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!

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GOSHAWK

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 25 NO. 1

MARCH 1998

GEORGIA RARE BIRD ALERT: (770) 493-8862 Statewide
(912) 244-9190 South Georgia

ALABAMA: (205) 987-2730
FLORIDA: (561) 340-0079 (Statewide)
(912) 244-9190 (N. Florida)

N/C CAROLINA: (704) 332-2473
TENNESSEE: (615) 356-7636
Chattanooga: (423) 843-2822

MEETING NOTES

GOS SPRING MEETING
Unicoi Lodge - Helen, Georgia
May 1-3, 1998

All members should have received a February mailing with registration information about the Spring meeting at Unicoi. This promises to be a great meeting in a beautiful setting, with a good variety of field trips organized by the local folks. As announced, we will be based at the Unicoi Lodge near Helen, where a block of rooms in Building "D" have been set aside for GOS participants. There are also many other lodging facilities in the area, as well as campgrounds. Note that although the registration form you received from Unicoi lists "smoking" rooms as an option, our entire building is "non-smoking." Also, rather than our usual banquet on Saturday night, we will eat dinner at the regular dining room buffet, as banquet facilities are not available. From all reports, the buffet is excellent, and participants can just purchase meal tickets at dinner-time. Therefore, no banquet fee is being charged or collected with meeting registration fee by GOS. For registration information call Eugene Thompson 706-549-7318.

Friday night's speaker will be Dr. Bob Cooper of the University of Georgia. He has an encouraging report on "The Gypsy Moth and Georgia's Birds." At the suggestion of many members, we have delayed the time of Friday night's meeting to 8:00 p.m. rather than the usual 7:00 p.m. This should make it possible for more members to attend this session after working all day Friday.

The 1996 recipient of the GOS Graduate Research Grant, Dr. James Major, will be our speaker Saturday night. After receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin in 1997, Dr. Major accepted a position on the faculty there. He will speak to us on "The Central Texas Uplift Timmoue Baeolophus bicolor Hybrid Zone." Dr. Major, like his father, is a long-time member of GOS, and has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to speak. A special thanks to Frank McCamay for moving into his conference planning mode to handle most of our arrangements for this meeting. This function is normally done by our 2nd Vice President and Frank was a tremendous help while that position was vacant.

FALL MEETING PLANS
Holiday Inn - Jekyll Island, Georgia
October 2-4, 1998

We'll be back at our most popular coastal retreat, Jekyll Island, for the Fall Meeting. Plans are underway and details will be forthcoming in the June GOS Hawk.

Deadline for the next GOS Hawk is May 1, 1998
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Christine Aldrich
Roger Atesison
Ken & Janice Badke
Julie Beatty
Bob Chudzinski
Mark Freeman
Orion Harrison
Marietta, GA
Monticello, FL
Alpharetta, GA
Marietta, GA
Mifflinville, PA
Athens, GA
Statesboro, GA
Jeff Horseman
Carol McClelland
Gail Russell
Melinda Schaeberle
Joseph Schlemmer
Andreas Smith
Larry Sparks
Marietta, GA
Savannah, GA
Atlanta, GA
Athens, GA
Riverview, GA
Valdosta, GA
Atlanta, GA

@WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! @

JAMES MILLER

Dr. James Miller died on November 4, 1997. Jim and his wife Anne were very active in the Georgia birding community and he served on the Board of Directors of Atlanta Audubon from 1993-1997. He was retired as Professor Emeritus of Management at Georgia State University’s Business College.

GEORGE A. PINDAR

George Pindar, husband of member and Conservation Committee Chair, Georgine Pindar, passed away on December 18, 1997 of Alzheimer’s Disease. He was a respected attorney and the author of Georgia Real Estate Law and Procedure and other works on real property law.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

- A mistake was made in the address listing for Editorial Committee Chair, Georgine Schmald. Please note that her correct address is: 2504 Brookdale Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30345.

- If you need to contact GOS regarding issues such as address or telephone changes, getting problems your publications, or for information about GOS, meetings, etc., these can be e-mailed to our new list (see p. 3) and mailed to GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120 or sometime in the near future called in to GOS general information phone number (see p. 3). PLEASE do not call, write or e-mail the GOSWeb editor or the Rare Bird Alert with this information. These types of inquiries are the responsibilities of others within the organization and will be appropriately routed to them from our e-mail, regular mail and soon to be established telephone information line.

- There has been a delay in the publication of The Oriole. The last issue sent out was Volume 61 No. 1 with a cover date of March 1996 (published August 1997). We are now attempting to identify a way to resume publication of The Oriole on a more regular basis. We hope that you will be patient and bare with us while this problem is worked out.

found in a mall parking lot in Morrow of I-75 on 23 Sept. (fide Carol Lamberti). SANDHILL CRANE migration got off to a very early start when, on 29 Sept., Ceree Hitt saw 50 over Forsyth Co. Numbers during November, the normal migration period seemed a bit low, with more birds apparently awaiting colder weather in December before heading south. What may be the highest one day count of AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS for Georgia came on 19 Sept. when Brad Winn and Jeff Sewell counted over 200 on Jekyll Island. Inland, the shorebird of note was BARD’S SANDPIPER, one staying two days at ELHAF from 23 Aug. (Shawn Reed) and a huge count of six on 31 Aug. at the sod farm in Peach Co. (Aubrey Scott, Michael Bell). Does anybody recall a number one place number of this species? Many other good shorebird reports were received and will be reported in The Oriole.

In a development that Terry Moore called “frightening” because of their predation on smaller birds, particularly nesting terms, unprecedented numbers of GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS were reported. On 18 Sept. Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert counted 31 at Gould’s Inlet, St. Simons Island, and a few days later on 21 Sept. Mark Goebel estimated 40-50 on Sapelo Island. On 19 Sept. Carol and I saw one of Gould’s inlet Great Black-backs approach an adult SANDWICH TERN who was distracted as it tried to swallow a fish. The gull seized the tern by the wing, dragged it to the water, struggled with it, and finally drowned and ate the smaller bird. In another event of dubious portent, Paul Holowinsky found three EURASIAN COOTS AT RED-DOVE pond near the Macon airport in late Aug., the first sighted in the Macon area. Another was found at the Macon brickyards in September (Paul Johnson, Ken and Arlene Clark, Jerry and Marie Ammerson). One BLACK-BELLIED CUCKOO on 28 Sept. in Cobb Co. (Roy Heeter) was about average for the fall. Highlights of the fall hummingbird migration are as follows: several RUFOUS showed up, as are now expected, including one bird banded on 27 Sept. in Bluford, Early Co., that was banded last year and an albino RUBY-THROATED banded in Columbus on 10 Sept. (Terry Johnson). The state’s 6th or 7th ALBEN was banded on 31 Oct. in Lafayette by Dennis and Dwayne Berger (fide Bob Sargent), but was not seen after that. Flycatcher noteworthies include: a WESTERN KINGBIRD at St. Simons Island on 14 Sept. (Jeff Sewell); a SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER near Byron, Peach Co., seen on 4 Aug. (Joyce Harrison) that stayed two days at Jerry Ammerson; an OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER on 10 Sept. (Mark Davis); and a great fall for YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS for Jerry and Marie Ammerson – they had one in their yard in Jones Co. on 28 Aug. and three (possibly the same three from last year?) at the Ocmulgee National Monument on 20 Sept. There were several other reports of YELLOW-bellieds; I hope everyone has read Kaufman’s Advanced Birding on separating fall yellow-bellied from ACADIAN. A few interesting swallow reports: 200 TREE SWALLOWS spent two days at ELHAF, 27 Aug. (Carol Lamberti) and on the record late date of 2 Nov. 2 were seen at ELHAF (Jim Flynn) and 2 at nearby Lake Spivey in Henry Co. (Jeff Sewell); 10 CLIFF SWALLOWS on 9 Aug. in Bartow Co. (Aubrey Scott, Michael Bell); and adding to a few recent reports of huge numbers of BANK SWALLOWS passing through the state, Tommy Patterson added his: 400 on 9 Aug. in Laurens Co. and “thousands” at Harris Neck NWR on 30 Aug. (Carol Eldridge, fide Anne Waters).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES invaded this year, arriving in early October. Many experts believe this lingering at feeders into November. Passage migration was evidently good, at least from several of the usual hotspots. Some of the numbers are due, no doubt, to the heavy birder coverage in some locations such as Kennesaw Mountain in Cobb Co. Highlights, aside from the Virginia’s Warbler already mentioned: six PHILADELPHIA VIREOS at Cochran Shoals NRA near Atlanta on 6 Oct. (Pierre Howard); three WARBLING VIREOS, two from the Atlanta area, one from Brunswick; two LAWRENCE’S WARBLERS, one at Kennesaw Mtn. on 19 Sept. (Giff Beaton et al) and one 29 Sept. in north Atlanta (Jack Caruso). NASHVILLE and WILSON’S WARBLERS were seen in numbers much above average (10 Nashvilles and 8 Wilson’s) reported, many away from Kennesaw Mtn. As most of you know by now, NORTHERN ORIOLE has been split into BALTIMORE ORIOLE and BULLOCK’S ORIOLE, of which Bullock’s only a handful have been seen in Georgia, so one in Atlanta on 1 Oct. is noteworthy (Jack Caruso). This species is listed by the Checklist and Records Committee as one requiring documentation.

Winter finch reports were few. A few PURPLE FINCHES were reported with even fewer PINE SISKINS, and no EVENING GROSBEAKS. These are apparently following the RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES into the state; however we did have an invasion from the west of BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAKS, if all of the reports are documented and accepted by the Records Committee. First, Louis Schweitzer reported that on 19 Sept. he had two at his feeder in Tiger, Rabun Co.; Bill Allen had a female in his carport in Rome on 9 Oct., and on 8 Oct. Ray and Earlene Mangrum reported one near Macon. To date, I have received details from only one of them. I am sure everyone is aware that it is quite easy to mistake a first fall male Rose-breasted Grosbeak for a female Black-headed Grosbeak, so a careful, look is required.

I apologize for all the good reports that couldn’t appear here due to space limitations, so look for them in a future issue of The Oriole. As always, your comments are welcome and encouraged.

Send reports and correspondence to:
Jeff Sewell, 4068 WestShamton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084 or e-mail: lambertlew@juno.com
FIELD NOTES
by Jeff Sewell

The Fall Season - 1997
August, September, October

This was a very exciting fall season, more so for the impressive numbers of some species that were found by an ever increasing number of Georgia birders than for the occurrence of outstanding rarities, although the Bird of the Season, and another probably of the year, Georgia’s first VIRGINIA’S WARBLER, was truly remarkable. It’s discovery is an example of the better coverage we have large, and another of the better underbirded, state is gaining nowadays. The Virginia’s Warbler, a species that has been found in the East only about ten times or so, was found at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park near Marietta on September 17. What I found interesting about this was that when I first started birding in Atlanta in the late 1980’s, Kennesaw Mountain was unheard of as a birding location. The second interesting fact about the sighting is that it was found on a Wednesday afternoon, when there might not normally have been any birders on the mountain. Pierre Howard was the first to see and recognize the bird, followed by Shawn Reed and Larry Edmonds. All were able to get good looks. It could not be located after 9:30 a.m. that morning, but, surprisingly, it was located again the next morning by Pierre Howard and several others. Even more startling, it was found on a third straight day by Shawn Reed and Giff Beaton. Many folks left many places of business to look for this bird, some spending many hours on the mountain, but in the end, only 8 people saw it.

The weather this season was fairly normal with no significant weather events to provide additional information. Many observers felt it was a very good season for migrants, especially shorebirds. The only most outstanding sightings will be mentioned here, so look for a more complete account in The Oriole.

Following are the season’s highlights, in more or less, or taxonomic order. PIED-BILLED GREBES nested again in Macon with at least two pairs producing two-three broods, seen in August-September (Paul Johnson). HORNED GREBES were seen in greater than average numbers from many locations, a fact that is no doubt due to more birders/better coverage. Less clear is the increasing presence of EARED GREBE in the fall at locations that have for many years been well covered, so I think I can say we have been seeing a true increase with this species. The E. L. Hule Land Application Facility ponds in Clayton Co. (ELHLAF) had four on Sept 11 (Patrick Briscoe) and another three on 17 November (Shawn Reed); seven in Laurens Co. in early Sept. (Tommy Patterson), three at Lake Spivey in Henry Co. on 9 Nov. (Jeff Sewell), and 3 at Lake Lanier on 16 Nov. (Giff Beaton).

Four very lucky birders were able to accompany a fishing boat out of St. Simons Island on 21 Oct. and had a remarkable day: 360 CORY’S SHEARWATERS, seven GREATER SHEARWATERS, six POMARINE JAEGERs, one PARASITIC JAEGER, 11 BRIDLED TERNS, and, amazingly, 14 AMERICAN COOTS, some as far out as 50 miles (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard, Jeff Sewell, Brad Winn). Hopefully, this will be an incentive for more pelagic trips. Jim Flynn, Kevin Danchisen, Giff Beaton and Shawn Reed were amazed to see 3 AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS fly over them on 9 Nov. on the Chatahoochee River near the Walter F. Georgia dam.

RED-EGGED REDSERS continue to slowly multiply on the coast. Brad Winn saw 11 on 6 Aug. on the Egg Island Bar, the most I’ve ever heard. Every now and then I get a report of this species away from the beaches and barrier islands These sightings should be carefully studied and documented as, under certain conditions, there is the possibility of confusion with Little Blue Heron.

Thirteen GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GEESE at the Bradfords NWR on 9 Nov. was another surprise. Count for this rare winterer (Giff Beaton et al). Ducks were in good numbers at most locations with the COMMON EIDER at Sapelo Island, a holdover from July (Brad Winn) and last seen on 12 Oct. (Heleen Woods), and a male CINNAMON TEAL at close range on 2 Oct. in Augusta (Anne Waters, Clarence Belger) being the most outstanding for the period. Other noteworthy sightings: five BLACK SCOTERS on 9 Nov. at the Walter F. George Dam, Lake Eufaula, very rare inland (Jim Flynn, Giff Beaton, Shawn Reed, Kevin Danchisen); and a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER seen on 28 Oct. by Art & Jan Smith at ELHLAF.

The amazing assembly of kites at a field in Tattnall Co., near the Altamaha River continued into August. Ray Chandler discovered them in July and on 19 Aug. counted 25 SWALLOW-TAILED KITES. On 2 Aug. Bruce Dratel had 20 there. All had left by the end of the month. Ray has written up a report for The Oriole for this remarkable event. Paul Johnson had a nest of MISSISSIPPI KITES in his subdivision near Macon that as late as 28 Aug. had a fledgling in it. The last adult was seen 10 Sept.

Other good raptor reports: 11 MERLINS on 12 Oct. and 8 on 1 Oct. at Jekyll Island (Pierre Howard), and an early Merlin in Bibb Co. on 20 Sept. (Jerry and Marie Amerson); PEREGRINE FALCONS were widely reported, often AMERICAN KESTREL in Barrow Co. on 2 Aug. may indicate a rare piedmont area nesting (Joe Goldberg et al); a very early, but not a record, NORTHERN HARRIER on 6 Aug. on Sapelo Island (Doris Cohrs). The flight of BROAD-WINGED HAWKS seemed poor, but numbers of BALD EAGLES are increasing per Terry Moore. COMMON MOORHENS nested for the second year in a row in Macon. There were at least two pairs and young birds were seen Aug-Oct. This is only the second nesting in Bibb Co. per Paul Johnson. Certain species seem to do better in years and/or years like the AMERICAN COOT found under a bush near Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta on 13 Nov. (Tim Nassar) and the SORA

GOS IS NOW ON THE AIR!

For those GOS members who have made the leap into the Information Age (whether willingly or kicking-and-screaming), the Georgia Ornithological Society Home Page is now officially in electronic circulation. The web site will function not only as the GOS billboard along the information superhighway, but also as a resource for birders from around the state, around the country and around the world.

The site contains GOS membership information and announcements, Georgia Rare Bird Alert transcripts, trip reports from around the state, species accounts, Christmas Bird Count and North American Migration Count data, and links to web sites for our neighboring states. The site is maintained by GOS member Jim Flynn, but all GOS members are encouraged to participate and contribute to the content of the site, especially in the form of trip reports and species counts. For more information on how to contribute, please contact Jim via email at jj Flynn@america.net or via US mail at 6340 Lillie Lane, Cumming, GA, 30040-4231. Jim has a scanner which accepts slides, 35 mm negatives and prints of up to 4x6 inches if you would like to donate images of Georgia birds (photographed in particular). All materials will be returned to their owners, but copies of originals are highly recommended.

The address (URL) of the GOS Home Page is: http://america.net/~j Flynn/

GOS EVEN HAS AN E-MAIL ADDRESS!
gos@hom.net

Thanks to our new secretary, Marie Amerson, and her husband, Jerry, GOS now has an e-mail address: gos@hom.net

Information or questions about GOS, membership, etc. will be routed to the appropriate individual or committee.

TELEPHONE INFORMATION LINE PLANNED
Volunteer(s) Needed!

Now that we are accessible to the entire planet via computer, we thought we’d really go hi-tech and install a telephone line for general GOS information and messages. Callers to this line will not talk to an actual person, but will hear a recorded message about membership, upcoming meetings and events, and who to call for what within the organization. Callers will be able to leave messages which will then be routed to the appropriate person or committee. WHO WILL DO THIS ROUTING? We need a volunteer – or even a few volunteers – to take responsibility for updating the recording, checking it for messages daily, and routing them properly. This will not involve having any special telephone equipment at your house, but will only require calling in to whichever automated answering system we contract with. If we get more than one person, responsibility could rotate weekly, monthly or whatever.

This will not be a very time-consuming activity, but one that is very important to the communication abilities of GOS. This new telephone number will have an Atlanta area code so volunteers should also be in that area (404/270-678). All you folks who’ve been our there just wondering what you could do to contribute to this organization...this is it. You don’t have to write newsletters, ornithological journals, compile field notes, document sightings, lead field trips, organize big meetings -- or even be able to identify anything beyond a Cardinal.

If you have the time and interest, please let us know...you can write us: P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30121...you can e-mail us: gos@hom.net...or you can even call Ken Clark on this one: 912-474-1924.
GOS COMMITTEES & SPECIAL PROJECTS
1997-1999

Officers and committee members serve two year terms except for the Business Manager, Editors and Editorial Committee members (6 years). All terms are renewable. First year of continuous service in the positions specified is indicated in parentheses.

E X E C U T I V E
Ken Clark, President (95)
Helen Ogren, Past President (95)
Eugenia Thompson, 1st V.P. (96)
Kristi Avera, Membership Ch. (93)
Gail Russell, 2nd V.P. (98)
Georgann Schmalz, Editorial Ch. (96)
Marie Amerson, Secretary (97)
Georgine Pindar, Conservation Ch. (86)
Jeannie Wright, Treasurer (95)
Terry Moore, Ed. The Oriole (81)
John Swiderski, Business Mgr. (76)
Carol Lambert, Ed. GOShawk (94)

E D I T O R I A L
Georgann Schmalz, Chr. (96)
Brad Bergstrom (96)
John Parrish (94)
Ray Chandler (94)
Bill Birkenhead (92)
Carolina Lane (92)

C H E C K L I S T & R E C O R D S
Chuck Hunter, Chr. (93)
Bill Blakeslee, Sect’y. (93)
John Parrish (93)
Giff Beaton (95)
Bruce Hallett (97)
Paul Sykes (97)

C O N S E R V A T I O N
Georgine Pindar, Chr. (86)
Frank McCamey (93)
Nancy Gobris (95)

F I N A N C E
Doug Phillips, Chr. (95)
Jeannie Wright (95)
Frank McCamey (95)

G E N E R A L S T U D E N T R E S E A R C H G R A N T
Richard Parks, Chr. (77)
Doris Cohn (83)
Jack Cooper (87)
Branch Howe, Chr. (90)
Bill Lovejoy (90)
William Van Eseltine (95)

M E M B E R S H I P
Kristi Avera, Chr. (93)
James Harrell (94)
Barbara Passmore (94)

R E C E N T N E T W O R K
Joel Hitt, Chr. (90)
Ken Blackshaw (90)
Giff Beaton (95)

INTERNET HOME PAGE
Jim Flynn (98)

GOS has received another large check from EFG as their share of payroll deduction pledges. A big thank you to all of you who work where you have an opportunity to pledge to the environment and who do so each year.

EFG has established the Georgia EcoNetwork with information about the environmental groups of the 22 member organization, including GOS. You can access the new web resource at: www.efg.org

In celebration of Earth Day this year, GOS will take part in the Rain Forest Adventure at the State Botanical Garden in Athens on Saturday, April 25th. This will be a family festival emphasizing the needs of migratory birds. We are asking for volunteers to lead a bird walk at 9:30 along the Orange Trail, which GOS helps support. We also need volunteers to help with other activities during the day. If you are willing to help please call Georgine Pindar 404-355-8454 or Branch Howe 706-543-1577.

If you cannot take part in the Rain Forest Adventure, why not join whatever activities have been planned in your part of the state for Earth Day -- or initiate plans of your own?

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE STATE BOTANICAL GARDENS - ORANGE TRAIL

Georgine Pindar has given to the Orange Trail Memorial Fund in memory of:
Ida L. Sherman
George A. Pindar

TOWER SUNSET OWL PROWL - OKEFENOKEE NWR
March 14, 5:00 P.M.
Call 912-496-7836

LAKE EUFAULA'S FINS, FEATHERS & FLOWERS WEEKEND
March 27, 28, 29
A weekend Waterfowl/Wildlife Program sponsored by the Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Lakepoint State Park Resort.
Call 800-252-7275

1998 NORTH AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONFERENCE - ST. LOUIS, MO
April 6-12
Call 314-516-6224 or 314-516-6578

RAIN FOREST ADVENTURE - STATE BOTANICAL GARDENS, ATHENS, GA
April 25
Call 404-355-8454 or 706-543-1577

GOS SPRING MEETING - UNICOI LODGE, HELEN, GA
May 1-3

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
Saturday, May 9
Participate in bird activities/events in your area during the week of May 2-10

WETLANDS FESTIVAL - REYNOLDS NATURE PRESERVE, MORROW, GA
Saturday, May 9
Call 770-603-4188
Almost every birder who is also a lister is familiar with the concept of "state listing," whereby an observer attempts to see as many species of birds within the boundaries of a state in a given period of time, usually defined as a day, a year, or a lifetime. The American Birding Association can probably be held accountable for this practice more than any other organization due to their yearly publication of listing results for their membership (at least those who care to participate). Naturally, state-year and life-listing is also a regular feature of most state ornithological societies, including the GOS.

I suppose that one of the reasons as to why county listing is on the increase in many states is that state listing just doesn't have the same appeal as when you first started keeping track of what you observed in the state. Perhaps the ennui of state listing drives people to a new level of obsession. Or maybe it's because some birders don't have the means to participate on a statewide level, but they can on a county level. Whatever the reason is, county listing has a stronger foothold in many states (our neighbor to the northeast, South Carolina, being one of them).

It is understandable why county listing has not taken off in Georgia. One reason is the sheer number of counties, 158 of them (most states have between 40 and 80). I haven't personally done the research, but probably no state other than Texas (of course) has more counties. Another is perhaps because Georgia is lightly birded, save some of the bigger metro areas and the coast.

In spite of these challenges, I am proposing that we Georgia birders attain that next level of organized data accumulation by monitoring what we see in each county. Many of the counties in the state are tiny, with little variation of habitat, but you'd be surprised what you will find once you start looking. Here are some examples and all due to county birding:

1) Giff Beaton located a Clay-colored Sparrow in Lamar Co. on his way back from Piedmont NWR CBC, to get some exposure to that lightly birded county.
2) Giff also found a couple of Brewer's Blackbirds in Cobb Co. while chasing a Snow Goose, which would have been a new county bird for him.
3) I found an Oldsquaw in Forsyth Co. while searching for a Common Goldeneye (which I did not see) at Lake Lanier in Gwinnett Co., and ended up with American Black Ducks in Gwinnett to boot.

In each of these chases, those species probably would have otherwise gone undetected. County birding can quickly result in mini "Patagonia Picnic Table Effects."

On the surface, of course, this appears to be just a competitive game designed to drive Georgia birders nuts. However, a fine-tuned state avifaunal distribution understanding and the location for that next local hot-spot are the ultimate goals. (My hidden agenda may be to get the semi-retired birders back into the field.)

To organize something that will undoubtedly be as chaotic as county listing in Georgia, I am volunteering to be the maestro of the mayhem, at least at the data accumulation level, by serving as a clearinghouse for observers' county lists and significant sightings. Obviously, neither the GOS (nor myself) is of the means to support the hard copy publication of the data, so distribution of results will have to occur via electronic format (either email or, most likely, via a web site). Naturally, if you do not have a PC or email capabilities, we will have to work something out so that anyone who wants to participate can.

If you are interested, please scrutinize the years of data and email or snail mail the following information to me (you must be a GOS member in good standing):
* Name and County where you reside
* Total number of species observed in applicable Georgia counties; I know this will take a lot of research.
* Some county highlights, if you can, with dates and locations

Also, if you would like to have a list of Georgia counties, let me know and I will email them to you.
My email address is jflynn@america.net and my "snail mail" address is 6360 Lillie Lane, Cumming, GA, 30040-4231.
I will contact everyone who participates with the monthly results and where to view the data.

---

**Breeding Bird Atlas - Block Bustling Party Schedule**

Please contact one of the trip leaders or Todd Schneider to reserve a space. People of all skill levels are welcome!

**Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25).** This trip will include atlassing for one day on the mainland just west of the coast and one or two days atlassing on some of the less accessible state and federally owned barrier islands (e.g. Ossabaw Island). Leaders are Giff Beaton (770)509-1482 or e-mail: giffbeaton@mindspring.com and Todd Schneider (912)994-1438 work or (912)746-4523 home or e-mail: forsyth_nongame@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

**Fitzgerald Area (May 30-31).** This trip will include visiting a site where several Swainson's Warblers occur and atlassing nearby areas with Mark Oberle (404)982-1066 or e-mail: oberle@mindspring.com and Joel Volpi (770)962-9283 or e-mail jvolpi@hotmail.com

**Athens/Augusta (May 30-31).** This trip will include atlassing in the area between Athens and Augusta. Leaders are Giff Beaton (770)509-1482 and Malcolm Hodges (770)997-1968.
# GEORGIA BIRDERS AND THEIR LISTS
(As of 12/31/97)

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