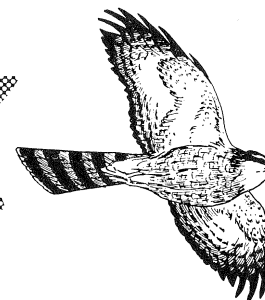


THE *GOShawk* NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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4608 WESTHAMPTON DRIVE  
TUCKER, GA 30084  
(404) 939-7668

# GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 22 NO. 2

JUNE 1995

## 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 publications available from the GOS.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

### GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT: (404) 493-8862

ALABAMA: (205) 987-2730

N/S CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473

FLORIDA: (813) 435-2722

TENNESSEE: (615) 356-7636

(813) 657-4442

Chattanooga: (615) 843-2822

### SPRING MEETING RECAP

AUGUSTA, GA - May 5-7

Sunny skies and warm temperatures greeted our spring meeting attendees. Field trips offered opportunities to botanize, canoe, hike, ride a riverboat, and of course, bird! A total of 123 species were observed by GOS birders on Saturday and Sunday. Highlights were a flock of 35 Mississippi Kites, Black Skimmer, Black-billed Cuckoos, an unusually high count of 69 Eastern Kingbirds in 3 fields, Bachman's Sparrow, Painted Buntings and numerous Bald Eagles. A flock of over 400 Cedar Waxwings was observed in Augusta, where they evidently remain late to finish off the mulberries. Non-birding highlights included Fox Squirrel, Eastern Coachwhip (eating a skink), and a Carolina bay. If you would like a copy of the complete bird checklist for the weekend, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Jeff Sewell/GOS, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

Friday night's program introduced us to the scheduled field trip areas in a beautifully photographed slide show by Anne Waters, assisted by husband, Vernon. The only problem was deciding which trip to pick for Saturday morning.

Robin Carter, author of *Finding Birds in South Carolina* and past president of the Carolina Bird Club, was Saturday night's speaker. He spoke on "South Carolina's Birding Location Sleepers," narrating slides taken by his wife, Caroline Eastman. Many of these locations are within day-trip distances for Georgia birders.

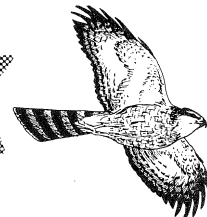
*The Fall 1995 Meeting will be October 6-8 at the Ramada Inn Savannah Conference Center, located in Pooler, GA. All details and registration information will be published in the September GOShawk.*

### GOS / AFO JOINT MEETING

Fall 1996

GOS is very pleased to announce that our Fall 1996 meeting will be held jointly with the Association of Field Ornithologists. The meeting will be based at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort on Jekyll Island October 18-20, 1996. Mark your calendars now and look for more information in the *GOShawk* as the details and agenda are planned.

# GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1684  
Cartersville, GA 30120

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Deadline for the next GOShawk is August 1.



☺ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** ☺

Steven G. Corn	Athens, GA	Larkin Powell	Athens, GA
Deborah S. Decker	Blairsville, GA	Gayle R. Rice	Jasper, GA
Gena Dwyer	Valdosta, GA	Larry N. Ross	Elko, GA
Penny Henritze	Stone Mountain, GA	Sara H. Schweitzer	Athens, GA
Sam & Joyce Hilliard	Bowersville, GA	Karen Theodorou	Lawrenceville, GA
Ruth Palmer Kramedjian	Atlanta, GA	Pamela K. Wilhelm	Buford, GA
Christine Mallar	Atlanta, GA	Tommy & Betsy Williard	Perry, GA
Susan Marie McCollum	Midland, GA		

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**CONSERVATION NEWS**

Georgine S. Pindar, Conservation Chairman  
(H) (404) 355-8454; (Fax) (404) 352-0405

**1995 Legislation Passed by the Georgia Senate**

**SB 24 Eminent Domain for Pipeline Companies**

The petroleum pipeline companies will now have to follow a two-step process in exercising their rights of eminent domain. First they must obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Then they must apply for a permit from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which will determine whether the proposed location, construction and maintenance of the pipeline is environmentally sound and whether the line will follow a route which is environmentally reasonable.

**SB 32 Landfill Restrictions**

New landfills, including those by private industries, are prohibited where three landfills already exist within a two-mile radius. The bill also prohibits land application of untreated municipal sludge in significant ground-water recharge areas.

**SB 202 Water Withdrawal Permits**

This bill authorizes EPD to develop a regional water development and conservation plan for the state's major aquifers, and all ground-water and surface-water withdrawal permits must be consistent with the plan. Permits may be issued for up to 50 years, but if the permit exceeds 25 years, EPD must evaluate the condition of the water supply to ensure it is adequate to meet the multiple needs of the state.

**SB 375 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation**

This legislation requires developers and others engaged in land disturbing activity, such as utility companies and highway builders, to use best management practices (BMPs) to keep soil and sediments out of the state's waters. Unfortunately, the bill reduces the previous 100-foot trout stream buffer, allowing 50 feet under certain conditions, and even 25 feet under other conditions.

**BUDGET**

The budget includes \$5 million in G.O. Bonds to start the River Care 2000 program; \$11.5 million for the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund; and \$5.3 million for the Solid Waste Trust Fund.



**ORANGE TRAIL - STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA**

Thank you for your many memorial contributions to the State Botanical Garden in Athens toward the upkeep of the Orange Trail. Our total contributions so far come to well over \$2,000. Please make contributions payable to Georgia Ornithological Society and send to: Georgine Pindar, 2633 Ridgemoor Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318.

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - After the invasion of last winter, numbers returned to normal, that is, very few and all in north Georgia. Singles found were one at Berry College on 7 Dec. (Jack Carusos), one at Lake Lanier, Forsyth Co., on 20 Dec. (Pierre Howard), one on Pigeon Mt., Walker Co., on 8 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell). Only Chuck and Sylvia Saleeby spotted more than one when, on 29 Jan., they had two at Cloudland Canyon SP, Dade Co.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** - Giff Beaton and Jeff Sewell found one on Lookout Mt., Walker Co., on 8 Jan. The species is rare in the mountains.

**TENNESSEE WARBLER** - Perhaps due to the very mild winter, two unusual reports of wintering warblers were received. B.B. Sams of Social Circle noticed a Tennessee Warbler feeding from his hummingbird feeder on 24 Dec. He took photographs and we hope he will write this up for The Oriole. The bird was last seen in late March.

**AMERICAN REDSTART** - Even rarer than the Tennessee Warbler was the first Georgia wintering record of this species first seen on 18 Jan. by Nancy Iha in her backyard in Marietta, Cobb Co. It was last seen on 2 Feb. This too will be documented in an upcoming issue of The Oriole.

**WESTERN TANAGER** - B.B. Sams of Social Circle, who had the above-mentioned Tennessee Warbler, also called to describe what he thinks was this species that came to his feeder for one day in January.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** - A first year male was first seen at the Perry feeder of GOS members Tommy and Betsy Willard on 14 Jan. Later it was photographed, but word of it did not get out until about 12 March, which is the last day it was seen, disappointing the birders who made the trip in the days following, hoping for a glimpse. There are fewer than ten reports of this species for Georgia, the last being in 1973. A report for *The Oriole* has already been received.

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** - As usual a few could be found during the winter: one on the Dublin CBC on 23 Dec. and on the Augusta CBC on 28 Dec., and one at a feeder in Perry during Feb. (fide Terry Johnson).

**PURPLE FINCH** - Very few reports were received, in what was a very off year for winter finches, perhaps due to the mild winter in the East. For example, only one was found on the Marietta CBC on 18 Dec. (fide Terry Moore). Only on the Blairsville CBC on 30 Dec. was more than one seen. They had 30.

**RED CROSSBILL** - Reports of this species are never numerous. Harrietta DiGioia reported three or four in early January near Lake Conasauga, Murray Co.

**PINE SISKIN** - A very lean year for this species also. Very odd, although none were found on the Blairsville CBC in extreme north Georgia, on 30 Dec., the Bainbridge CBC in the extreme southwest corner of the state tallied 21 on 27 Dec.

**EVENING GROSBEAK** - To round out the poor showing of winter finches, only two reports of this species were received. The Callaway Gardens CBC had eight on 18 Dec. and one was seen at a Lilburn feeder for one day on 9 Feb. (Bruce Dralle).

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**GEORGIA DNR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is looking for volunteers to help with the second annual Georgia Outdoor Family Festival (GOFF) in July. A Volunteer Training Weekend will be held at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center on June 9-11 to train volunteers how to teach kids about fishing, riflery, archery and wildlife management. The Volunteer Training Weekend is free to those who will commit to volunteering 2 days of their time at the GOFF July 7-8 at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield, Georgia in Newton County. For more information and registration forms, call Dottie Head (404) 918-6400.

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**GOS PELAGIC TRIPS**  
*Gulf Stream / Continental Shelf*

The remaining pelagic trip scheduled for 1995 is: **Sunday, August 27.** 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 replacement can be found.

For more information, call Bill Blakeslee at (404)881-6570.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - A candidate for most unusual sight of the period was of 30-40 in a kettle over I-75 near the Atlanta Stadium on 26 Feb. (Steve Ehly). This unusual occurrence will be documented in The Oriole. What ever prompted these migrants to appear so early in such numbers at such an unusual location? It shows that birders should always be alert.

**MERLIN** - Rare in winter, but a few were spotted as follows: one on 17 Dec., St. Catherines Is. CBC, one in Greene Co. on 24 Dec. (Paul Sykes), and two on the Glynn Co. CBC on 31 Dec. (per Elaine Young).

**PEREGRINE FALCON** - Sightings in downtown Atlanta during the period suggest at least one wintered (Chris Geller, Hunter Patterson). In Forsyth Co. on 24 Dec. another was seen (Jack Carusos, John Paget).

**SANDHILL CRANE** - Unusual this year for the late fall migration. Flocks headed south were seen into Jan. Chris Geller had three flocks on 8 Jan. totaling 225 birds over Smyrna, Cobb Co. Those headed north began on 3 Feb. when seven were seen near Adairsville (Denny and Pam McClure). Brad Bergstrom said that between 2000 and 2300 wintered at the Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta, joining the small population of resident Florida Sandhill Cranes. This group headed north about 24 Feb. The largest flock seen away from Grand Bay was the 375+ Paul Raney saw near Albany on 25 Feb.

**WILSON'S PLOVER** - One wonders if the six seen on 4 Dec. at Jekyll Is. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett) stayed all winter. Pierre Howard saw two there on 24 Feb. The species is listed in ACOGB as accidental in winter and the early date is shown as 26 Feb.

**AMERICAN AVOCET** - A nice sized flock of 61 was seen on 2 Dec. near Andrews Is, Brunswick (Pierre Howard, Jeff Sewell). As many as 15 were seen off and on through Jan. near Brunswick (Malcolm Hodges).

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** - On 15 Jan. Hunter Patterson and Royce Hayes found two on St. Catherines Is. Hunter believes one or two winter there every year.

**RED KNOT** - For reasons unknown, this species was seen in large numbers on the coast during the period. On 2 Dec., Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard counted 600 in a flock at South Beach, Jekyll Is., and on 17 Dec., the St. Catherines Is. CBC tallied 708 (per Anne Waters).

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** - This species wintered once again at Tybee Is. after being absent last year and were seen by several observers. High count was five seen on 13 Feb. (Pierre Howard, Jeff Sewell).

**DUNLIN** - As this species is considered very rare inland in winter, one that was seen several times beginning on 7 Jan. and through 26 Feb., at a small pond in Putnam Co. was quite a good find (Paul Sykes, Billy and Brenda Dunbar).

**PARASITIC JAEGER** - On 17 Dec. at Cumberland Is., Malcolm Hodges, saw not one, but three of this species, only rarely seen from shore. Mark Wellford saw one on 29 Jan. from the beach at Jekyll Is. to complete quite a reporting period for this species.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - Lake Lanier produced Georgia's third inland record for this species when on 19 Feb. one was seen by boat (Jeff Sewell, Patrick Brisse, Russell Wigh). The second inland record came on 11 Nov. 1994 also at Lake Lanier. The first inland record was one seen at Macon in 1989.

**GLAUCOUS GULL** - What a winter for this species! No fewer than six sightings were received, although some sightings could involve the same bird. On 31 Dec., Les Davenport and Milton Hopkins saw a first winter bird on Sapelo Is. On 12 Jan., a first winter bird was seen at Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Is. (Lydia Thompson), another, also a first winter bird, was seen not far away on Jekyll Is. on 25 Jan. (Lorraine Dusenberry). No less an observer than Roger Tory Peterson reported a second winter bird at Jekyll Is. on 11 Feb. during DNR's Weekend for Wildlife, and back at Gould's Inlet on 25 Feb., Paul Sykes, Billy and Brenda Dunbar spotted a first winter bird. But, the best find was the first winter bird seen on Lake Lanier on 18 Jan. by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen, this being only the second Atlanta area record.

**LONG-EARED OWL** - No contest for the best owl award: on 13 Jan. DNR personnel brought a wounded Long-eared Owl, found in the Enigma area, Berrien Co., to Jay Whitesell, a raptor rehabilitator (fide Barbara Passmore). Sadly, the bird died the next day. It is hoped this record will be documented in The Oriole. The most recent report of this species was a bird found dead in the Smyrna area on 1 Nov. 1987.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** - Apparently no one had checked the A&B Farms area in Sumter Co. recently for this species but several are still there as evidenced by the three seen by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert in the pre-dawn darkness of 31 Dec. Returning to the same area on 2 Feb., two were found just before and after dark (Pierre Howard, Jeff Sewell, Cole Woodruff).

**HUMMINGBIRDS** - This winter saw the most wintering hummers ever. Bob and Martha Sargent said they received 50 reports beginning in mid-Nov. Almost all were Rufous, although Bob and Martha were not able to band them all. One bird in Thomasville, and one in Fitzgerald were thought to be Black-chins (Bob Sargent) as was one in Brunswick (Malcolm Hodges). Another Brunswick bird was thought to be an Allen's, but the Sargents were unable to capture it. Details will appear in The Oriole. I want to thank GOS member Richard Cole for his help in keeping the birding community posted on our wintering hummers.

**BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD** - Georgia's second Broad-tailed appeared at a feeder on 27 Nov. in Kennesaw, Cobb Co., was banded by the Sargents on 3 Dec. and stayed until 3 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).

**VERMILLION FLYCATCHER** - The first of this species in many years, a beautiful male, was found on the Albany CBC on 17 Dec., but it was late Feb. before word got out regarding the presence of this bird. Many birders made the journey to Dougherty Co. to see it and fortunately it remained through the end of the period. Apparently the most recent record came from the Okefenokee Swamp where at least one bird, and sometimes two, were seen during the period from Nov. 1988 to the end of Jan. 1989.

**WESTERN KINGBIRD** - No less than two were found this winter. Oscar Dewberry discovered one on the Bainbridge CBC on 27 Dec. and one was found on St. Simons Is. on 19 Feb. (Denny and Pam McClure) that stayed at least through 25 Feb. (Paul Sykes, Billy and Brenda Dunbar).

**GEORGIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION ANNOUNCES  
1995 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

The Georgia Wildlife Federation (GWF) hosted its annual Georgia Conservation Achievement Awards on April 20, 1995. The awards program singles out individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions at the local, state and national levels.

This year, the highest honor, Conservationist of the Year, went to **Jane Hurt Yarn** of Atlanta. Ms. Yarn has been a lifelong advocate of conservation and one of its most visible and influential leaders, and, in fact, received the same award twenty-five years ago, an unprecedented event in the history of the award. She has been an advisor to Georgia governors since the 1960's, as well as to the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is currently a member of Governor Miller's Preservation 2000 Committee which addresses public land preservation.

Legislative Conservationist of the Year award went to GOS member, Lieutenant Governor **Pierre Howard**. The award recognizes his leadership in improving the state's environmental quality, including water conservation, soil erosion control and waste recycling. An avid sportsman and birder, he has also demonstrated his commitment to protecting Georgia wildlife by supporting several key legislative measures, including increased fines for poaching of black bears and a special license tag to aid nongame wildlife conservation.

**The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club** received the Conservation Organization award for 1995. GATC invested over 17,000 volunteer hours last year in bi-weekly maintenance of what is considered the most successful of national trails. In 1994, the Club celebrated the successful completion of a six year land acquisition program, conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, which has given protection to all 79 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia, as part of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Other 1995 award recipients include:

Youth Conservationist of the Year	Bleckly County High School FFA Cliff Paulk, Agricultural Education Instructor
Water Conservationist of the Year	William Johns, President Jackson Lake Homeowners Association
Forest Conservationist of the Year	James Sullivan, President & Editor Georgia Forest Watch
Wildlife Conservationist of the Year	Carroll Allen, Asst. Chief, Game Management Section Wildlife Resources Division, Georgia DNR
Conservation Ranger of the Year	Corporal Arvid Edwards Georgia DNR, Law Enforcement
Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year	Jack E. Bradford Volunteer Hunter Safety Instructor
Conservation Educator of the Year	Kim Mehaffey, Environmental Education Coordinator Floyd County Schools
Conservation Communicator of the Year	Mark Jicha, Editor & Publisher "The Southeast Georgian"

***THE ORIOLE VOL. 59, NO. 1 - COPIES NEEDED!***

By now all GOS members should have received their copies of The Oriole, Vol. 59, No. 1 (March 1994). Due to a printing shortage, GOS has been left with few extra copies of this issue. If any members receiving two issues per household (couples with separate memberships) can spare one copy, or if any other members are less than excited about keeping back issues, please return copies to: GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120.



***REQUEST FOR PHOTOGRAPHS***

*The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* lists specimens or photographs for 363 of the 370 species of birds on the regular species list. Seven species, listed below, are supported by sight records only. Surely, someone has photographs, taken in Georgia, of some of these species. Please send any photographs you may have to the Georgia Bird Records Committee, c/o Bill Blakeslee, 1722 Noble Drive, Atlanta, GA 30306-3142.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Bank Swallow
Plain Chachalaca	Common Raven
Whimbrel	Warbling Vireo
Carolina Parakeet	

Our research grant program entered its fifth year with the grant for 1995 to Larkin A. Powell at the University of Georgia. Up to \$750 may be granted annually for ornithological research under faculty direction to a graduate student enrolled in Georgia, or to a graduate student from Georgia enrolled out of state. The five awardees, their degree sought, institution, research advisor and research topic are listed below. Congratulations to Larkin Powell.

- 1995 **Larkin A. Powell, Ph.D.**, University of Georgia. Dr. Michael J. Conroy. Effects of forest management on survival and movements of Wood Thrushes.
- 1994 **James B. Berdeen, M.S.**, University of Georgia. Dr. David G. Kremetz. Nocturnal field use by wintering American Woodcock.
- 1993 **R. Terry Chesser, Ph.D.**, Louisiana State University. Dr. J.V. Remsen. The austral migrant system of South America.
- 1992 **Sara R. Morris, M.S.**, Cornell University. Dr. Milo E. Richmond. Stopover behavior of migratory passerines.\*
- 1991 **Dagmar Platt Thrumond, M.S.**, University of Georgia. Dr. Karl V. Miller. Effect of streamside management zone width on wildlife diversity in young pine plantations.

\* Branch Howe, GOS Research Grant Committee Chairman, has recently received correspondence from Sara Morris with a copy of her article, "Patterns of Stopover by Warblers During Spring and Fall Migration on Appledore Island, Maine," published in *The Wilson Bulletin*, 106(4), 1994, pp. 703-718. Ms. Morris again thanks GOS for its support of her studies in 1992, and mentions that the research grant enabled her to purchase mist nets, additional banding equipment, supplies for the banding station she operates, and computer supplies for data analysis. Anyone wishing reprints of her article, may contact her directly: Sara R. Morris, 141 High Street, Apt. 15, Geneva, NY 14456.

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### **GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT - UPDATE**

The RBA has been busy this spring. Without it, many birders would have missed the Vermillion Flycatcher, Burrowing Owls, Greater White-fronted Geese, Western Kingbird, American White Pelicans, Mottled Duck, Little Gull, and the Atlanta area's first Black-necked Stilts, which were all called into the RBA. The Little Gull first seen on May 2nd at Jekyll Island and called in by Malcolm Hodges, is a Georgia first. It cooperatively remained on South Beach until May 12th for many to see.

In February 1995 GOS President, Helen Ogren, sent out an appeal to all Georgia Audubon chapters and other Georgia bird clubs for funding assistance with the RBA. We have had some response, but are still hoping to hear from additional organizations and individuals. A list of those who have contributed to the RBA will be published in the September *GOShawk*.

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### **ELECTION OF GOS OFFICERS**

A Nominating Committee has been selected and will present a slate of officers at the fall meeting in Savannah for the positions of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The elected officers will serve two-year terms. The slate of nominees will be published in the September issue of the *GOShawk* and will be voted on by the general membership at the fall meeting. Members may nominate from the floor at that time or may nominate by contacting a member of the committee prior to the meeting. The nominating committee consists of:

Branch Howe, Chair	(706) 543-1577
Ken Clark	(912) 935-2178
Carolina Lane	(404) 378-5892
Frank McCamey	(706) 216-2164
Jeff Sewell	(404) 939-7668

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### **FIELD NOTES**

by Jeff Sewell

*Note:* The field notes in the next issue, September 1995, will cover the spring months, March through May. Please send your reports as soon as you can. **Deadline is July 21st.**

*Send sighting reports to:* Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

#### **December 1994 - February 1995**

What a curious, but exciting winter! The mild fall weather continued through the winter, breaking records all over the state. As might be expected in such a case, winter finches were rare, following last year's invasion, but many cold hardy species, such as waterfowl, nevertheless showed up in our state in good numbers. Included in these notes are two warblers that were found this winter. One, the American Redstart, is Georgia's first winter record. The reporting for the period was very good in some areas, showing that more people are enjoying this great avocation of ours. We still need, however, to work on our network as several of the rarities listed here became known to us only by the most tenuous chain of coincidences.

*Abbreviations include:* **ACOGB** - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds by Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986, **CBC** - Christmas Bird Count, **ELHLAF** - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, **m.ob.** - many observers, **NWR** - National Wildlife Refuge, **OAS** - Ocmulgee Audubon Society, **SP** - state park, **SWMA** - State Waterfowl Management Area, McIntosh County, and **WMA** - Wildlife Management Area,

**RED-THROATED LOON** - The only reports this year are: six seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 17 Dec.; two at Tybee Island on 29 Jan. (Giff Beaton); and one off Tybee Island on 4 Feb. (Mark Wellford).

**EARED GREBE** - Continuing a strong fall showing, this species was found twice this period: on 29 Dec. Jerry Payne saw one at Plant Scherer, Monroe County, and OAS spotted one on 18 Feb. at the Rum Creek WMA, Monroe County.

**AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN** - The flock of approximately 40, first seen in the fall, remained all winter at the mouth of the St. Mary's River, near Cumberland Island, Camden County (m.ob.).

**BROWN PELICAN** - Lake Lanier produced its second Brown Pelican on 12 Feb. when Bill Huff saw one fly past him in Hall County.

**REDDISH EGRET** - One of the several Reddish Egrets from the fall period lingered at Jekyll Island where it was seen on the Glynn County, CBC on 31 Dec. by Nancy Gobris, a first for the count.

**GREEN HERON** - A rare over-wintering bird was seen on the Albany CBC on 17 Dec.

**GLOSSY IBIS** - A few of this species are perhaps beginning to winter regularly on the coast. The Harris Neck NWR CBC counted 18 on 30 Dec. and Malcolm Hodges said five or so wintered at the Altamaha SWMA near Darien.

**GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** - Establishing a first county record were the two seen on 20 Feb. in northern Greene County by Paul Sykes for our only winter report of this rare vagrant.

**OLDSQUAW** - The only report was of a female in Monroe County on 19 Dec. on the Piedmont/Rum Creek CBC (Todd Schneider).

**SURF SCOTER** - The only inland report this winter was of one seen for one day, on 1 Dec., at the ELHLAF (Brock Hutchins). As usual, small numbers were found during December off Jekyll Is. The Glynn Co. CBC had a very good count of 30 on 31 Dec. (per Elaine Young).

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - No inland reports this winter. The St. Catherines Is. CBC produced eight on 17 Dec. and on 14 Jan., Billy and Brenda Dunbar saw 30 off Jekyll Is., a very good count.

**COMMON GOLDENEYE** - Of the pair first seen on 17 Dec. at Lake Kendron, Peachtree City (fide Chris Lambrecht), the female remained until 15 Jan. (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert). A male was seen on 26 Dec. at Lake Lanier, Hall Co. (Patrick Brisse, Jeff Sewell). Billy and Brenda Dunbar had three at Rock Eagle 4-H Center, Putnam County, on 7 Jan. Beginning on 28 Jan., a pair was seen at the Smith Reservoir, Clayton Co. (Brock Hutchins), a few days later only a female was seen (31 Jan., Pierre Howard), to be joined on 8 Feb. by another female (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell). Inside the Atlanta perimeter, Susan Brunig saw a male at Murphy Candler Lake, Dunwoody, on 30 Jan.

**OSPREY** - A few were seen inland in the piedmont which is rare for the winter period. Jerry Amerson had one on the Rum Creek CBC, Monroe Co., on 19 Dec., and even rarer, one was seen on 28 Dec. near the Chattahoochee River in Roswell (Chuck Saleeby). The St. Catherines Is. CBC tallied six.

**BALD EAGLE** - Once again reported from Carters Lake, Gilmer Co. in the north, all the way to the coast, mostly singles, but with two exceptions: two seen on 3 Dec. at the ELHLAF soon departed as they are not usually seen there during the winter (Carol Lambert) and Augusta was blessed with two adults and two immatures that stayed all winter. Anne Waters said they were thought to be the pair and their young that nested at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary in South Carolina. At least four CBCs saw one or two on their counts: Glynn Co., Harris Neck, Bainbridge/Lake Seminole and Albany CBCs.