

FUTURE MEETINGS

Plans are underway for the **Spring, 1996** meeting to be held in the mountains, based in Dalton, GA. Look for details in the December *GOShawk*. As previously announced, 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.

☺ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** ☺

Mary E. Case	Athens, GA	Laurie Lacy	Roswell, GA
Maureen Darcey	Atlanta, GA	Linda S. Myers	St. Simons Island, GA
Alton & Peggy Gregory	Milledgeville, GA	David Stewart	Atlanta, GA
Andrew Haffenden & Suzanne Elder	Atlanta, GA	Stephen P. Stewart	Milledgeville, GA
		Bob & Deb Zarembo	Marietta, GA

Herbert W. Kale, II

GOS members were saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Herbert W. Kale, II, who passed away of natural causes on July 16, 1995. Dr. Kale was a noted ornithologist and had been employed by the Florida Audubon Society since 1975. He had been a GOS member since 1957, and was a close birding friend to many Georgia birders. He participated in the Sapelo Island and St. Catherine's Island Christmas Bird Counts for many years. While working primarily in the field of endangered species protection and habitat conservation, Dr. Kale was a regular contributing editor of *The Florida Naturalist*, regional editor of *American Birds*, field editor of *Colonial Waterbirds*, and associate editor of *Auk*, the Journal of the American Ornithologists Union. He was also editor of *Bird Volume (2) of Endangered Biota of Florida* in 1978; co-authored *Florida's Birds, a Handbook and Reference* in 1990; and was the Project Director for *The Florida Breeding Bird Atlas*, scheduled for release later this year by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Those of us who knew and had birded with Herb will miss him, and remember his humour, intellect and insight.

ELECTION OF GOS OFFICERS AT FALL MEETING

The nominating committee appointed by President Helen Ogren, consisting of Branch Howe (Chair), Ken Clark, Carolina Lane, Frank McCamey and Jeff Sewell, presents the following slate for consideration by the membership for election to a two-year term beginning this October:

President	Ken Clark, Macon
First Vice-President	Bill Lovejoy, Statesboro
Second Vice-President	Eugenia Thompson, Athens
Secretary	Karen Theodorou, Lawrenceville
Treasurer	Jeannie Wright, Atlanta

CALL FOR CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SCHEDULE INFORMATION

The December issue of *GOShawk* will publish a comprehensive listing of Georgia CBC's for 1995. Please send the name/location, date, coordinator name, address and telephone number by November 1st to:
Carol Lambert, 4608 Westhampton Dr., Tucker, GA 30084

Pat Metz, GOS member and Ranger at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, has organized great field trips for Saturday and Sunday. There will be trips on both days to Ft. Pulaski National Monument/Savannah Beach; Savannah National Wildlife Refuge; and Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Sign-up sheets for these field trips will be posted at the meeting registration desk on Friday night.

In addition, there will be boat trips on both Saturday and Sunday to the **Wassau Island National Wildlife Refuge**, and on Saturday only to **Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge**. These are all day trips, require a packed lunch and a boat fee of \$20 per person. The Wassau trip will be limited to 30 people per day and will have van transportation on the island for 15; Blackbeard will have a maximum of 32 people and travel on the island will be on foot. It is imperative that reservations be made ahead of time for the boat trips. **RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE RECEIVED BY EUGENIA THOMPSON.** Please indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices for these trips, and if you would like to be put on a waiting list. We expect to have these trips filled by early September. **The \$20 per person fee must be sent in with the reservation, and will only be refunded in the event of bad weather or failure to be placed on a trip.**

**GOS REGISTRATION, FALL MEETING
SAVANNAH CONFERENCE CENTER - RAMADA INN, POOLER, GA
OCTOBER 6-8, 1995**

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

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

Address _____ Phone () _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Meeting Registration(s) @ \$9.00 per person \$ _____

Reservations for banquet @ \$17.50 per person \$ _____

Reservations for boat trip to Wassau Island @ \$20.00 per person \$ _____

Reservations for boat trip to Blackbeard Island @ \$20.00 per person \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choices for boat trips: Wassau Saturday ____; Wassau Sunday ____; Blackbeard Saturday ____ If 1st choice is filled, put me on a waiting list for that trip _____.

Names (required) for persons taking boat trips: _____

Note: Boat trip reservation fees are due with reservation form and are non-refundable unless trip is cancelled for bad weather or if we are unable to place you on a trip.

Make checks payable to GOS and mail with this form to:
Eugenia Thompson, 2015 Morton Road, Athens, GA 30605.

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

Early registration makes planning easier. Cancellations for meeting and banquet reservations received 72 hours in advance of meeting (Oct. 3) 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, a parent or legal guardian must sign this release.

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 _____

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF GOS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS, BUT WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE FORM ON THE BACK OF THIS ISSUE TO SEND IN YOUR GOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY ON FIELD TRIP RESERVATIONS.

BURROWING OWL - Equally as exciting as the Little Gull was the discovery of a pair of Burrowing Owls near Bainbridge on 3/12 by Brian Millsap. Many observers have since seen these birds which are hopefully nesting. Although the species has been reported before on about five occasions, this well-documented sighting will add it to the regular Checklist of Georgia birds.

WHIP-POOR-WILL - The most unusual report was of two heard in Emanuel County on 5/5 which may indicate a further southward extension of their breeding range, but perhaps could have been simply late migrants (Jerry & Marie Amerson).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD - The last bird at an Atlanta feeder left on 4/2 (fide Jeff Sewell).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER - Still very rare in the Atlanta area, but becoming more regular. One was seen at KMT on 5/8 (Giff Beaton).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER - This very rare spring migrant was seen at KMT on 4/25 by Joseph Knapp.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER - One bird appeared to be on territory in DeKalb County on 5/17 and 5/27 (Georgann Schmalz). After being among the missing for a year or so, the Willow Flycatcher reappeared in Greene County on 5/14 (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert et al.) and 5/23 (Kevin Danchisen and Giff Beaton), but no mate was seen.

VERMILION FLYCATCHER - The last report of the male in the Albany area was on 3/4 by Mark Oberle. He was first seen on the Albany CBC.

CLIFF SWALLOW - Five birds at the ELHLAF on 4/24 was a good count from that area (Carol Lambert). Elsewhere, the species was noted at its regular nesting sites at Lake Oconee. A new site near Juliette in Monroe County was discovered by Nancy Gobris, where on 5/3 she saw eight carrying mud and working on nests.

BARN SWALLOW - An early bird was seen in the Conyers area on 3/11 by Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Francis Michael.

SEDGE WREN - Inland sightings included one bird near Woodstock on 3/26 and 3/28 (Giff Beaton et al.), one bird in Dawson County on 4/8 (Jeff Sewell and Jack Carusos), 6-7 in a small marsh in part of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park on 4/20 (Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen) and one in Greene County on 5/14 (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert et al.).

MARSH WREN - One bird was found in Dooly County on 5/7 by Dan Guynn and another was found in the marsh near KMT on 5/16 by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH - The only reports were of singles, one seen at KMT on 5/7 (Jeff Sewell et.al) and another there the next day, 5/8 (Giff Beaton).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO - The only report was of a bird near the ELHLAF on 5/5 by Carol Lambert.

BREWSTER'S WARBLER - A good description of this rare hybrid of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers was received from Pierre Howard who saw the bird on 5/6 near the Chattahoochee River, Cobb County.

TENNESSEE WARBLER - The bird which spent the winter at a Social Circle feeder remained at least through the end of March (fide Paul Sykes).

NASHVILLE WARBLER - The only two reports came from KMT where on 4/29 at least two were seen (AAS) and on 5/3 when one was spotted (Kevin Danchisen).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - A record late bird was seen in the Augusta area on 5/30 by Giff Beaton. The ACOGB gives the late departure date as 29 May.

CERULEAN WARBLER - This species was noted on several occasions at KMT by a number of observers but generally in very low numbers of 3-4. The peak count was 6 on 4/21 (Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER - One bird was reported from the Macon area on 5/13 by Ken Clark and single birds were reported from the CRNRA, Cobb County on 5/14 by Joe Knapp and from KMT on 5/22 by Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett. This last bird cooperatively remained another day for several others to see.

WILSON'S WARBLER - Single birds were reported from KMT on 4/30 (Gordon McWilliams) and on 5/3 (Kevin Danchisen). Another was spotted by Paul Sykes on 5/4 in Camden County.

WESTERN Tanager - A female was well described by Carl Miller in Atlanta coming to his feeder on 4/16. Unfortunately it only came there for one day.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK - Even rarer was a male which appeared at a Perry feeder as early as 1/18 but wasn't reported to local birders until the day it left on 3/12 (fide Jeff Sewell). This was the first report in a long time for Georgia - perhaps as long ago as 1973. Photos were taken and details submitted to The Oriole.

INDIGO BUNTING - One bird in the Valdosta area on 3/14 was almost too early for a migrant and may have been a wintering bird (Barbara Passmore).

DICKCISSEL - Ten birds were reported from the Brunswick area on 5/7 by Billy and Brenda Dunbar. A single bird was reported from Greene County on 5/14 (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert et al.) and on 5/23 by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW - One bird was found at Hamburg State Park in Washington County on 5/13 by Nancy Iha (AAS). Very rare for the Atlanta area was a bird found on 5/13 in the Pinelog WMA near Cartersville by Jeff Sewell and Gordon McWilliams. Two birds were found at the more expected spot of Piedmont NWR on 5/27 by Bill Blakeslee et al.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - The only report came from Greene County on 4/23 by Billy and Brenda Dunbar. This is an excellent find as there are only a few spring records for Georgia.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - A very good spring for this species. A bird seen in Echols County on 3/25 was probably a wintering individual (Kristi Avera, Jim Harrell). A single was seen on 4/19 at KMT (fide Jeff Sewell) and Paul Johnson saw four in his subdivision near Macon on 4/25. Six were seen by Kevin Danchisen on 5/4 in the Macon area where there is an isolated nesting population in Central City Park.

SPRING 1995 MIGRATION AT KENNESAW MOUNTAIN

by Giff Beaton

Every migration season is unique, no matter what type of location or species you are monitoring, and Kennesaw is no different. Examining the numbers and dates for a particular season can be a fun and learning experience as well as opening your eyes to the larger scheme of things. This spring at Kennesaw was no exception.

...one must be aware of the drastic decline in these species over the last several decades due to such factors as habitat destruction, increased predation and nest parasitism due to forest fragmentation...

Most of the birders who made the trek to the mountain commented on the relatively low numbers of migrants this year, which can be, at least partially explained by Kennesaw Law Number One: Bad weather equals good birds. In spring, especially, birds are in a hurry to get to their breeding grounds, and unless bad flying weather forces them down they mostly overfly us here. Anyone with teenagers will understand what a powerful motivating force hormones can be! With fewer fronts than normal, most birds enjoyed the southerly winds and clear nights to just head north. The one night in particular that was stormy, April 20, resulted in 20 species of warblers for the birders who ventured up on April 21. Several species were found in decent numbers, including 8 Cape May, 6 Black-throated Blue, 12 Blackpoll, 6 Cerulean and 8 Worm-eating Warblers. This was the best single day of the spring migration, although several other days provided warbler species counts in the high teens. Overall, numbers were significantly down from previous years but probably

attributable mostly to weather. This means that the birds got on territory easier, with less energy expended, and that is good. Whenever contemplating a drop in neotropical migrant numbers, one must be aware of the drastic decline in these species over the last several decades due to such factors as habitat destruction and increased predation and nest parasitism due to forest fragmentation, but this year's numbers seem to have resulted more directly from migration weather.

Another aspect of weather shaped the spring birding at Kennesaw this year. The unusually warm winter in the southeast had two observable results. One was that many winter resident species departed earlier than usual. Both kinglet species and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are examples of species that left two to three weeks earlier than normal. The other result was that several species which winter in the southern U.S. (Florida, for example) in some numbers arrived early. Both Black-and-white and Black-throated Green Warblers were about a week early, for example.

As far as specific highlights go, the only new species for the mountain was a calling Whip-poor-will (in the saddle over to Little Kennesaw) on the night of April 9. Also, several species which had previously been reported only once in spring were spotted again. Three flocks totaling 65 Double-crested Cormorants on April 19, and singles of Black-billed Cuckoo (5/3), Wilson's Warbler (5/3), Olive-sided Flycatcher (5/8), and Connecticut Warbler (5/22-23). Everyone is encouraged to come up and look for their own rarities or just enjoy whatever is around. Atlanta Audubon sponsors several trips per season.

ANNOUNCING NEW GOS MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FORMAT

The December 1995 Membership Directory will have a new look. In addition to being printed in an easier to read column format, **it will include telephone numbers.** With a current membership of well over 400, the task of finding telephone numbers, and now new area codes, has been interesting. If you have a telephone number listed in your local directory, chances are we have it. However, if your number is unlisted and you would like it included in the GOS directory, please send it to us. Also, if you live outside of Georgia and your area code has changed recently, please let us know. This directory will only be sent to the GOS membership, and will be mailed separately from the December *GOS Hawk*. If you would prefer that your telephone number NOT be listed, please send in the attached form and your number will not appear in the directory. All correspondence concerning the directory must be received by October 15, 1995. Send form to: Carol Lambert, 4608 Westhampton Dr., Tucker, GA 30084

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL. NO. (____) _____

CHECK HERE IF NEW ADDRESS _____, OR NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER/AREA CODE _____

PLEASE **DO NOT** INCLUDE MY TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE GOS DIRECTORY!

Signed: _____

Georgia Environmental Council

At its 11th Annual Awards Picnic Sunday, July 30, the four special award winners were: Senator David Scott, Legislator of the Year; Jerry Brown (Founder of the Coosa River Basin Initiative), Volunteer of the Year; Jay Bookman (Atlanta Journal/Constitution), Professional of the Year; and Deborah Sheppard (Founder of Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia), Special Achievement Award. Two volunteers received certificates for their work: Lucinda Headrick and Katie Van Brackle.

Environmental Fund for Georgia

Most of the Federal employees in Georgia and all the employees of the State of Georgia and the City of Atlanta are among those who have the opportunity to pledge contributions to EFG or GOS each pay period. If either you or a friend or relative works for a state agency or a university or the City of Atlanta or MARTA, we hope you will consider being a FRIEND OF THE EFG--that is, by persuading your fellow workers to contribute through the payroll deduction plan to EFG or GOS. Let us know if you volunteer. The State of Georgia is holding the following Campaign Fairs:

Thursday, Sept. 7th:	State Charity Fest (Twin Towers)	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday, Sept. 8th	Department of Labor	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday, Oct. 5th	Department of Transportation	11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fulton County and the Temporary Restraining Order

When North Fulton County parents pressured the county to build a new baseball field near Morgan Falls, the county chose four acres of ravine with old growth forest instead of a site which had recently been a landfill. It seems that Fulton County had just had an offer from a builder that it couldn't resist...enough fill dirt to cover over all the felled trees and, presumably, the creek at the bottom of the ravine. Environmentalists were granted a temporary restraining order in court, but were not able to get a permanent order, so we've lost a rich botanical area that had not been disturbed in this century.

Letters to Legislators and Agencies

The easiest way to write to legislators and agencies on a regular basis is to join the Audubon Armchair Activist Letter-of-the-Month Club. You will get detailed information on pressing local, state or national environmental issues; the name(s) and address(es) of appropriate agencies or legislator(s); and a sample letter to get you started.

Send a postcard to: Jim Wilson, Editor, Armchair Activist, Atlanta Audubon Society, P.O. Box 29189, Atlanta, GA 30359.



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 Ridgemore Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318.

RECENT MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Donor: Georgine Pindar

In Memory of: Buck & Vivian Buchanan

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

This annual grant of up to \$1,000 supports ornithological research by a graduate student enrolled in Georgia, or from Georgia if enrolled out of state. Interested applicants may contact the Research Grant Committee, Georgia Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120 for details. Application deadline: January 15, 1996; grantee selection by April 1, 1996.

BALD EAGLE - Other than the usual reports from the coastal areas, the only interesting inland reports were of a nest with chicks near Valdosta during April (date unspecified - Brad Bergstrom, Vladimir Gurjev) and an adult at Blalock Lake first seen 5/10 (fide Carol Lambert).

PEREGRINE FALCON - This species was rather widely reported. Brian Millsap saw one in Decatur County on 3/12. Starting on 3/15, Chris Geller had 1-3 birds in downtown Atlanta through at least 4/3. Another bird was seen at Sapelo Island during the period of 4/1-4 (Ocmulgee Audubon Society fide Ken Clark).

RUFFED GROUSE - One bird was heard in the Dawson Forest on 4/2 by John Paget. This is the closest spot to Atlanta where the species has been found somewhat regularly.

BLACK RAIL - Two birds were heard at a marsh in Greene County on 5/29 by Billy and Brenda Dunbar.

KING RAIL - This species was heard at a marsh in Greene County on 5/14 by Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert et al.

VIRGINIA RAIL - At the small marsh near Woodstock, Giff Beaton et al. had three birds on 3/7 and one on 3/28. At another small marsh, this one in the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park in Cobb County, Giff Beaton had six on 4/13 and four on 4/20. Another Virginia was heard in a marsh in Greene County on 5/14 (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert et al.).

SORA - Rather rare for the Atlanta area were single birds at the Woodstock marsh on 3/28 (Giff Beaton et al.) and again on 4/1 by Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert and Pierre Howard.

SANDHILL CRANE - From 3/1 to 3/10, 19 flocks were reported, totalling 1607 birds, with the average flock size being about 85 birds. The sightings were concentrated between 3/2 and 3/7. Nelson Dobbs saw two large flocks in Floyd County of about 200 birds each, one on 3/2 and 3/6. Nanette Hutchinson-Johnson also had a flock of about 200 near the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Fulton County on 3/2.

BLACK-NECKED STILT - One of the rarest sightings of the period was the pair of Black-necked Stilts which briefly visited the ELHLAF on 4/17 (Carol Lambert). Unfortunately these birds did not stay around and were gone by the next day. This is the first record for the Atlanta area. More expected were the 20 in the Darien area on 5/20 (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

AMERICAN AVOCET - A count of 25 was made in the Jekyll Island area on 3/22 by Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard.

UPLAND SANDPIPER - Tommy Patterson reported from Laurens County that he had 7 on 4/5 and 18 on 4/13. Anselm Atkins, Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore had one at Brunswick on 4/22.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - One bird was a good find at Jekyll Island on 3/22 by Robert Manns and Steve Ehly.

MARbled GODWIT - Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard had a count of 12 at Jekyll Island on 3/22.

RUDDY TURNSTONE - Very surprising were the three birds seen at the ELHLAF on 5/19 by Carol Lambert, Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard. This is a very rare migrant through the Atlanta area.

RED KNOT - Paul Johnson had an excellent count of 1262 at Cumberland Island on 4/4.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - One bird was reported from the Harris Neck Refuge on 5/2 by Malcolm Hodges. One was seen at the ELHLAF on 5/14 by Carolina Lane and AAS. Five were recorded from Laurens county on 5/14 by Tommy and Hunter Patterson. Back at the ELHLAF, 25 were seen on 5/19 (Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard) and 11 on 5/21 (Paul Raney and AAS).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER - One bird was seen at the ELHLAF on 5/1 (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert) and again on 5/5 (Carol Lambert). Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle had one on Jekyll Island on 5/6. On 5/14, back at the ELHLAF, at least one and maybe two were present (Carolina Lane, AAS).

DUNLIN - One bird at the ELHLAF on 4/21 was a rare spring sighting for the Atlanta area (Carol Lambert).

STILT SANDPIPER - One bird was seen in Laurens County on 5/14 by Tommy and Hunter Patterson. At the ELHLAF, 8 were seen on 5/18 (Brock Hutchins), 7 on 5/19 (Jeff Sewell and Pierre Howard) and 6 on 5/20 (Carol Lambert). This group was completely gone on 5/21.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER - Two very large flocks paid brief visits to the ELHLAF this spring. Carol Lambert and Brock Hutchins had 51 on 5/2 and Carolina Lane and AAS had 32 on 5/14. These are very large flocks for this location, where more than ten is quite unusual.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER - Only one report of this rare migrant was received, one bird in Macon on 4/8 (Marie Amerson, Ty Ivey, Nancy Gobris).

POMARINE JAEGER - One bird was seen from shore at Jekyll Island on 4/12 by Peggy and Terry Moore.

LITTLE GULL - The rarest sighting for the period was the immature Little Gull found by Malcolm Hodges and Terry and Marion Schiefer at Jekyll Island on 5/2. It was seen by a number of observers with the last sighting from that area being on 5/12. This is the first documented record for Georgia and details along with recognizable photos will be published in The Oriole.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - One bird was seen at Jekyll Island on 4/6 by Paul Johnson. This species is primarily a fall migrant but is now becoming more frequent during the winter and spring.

CASPIAN TERN - Two birds were seen at Blalock Lake on 4/19 by Carol Lambert and one was seen in Greene County on 5/14 by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert et al.

LEAST TERN - The report of at least 100 pairs at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 5/20 was encouraging (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE - One bird was seen near Colquitt in Miller County on 3/19 by Pierre Howard. Several observers reported the species from its population center at Brunswick during the period. Three others were seen at Ashburn on 5/9 by Chuck Saleeby and Malcolm Hodges reported that a population has shown up in the Darien area.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO - One bird was seen at KMT on 5/3 by Kevin Danchisen and one was seen by a number of observers attending the GOS spring meeting at Augusta on 5/6 (Anne & Vernon Waters et.al).

FIELD NOTES
Jeff Sewell and Terry Moore

The spring migration of passerines was about average in all the favorite places, but as usual, the most exciting reports were provided by non-passerines, including Georgia's first documented Little Gull and Burrowing Owl; and for the Atlanta area, its first Black-necked Stilts. If you do not see your report here, look for it later in *The Oriole*. The field notes in the December *GOShawk* will cover the summer period, June and July. Please send your reports in by September 1, 1995.

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

Abbreviations include: AAS - Atlanta Audubon Society, ACOGB - Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds by Haney, J.C. et al., GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10, 1986, ASWMA - Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area near Darien, McIntosh County, CBC - Christmas Bird Count, ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County, m.ob. - many observers, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area,

March - April - May 1995

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Sixteen were seen on 4/4 near Point Peter, St. Mary's River, Camden County from the Cumberland Island ferry, most of which were on the Florida side (Paul Johnson). These birds were part of a larger flock that wintered in this area for at least the second year in a row.

BROWN PELICAN - Paul Raney had an amazing sight of a Brown Pelican flying overhead in eastern DeKalb County on 4/16. This is the second sighting already this year for the Atlanta area.

ANHINGA - A bird seen at Blalock Lake on 5/17 and at Shamrock Lake on 5/20 may have been the same bird.. Both of these lakes are part of the ELHLAF and both observations were by Carol Lambert who now works at the facility. This species is quite rare in the Atlanta area but has been seen more frequently in the past five years or so.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD - This very rare coastal visitor was seen on 5/17 off Sapelo Island (Brad Winn). This is the second report of this species in the last six months, which must be a record.

AMERICAN BITTERN - Two were reported from the Grand Bay area near Valdosta on 3/13 (Brad Bergstrom) and in Greene County one bird was seen on 5/23 by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

LEAST BITTERN - This secretive marsh dweller was well reported this period. Near Valdosta Brad Bergstrom had at least one pair beginning on 3/5. ASWMA produced three arrivals on 4/4 (Malcolm Hodges), two were seen at Sapelo Island on 4/4 (Pierre Howard), and in Greene County a pair, first noted on 4/22 (Billy & Brenda Dunbar), were seen several more times during the period (m.ob.). On 5/20, Bill Blakeslee et.al estimated at least 12 at ASWMA. Near Augusta on 5/21, Gary Gray saw three immatures, indicating nesting nearby (fide Anne Waters).

REDDISH EGRET - Although reports of this species in coastal Georgia have increased dramatically in recent years, the sightings, almost without exception, have occurred on barrier island beaches in late summer and fall, so the sighting of one bird in the tidal creek adjacent to the Andrews Island causeway in Brunswick on the early spring date of 3/22 is worthy of being documented for *The Oriole* (Bob Manns, Steve Ehly).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - The first arrival was one seen on the Glynn County Migration Count on 5/13 at Jekyll Island.

WOOD STORK - Donny Screws had an early bird near Eastman on 4/13.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK - Bill Blakeslee et al. had a group of 8 birds at ASWMA on 5/20 for a rare sighting of this species in the state.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - This very rare species was seen at the ELHLAF on 3/22 (Brock Hutchins) and on 4/1 by Jim Arduino.

MOTTLED DUCK - This species has been reported from the ASWMA several times recently so it wasn't that surprising that Anselm Atkins, Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett and Terry Moore reported at least five from there on 4/22. Following that report, a number of observers reported the species with the best count of 30 on 5/20 by Bill Blakeslee et al.

BLACK SCOTER - Very late for the state were 15 birds reported from Jekyll Island on 5/6 by Jeff Sewell and Bruce Dralle.

SURF SCOTER - The last report was of two birds seen each day between 4/9-13 at Jekyll Island by Peggy and Terry Moore.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - The last report of this species was one at Sapelo Island during the period from 4/1-4 (Ocmulgee Audubon Society fide Ken Clark).

OSPREY - The pair of birds which have attempted to nest at Blalock Lake during the past couple years keep trying but their nest site selection continues to be poor. This year their nest, with young birds, was destroyed by high winds on 5/15, whereupon they immediately built another nest but did not produce young (Carol Lambert).

AMERICAN SWALLOW-TAILED KITE - A record early bird was seen in McIntosh County on 3/12 by Malcolm Hodges. Close on the heels of that sighting was a bird seen at Sapelo Island on 3/13 by Fred Hays (fide Doris Cohrs). This species was also seen in the Okefenokee Swamp on 4/6 by Mark Oberle and on 4/16 by Betty Derrick et al. and also near Valdosta on 4/29 by Jay Whitesell.

MISSISSIPPI KITE - An early bird was seen in the Valdosta area on 4/23 by Brad Bergstrom. A very good count of 35 came from the Augusta area on 5/6 at the GOS spring meeting (Anne & Vernon Waters, et al.). At their northern part of their range in Georgia came a report of 3 at Hamburg State Park on 5/13 by Nancy Iha.

GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT - UPDATE

Jeff Sewell

THE AREA CODE FOR THE RBA HAS CHANGED TO 770 EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 1995.

PLEASE, if you find what you think is a good sighting that should be reported on the Georgia Rare Bird Alert (RBA), please call the RBA at (770) 493-8862 immediately. Don't forget to leave your name and telephone number, the time and date of your call and complete directions to the location, unless it is a place with which birders are familiar. If there are problems with the location, such as it being on private property, I will call you back to see what can be worked out. It is most important to call as soon after the sighting as possible, even though you may question whether the bird will remain there. That's a risk all birders understand. RBA listeners can decide whether to GO NOW (the number one rule of the chase) or wait for follow-up reports. Many birders will drop office work, housework, or homework on a moment's notice to go after a good bird. Even if you see the bird leave, it is still important that the sighting be called in. It may still be in the vicinity or it may not, but at least area birders will be alerted to the possibility of seeing it, and the sighting will be recorded by your call. Thanks to all those who have called in a variety of great sightings in recent months.

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, and are still hoping to hear from additional organizations and individuals. We would like to thank the following contributors who have recently shown their support for this service:

Atlanta Audubon Society
Bill Blakeslee
Gordon Gridley
Bill Groce

Ocmulgee Audubon Society
Oconee Audubon Society
Russell Wigh

TIPS ON USING RARE BIRD ALERTS

Bill Blakeslee

Unless you take good shorthand, it is almost impossible to write down directions given on rare bird alerts on the first or even second try. Here are some possible solutions.

Answering Machine: If your answering machine has a two way record function, tape the message. Then you can either transcribe the directions at home or take the recording with you and play it back on a portable tape player or on your car tape player.

Telephone Pickup: You can attach a suction cup to the headset of your telephone and the input line of your tape player to record the directions. This is a good technique to use away from home, especially from a pay phone. As above you can either transcribe the directions or play them back in the field. Radio Shack sells them for about \$6.00.

On-line Services: Many rare bird alerts, including GOS's (courtesy Mark Oberle/Joel Hitt), are on-line through the National Birding Hotline Cooperative. See Bill Principe's article in the August issue of *Birding* for complete details.

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATORY BIRD COUNT

Two important changes have been made regarding the annual North American Migratory Bird Count. Starting this year, there will be an annual fall count as well as the usual spring count, to be held on the third Saturday of each September. This year the date is September 16, 1995.

Also, we are pleased to announce a new compiler for Georgia. He is Jerry Amerson of Macon. Jerry and his wife, Marie, have been GOS members since 1984. They have also been actively involved and highly regarded for their work with Audubon Christmas Bird Counts and compiling for many years.

If you haven't sent in your list for the 1995 Spring Count, or if you are interested in participating in the 1995 Fall Count, please contact: Jerry Amerson, 701 Plantation Drive, Macon, GA 31211-9629
Tel: (912) 746-5697

We wish to thank our former compiler, Charlotte Kirton of Dawsonville. She managed to volunteer time from her very full schedule to help get the count started in Georgia during the first three years.