

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

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 1684
Cartersville, GA 30120

Please enroll the undersigned as a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the calendar year.
Dues are enclosed as follows:

_____ Regular \$16.00 _____ Sustaining \$25.00

_____ Patron \$50.00

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

_____ 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 # _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES!



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1684
Cartersville, GA 30120

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**GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT: (770) 493-8862 Statewide
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SPRING MEETING SUMMARY

Ninety-one members and guests enjoyed a delightful weekend of birding and socializing in the Dalton area April 26-28. As always, Harriet DiGioia and her friends and colleagues in the Northwest Georgia birding community arranged rewarding field trips and enticed outstanding speakers for the Friday and Saturday evening programs. As last count, 111 species of birds were identified, including such notables as Caspian Tern, Blue-winged and Swainson's Warblers and White-crowned Sparrow. Twenty-five species of warblers decorated the fresh green foliage in bright morning sun of both days of our visit, along with such eye-pleasers as Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings.

Friday evening Kevin Calhoon introduced us to a unique nature center in Chattanooga, the Tennessee Aquarium, which, besides the expected fish exhibits, features an extensive collection of songbirds. If your travels take you through Chattanooga, it would be well worth your trouble to visit the Aquarium, right downtown off the interstate. Saturday, after a delicious buffet by Holiday Inn, E.J. Willaims illustrated her lively presentation on neotropical birds with stunning photographs, and urged us to support the Teaming With Wildlife funding initiative (see writeup on p. 4). We are indebted to our Northwest Georgia friends for a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

...Ken Clark

GOS TO HOST AFO AT FALL MEETING

In a blending of the academic and the recreational, GOS has invited the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) to the Fall 1996 meeting; the theme is *Ecology of Georgia's Barrier Islands*. This joint meeting will be held October 18-20 at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort on Jekyll Island.

Field trips will be planned to local birding sites with all-day trips to Cumberland Island National Seashore and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS) will be open. Paper and poster sessions will take place all day on Saturday. There will also be on-going art and vendors exhibits.

On Friday Evening, AFO will host a fruit and cheese reception/cash bar followed by dinner on your own. Friday evening's speaker will be Taylor Schoettle, a local naturalist and author. Saturday evening will start with a cash bar/happy hour followed by our banquet. Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux from Clemson University will be the featured speaker.

Watch for registration information for this exciting meeting in a special mailing early this summer.

...Eugenia Thompson

Deadline for the next GOShawk is August 1, 1996.



☺ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** ☺

M/M W.C. Bairan	Kennesaw, GA	Cathy Keeler	Decatur, GA
Kevin Calhoon	Chattanooga, TN	Diedre McCrerry	Marietta, GA
Robert Calhoun	Tucker, GA	Joel L. Megginson	Cohutta, GA
Sue Coker	Cohutta, GA	Leigh Mills	Clayton, GA
Daniel Demko & Mary Provost	Peachtree City, GA	William E. Mills	Carlton, GA
Chad & Melissa Dorn	Lilburn, GA	Ken & Nancy Moffatt	Santee, GA
James F. Flynn, Jr.	Cumming, GA	Rita J. Novak	Lilburn, GA
Brenda Guy	Norcross, GA	Don Sutherland	Austell, GA
Art & Lisa Hurt	Atlanta, GA	William L. Tietjen	Plains, GA
		Steven J. Wagner	Greenwood, SC

...*John Swiderski*

CONSERVATION NEWS

Environmental Fund for Georgia

Once more, GOS met its yearly requirement of 100 hours of work, and we have a check for \$829.94 in hand for our efforts. Contributions keep coming in. A federal employee in Jacksonville, FL has paid a pledge of \$202.81 to GOS! The EFG rules are changing for 1996, with a point system in place. The emphasis, of course, is on the two most important aspects of EFG work: getting access to employers so EFG/GOS will be included on pledge cards (*ACCESS*); and persuading employees to give (*CAMPAIGN*). We get points for identifying and visiting employers and, of course, for signing them up (more points for the largest companies). As for reaching the employees in late summer and fall at "sign-up" time, we invite you to volunteer an hour or two. Nancy Iha is willing to head up a "campaign" committee. For volunteers, it's simply a matter of being at the pledge fair of a company or agency which is on the EFG list of participants and bragging about GOS. We all can do that! (We'll see that you get the display board and brochures...even a brag sheet).

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

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. Let's keep this project in mind. Families are always pleased to know that their loved ones are remembered in this way. It shouldn't be hard to think of people to honor or memorialize. (Wouldn't it be fine to have a Bird List of the Garden and habitat notes for the Orange Trail, our special project...any volunteers?). Please make contributions payable to Georgia Ornithological Society and send to:
Georgine Pindar, 2633 Ridgemore Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318.

RECENT MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Donor(s):</i> Georgine Pindar	<i>In Memory of:</i> Evelyn Kersey	Mary Dallas Swift
	Peter J. Troy	Esther Bonnet
	Lillian Everitt	

BINOCULARS NEEDED!

As many of you know, the Clayton County Water Authority opened the Newman Wetlands Center last year in an effort to educate the public about the importance of wetlands and other environmental issues. The construction and operation of the Center is funded entirely by the Water Authority. No fees are charged for entrance or programs. The Center and trail have attracted not only area birders, but over 5,000 school children and scouts have been involved in interpretive programs since last October. As a naturalist at the NWC, my efforts to get young people involved with nature would be greatly enhanced if they had the use of binoculars when visiting the Center. If you have an old pair (new ones are also fine) that you would like to donate, please call me at (770) 603-5606 work or (770) 939-7668 home. The mailing address is: Newman Wetlands Center, 2755 Freeman Road, Hampton, GA 30228.

...*Carol Lambert*

BURROWING OWL - The bird that had been reported from the Bainbridge area was still there on 29 Dec. to be recorded on their CBC (fide Oscar Dewberry) and was seen again on 9 Feb. by Oscar Dewberry.

SHORT-EARED OWL - Rare for the Atlanta area was a bird found on the Peachtree City CBC on 16 Dec. by Hugh Garrett.

FISH CROW - A few birds were noted in the Blalock Lake area of the ELHLAF on 28 Jan. by Patrick Brisse. This indicates that the species is becoming more established in the area not only during the summer but also during the winter.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD - As usual there were a number of reports of wintering hummingbirds. There were at least seven in the Atlanta area alone and five of these were banded and identified as Rufous.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD - One bird was banded at Macon for the third record for this species in Georgia (fide Jerry Amerson). Billy and Brenda Dunbar photographed a hummer at their feeder in Watkinsville that Bob Sargent identified as an Allen's 1-3 December for our fourth state record.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD - One bird was reported from the Savannah area during the period through 24 Feb. (fide Jeff Sewell), but no description has been received.

WESTERN KINGBIRD - One bird seen on the Sapelo Island CBC on 30 Dec. (Milton Hopkins) was a rare Georgia winter record.

GRAY KINGBIRD - Even rarer was the bird seen on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec. by Les Davenport.

PURPLE MARTIN - The first bird was reported from Laurens County on 21 Jan. by Tommy Patterson. There were a few other January sightings. The ACOGB early arrival date is 19 Jan.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH - Although there were no great numbers of this species seen in any one place, they were however seen at many different locations. This is probably the best year for the species in many years.

SEDGE WREN - At the Macon Brickyards, Ty Ivey et al. had 12 birds on 2 Dec. for an excellent count. Giff Beaton et al. had a good count of three birds on the Marietta CBC on 17 Dec. for a rare Atlanta winter record. Back at Macon Giff Beaton et al. had five on 20 Jan. At the Kennesaw Mt. marsh area, Giff Beaton had five birds on 27 Feb.

MARSH WREN - Again at the Macon Brickyards, Ty Ivey et al. had two birds on 2 Dec. In Floyd County Marion Dobbs had a bird on 15 and 20 Dec. for quite a rare winter record in that part of the state and what was probably the same bird was seen on 1 Feb. by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

GRAY CATBIRD - One bird was seen at the KMT marsh on 22 Jan. by Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett. Although found with some regularity on piedmont CBC's, it is rarely reported later in the winter. This could be due to either lack of observer effort or the actual demise of these birds which try to overwinter.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - In late Feb., Paul Sykes counted 31 at the Kings Bay Submarine Base, Camden County, a remarkable number for the available habitat.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER - One bird on the Dublin CBC on 23 Dec. was fairly rare for that area (Tom Patterson).

WILSON'S WARBLER - One bird was found in the Dublin area on 11 Dec. by Tom Patterson. The bird remained in that area for several days.

PAINTED BUNTING - A remarkable find was a male coming to a feeder near Eaton in Murray County that was later seen on the S\Dalton CBC on 16 Dec.

DICKCISSEL - Dave Vost reported a solo bird at his feeder in Dade County on 3 Feb. One bird was also reported at a feeder in Gwinnett County on 10 Feb. by John Drew.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW - Giff Beaton et al. found an individual of this species at the KMT marsh on 15, 21 and 28 Jan. for a rare winter record for the Atlanta area.

LECONTE'S SPARROW - This very rare species was recorded on the Marietta CBC at the KMT marsh on 17 Dec. and again on 28 and 29 Dec. by Giff Beaton et al. Recognizable photos were obtained of this bird as it remained there through 21 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett). Another bird was reported from the Macon area on 10 Feb. by Jerry and Rose Payne.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD - A well described bird was reported from Gordon County on 14 Feb. by Jane McNair (fide Aubrey Scott). Unfortunately the bird could not be relocated.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD - Five birds were a great find on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson). Anne Waters saw 75 on 26 Dec. on the Augusta CBC. In Laurens County Jerry and Marie Amerson saw 250 on 28 Jan. This area always seems to be the most reliable spot to find the species in all of Georgia although there must be other spots that we don't know about.

NORTHERN ORIOLE - One bird was seen at the Atlanta Zoo on 6 Dec. by Brad Parks. Another bird was seen in the Valdosta area on 31 Dec. by Barbara Passmore. This bird remained through the period.

PURPLE FINCH - This species, which has been alarmingly scarce in recent years, made a good showing this year though their numbers did not equal Evening Grosbeaks. Best counts were 30 at the feeder of Jerry Payne in Bibb Co. on 29 Jan. and , also in Bibb Co., 35 on 11 Feb. at Paul Johnson's feeder.

EVENING GROSBEAK - This species was actually more commonly reported than either Purple Finches or Pine Siskins. Whether this represents their true numbers or whether people just didn't report the other two is unknown. The farthest south reports came from Rum Creek on 21 Dec. (Terry Johnson, Todd Schneider) and Statesboro on 16 Jan. (Ray Chandler). At the ELHLAF Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton County at least 30 frequented the feeders during the period. Anecdotal reports from the mountains speak of numerous flocks of 50-75 birds at many feeders.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - The Macon CBC on 16 Dec. recorded an outstanding 455 birds (fide Paul Johnson).

GADWALL - The Rum Creek CBC recorded an equally outstanding 131 birds on 18 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson). On 23 Feb. Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett had 44 along U.S. 411 in Floyd County.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL - Two late birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 9 Dec. by Patrick Brisse and Jeff Sewell. Even more surprising was the bird at the Arrowhead Fish Hatchery in Floyd County on 20 Jan. (Bill Blakeslee et al.).

CINNAMON TEAL - There is an unsubstantiated report that as many as seven were killed by hunters along the GA coast this winter. This comes second or third- hand from Terry Johnson. We don't have any documentation of this number of records but we do know that a couple birds have been seen at the Savannah River NWR in SC so this rumor is worth mentioning.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - The Macon CBC had a very respectable count of 54 on their 16 Dec. CBC (fide Paul Johnson).

CANVASBACK - The Macon CBC again had an excellent count of 21 on their 16 Dec. CBC (fide Paul Johnson). A good count for the Atlanta area was the eight at the ELHLAF on 8 Jan. (Brock Hutchins) and 9 Jan. (Wes Chester). Paul Sykes had an amazing count of 150 in Camden County on 29 Feb.

REDHEAD - Twelve was a good count at the ELHLAF on 9 Jan. by Wes Chester.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Two very good CBC counts were the 3516 at Rum Creek on 18 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson) and 1091 at Macon on 16 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson).

GREATER SCAUP - Four birds were seen at the Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County on 9 Dec. (Jeff Sewell) and one was at the ELHLAF the same day (Jeff Sewell and Patrick Brisse). Two birds were seen in the Macon area on 20 Jan. by Giff Beaton et al.

HARLEQUIN DUCK - The most amazing sightings for the Atlanta area were the two Harlequin Ducks found at Sweetwater Creek State Park on 19 Feb. by Don Sutherlin. Luckily the birds remained in the general area at least through 27 Feb. and were seen by numerous observers. Interestingly enough, the birds were in what would be described as perfect summer habitat - cool rushing stream with boulders and not the usual winter habitat - oceanside jettys and piers.

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER - Brad Bergstrom had 25+ birds at Jekyll Island on 2 Dec. and Jeff Sewell had two there on 17 Dec. Inland, Tom Patterson and Helena Woods had a bird in Laurens County on 10 and 14 Jan.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - This species was reported more frequently than usual during the period. Single birds were seen at the ELHLAF on 2 Dec. (Robert Manns), at SCSP on 3 Dec. (Patrick Brisse), at FDR State Park on 16 and 17 Dec. (Hal Massie) and back at the ELHLAF on 21 Dec. (Carol Lambert). At Gillsville Lake, Brad Bergstrom saw six on 2 Jan. and Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert saw one there on 14 Jan. There were an additional six reports from the Atlanta area during Feb.

RUDDY DUCK - Patrick Brisse had an excellent count of 87 at SCSP on 3 Dec.

MERLIN - Always a good find inland was a bird seen in the Dublin area on 3 Dec. by Tom Patterson.

VIRGINIA RAIL - One bird was found in Floyd County on 17 Dec. by Nelson Dobbs and Gordon Hight. At a small marsh that is part of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb County, Giff Beaton et al. found five birds on the 17 Dec. Marietta CBC. At least two birds were still there on 15 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett) and two on 27 Feb. (Giff Beaton). At Macon, Giff Beaton et al. had one bird on 20 Jan.

SORA - Rare for the Macon area was a bird found on their 16 Dec. CBC (fide Paul Johnson).

COMMON MOORHEN - Very rare for the Atlanta area, especially so for the winter period, was a bird found on the Peachtree City CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Chris Lambrecht).

SANDHILL CRANE - Movement of this species was nearly constant throughout the period. Scattered flocks continued to move south into late Jan. Northbound birds were first seen on 17 Feb. (Paul Raney), with the peak movement of about 600 birds reported between 20-24 Feb.

WILSON'S PLOVER - Chuck Hunter had an amazing count of nine birds at Tybee Island on 15 Jan. On the same day eight were seen at Sapelo Island and two on Egg Island Bar (fide Chuck Hunter). This species is regarded as accidental during the winter in Georgia.

PIPING PLOVER - Chuck also saw 17 Piping Plovers at Tybee Island on the same day (15 Jan.). He reported that a coastal survey of Georgia yielded a count of 124 Piping Plovers this year on 15 Jan.

AMERICAN AVOCET - Jeff Sewell had a good count of 16 birds along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 17 Dec. On 28 Jan. Bill Blakeslee and Don and Doris Cohrs had 55+ at Jekyll Island's South Beach.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW - The count of five birds on the St. Catherines Island CBC on 16 Dec. is perhaps the highest single count for many years in the state (fide Hunter Patterson).

RED KNOT - Jeff Sewell had an excellent count of 225 along the Jekyll Island Causeway on 17 Dec.

LEAST SANDPIPER - Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett reported 16 birds from the Lake Eufaula area on 9 Dec. This species is now becoming more regular as a wintering shorebird in inland Georgia.

PURPLE SANDPIPER - During the coastal survey on 15 Jan. 11 birds were recorded at Tybee Island (fide Chuck Hunter).

LAUGHING GULL - Rare inland was a bird at the Walter F. George Dam on 9 Dec. (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - Georgia's fourth inland area record was a bird seen at the Walter F. George Dam on 3 Dec. by Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert.

GLAUCOUS GULL - One bird was reported from St. Simons Island on 18 Feb. by Billy and Brenda Dunbar.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE - Extremely rare for Georgia were the two birds seen at the Walter F. George Dam on 1 Dec. by Adam Byrne. This observation is in the process of being documented in The Oriole.

FORSTER'S TERN - Adam Byrne reported an excellent winter count of 40 birds at West Point Lake on 11 Jan.

DISCOVERING GOS
by Ken Clark, President

The following article is the first in a series of short reports from various committee/acitvity chairs describing what they do and how they go about it. It is hoped that these reports will help the general membership, and especially our newer members, to understand the workings of GOS and what really good work goes on in the society.

Like many of you, Arlene and I joined GOS at the urging of a fellow member of our local birding club. Actually, what he urged us to do was attend a fall meeting at Jekyll. The joining came later. We went because we liked the man who invited us and respected his judgement. It was a pleasant weekend - good weather, interesting and not too verbose speakers, and lots of help identifying birds on the field trips. We figured twice a year wasn't a burdensome meeting schedule, so we signed up and added the GOS outings to those of our local group. Just another bird club.

And that's how it went for five years or so - twice a year outings with the great and near-great of Georgia's birding world, with little attention paid to other goings-on in the organization. Then in 1986 GOS celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Honorary Founding Member Roger Tory Peterson came for the weekend and gave us the beautiful painting of an Orchard Oriole done expressly for the cover of our quarterly ornithological publication. Eulalie Gibbs and Dick Parks wrote a history of our first fifty years, and Dr. Peterson spoke to a standing-room only crowd at our Saturday night banquet. It became obvious that GOS was not just another bird club.

- The purposes of GOS at it founding, unchanged to this day, were stated in the Gibbs-Parks history as:
1. To secure the cooperation of the various bird students and clubs over the state in gathering and disseminating accurate information of bird life within its boundaries.
 2. To promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds, both aesthetic and economic, which would insure wiser conservation of our bird life.
 3. To stimulate and unite public sentiment toward legislative enactment for bird protection.
 4. To provide opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in nature.
 5. To issue a quarterly publication as a means of furthering the ends above described.

It has been interesting to learn how the society goes about achieving its aims. There will be more about it in future issues of *GOS**hawk*.

GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED

The Graduate Student Research Grant for 1996 has been awarded to James C. Major, Jr. in support of his research on genetic, behavioral and morphological variation across a Titmouse hybrid zone (Black-crested and Gray-crested) in central Texas. Mr. Major received a B.S. degree in Biology from Emory University and an M.A. degree in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin, where he is now pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Zoology.

...H. Branch Howe, Jr.

SUMMER KESTREL SIGHTINGS

We are currently conducting breeding research on the Southeastern American Kestrel along the Coastal Plains of Georgia. If you observe any kestrel nesting-activity in Georgia during the SUMMER months (May-August, especially), please contact Dr. John Parrish, Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8042; Voice Mail (912) 681-0053; Fax (912) 681-0845; E-mail (JOHN**PARRISH**@GASOU.EDU).

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

GOS joins over 500 groups nationally supporting and endorsing the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative called "Teaming With Wildlife." The initiative proposes a small user fee on outdoor products such as binoculars, backpacks, canoes, feeders, field guides, camera equipment, birdseed, mountain bikes, etc. to provide vital funding for wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and environmental education.

Hunters and anglers have long paid user fees on the hunting and fishing equipment they buy for conservation and restoration of game fish and wildlife. If birders and other outdoor enthusiasts were to do the same, it is estimated that \$350 million could be raised for state wildlife conservation programs, of which Georgia’s share would be around \$8 million. The benefits to Georgia’s Non-Game-Endangered Wildlife program, and, consequently, to Georgia birders is obvious.

Fish & Wildlife Agencies in all fifty states plus Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are supporting the initiative, with efforts coordinated by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington, DC. They are asking us to write outdoor businesses to encourage them to be open to this concept. Already companies such as Swarovski, Swift and Zeiss have endorsed Teaming With Wildlife. We can help to enlist more supporters.

Below are the names and addresses of the CEO’s of a few of the companies you very likely do or have done business with. Write and tell them you are willing to pay just a little bit more for their product as an investment in wildlife conservation programs. Birding, by the way, is one of the fastest growing recreational activities in America. What’s good for birding is good for the businesses that provide birding equipment and supplies.

Mr. Brooks Pennington Pennington Seed P.O. Box 290 Madison, GA 30650	Mr. Leon Gorman, President L.L. Bean, Inc. 1 Casco Street Freeport, ME 04033
Houghton Mifflin* 215 Park Avenue South New York, NY 10003	Grumman Canoes P.O. Box 549 Marathon, NY 13803

*Publishes *Peterson Field Guides*

Additional industry contacts are listed in handouts available at the registration desk at GOS meetings, or call Terry Johnson (912) 994-1438.

HAS YOUR GOS MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?!

Please note that if your mailing label on this issue shows the number 95, your membership has expired and this will be the last publication mailed if your 1996 dues are not received shortly. Dues and GOS mailing address information are found on the membership blank on the back cover.

RECYCLING "THE ORIOLE"

From time to time GOS is asked to provide complete sets of *The Oriole* to members or libraries. While we have a good supply of many issues, we would be happy to recycle any back issues of The Oriole which you do not want to keep. There are several recent issues which we need, including Vol. 49 No. 4; Vol. 50 No. 2/3; Vol. 51 No. 1; and Vol. 59 No. 2/3. Please send back issues to John Swiderski, Business Manager, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120. We will be happy to reimburse postage or shipping if necessary.

...John Swiderski

FIELD NOTES
Jeff Sewell and Terry Moore

This was the most memorable winter in the years I’ve been birding in Georgia. Memorable for the number of rare vagrants that appeared and for the large numbers of many wintering birds, perhaps due to the longest winter in some time. The Brant and Red-necked Grebe top the list of rareties and Evening Grosbeaks overwhelmed many feeders in the northern part of the state. If you do not see your sighting here, look for it in an upcoming issue of *The Oriole*.

...Jeff Sewell

The deadline for the next reporting period - Spring (March, April, May) is June 30, 1996.
Send reports to: Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084

Abbreviations include: ACOGB - *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (1986), C. Haney et al, GOS Occ. Publ. No. 10; CBC - Christmas Bird Count; CRNRA - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, north of Atlanta; ELHLAF - E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County; KMT - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County; NWR - National Wildlife Refuge; WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

Winter 1995-96: December - February

RED-THROATED LOON - Always a good find for the Atlanta area was a bird seen at Lake Lanier on 19 Dec. by Paul Raney. This bird was seen in Gwinnett County but the two birds seen also at Lake Lanier on 6 Dec. by Jack Carusos and John Paget were in Hall County. Another bird was seen at West Point Lake on 11 Jan. by Adam Byrne. Thirty was a good count for Tybee Island on 15 Feb. by Brad Bergstrom.

COMMON LOON - The best inland count was the 15 at Lake Hartwell on 1 Feb.(Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen).

HORNED GREBE - Adam Byrne had an excellent count of 60-70 at West Point Lake on 11 Jan. This lake doesn’t get very much attention and might yield some good sightings if birded regularly.

RED-NECKED GREBE - One of the two outstanding reports from the Atlanta area during the period involved this species. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert made the initial discovery of at least one bird at Lanier Park, Gwinnett County on 28 Jan. Later, as many as three were seen off and on until 2 March when one bird was last reported by John Swiderski. This is the first time the species has been reported from the Atlanta area in many years and is the first time that the species has remained in one general area to be enjoyed by a number of observers.

EARED GREBE - One bird on the Rum Creek CBC was a good find on 18 Dec. (fide Terry Johnson). Possibly the same bird was seen again in late Jan. and on 17 Feb. in the same area (Dan Guynn). On 10 Feb., Paul Sykes, Paul Raney and Bruce Dralle had the unique experience of having four species of grebe in sight at the same time at Lake Lanier: Red-necked, Eared, Horned and Pied-billed.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN - Fifteen birds were reported from the St. Marys area during the month of January (South Georgia RBA).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - There were good numbers of this species reported from a couple inland locations. Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett reported 400 from the Lake Eufaula area on 9 and 10 Dec. and the Macon CBC had 348 on 16 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson).

ANHINGA - Another rather amazing winter count was the 23 Anhingas on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson). Ten were still there on 20 Jan. (Giff Beaton et al.).

GREAT EGRET - Another amazing count was the 213 Great Egrets seen in the Lake Eufaula area on 9 Dec. by Giff Beaton and Bruce Hallett. Eight birds were seen in the Macon area on 20 Jan. by Giff Beaton et al. Very rare for the time of year was a bird seen along US Hwy. 140 (Floyd County) on 1 Feb. by Giff Beaton and Kevin Danchisen.

REDDISH EGRET - One bird was reported from Little St. Simons Island on 15 Jan. (fide Chuck Hunter).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON - One bird was a good find on the Macon CBC on 16 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson).

WHITE IBIS - An excellent count of 1000 came from Grand Bay in Lowndes County on 21 Dec. (Gena Dwyer).

GLOSSY IBIS - Very rare for the winter were two birds at Harris Neck NWR on 16 Jan. (Dale Hardee).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL - A very rare winter sighting for Georgia was a bird in Liberty County on 27 Dec. (Royce Hayes).

TUNDRA SWAN - One bird was discovered in the Gillsville area of Banks County on 2 Dec. by John Paget and the bird remained there through the end of the period. Another bird was found at the ELHLAF on 16 Dec. by Patrick Brisse.

SNOW GOOSE - Reports came from Cartersville, Dublin, Macon, Roswell and Tybee Island with the best count of 30 from Roswell on 12 Dec. (Anne Lawson).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - The bird that was found in Nov. in the Dublin area was still there at least through 3 Dec. (Tom Patterson and Nancy Gobris). Eight birds were found in Greene County on 18 Feb. and remained there through the end of the month (Paul Sykes). This may be the most ever seen in Georgia at one time.

BRANT - On 25 Dec., Ellen Cowgill discovered a Brant with Canada Geese on a small pond near Blairsville. The bird remained to be seen by many observers until 14 Jan. The possibility that the bird is an escapee comes to mind, as the few seen this far south are usually on the coast, but I found a number of records from the interior in neighboring states.