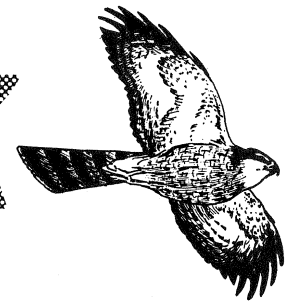


THE *GOS*hawk NEWSLETTER IS  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE  
GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY.

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# GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME <sup>24</sup>4 NO. 1

MARCH 1997

## 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 SEND ANY ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS!

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

**(912) 244-9190 South Georgia**

**ALABAMA: (205) 987-2730**

**N/S CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473**

**FLORIDA: \*(561) 340-0079 (Statewide)**

**TENNESSEE: (615) 356-7636**

**\*(912) 244-9190 (N. Florida)**

**Chattanooga: (423) 843-2822**

\* new #'s

### GOS SPRING MEETING

May 2-4, 1997

*Holiday Inn - Athens, Georgia*

The GOS Spring 1997 meeting will be held May 2-4 at the Holiday Inn in Athens (Broad & Lumpkin Streets in downtown Athens). Special GOS room rates are \$63/night + 11% tax. To get these special rates, reservations should be made by April 11, 1997. Call 800-HOLIDAY or directly at 706-549-4433 (fax: 706-548-3031) and guarantee your reservations with the first night's deposit. Be sure to identify yourself as being with the Georgia Ornithological Society, and give the three-letter group block code - ORN.

Oconee Audubon Society is coordinating half-day field trips to local birding hot spots such as the State Botanical Garden, Sandy Creek Nature Center, Sandy Creek Park, Whitehall Forest and Memorial Park. Other longer trips will be a short distance from Athens and will include such places as Lake Oconee, Watson's Springs, Commerce Water Works, a series of small swamps and a privately-owned sand pit. We will also be assisting in the Breeding Bird Atlas survey on most, if not all, of our field trips. (Note: the restaurant at the Holiday Inn will be open early for breakfast before the field trips). To help you make your trip choices, Friday night's program will be a slide preview of the trip sites and updated information on the Breeding Bird Atlas project from Todd Schneider. (See page 5 for more information on the BBA project).

After our very popular paper sessions at last fall's meeting at Jekyll, Chuck Hunter and Joe Meyers are working on plans for Saturday afternoon paper sessions at this meeting.

Saturday night's banquet speakers will be Dr. Eugene Odum, "father of ecology" and professor emeritus at the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia, and Dr. Ronald Pulliam, former Director of the Institute of Ecology and currently Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior in Washington DC. A cash bar will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a buffet-style banquet at 7:00 p.m. The cost for the banquet is \$18.50. Registration form for the meeting and banquet are on page 9.

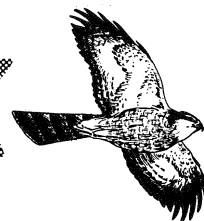
...Eugenia Thompson

### GOS FALL MEETING

*Tallahassee / St. Mark's NWR, Florida*

Watch for information and exact dates for our Fall 1997 meeting in the Tallahassee/St. Mark's NWR area of Florida in the June issue of *GOS*hawk.

# GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1684  
Cartersville, GA 30120

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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PERMIT NO. 97



Deadline for the next *GOS*hawk is May 1, 1997

☺ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** ☺

Borie Andersson	Marietta, GA	Eugene Keferl	Brunswick, GA
Jon Andrew	Tucker, GA	Stacy Lindemann	Statesboro, GA
Ann Reed Bachrack	Valdosta, GA	John McMahan	Columbus, GA
Shane Belson	Orlando, FL	William & Karla O'Grady	Athens, GA
Dan Clark	Columbus, GA	Nick Pulcinella	Swarthmore, PA
Elizabeth Derrick	Valdosta, GA	Barbara Rickard	Stone Mountain, GA
Ellin Hagan	Sylvania, GA	Lincoln Roberts	Decatur, GA
Joseph Iannicelli	Jekyll Island, GA	Frank & Linda Widincamp	Winston, GA

...John Swiderski

**T. MCRAE WILLIAMS**

GOS lost another long time life member on December 6, 1996 when T. Mcrae Williams passed away. He was 22 days short of his 91st birthday. He was an active member of GOS until the early 1980's and was known as "T. Mac" to many of us.

He served GOS as Business Manager from 1967 until 1981 and was most often seen visiting with other members around the sales table at meetings.

T. Mac was a kind and gentle man, always in good spirits and possessor of a keen sense of humor. I had the pleasure of sharing many laughs and good fellowship with him while preparing GOS mailings at his home in Atlanta.

He and his late wife, Mozelle, also enjoyed square dancing and travelling in their motor coach. He was treasurer for the Georgia Ramblers motor coach club for a number of years. During his working years he was an electrical engineer and was a member of the design team for the Lockheed C-5A Galaxy transport plane. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers in World War II and was awarded a bronze star.

The biography testifies that T. Mac was successful in his endeavours, but we will remember him most for his genuine friendship and the humor that touched so many.

...John Swiderski

**SAMUEL A. GRIMES**

Samuel A. Grimes, 90, a charter member of the Georgia Ornithological Society and an elective member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on November 2, 1996 in Jacksonville, Florida. Professionally a photoengraver, Mr. Grimes was also a widely published bird photographer. In his talk at the fall 1977 GOS meeting in Brunswick covering fifty years of bird photography, he discussed the time and patience required to capture some of the very difficult shots for which he was so well known. His slides, presented chronologically, clearly showed the evolvement of black-and-white to color film, which he quickly adopted as soon as the latter became available in the mid-thirties.

...H. Branch Howe, Jr.

**FIELD NOTES (Cont.)**

Breasted Sandpipers in several locations. Four Wilson's Phalarope near Brunswick on 21 Sept. (Pierre Howard) are the most I've heard of being seen at one time.

It was a warm fall as indicated by the presence of many lingering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. I had reports of at least four in the Atlanta area into November. A normal number (at least 8) of selasphorus hummingbirds had appeared by the end of November, including the Macon area's sixth Rufous, at the feeder of Dan Adrien in southwest Monroe Co., 2-8 Oct. Five Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from the Atlanta area between 24 Aug. and 9 Sept. including two at Fernbank Forest, Atlanta, on 24 Aug. and 31 Aug. (Georgann Schmalz). This species, too, seems to be on the increase in Georgia, but like several others mentioned in this report, the increase may be due to the number of birders in the field.

Unprecedented numbers of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported for the period including two banded in August at Fernbank Forest (Georgann Schmalz); three at the Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon during mid-Sept. (Jerry & Marie Amerson); and three more at different locations in Cobb Co. in mid-to-late Sept. (Giff Beaton, Chuck Saleeby, Bruce Hallett). The obligatory one Western Kingbird was spotted on the coast, as usual, at Cumberland Is. on 18 Oct. by Kristi Avera, Jim Harrell and Bob Zarembo. Paul Johnson reported a truly outstanding sighting on 1 Sept. in Peach Co.: 210 Bank Swallows at the Sod Farm -- and this is only the second highest total in the area that he knows about!

Some warbler species were seen in good numbers, including six Golden-wingeds one morning at Kennesaw Mtn. on 18 Sept. (Pierre Howard); four Nashville - three from Kennesaw Mtn. and one from Macon; and three separate Wilson's in the Atlanta area in Sept. However, other observers noted how few warblers they found in their favorite spots.

Giff Beaton set what is probably another Georgia record, seeing five Lincoln's Sparrows during the period, all at different locations at Kennesaw Mtn.: one on 11 Oct., three (!!) on 27 Oct. with Jim Flynn, and one on 4 Nov. with Kevin Danchisen and Adam Byrne. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen on the coast, one on 2 Oct. on Cumberland Is. (Sheila Willis) and another on Jekyll Is. on 20 Oct. (Chuck Hunter). Finally, after an absence of several years, Purple Finch were being reported from a number of feeders in the northern part of the state indicating a more normal year for them.

While some readers may miss the more extensive coverage given the field notes in recent issues of GOShawk, others have felt that too much attention was being given to field notes, and that their proper place is in The Oriole. I hope this report strikes a balance. I would be happy to hear from more of you on the subject, preferably in writing, and hope that you will all continue to send me your regular reports as that data is still very necessary for my report in The Oriole.

The deadline for the Winter 1996-97 Report (Dec. - Feb.) is March 15th. Send reports and correspondence to: Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

**GOS SPRING MEETING - REGISTRATION  
HOLIDAY INN - ATHENS, GA / MAY 2-4, 1997**

NAME(S) (for name tags, print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registrations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00 per member \$\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 per non-member \$\_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18.50 per person \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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 (April 30) 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 \_\_\_\_\_

For the report for this season I have decided to use a different format. Rather than present a detailed list of species reported, which is an abbreviated version of the more comprehensive field notes that will appear later in *The Oriole*, I am going to a shorter, narrative discussion of the season's most unusual sightings. Fewer of your sightings will be reported here, but I hope you will enjoy the new format and find it more readable and, therefore, more informative. Feel free to write me with your comments and suggestions, or leave me a message on the Rare Bird Alert line (770-493-8862), but I would prefer that you not call me at home.

This fall season was a good one for me, but then, I've never had a bad birding season. My personal highlights were three species I had not previously seen in Georgia: Snow Bunting, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Townsend's Warbler. I think it is not too much of an exaggeration to say that Georgia had an invasion of Snow Buntings this fall, a species for which we've had very few reports in recent years, at least in a place easily accessible to most birders. In addition to the three birds discovered on 28 Nov. at Ft. Pulaski by Shawn Reed, a new GOS member recently moved from Wisconsin, a small flock of 6-8 was found on the north end of Cumberland Is. in late November by Carol Ruckdeschel. This flock remained well into December, but most of us did not hear about them until much later. The Yellow-headed Blackbird seen 27 Oct. at the ponds at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility (ELHLAF) in Clayton Co. was also the first to be seen in an easily accessible place by a large number of observers in many years. However, the find of the season was the Townsend's Warbler seen on the eve of the GOS fall meeting at Jekyll Island. First seen on 18 Oct. by two Clemson graduate students, it remained faithfully in one spot for the next several days. The scene at the site on the north end of Jekyll on Sunday morning, 20 Oct., reminded me of photographs of Cape May, NJ or High Island, TX, with nearly 100 birders crowded together anxiously looking up into a tree. All went home happy. A Townsend's Warbler was banded a few years ago at the Jekyll Island Banding Station, making this bird only Georgia's second.

After the foregoing three new species for my Georgia life list this fall, I will remember this season for the unusual numbers of coastal species that turned up inland. This, as well as a number of the other events I will mention, probably has as much to do with the increase in the number of birders in the field as it does with any changes in a particular species' migratory pattern.

A Red-throated Loon seen for one day, 4 Nov., at Lake Juliette, Monroe Co., by Terry Johnson, was thought to be middle Georgia's first (per Paul Johnson), although the species is irregularly seen at large deep-water lakes in the Atlanta area. November is the best

month to find Eared Grebe, and this fall this increasingly common species staged its best showing yet. Five first seen on 4 Nov. at Lake Lanier by Giff Beaton and Jim Flynn, remained all month. At Plant Scherer in Monroe Co., the most reliable place for them, one was seen on 4 Nov. (Terry Johnson) and five on 23 Nov. (Jeff Sewell). Three (possibly five) seen on 17 Nov. at DeKalb Reservoir by Jeff Petit capped off their strong showing. The flock of American White Pelicans wintering on the St. Mary's River is becoming expected, but the one seen in Laurens Co. on 23 Sept. by Tommy Patterson was a first for the county. Two Tricolored Herons seen in the Atlanta area was way above their appearance rate here: Echo Lake, DeKalb Co. on 1 thru 15 Aug. (Steve Ehly); and ELHLAF on 7 Aug. (Carol Lambert). Roseate Spoonbills continue their increase in the marsh just south of Brunswick. I think the 30 seen on 21 Sept. by Pierre Howard is the high count to date. This species occasionally turns up well inland as did the one seen on 9 Sept. on a small farm pond in Putnam Co. (Billy Dunbar).

Wood Storks made a strong showing in Macon this fall with 96 counted on 4 Aug. by Ty Ivey and Paul Johnson. Paul reports that the Tundra Swan seen 11 Nov. at Lake Juliette by Terry Johnson is the first there since 1972. Some ducks appeared in very impressive numbers: 275 Green-winged Teal at the Macon brickyard ponds on 17 Nov. (Jerry Amerson et al); and the 550 Blue-winged Teal at ELHLAF on 1 Oct. was, I believe, a record for that site (Brock Hutchins). More than average numbers of Canvasback and Redhead were reported from inland lakes, but the prize duck find of the season were the three Oldsquaw seen at Lake Lanier on 21 Nov. by Giff Beaton and Adam Byrne. I can't recall more than two ever being reported, even from the coast. Lake Juliette added to its impressive list with a White-winged Scoter, first seen on 9 Nov. (Terry Johnson) and last seen on 16 Nov. (Jerry Payne). As for raptors, space here permits only the mention of the record late-departing American Swallow-tailed Kite seen 2 Oct. in the Piedmont NWR (Gordon Gridley). Paul Johnson had two noteworthy sightings at the lake in his subdivision in Macon: five Sora spent 23 Sept.-24 Oct., and a pair of Common Moorhen raised several young. Two Black-bellied Plover seen at ELHLAF were only the 5th and 6th Atlanta area sightings: one on 1 Sept. (Jeff Sewell) and one on 26 Sept. (Carol Lambert). Upland Sandpiper (6) and Sanderling (6) turned up at inland locations in above average numbers. A remarkable sight were the five Baird's Sandpiper seen near Brunswick on 2 Oct. by Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn and Kevin Danchisen. This is, I think, the most ever seen in Georgia at one time. Other sandpipers posting above average numbers, especially inland, were 15 Dunlin at ELHLAF on 26 Oct. (Aubrey Scott) and five in Macon on 19 Nov. (Paul Johnson), the first here in four years; and Stilt and Buff-

The following article is the third in a series of short reports from various committee/activity 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.

**The Business Manager**

by John Swiderski

The Business Manager of the Society is one of six officers that serve GOS, but is appointed rather than elected. The appointment by the President is for a six year term.

In reality, the person who serve as Business Manager is truly a committed volunteer because the job comes complete with dozens of boxes of books, *The Oriole* back issues, t-shirts and other sales items. It helps if the Business Manager has a tolerant spouse who doesn't mind the storage needs, and who will help out at the sales table now and then. My wife, Kate, fits that profile and we are in love to boot!

Being the Business Manager is clearly about service to members and customers. Few days pass when there is not an order to fill, dues to post, or a mailing of *The Oriole* or *GOShawk* to prepare. Having an interest in keeping accurate records is helpful, but more difficult as one gets older.

Is it fun? For me the fun is in working with so many interesting people over the years. The editors of *The Oriole* and the *GOShawk*, the treasurer, the authors and editors of our occasional publications, and our own artist, Dick Parks, come to mind. They have all been fun to work with and to have as friends. One special friend was the late T. Mcrae Williams who certainly was an inspiration to me when he served as Business Manager.

To date seven GOS members have functioned as Business Manager:

Mrs. Hugh L. Harris	1939
Ralph L. Ramsey	1940-1961
Louis C. Fink	1961-1967
T. Mcrae Williams	1967-1981
William A. Gibbs	1981-1985
Carolina H. Lane	1985-1989
John Swiderski	1989-Present

**OKEFENOKEE BIRD CLUB CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Waycross-based Okefenokee Bird Club celebrated its 40th anniversary by recalling its founding in December 1956 by Eugene Cypert, Roy Moore and Gerald Baker. Although a small group, over the years the members have been active in promoting birding and wildlife conservation in every way possible, including community events, newspaper articles, educational classes, field trips and contact with government officials. They have established their city as a bird sanctuary, developed the first South Georgia checklist, created and maintained a bluebird nest-box trail for 20 years and increased the nature section of the regional library through memorial donations. They have served as a contact point for visiting birders, provided sectional information for *The Birder's Guide to Georgia*, and contributed current status information on birds for several editions of Peterson's *A Field guide to the Birds* and other nature books. In addition to contributing bird sightings to GOS publications, members have served as officers and hosted several regional meetings.

In keeping with the name Okefenokee, the club has worked closely with that national refuge by updating that agency's bird checklist, participating in various bird surveys, conducting 40-years-worth of Christmas Counts and helping organize the now-annual National Wildlife Week and Sandhill Crane Day festivals. In recent years their president has developed an additional association with Cumberland Island National Seashore through work on their checklists, wildlife records library, surveys and establishment of their Christmas Bird Counts. Also, the Club maintains contacts with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and many other wildlife oriented organizations. The current president is Sheila Willis, with two charter members, Lois Groszmann and Ellen Moore, serving as co-vice presidents.

...Sheila Willis

*GOShawk* invites any other interested birding organizations in Georgia to submit articles about their organization or activities.

1996 was another great birding year in Georgia. The appearance of a Brant in the mountains and Red-necked Grebes at Lake Lanier in January were good omens for many of us, who were later able to add such jewels as Harlequin Duck, Ross' Goose, Townsend's Warbler and Snow Bunting. Our suggestion that any listers submitting life lists of 130+ or 1996 year lists of 280+ send in a copy of the actual list, resulted (predictably) in only one of our number willing to have his list publicly scrutinized. Thanks to Giff Beaton for sharing his list of an amazing 293 Georgia birds in 1996 (210 in the Atlanta area!), as well as his Georgia life list data (324). Georgia newcomer, Jim Flynn's year count of 278 was the second highest in '96. Jim moved to Georgia in 1996 and became birding friends with Giff Beaton...

*Highlights of Giff's 1996 list: Red-necked Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Oldsquaw, Wilson's Phalarope, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaeger (on-shore), Short-eared Owl, Black-chinned & Allen's Hummingbirds, Townsend's Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Snow Bunting, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.*

NAME	HOME	GA LIFE LIST-1996	GA LIFE LIST-1995	GA YEAR LIST-1996	GA YEAR LIST-1995
Bob Manns	Atlanta, GA	361	360	-	-
Terry Moore	Roswell, GA	344	341	-	-
Joe Greenberg	Atlanta, GA	336	336	-	-
Bill Blakeslee	Atlanta, GA	330	322	-	-
Patrick Brisse	Stone Mountain, GA	330	330	-	-
Bruce Dralle	Marietta, GA	328	322	-	-
Billy Dunbar	Watkinsville, GA	328	320	226	297
Paul Sykes	Watkinsville, GA	325	322	-	-
Giff Beaton	Marietta, GA	324	313	293	275
Jeff Sewell	Tucker, GA	323	318	275	276
Brenda Dunbar	Watkinsville, GA	319	307	215	284
Mark Oberle	Atlanta, GA	319	311	-	-
Carol Lambert	Tucker, GA	317	310	256	257
Anne Wyand Mursch	Aberdeen, MD	317	-	-	-
Bruce Hallett	Atlanta, GA	316	-	253	-
Peggy Moore	Roswell, GA	312	309	-	-
Anne Waters	Augusta, GA	311	-	-	-
Pierre Howard	Atlanta, GA	310	299	276	278
Johnny Parks	Ringgold, GA	286	-	-	-
Joel Hitt	Lawrenceville, GA	282	-	-	-
Jim Flynn	Cumming, GA	278	-	278	-
Kevin Danchisen	Marietta, GA	276	252	241	245
Karen Theodorou	Lawrenceville, GA	261	-	-	-

**CONGRATULATIONS TO GOS MEMBER JOE GREENBERG**

On January 31, 1997 the Georgia House of Representatives passed HR 208 "recognizing and commending Joseph Greenberg for his exemplary contributions to environmental awareness and the protection of birds native to Georgia and convey to him their appreciation and best wishes."

**SHACKLEFORD-WILLIAMS BLUFF PRESERVE**

The Nature Conservancy of Georgia recently received a 1,017-acre fee simple donation in southwest Georgia from Mrs. John H. Williams. The property is located near Blakely and is bounded on the west by the Chattahoochee River. It is the largest Nature Conservancy Preserve in Georgia. This new preserve supports populations of gopher tortoise, Bachman's Sparrow, and several rare plants including needle palm, wake-robins and green-fly orchid. The site is a combination of sandy uplands, bluffs and floodplain forests. Special features include longleaf pine-wiregrass sandhill communities, isolated wetlands and spring runs.

**ABA/AFO TO HOLD JOINT MEETING**

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists will be held jointly with the American Birding Association Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, July 21-27, 1997. For registration information, call or write:  
ABA/AFO Joint Meeting, P.O. Box 6599, Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6599  
Carol Wallace, registrar (800) 850-2473

**INTERESTING GREAT EGRET BEHAVIOR REPORTED**

GOS member Anne Waters of Augusta recently reported the following observation. If any readers are familiar with the behavior described or have comments, please send them to Anne at 1621 Apple Valley Drive, Augusta, GA 30906.

The following article appeared in the January 1997 issue of *The Fall Line, Bulletin of the Ocmulgee Audubon Society*. Anne writes...

*"In Merry Ponds on December 9, 1996, I observed 27 Great Egrets standing in shallow water fishing. Just out from them was flock of approximately 100 Double-crested Cormorants diving repeatedly after fish. The egrets watched the water intently, occasionally stabbing at it and sometimes coming up with a small fish. Ring-billed Gulls, attracted by the activity, flew in to dive for fish amid the diving Cormorant flock. Later, when the Cormorant flock dispersed, so did the egrets. They had been using the cormorants to help them catch fish.*

*Another interesting piece of Great Egret behavior came when we visited the Northern California coast in October 1995. We watched Great Egrets out in pastures with cows. They seemed to be catching insects stirred up in the field. I have never seen Great Egrets do this in Georgia. Have any of you observed Great Egrets feeding in pastures with cows the way Cattle Egrets do?"*

The GOShawk would also be interested in receiving any follow-up information on this subject, and we encourage members to report bird observations that seem curious. It is quite likely that other members have made similar observations and may have more information.

The Breeding Bird Atlas Project is a cooperative effort of the Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Ornithological Society and state Audubon chapters. The goal of the project is to document the breeding distribution of all bird species in the state. The project field work started in 1994 and is expected to be completed in 2000. The majority of the survey work is done by volunteers and is a fun and interesting way to contribute to the conservation of birds in Georgia.

The Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee has set the following goals:

- 1.(a). To develop a breeding species list, with breeding evidence, in each of 750 priority blocks (the east-central 1/6 of a USGS quadrangle) as a scientific sample of Georgia breeding birdlife.
- (b). Using these lists as a basis, explore new habitats in some of the other blocks in each quadrangle to add species not present or missed in the priority block. These quadrangle lists shall serve as the basis for the Breeding Distribution Maps to be published at the conclusion of the project.
2. To initiate 150 new priority blocks in 1997.

These goals will not be easily met. If you have already completed your priority block, could you spend some more time in other blocks to increase the quad list? You may be able to quickly add about 10 new species for the quad that you have not found in the priority block.

In order to accomplish goal #2, the Steering Committee calls on all GOS members to initiate a block in 1997, even those of you who need to finish an old one. A number of GOS members have contributed data in multiple blocks--we look for more GOS members to join the ranks of those that complete more than one block per year.

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### ***MORE ON HOUSE FINCH DISEASE...***

As a follow-up to information in previous GOSHawk articles, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, the bacterium that causes the conjunctivitis-like symptoms in Eastern House Finches, has been confirmed in two additional species. The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine has positively identified the bacterium in American Goldfinches. Also, the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at Michigan State University has detected this bacterium in a single Downy Woodpecker.

...Kevin Danchison

### ***Please help out...***

1. Volunteer to "adopt" an Atlas block in your area or elsewhere in the state. You can adequately "atlas" a block in 4 or 5 mornings spread over a field season or two.
2. In more remote areas of the state we are calling for volunteers to spend just one morning in late May or June atlasing a block, so that we have some information from these areas. You can do this as part of a drive you might be planning to southern or coastal Georgia.
3. Come to the GOS Spring Meeting in Athens and "atlas" while you are enjoying the migrants.
4. In the course of hiking around the state or even in your backyard, please keep your eyes open for nesting birds or young fledglings and send details to the address below. Please include the species, date observed, what you observed (nest building, bird on nest, eggs, nestlings, young fledglings, carrying food), plus sufficient location information so we can place the sighting in a specific 1/6 of a topo map. You don't have to have a topo. Location information such as a street address in a town, or a description such as "200 yards west of the Chattooga River on GA28" is sufficient.

We have a new Atlas Handbook, new field cards and an upcoming newsletter, so let's get going. The quality of the finished Atlas depends on each of you.

Contact Todd Schneider, Dept. of Natural Resources, 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029, tel.: 912-994-1438; or your regional coordinator; or Rick West 800-707-4382 for information or assignments. Please report data in writing.

---

### ***FOLLOW-UP ON LEAST TERNS...***

As a follow-up to Michael Krogh's articles on Least Tern nesting in the December issue of GOSHawk, Sheila Willis reports that contrary to Mr. Krogh's assertion that Cumberland Island had no active nests during the summer of 1996, there were several active nesting colonies on the island. This is good news, indeed, as this species needs all of the undisturbed beach sites available.

...Jeff Sewell

**COFFEE IS FOR THE BIRDS...at least on May 8th!**

Did you know that your morning cup of java could effect the birds singing in your yard this spring? That's right, colorful songbirds like orioles, tanagers and warblers depend on your choice of morning brew.

Coffee grown in the shade of a rainforest canopy provides valuable winter habitat for many of the migratory birds that we look forward to each spring. In Latin American countries, rainforests face increasing threats from expanding human populations, short term agriculture and even drugs. In many areas, traditional coffee plantations provide the best, if not the only, habitat for wintering songbirds as well as exotic native wildlife species.



Join Partners in Flight, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division and Atlanta Audubon Society at Fernbank Natural History Museum on May 8th from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for the first Shade Grown Coffee Reception...**MADE IN THE SHADE**. You will be able to sample various "bird friendly" coffees and speak with scientists and roasters about the importance of shaded coffee plantations to many of our favorite birds. Fernbank will also offer two special showings of the new IMAX film *AMAZON*, which, with assistance from a native shaman guide, traces the mighty Amazon River from its source high in the Andes mountains to the fertile basin where it supports diverse peoples and animals. There is no fee for the Coffee Reception, but reservations are required by calling the Nongame Wildlife Program at 912-994-1438. The cost for either the 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. showings of *AMAZON* is \$7.00 for one ticket or \$10.50 for two. This event is a great way to celebrate International Migratory Bird Week!

...E. J. Williams

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**GIVE WILDLIFE A CHANCE!**

Give wildlife a break when you check for wildlife on your state income tax form.

A primary source of funding for Georgia's Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program, the checkoff generates funds for statewide projects including songbird conservation, sea turtle nest protection, bald eagle nest surveys and many other programs.

Please make a tax deductible donation to the Wildlife Conservation Fund -- on line 27 (long form) or line 6 (short form) of your state income tax form.

Wildlife Conservation Fund  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Division  
116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029  
912/994-1438

