

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 PHONE NUMBER CHANGES TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS!

GOSHAWK



NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 24 NO. 2

JUNE 1997

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

MEETING NOTES

GOS SPRING MEETING WRAP-UP

Seventy or so GOS members and guests thoroughly enjoyed a delightful spring meeting in Athens 2-4 May, in spite of a near rain-out of field trips Saturday morning. Oconee Audubon members led by President Chris Eberly went all out to aid and support Eugenia Thompson's preparations. A choice of seven field trips to such varied locations as botanical gardens and sand quarries were ably led once weather permitted.

The Saturday evening program was an outstanding double feature by Drs. Ronald Pulliam and Eugene Odum.

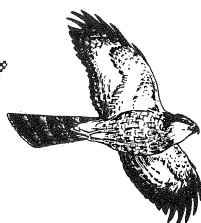
As of Saturday evening, a total of 126 bird species had been sighted. The Curtis property proved to be a gold mine once the storm passed through Saturday morning. The few brave souls led by Paul Sykes amassed no less than 100 species for that area alone, including many of the best birds of the day. Highlights were King, Black and Virginia Rail, Sora, Least Bittern, Willow Flycatcher, Bald Eagle and Upland Sandpiper. Unusually large numbers of the more common birds probably resulted from the storm.

GOS FALL MEETING PLANS

In what will be an interesting and different venue for many of our members, the GOS Fall Meeting will headquarter in Tallahassee, Florida, 10-12 October, giving us access to such popular birding areas as St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Apalachicola National Forest, Wakulla Springs State Park, Tall Timbers Plantation and Research Station and Birdsong Nature Center. Birders from Alabama and Florida are being invited to join us on field trips coordinated by Brad Bergstrom of Valdosta State University and evening programs arranged by Eugenia Thompson.

Full particulars will be forthcoming in an early-summer special mailing, but if you want to get a jump on your room reservations, write or call the Ramada Inn Tallahassee, 2900 North Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32303, tel.: (904)386-1027. Rooms are \$68 plus 10% tax, single or double. Be sure to identify yourself with GOS. The cut-off date for guaranteed availability is 20 September.

GOSHAWK



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P.O. Box 1684
Cartersville, GA 30120

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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CARTERSVILLE, GA

PERMIT NO. 97



Deadline for the next GOSHawk is August 1, 1997

☺ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! ☺

Shane Belson, Orlando, FL
 Paul Blakeburn, Gulf Breeze, FL
 Jane Brann, Atlanta, GA
 David Decker, Conyers, GA
 Arthur Ehrenreich, Phoenix, AZ
 Ellin Hagan, Sylvania, GA
 James Hanna, Jr., Athens, GA
 Lynn Hennelly, Atlanta, GA
 Norma & Paul Herd, Atlanta, GA
 Donald McGowan, Jr., Social Circle, GA

William & Karla O'Grady, Athens, GA
 Charles Ratliff, Athens, GA
 Ted Reissing, Dunwoody, GA
 Don Russell, LaGrange, GA
 Linda Schlemmer, Riverdale, GA
 Kathleen Toomey, Atlanta, GA
 Marion Van Eseltine, Athens, GA
 Pamela Wilhelm, Buford, GA
 Edward Zakrajsek, Valdosta, GA

VELMA PHILLIPS

It is with sadness that we report the death of Velma Phillips, wife of Fred Phillips, of Ormond Beach, FL. Velma died on April 22, 1997 of a massive heart attack with complications, following by-pass surgery and a brief illness.

Freddy, as we know him, is the brother of Doug Phillips of Atlanta. Freddy and Velma have been active members of GOS since 1986, often attending meetings and field trips with Doug and Betsy. Freddy may be reached at 15 Raymonde Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176.

*As of April 1997 GOS has 501 members. This breaks down as:
 328 Regular / 140 Life / 33 Library*

*It is also especially nice to note that we still have 5 of our original
 Charter Members from 1936 to count among our ranks:*

<i>Mrs. Grace Boddiford</i>	<i>Sylvania, GA</i>
<i>Dr. Norman H. Giles</i>	<i>Bogart, GA</i>
<i>Mr. William W. Griffin</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
<i>Mr. Richard A. Parks</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
<i>Dr. George W. Sciple</i>	<i>Brunswick, GA</i>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGES

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the GOS by-laws, President Ken Clark, with the approval of the Executive Committee, has made the following changes pursuant to the resignation of 1st Vice President, Bill Lovejoy.

◆ *Eugenia Thompson*, who is standing for 1st Vice President in the elections to be held next October, will resign as 2nd Vice President in order to accept appointment to complete Bill Lovejoy's unexpired term as 1st Vice President.

◆ *Robert Sargent* of Macon, who has been nominated for the office of 2nd Vice President in the October 1997 election, has volunteered to perform the duties of that office until the election.

Georgia
Ornithological
Society

1995-97

Executive Committee

Ken Clark

President

(912) 474-1924

Eugenia Thompson

1st Vice President

Robert Sargent

2nd Vice President

Karen Theodorou

Secretary

Jeannie Wright

Treasurer

John Swiderski

Business Manager

Helen Ogren

Past President

Kristi Avera

Chair, Membership

(912) 559-6008

Georgann Schmalz

Chair, Editorial

(404) 633-1527

Georgine Pindar

Chair, Conservation/EFG

(404) 355-8454

Terry Moore

Editor, *The Oriole*

Carol Lambert

Editor, *GOShawk*Other Committee Chairs:

Doug Phillips

Finance

(404) 255-8017

Chuck Hunter

Checklist & Records

(770) 923-4742

Special Projects:

Jeff Sewell

Georgia Rare Bird Alert

(770) 493-8862

Joel Hitt

Birder's Guide to Georgia

GOShawk is published quarterly (March, June, September, December).

Editorial Office:

Carol Lambert, Ed.

Jeff Sewell, Field Notes Ed.

4608 Westhampton Drive

Tucker, GA 30084

(770) 939-7668

Deadline for submission is the

1st of the month

prior to publication unless

otherwise noted.

Text on diskette is

appreciated.

Field Notes (continued)

season, and these birds were all seen from land! One wonders what was going on offshore?

Lake Lanier produced the Atlanta area's third and only Georgia's fourth inland Lesser Black-backed Gull, when on 5 Jan. I saw a first winter bird with 15 Herring Gulls. Eurasian Collared-Dove have colonized at St. Mary's. A small flock has been there now for at least two years according to Sheila Willis. A Short-eared Owl flushed on 21 Dec. by Milton Hopkins, Jr. in a coastal marsh was a first for St. Catherines Island. Hummingbird numbers were way down over the last several years based on my compilation; but the best known hummingbirders in Early County, Ikey and Flynn Gregory, added an Allen's to their yard list. The first year male arrived on 10 Dec. and stayed most of the winter, departing on 18 Feb. (per Joe Riser).

From the coast, more than the usual numbers of Western Kingbirds were reported -- a total of four, all from barrier islands. Sheila Willis saw two Horned Larks on Cumberland Island on 30 Jan., a very rare occurrence for a barrier island.

Documentation has already been submitted for the sighting of six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Callaway Gardens on 5 Jan. (Hal Massie, Vic & Vickie Williams), and I wonder if a disjunct over-wintering population is developing there as one seems to have spent last winter in that area (LuAnn Creighton). The best sparrow

report was a Clay-colored Sparrow seen on 22 Dec. north of Marietta by Giff Beaton. I find that Rusty Blackbirds are usually difficult to locate, but not so for Ray Manghum who came across a flock of 2,000± near Lizella in Bibb Co. (dide Paul Johnson). This is the largest flock I've ever heard of in Georgia. Also over-wintering were five Baltimore Orioles seen in four locations in middle Georgia. There were probably more in south Georgia, but I did not receive any reports. For many years, at least until the late 1980's, I was aware of 8 or 10 birds at a Thomasville feeder, but I have no recent information on that location.

As for winter finches, the Purple ones have returned to some locales in normal numbers while in other areas, such as Macon and Augusta, they were quite scarce. Pine Siskins were almost completely absent - again. I received only a few reports from the mountains. Even the feeders at Frances Sawyer's house in Stone Mountain had no Siskins. In recent years she has had 25-30 birds, even when they were scarce elsewhere. Evening Grosbeaks were reported only once, from the Columbus CBC where 60 were reported, but no details were received (fide Sam Pate).

The deadline for the Spring 1997 Report (March - May) is July 1st. Send reports and correspondence to: Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

December, January, February 1996-97
by Jeff Sewell

This winter season started out with the first Snow Bunting invasion in many years and featured many outstanding sightings. December was a great month with very good reporting from around the state, including the Christmas Bird Counts. However, after that period noteworthy sightings trailed off considerably. The last two weeks of February were especially dull and I struggled to come up with something interesting for the Rare Bird Alert line. Perhaps the lack of notable sightings was related to the unusually warm weather most of the state had in February. The big news was the Snow Bunting invasion. This highly eruptive grassland feeder from the central and northern plains has not been seen in Georgia in a long time. The first were seen in late November at Ft. Pulaski near Savannah by Shawn Reed, who found three in the grass near the parking lot. Fortunately, Carol and I were at Jekyll Island at the time and stopped on our way home to see them, though we found only one, a life bird for both of us. This bird stayed in one place through Dec. 4 when the Park Ranger found it dead. Perhaps the weather system that took it so far south also stressed it badly. Three other locations hosted the species. A flock of about 16 was discovered on the north end of Cumberland Island on 25 Dec. and stayed there for several weeks (fide Sheila Willis). On 28 Jan., Brad Winn discovered seven in the Altamaha River delta and on 30 Jan. Malcolm Hodges found six on Little Tybee Island. It is not known whether they stayed in these latter two locations.

A species that is commonly referred to as "very rare" inland, was seen again this period -- Red-throated Loon -- but we seem nowadays to find one or two inland somewhere in Georgia between late fall and early spring. This time one was seen on 17 Dec. at a place few of us go -- West Point Lake, by Jeff Hill (fide Mark Oberle). Rarer still, especially inland, is the Red-necked Grebe. After seeing three last winter at Lake Lanier, I thought it would be many more years before I saw one again, so my surprise was great when on a cold, windy 8 Dec., Pierre Howard and I saw one from the same point of land on Lake Lanier where they had appeared last year, the Resource Manager's Office. (Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers has now closed off this area to recreational use, including birders, due to automobile vandalism in the parking lot). On the coast one was seen on the Harris Neck NWR Christmas Bird Count by Vic Carpenter (fide Pat Metz). Two reports in Georgia in one season is noteworthy.

Also of note was a wintering Reddish Egret seen in all three months by Sheila Willis on Cumberland Island. I believe this is the best evidence to date that one

has spent an entire winter on the Georgia coast. Macon had its first January sighting of a Cattle Egret -- one seen in the brickyard ponds on 2 Jan. by Paul Johnson. Glossy Ibis, described as accidental in winter in the Annotated Checklist (1986, GOS #10) were seen on 29 Dec. by Mike Resch (fide Giff Beaton), keeping alive a string of winter sightings of this species. Snow Goose sightings were numerous this period, coming from all around the state. Their population has exploded over the last ten years as a result, it is thought, of their exploitation of human agriculture on the wintering grounds. Their enormous numbers have lain waste a huge area of Hudson Bay coastal marsh where they breed.

Topping off the fine goose season was Georgia's fourth Ross' Goose and Atlanta's first. The bird was a large member of its species as it fooled several good birders who over the course of three days passed it off as a small Snow Goose among the Canadas at the E.L. Huie ponds in Clayton Co. Had it not been for Bill Blakeslee's "second look" on 16 Jan., it may have gone undetected because it left the next day. Wintering duck numbers were way up, owing, perhaps, to the several good breeding seasons enjoyed by many species. The Athens CBC broke its previous record for duck species with 11 and also had the most individuals for the count since 1987. Northern Pintail were a first for that count. When I first saw the 12,000± Lesser Scaup off St. Catherines Island on 22 Dec. I was really knocked out, but was sad later to learn from Royce Hayes that when he first came to the island in the 1970's he commonly saw three times that many every winter.

The most memorable shorebirds were Long-billed Curlew and Red Phalarope. The curlews were seen on two barrier islands: one seen on 21 Dec. by Ray Chandler on St. Catherines, and two seen on Sapelo Island on 30 Jan. by Giff Beaton and Todd Schneider. I believe that one has been seen on St. Catherines during the winter for several years now. The Red Phalarope stayed about a week at the pond at Epworth-by-the Sea on St. Simons Island, and was last seen on 11 Jan. (fide Elaine Young).

Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn and Malcolm Hodges witnessed what surely must be a first for Georgia when on 15 Dec. they saw six jaegers. One Pomarine light phase adult was seen off Jekyll Island with three Parasitics and at St. Simons Island they saw two more Parasitics! Two Pomarines were seen off Sapelo Island on 4 Jan (Bill Dopson), and one Parasitic off Cumberland Island the week of 21 Dec. by Sheila Willis. I don't recall this many ever being seen in a

Environmental Fund for Georgia (EFG)

Our latest check from EFG (\$346.59) came entirely from federal employees in the middle Georgia area, much of it directly to GOS. *Who's done some good work in the Macon area?* It's really a pity that we are not informed of the names of the donors so we can thank them personally and invite their membership.

In order to reach the goal of \$1 million in pledges in the year 2000, we must aim for \$250,000 in 1997 - \$500,000 in 1998 - and \$750,000 in 1999. The 22 member organizations are concentrating now on getting ACCESS to the employee pledge cards of Georgia Power, Atlanta Gas Light and AT&T. It's proving difficult.

It is almost as difficult, when access is attained, to mount an effective CAMPAIGN to persuade employees of the corporation to give to EFG and GOS, new organizations on their pledge cards. (EFG was on the 1996 Turner Foundation pledge cards, but few employees pledged that first year.)

Any help you can give with access and campaigns will be appreciated. GOS must do its share if we are to earn our 16 points for 1997. We had 8 before the Board Meeting and Board Bash at the Atlanta Botanical Garden April 10:

Your representative attending Jan. Board Mtg..... 1
Your representative's office as Secretary..... 3
GOS's gifts of bird books and BGG to auction..... 3
GOS's getting CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) application in on time 1

The Board Bash on Thursday night, April 10, outdoors at the Atlanta Botanical Garden was a great success -- beautiful setting and weather, unusual Mediterranean and oriental food, a large crowd of 200+, a successful Silent Auction netting EFG \$9,000, and an eloquent talk and introductions by Michael Dalley of The Nature Conservancy.

Georgia Environmental Council (GEC)

The next issue of *GOShawk* will carry a summary of environmental legislation passed in the 1997 General Assembly.

The Awards Picnic will be held Sunday, June 1 directly after the annual membership meeting which begins at 11 a.m. The place is the home of Nan and Britt Pendergrast at 1700 West Paces Ferry Road in Atlanta. Functions such as this one, among other things, are intended to bring lovers of nature and the environment together for stimulation and fellowship.

Letters to Legislators

Replies from Representatives John Lewis and Cynthia McKinney are unfailingly thoughtful and supportive. The one letter, so far, from Senator Max Cleland was intelligent and encouraging. Senator Paul Coverdell seems to see two sides to every question.

State Botanical Garden - Orange Trail

Memorials for: Azile Parker Alston
Dan Christmas

Given by: Georgine Pindar

Remember our Memorial Program at the State Botanical Garden in Athens when a loved one dies. You may also want to honor a friend or relative while they are alive.

ANOTHER VOICE ON THE JOINT MEETING OF GOS/AFO

The following account by Charles D. Duncan AFO Vice President, appeared in *AFO Afield*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1997.

AFO's recent annual meeting, held jointly with the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) on Jekyll Island, Georgia, from October 17 to 20, 1996 was a success by any measure one cares to use. We had a great turnout: about 230 people registered. Our GOS colleagues tell us this is about double what their meetings usually have. There were 34 scientific papers presented and seven posters displayed (compared with 21 and two at our 1994 meeting in New York State, itself a big success), and a really first-class symposium entitled "Amateurs in Research." The weather was beautiful and the field trips took good advantage of it: at the north end of Jekyll Island, one group found a Townsend's Warbler, a first state record! We were treated to southern hospitality that was rivaled only by the exceptional southern cooking at the banquet. When was the last time you were at a meeting where the food was really outstanding? For me it's been a long time. Hard as that may have been to top, Sid Gauthreaux managed it with his keynote address about the use of "NEXRAD" weather radar as an ornithological and conservation tool.

A few of the other highlights for me personally were:

- *Meeting great folks from GOS* (several are also long-standing AFO members). I had been communicating with several officers from GOS for almost a year as we made our preparations. When I finally shook hands with President Ken Clark, Vice President Bill Lovejoy, Vice President Eugenia Thompson, and Field Trip Chairman Mike Chapman, they seemed like old friends. They each did a fabulous job in keeping things moving smoothly.

- *Watching migrant Palm Warblers*. There were too many to keep track of as they reoriented and moved northward at first light near the Jekyll Island Banding Station. Later in the afternoon I saw thousands of Tree Swallows in a huge, erratic flock over the dunes. I was struck by how different their movements were from the ballet-like flights of large flocks of sandpipers that I see here at home.

- *Listening to Chan Robbins' history of the Breeding Bird Survey*. Using slides ranging from really early hand-drawn maps to current plots taken from the World-Wide Web, Chan gave a fascinating account of this national monitoring program. If Roger Peterson was the one who first sparked us to identify birds in the field, Chan is the one who got us thinking quantitatively about bird populations nationwide.

- *On-time scientific sessions*. Paper sessions ran like clockwork thanks to co-chairs Ray Chandler and John Parrish. There were more good papers than I could possibly attend, and far too many truly exciting ones to mention here.

- There were many opportunities to chat with everyone: paper presenters, grad students, "sacred cows," old friends, and amateur birders. I have always been pleased with the lack of pecking order at AFO meetings -- it seems like a long way from many of the other professional meetings I've been to.

In fact, it seems to me about the only way to improve things would be to hold our next meeting where our Lation American members could attend, and where we could see some birds we may only have dreamed about. Maybe in Central America...maybe Costa Rica? That's it, Costa Rica!

Ed. Note: The Townsend's Warbler spotted on October 17-20 was actually the second Georgia record. The first was established when a bird was banded at Jekyll Island on 30 Sept. 1993 by Don and Doris Cohrs and Lydia Thompson.

The Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) 75th Annual Meeting and the American Birding Association (ABA) Conference will be held jointly in San Jose, Costa Rico July 21-27, 1997 and will be hosted by Asociación Ornitológica de Costa Rico. For information on the AFO/ABA Joint Meeting, call Carol Wallace, registrar, at the ABA (800) 850-2473.

NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

In this era of change in area codes, zip codes and addresses for "911," it is very important that you notify the Business Manager, John Swiderski, of the changes so that we can keep your mailing address correct. He will also see that the changes are made to your membership listing which is published annually. Please send all changes to: GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120.



GOS does not allow the use of its membership list for commercial solicitations. We do occasionally exchange lists with similar organizations for the purpose of membership solicitation only. If you do not want your membership listing used for this purpose, please notify the Business Manager, John Swiderski, at GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120.

RESEARCH GRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED

The Graduate Student Research Grant for 1997 has been awarded to William Benjamin Cash for his research on endocrine responses to seasonal changes of annual cycle activities in a non-migratory passerine, the Northern Mockingbird. Mr. Cash is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the Department of Biology at The University of Mississippi. A native of Winder, Georgia, he previously received a B.S. degree from Piedmont College and an M.S. degree from Georgia Southern University.

Research Grant Committee
Branch Howe, Chair
Bill Lovejoy
William Van Eseltine

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

On 14 December 1995, Governor Miller designated management of four small islands to the Department of Natural Resources. These islands included, Egg Island Bar (McIntosh County), Pelican Spit (Glynn County), Satilla River Marsh Island (Camden County), and St. Catherines Island Bar (Liberty County). The purpose of the designation was to protect the habitat of beach-nesting birds, especially colonial-nesting species. A fifth small island, Williamson Island (Chatham County) was already under management by DNR.

These isolated sand bar and marsh islands provide critically important nesting, migratory, and wintering habitat for sea birds and shorebirds. Because these areas do not support resident populations of mammalian predators such as raccoons, birds which nest in colonies on the ground are able to rear their young successfully. These areas provide the only nesting habitat for the brown pelican, royal tern, black skimmer, and gull-billed tern in Georgia. Some of the sites are regionally important and support large numbers of pelicans (3,000 pairs), royal terns (9,000 pairs), black skimmers (250 pairs), and gull-billed terns (100 pairs). Least terns also nest at some of these sites. Solitary nesting bird species on these islands include the Wilson's plover, American oystercatcher, and willet.

During nesting season, these birds are very vulnerable to disturbance by humans and dogs. Disturbance can cause the birds to abandon colonies or result in death of eggs or young when adults are flushed from the nest for extended periods, exposing eggs and young to the sun and excessive temperatures. Disturbance also exposes eggs and young to increased predation by other birds such as gulls and fish crows.

Isolated areas suitable for colonial nesting birds (brown pelican, royal tern, black skimmer, and gull-billed tern) are not abundant and should be protected from disturbance. The best protection is to prohibit human access to these areas. The Rules of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites, Chapter 391-5-1 are the most effective rules within DNR for managing human access lands; therefore, these sites will be managed under Parks Rules.

The proposed rule would: 1) include the Egg Island Bar, Pelican Spit, Satilla River Marsh Island, St. Catherines Island Bar, and Williamson Island in the definition of park, 2) prohibit human entrance to Egg Island Bar, Satilla River Marsh Island, or St. Catherines Island Bar at any time, 3) prohibit pets on all of the islands, and 4) prohibit facilities or structures for visitor use on all of the islands.

Year round protection of Egg Island Bar, Satilla River Marsh Island, and St. Catherines Island Bar will provide protection to migrant and wintering birds as well as nesting species. Prohibiting pets on these islands and Pelican Spit and Williamson Island will provide protection from harassment by dogs.

16 May 1997

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Parties
From: David Waller DW
Subject: Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that at the request of Clean Coast, Inc. a Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 P.M. on 18 June 1997 at the following location:

Savannah Technical Institute Auditorium
5717 White Bluff Road
Savannah, Georgia 31499

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive comments on a proposed rule to amend Chapter 391-5-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The proposed rule would prohibit pets on Williamson Island (Chatham County), St. Catherines Island Bar (Liberty County), Egg Island Bar (McIntosh County), Pelican Spit (Glynn County), and Satilla River Marsh Island (Camden County) and prohibit human access to St. Catherines Bar, Egg Island Bar, and Satilla River Marsh Island.

These actions are necessary to protect important bird nesting, wintering, and migratory habitat. The proposed rule will protect nesting habitat for the brown pelican, royal tern, black skimmer, gull-billed tern, Wilson's plover, American oystercatcher, and willet. Wintering habitat for many shorebirds will be protected including the threatened piping plover. Species which use these habitats during migration include the whimbrel, red knot, semipalmated sandpiper, gull-billed tern, least tern, black tern, and others.

Following the hearing and written comment period, all comments will be reviewed and a decision will be made to either modify the proposed rule or to present the rule as proposed to the Board of Natural Resources for consideration.

Written comments will be accepted for consideration prior to the close of business (4:30 P.M.) on Wednesday, 2 July 1997. Written comments should be mailed to:

Mike Harris
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
1 Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
FAX: 912-262-3143
E-mail: mike@dnrcrd.dnr.state.ga.us