgia to help support this line. We are currently investigating the cost and possibility of adding an "800" number to further encourage participation from outside the Atlanta calling area.

Please report your sighting to the Georgia Rare Bird Alert!

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

The following article is excerpted from Paul Sykes' personal field observation notes of his spring trip to Attu. Paul had a total of 80 species, adding 3 birds to his life list: Lesser White-fronted Goose, Northern Hobby, and Narcissus Flycatcher. His Alaska list now stands at 266, including 4 birds from this trip: Lesser White-fronted Goose, Northern Hobby, White-winged Tern, and Narcissus Flycatcher. The group had a total of 102 species during the three week trip.

ATTU ISLAND, WESTERN ALEUTIANS, ALASKA

May 15 - June 7, 1994

by Paul W. Sykes, Jr.

Attu is the westernmost island in the Aleutian Chain as well as the westernmost part of the United States. It is a part of what is known as the Near Island group, which refers to Russia, the homeland of its discoverer, V. Bering. The island is 45 miles long east to west and 17 miles at its widest point north to south. It is mountainous with a rugged, rocky coastline with numerous large bays and coves and scattered sandy beaches. The highest point is Attu Mountain at 921 meters in the central part of the island, which can be seen looking west through Peaceful Valley and from Temnac Valley. Water in the rivers and creeks coming directly out of the hills, bluffs and mountains is drinkable without treatment. The climate is best described as harsh - cold, windy, wet, overcast much of the time, and may be foggy for long periods, particularly during the warmer months.

This was my eighth trip to Attu, five in spring and three in fall. Thanks to Larry Balch I was able to participate as a member of the Attour, Inc. staff. This was a most fantastic trip with an extraordinary number of great birds. The tour contingent consisted of 49 hardy souls, a most amiable group of people. It was a real pleasure birding and talking with each of them.

*The fascinating thing about a visit to Attu is you never know what Palearctic birds might turn up. Every year is different. There always seem to be surprises galore, and this year was probably as good as any to date - four species of eiders while standing at one spot, three species of eagles (all *Haliaeetus*), a new species for North America, a second record for North America, a third record for the Pacific coast of North America, a first record for the Aleutians, etc. A visit to the island is the proverbial "kid-in-the-candy-store" situation for North American birders.*

Upon our arrival on 16 May, all the higher elevations were pretty much snow-covered, with a few scattered snow patches at sea level. The vegetation was mostly brown and flattened, but with some buds on the willows and mountain ash and grasses starting to emerge. By the time of our departure, the lower elevations were quite green in most places and snow at higher elevations had retreated except for the peaks and sheltered canyons, etc. We had two significant low pressure systems move through during our stay, with other bad weather being of local origin.

Account of Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*):

The bird was observed by all 49 participants on the afternoon of 5 June 1994. This is the first authentic record of this species for North America; all previous records have been considered escapees (AOU. 1993. Thirty-ninth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds. Auk 110(3):675-682). This individual was well studied, photographed, video-taped, and finally collected (specimen, University of Alaska Museum).

Steve Heinl, Ed Greaves, Rich Rabkin, Bob Lewis and I were at the mouth of Peaceful River in early afternoon, when Steve spotted an unidentified goose flying toward Puffin Island (which is located just east of the east end of East-West Runway) from the direction of the base of Casco Point. We all quickly trained our binoculars on the bird, expecting it to be either an Aleutian Canada or Emperor Goose. As the bird neared Puffin Island, we noted that it did not have a white cheek patch or an all-white head. The bird landed on the north end of the island in clear view on the bare gravel beach facing toward us. It was readily determined to be a White-fronted Goose, but which species? Viewed through scopes, the bird appeared to be quite small, much smaller than the two adult Glaucous-winged Gulls walking just behind it, and slightly smaller than a female Common Eider resting just to the right of the bird. To me the pink bill was small and stubby like that of a Ross' Goose. The white patch at the base of the bill extended up onto the forehead and had a narrow black border along its posterior edge. With Steve's Kowa and my 30X Balscope we could not see any yellow eyering. In the sitting bird, we did not see black speckling on the light underparts. The legs were orange. The upper parts were grayish-brown.

I called in the sighting over the radio to Base Camp and stated the bird in question might possibly be a Lesser White-fronted Goose. We continued to study the bird through the scopes. In order to obtain a different angle on the sitting bird, I walked over to the east end of the East-West Runway to try for a lateral view, and Steve and the others crossed over to the Barbara Point side of Peaceful River. Steve studied the bird from that locality and stated over the radio he did not see any yellow eyering and the wings did not appear to extend beyond the tip of the tail, now leading him to conclude the bird was a Greater White-fronted Goose, not a Lesser. I was still not convinced the bird was not a Lesser White-fronted Goose -- it just seemed too small to be a Greater. While I was walking to the end of the runway, the goose moved to the opposite side of the island, and when I got to the runway, all I could see was the head.

It was now clear to us that a Questar was needed and that others should take a look at the bird. I was still not convinced the bird was not a Lesser White-fronted. Others of the Attour group soon started to arrive at the scene, but the goose soon took flight and flew toward the Main Runway, putting down out of sight somewhere in that vicinity. Steve and Mack Smith searched for the goose, thinking it had landed near the westernmost runway pond or on the tundra in that general

DICKCISSEL. A real jaw-dropper was a report of 30-50 near Athens on 5/14 (JBr), dwindling to 4-5 by month's end (m.ob.).
PAINTED BUNTING. Way out of range was one seen near LaGrange on 5/1 by A&VW.
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Late birds lingered in Canton through April, with the last being seen on 5/6 (JPe).
BOBOLINK. A large flock of 200+ was seen on 4/24 by BP in Lowndes Co. TP reported several small flocks in Laurens Co. on 4/27, 5/4 and 5/7. A large flock of about 100 accompanied the Dickcissel flock (see above) in a vetch field near Athens, 5/14 (JBr).
RUSTY BLACKBIRD. A large flock (80+) stayed over from February at the AMS. Seen 3/6 by JSe & CL.
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD. A&VW saw three of this rare winter transient in the Augusta area on 3/6.
NORTHERN ORIOLE. Only four reports from the state for the period: one in April from the coast (MH); one on 5/2 at ELHLAF (PB, TMO); one on 5/6 at Peachtree City (BH); and one on 5/11 at Ansley Park (JeB).
PURPLE FINCH. The high count was 21 at LH's feeder on 4/8 in Cedartown.
PINE SISKIN. Latest report was of one bird on 5/30 in Union Co. (DF,DD).
EVENING GROSBEAK. The winter invasion lasted well into spring. DE hosted 8 in Palmetto on 3/30. In Cedartown LH had one until 4/10. DF reported 8 from a feeder in Hiawassee on 4/13, and heard of other flocks around Union and Towns Counties during the period.

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

AMS	Atlanta Motor Speedway, Henry Co.
CRNRA	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Atlanta Area
ELHLAF	E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co.
KMNBP	Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb Co.
MBBP	Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds, Augusta
m.ob.	many observers
NAMC	North American Migration Count
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
SCSP	Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas Co.
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

CONTRIBUTORS:

Kristy Avera, Giff Beaton, Bill Blakeslee, Patrick Brisse, David Brown, Jerry Bruner, John Brunjes, Jack Carusos, Mike Chapman, Ken Clark, Don & Doris Cohrs, Kevin Danchison, Deborah Decker, Bruce Dralle, Larry & Carol Eldridge, David Emory, Dot Freeman, Hugh Garrett, Dianne Green, Joe Greenberg, Greg Greer, Jim Harrell, Lanny Henson, Jackie Heyda, Malcolm Hodges, Pierre Howard, Brock Hutchins, Paul Johnson, Dennis Lacoss, Carol Lambert, Terry Miller, Peggy & Terry Moore, John Paget, Barbara Passmore, Tommy Patterson, Jeff Petit, Kris Poulsen, Paul Raney, Chuck Saleeby, Jeff Sewell, John Swiderski, Anne & Vernon Waters, Sheila Willis, Jeannie Wright.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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

BLACK RAIL. After much hard slogging, one was finally heard in a marsh in Greene Co. on 5/22 where they have been found before (JSe, BD).

VIRGINIA RAIL. The marsh off I-575 and Ga. 92 near Woodstock again hosted a few of this species, 5 being the high count on 4/9 (GB). Unfortunately, the status of this marsh is uncertain as development encroaches.

SORA. A few were seen/heard on the coast. MH reported three in March, 8 in April, none in May.

AMERICAN COOT. Odd, if not bizarre, were two birds found at KMNBP on 4/5 by GB.

SANDHILL CRANE. Perhaps another misguided soul (see above) was one found in a pasture in Henry Co. that stayed until at least 4/17 (PB).

PIPING PLOVER. 7 were reported from the coast during March by MH who also saw one late bird, a female, on 5/21, South Beach, Jekyll Island.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS. The best report was of 67 at MBBP on 3/19 (A&VW).

UPLAND SANDPIPER. Seen in small numbers at their usual haunt in Laurens Co. during April (TP).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. Finally, one showed up in an accessible place, the old marina mud flat on Jekyll Island and stayed for several days beginning on 4/5 (P&TMO).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. Peak count at ELHLAF was 11 on 5/28 (JSe,CL, PB). In Laurens Co., TP had three on 5/21.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. The only report was of one bird that was first seen on 5/11 at ELHLAF (BH) that stayed two days.

POMARINE JAEGER. MH sent a description of two birds seen on 3/20 at South Beach, Jekyll Island. One was a dark-phase adult, and the other a dark-phase immature. Two other jaegers were thought to be Pomarines (see below).

PARASITIC JAEGER. MH reported two of this species, but I do not have details on these birds, and can only assume that these were among the seven other possible jaegers seen from South Beach on 3/20 that he mentions.

LAUGHING GULL. Rare inland was one bird seen 4/26 at ELHLAF (KD).

GLAUCOUS GULL. MH reported details on this accidental (one bird) seen on 3/11 on a tidal river near Brunswick. I know of only two Georgia records in recent years.

CASPIAN TERN. Seven at MBBP on 4/23 were incredible per A&VW.

BLACK TERN. One seen on 5/9 at Reed Bingham State Park in Cook Co. was unusual (JHa, KA, fide BP).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE. Topping all previous totals, PR saw 10 in Brunswick on 5/21.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. TP had Laurens County's first on 4/6. The bird is even rarer on the coast where one was seen by D&DC in McIntosh Co. on 4/27.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. BP's rufous departed on 3/20, after spending 108 consecutive days at her feeder!

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Two in Atlanta on the same day! One at KMNBP on 5/14 (BD), and one later the same day at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb Co. that stayed two days (CS).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER. Found in a new location - one singing, first seen on 5/21, remained into June at the Suwanee Creek Section, CRNRA, Gwinnett Co. (JSe).

GRAY KINGBIRD. At its usual place on Jekyll Island, two were seen on 5/21 (PR). In addition, a new nesting site has been identified in downtown Brunswick (MC).

HORNED LARK. A few birds from a larger flock of about 50 remained throughout the period at AMS (M.ob.)

BANK SWALLOW. One bird seen 3/29 by GB at Woodstock was unusually early.

CLIFF SWALLOW. Seen in two new locations: two at Lake Chatuge, near Hiawasse on 4/25 (DF), and 15+ spotted on 5/14 at Red Top Mountain State Park, Lake Allatoona did not stay (JSw).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. A late invader to two lingered at a Doraville feeder until 3/20 (JHe).

MARSH WREN. Very unusual was one bird seen at an inland location, a marsh in Greene Co. on the late date of 5/22 (BD, JSe).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. Only one bird reported: KMNBP by GB on 5/10.

WARBLING VIREO. Congratulations to TMO, who after birding in Georgia for 32 years, saw his first Georgia Warbling Vireo on 4/29 with BD at KMNBP; then miraculously, saw another on 5/10 in Dawson Co. with JC. Yet another was seen on 5/19 in Greene Co. by GB & KD.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO. Completing a very vireo spring, two of this species were seen: one in the Macon area on 4/22 (PJ), and one at KMNBP on 5/7 (BD).

TROPICAL PARULA. The most outstanding warbler report came from A&VW who found this species on 4/27 at the Augusta levee. The details on this rare resident of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas have been submitted to *The Oriole*.

NASHVILLE WARBLER. Two reports of this rare migrant were more than usual. One seen at Cochran Shoals, CRNRA, Cobb Co., on 4/23 (m.ob.); and one at KMNBP on 4/26 (BD et al).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER. Received numerous reports of this secretive nester all the way from Blairsville on 5/17 (JG) to the coast where SW found four pair nesting at Ft. Stewart in May.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER. This rare transient was seen at KMNBP on 5/10 by GB and KD. Also, one was reported in Athens on 5/14 (JBr).

WILSON'S WARBLER. A male was found in Atlanta on 5/9 by JeB; and another male at KMNBP on 5/21 (BD).

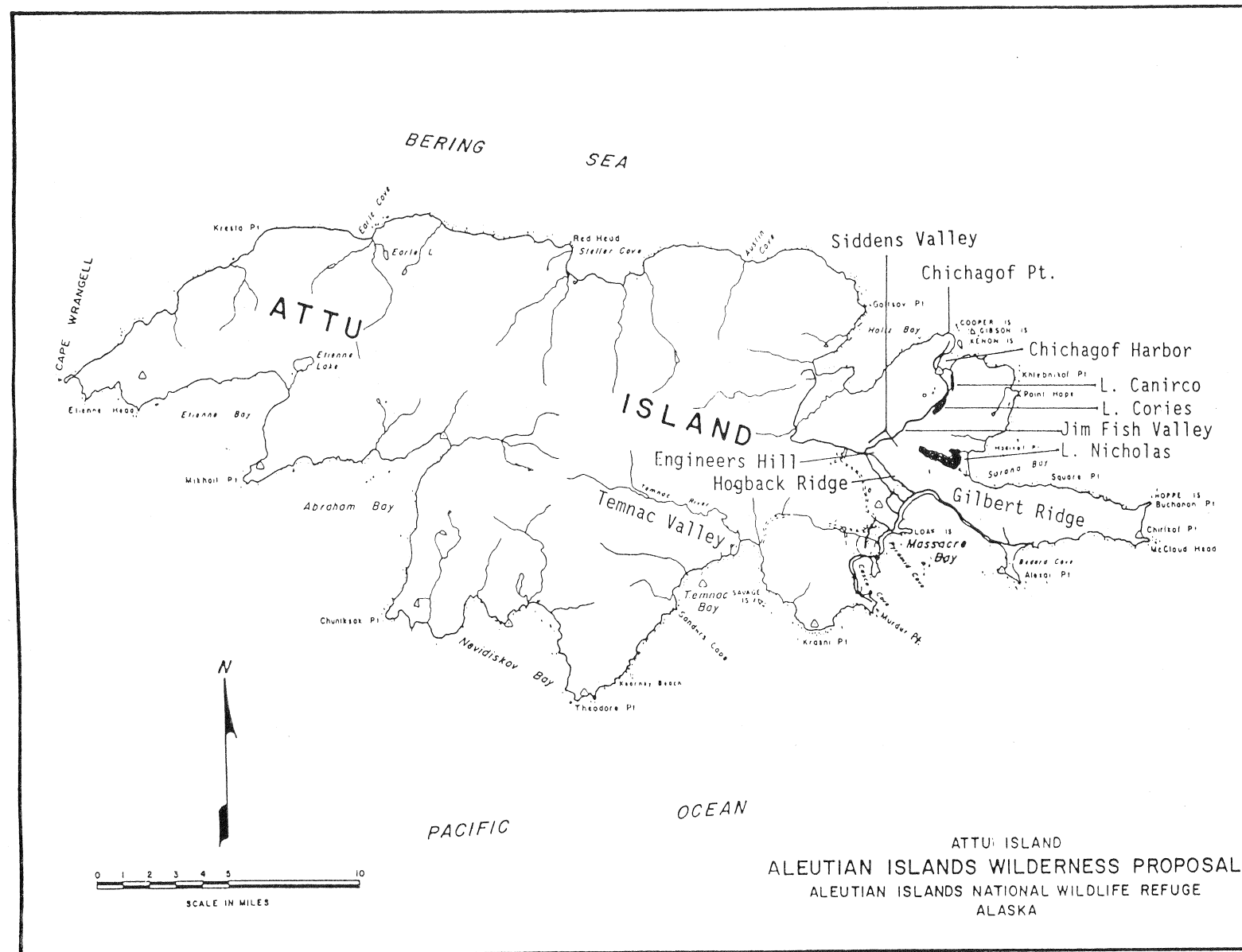
SUMMER & SCARLET TANAGER. These two species peaked on the same day at KMNBP, 5/1, where BD et al counted 14 Summers and 9 Scarlets.

ATTU (continued from p. 4)

area. They could not locate the bird. Meanwhile, Dan Gibson, riding an ATV heading south on the Main Runway, without any idea of where the goose had landed, flushed the bird from the shoulder beside the runway. The goose circled most of the Attour group and landed at the mouth of Peaceful River out of sight. In flight, a few people thought the bird looked large with a large bill and expressed this opinion to me. I still was not convinced the bird in question was not a Lesser, as, to me, in flight the bird did not look all that large. In flight a few dark spots were visible on the sides and belly.

Steve, Eli Elder (with her Questar), and James Huntington went to the east end of the East-West Runway to try to relocate the bird, while the rest of us waited out of sight. The three did not find the bird. Then Steve, Dan Gibson, and Mack Smith circled and headed downstream on the two-track road paralleling the south bank of Peaceful River to the old lower bridge. They spotted the goose near the river mouth, but it was hidden from view of the group on the runway by a gravel bank. After a short wait the bird walked into view. Two Questars and numerous other scopes were immediately trained on the bird in question. With the Questars, it could be seen that the bird did, in fact, have a very narrow complete yellow eyering. I first heard this from the smiling face of Russ Widner, who promptly shook my hand and said, "Thanks, Paul." This was fantastic news - the clincher to the bird's true identification. I was ecstatic. Others, after looking through the Questars, confirmed the bird did indeed have a yellow eyering. By this time most of the people of Attour 1994 were there lined up behind the Questars waiting to view the bird. I finally got my turn at a Questar and was delighted to see the eyering for myself. It was interesting that, given the distance at which the bird was observed (first Puffin Island and finally mouth of Peaceful River), the eyering could be seen only with a Questar, not with Kowas or other scopes.

The goose flew once again, circled over Massacre Bay well to the north of Barbara Point, and returned to land on the beach at the point. Fortunately, everyone had the opportunity to view the goose numerous times through one of the Questars. It was a most jovial group that afternoon. This was indeed a great bird to see on our last day of birding on Attu in the spring of 1994.



The Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas is a project designed to determine the distribution and breeding status of bird species throughout the state. The information collected will provide a baseline from which future changes in populations and distribution can be measured. The atlas will also provide specific information for many areas that can be used by land-use planners, biologists, and others to reduce or eliminate some of the adverse effects of development.

To gather this information we will be using volunteers to do most of the sampling. Censusing will include visiting the different habitat types found within areas called "blocks" (each block is one sixth of a U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographic map, about 10 square miles) and recording the species found and their breeding status. This sampling is similar to Christmas Bird Counts in that it doesn't require the censuser to stay at a given location for a specific amount of time. Also, it doesn't require the ability to identify birds by song or call. In addition, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey information and information gathered using a technique called "mini-route sampling" will be used to obtain density estimates for the more abundant species. Mini-route sampling will be done by a specially selected group of volunteers that possess the ability to identify birds by call and song.

Anyone who is interested, from novice to expert, can participate in the atlas. Training workshops on censusing methodology, bird identification, map reading, and navigation will be offered in late fall, winter, and early spring. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact: Todd Schneider, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program, Route 5, Box 180, Forsyth, GA 31029; phone (912)994-1438.

LAKE LANIER !!!

A Hall County resident of Lake Sidney Lanier called DNR's Wildlife Resources Office in Gainesville on July 28th to say that the bird had "fallen out of the sky" onto her property. GOS member and Wildlife Resources regional supervisor, Bill Fletcher, recognized the weakened bird as a Greater Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*. Fletcher reported the bird to Terry Johnson in the Nongame-Endangered Species office of DNR, who called John Paget in Gainesville. Paget and, later, several other area birders observed the bird at Fletcher's home, where he fed it crappie minnows and shad in a wheelbarrow filled with water. The bird appeared to be in good physical shape, but definitely weak. On August 2nd Fletcher arranged for the bird to be driven to Emmy Minor's rehab facility in Darien, Sanctuary on the Sapelo at Pine Harbor, where she reports that "the bird is eating well, swimming in the pond, shedding water and preening. As of August 9, DNR was arranging for a commercial boat to carry the bird offshore for release in familiar waters. It has been theorized that the bird was blown inland on a storm, but who knows? This is only the second record of this species inland in Georgia, the first being September 1974 in Baldwin County (ACOGB). Kudos to Bill Fletcher for a good ID, good reporting, and his and wife, Beth's, efforts to care for this bird. To the chagrin of area listers, the bird was not seen by any of us in the air or lake.

Photo: Jim Cook, Jr.

by Jeff Sewell

Note: Following are the highlights of the spring migration. The full report will appear in *The Oriole*. My apologies to those who think this report favors the Atlanta area, but the fact is that most of the reports I received were from Atlanta birders. There are huge areas of the state from which I receive no reports at all. The field notes in the next issue, December 1994, will cover the breeding season, June and July. Please send your reports as soon as you can. **Deadline is October 1st.**

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

March - April - May 1994

RED-THROATED LOON. This species can usually be found off Tybee Island in early March. The interesting reports were of one bird at Lake Lanier, Forsyth Co. on 4/2 (JeB, JG) (there are fewer than 10 Atlanta area records), and one off St. Simons Island on the very late date of 5/30 (JW)

EARED GREBE. One bird in breeding plumage was seen on 4/17 at Lake Spivey, Clayton Co. by PB and TMi.

AMERICAN BITTERN Only one inland report: one bird seen in Greene Co. by GB and KD on 5/19. On the coast, MH reported one bird in April.

LEAST BITTERN MH saw three on the coast in May. A pair is apparently nesting at Lake Pomona, Liberty Co., where one was seen on 5/21 by SW and by others on later dates.

GREAT EGRET. Four birds seen at the Suwanee Creek Section, CRNRA, Gwinnett Co. on 3/29 were quite early for the Atlanta area (JSe).

SNOWY EGRET Unusual for the mountains, two birds were seen on 4/13 at Lake Chatuge near Hiawasse by DF, and also noteworthy for Augusta was one at MBBP on 5/14 (L&CE fide A&VW).

CATTLE EGRET Also unusual away from the coastal plain was one bird seen in Bartow Co. on 5/15 (JSw), and another the next day 5/16 also in Bartow Co. (P&TMO)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON One of the more unusual uses of an intown Atlanta neighborhood is a heronry. Three adults returned on 3/24 for the eighth straight year, built one nest, raised four chicks, then departed in late June. The young left the area in mid-July (fide JSe).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL. A good count of 7 was seen along the Jekyll Island causway on 5/21 (PR et al).

WOOD STORK. A&VW reported 40 nests seen from the road at Harris Neck NWR on 4/1; they could not see the entire area. 375 nests were seen at the Blackwater colony near Valdosta (JHa, KA, fide BP).

REDHEAD. From SCSP, JSe reported two birds on 3/10.

GREATER SCAUP. A flock of 5 at DeKalb Reservoir were observed from January through 3/3; one stayed until 3/26. At SCSP one male stayed for three days beginning 3/10 (both by JSe).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. LH reported one female-plumaged bird at Garden Lake in Rome on 4/7, an excellent place for wintering and transient waterfowl.

COMMON GOLDENEYE. This rare transient passed through Atlanta in March, with two birds at SCSP on 3/10, three there on 3/19, and one at the DeKalb Reservoir on 3/26 (all JSe).

COMMON MERGANSER. TP reported his first Laurens Co. sighting, one bird on 4/6.

RUDDY DUCK. A rather late bird was seen on 5/2 at Lake Spivey, Clayton Co. by PB & TMO.

OSPREY. Reports are almost too numerous to list. The species continues to multiply and spread. On 3/19 GG had a flight of 300-400 on Cumberland Island in a matter of hours. Lake Chatuge hosted one on 4/11 (DF), which is the third sighting for the most northerly area from which the species was recorded. On the NAMC, 5 were counted on 5/14 in the Augusta area (A&VW). A pair nested at Lake Blalock, Clayton Co., raising at least two chicks (PB).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE. The same huge flock of Osprey reported by GG on Cumberland Island contained three of this species on 3/19. TMi saw one on Jekyll on 3/20 and one was seen on 4/9 at Youmans Pond, Liberty Co. by TMO.

MISSISSIPPI KITE. This species showed up early and at some very unusual places for a summer resident of the coastal plain. Reports of single birds in McIntosh Co. on 4/18 (D&DC); and at the MBBP on 4/27 (A&VW) were early. Amazingly, four birds were seen from the top of Kennesaw Mountain on 4/30 (BB,PH). There are a few Atlanta area records, but this is the second year in a row that they have been seen in Atlanta. To top it off, BB had another bird in Bartow Co. on 5/14 and DG saw one on I-75 near the Tennessee line on 5/15. Perhaps the most reliable spot for them, though, is Hamburg State Park, Washington Co., where JSe and BD had four on 5/30.

BALD EAGLE. Another raptor that is spreading its range, thankfully. Reports were received from the coast (GG, MH); Augusta (A&VW); ELHLAF (m.obs.); and Lake Nottely, a new location, where one was spotted on 4/8 by DF.

AMERICAN KESTREL. Only one report was received; a nesting pair at Berry College in Rome on 4/23 (DB, KP).

MERLIN. A few reports from the coast: on 3/18 two on Jekyll Island (TMi); on 3/19 one on St. Simons Island (TMi); and on Jekyll Island P&TMO had one bird on 4/6 and four on 4/7.

PEREGRINE FALCON. On 4/30 DB and KP saw one at the Pigeon Mountain WMA for the only report.