

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

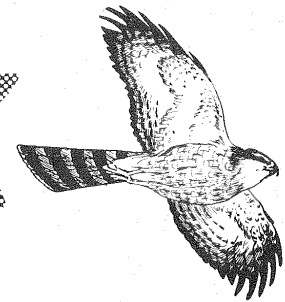
_____ Please send me a list of publications available from the GOS.

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 25 NO. 2

JUNE 1998

**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 Unicoi Lodge - Helen, Georgia by Ken Clark

Close to 100 GOS members and friends lucked out on the weather for most of the May 1-3 weekend of birding in the North Georgia mountains. In spite of gloomy predicitions the rain held off until mid-morning Sunday, enabling well-led field trippers to identify 106 species of birds, including 21 species of warblers. Those of you familiar with Unicoi Lodge know what an impressive and comfortable accomodation it is, and GOS had one whole wing to itself, including the meeting room downstairs and the kitchen where Virginia McCamey made coffee each morning for the early birders. Frank McCamey played host to the gathering, made all the arrangements, handled registration on-site, sold books and patches, set up the projectors and introduced Friday night's speaker. He was omnipresent!

Dr. Bob Cooper, who spoke Friday evening, ably tailored his report of gypsy moth research to a birding audience, concluding that widespread spraying with dangerous pesticides was not really necessary, since they weren't that much of a threat to the ecosystem. After a splendid buffet meal on Saturday evening, Dr. James Major from the University of Texas at Austin, recipient of the 1996 GOS Graduate Student Research Grant, entertained the group with a lively and well illustrated report of his research on hybrid zone tufted titmice.

Field trips, also coordinated by Frank McCamey, included, of course, Brasstown Bald (Mark Oberle and Louis Laux leading), Richard Russell Scenic Highway (Anne Mursch led), Tray Mountain with Joel Hitt and an exciting new reservation in the Georgia State Park system -- Smithgall Woods (led by a staff naturalist). In addition, Todd Schneider and Rick West led Breeding Bird Atlas block-busting groups.

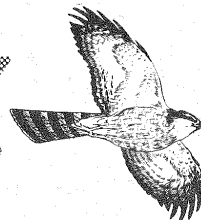
FALL MEETING PLANS

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 well underway. Mark you calendars now and watch for details by special mailing in late summer.

GOSHAWK



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P.O. Box 1684
Cartersville, GA 30120

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Deadline for the next GOShawk is August 1, 1998

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1997-99

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Deadline for submission is
the 1st of the month prior to
publication unless otherwise noted.
Text by e-mail or diskette is appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

© WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! ©

Nancy Born	Cumming, GA	Thersa Hartz & John Rasmussen	Cumming, GA
Dr./Ms. William Broadfoot	Valdosta, GA	Earl Horn	Lawrenceville, GA
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Mark Freeman	Athens, GA	Beth Willis	Glennville, GA
Chris Loudermilk	Austell, GA		

GOS GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

Two Graduate Student Research Grants have been awarded for 1998.

Maria A. Whitehead received a grant for her studies on reproductive success and anti-parasite behavior of Brown-headed Cowbird hosts in the Dill Sanctuary at James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina. Ms. Whitehead is an M.S. degree candidate in the D.B. Warnell School of Forest Resources at The University of Georgia.

Stacy A. Lindemann received a grant for her studies on factors affecting biparental care in the American Kestrel at the Fort Gordon, Georgia military base. Ms. Lindemann is an M.S. degree candidate in the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University.

Research Grant Committee: Branch Howe (Chair), Bill Lovejoy, William VanEselstine

SUPPORT GEC GROUPS THROUGH WORKPLACE GIVING

Does your workplace offer annual employee charity giving programs?
If so look on the list for the *Environmental Fund for Georgia*, a federation of 23 Georgia Environmental groups, including GOS. Questions? Call EFG, (404) 873-3173

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS FROM OTHER SOURCES

From the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) Newsletter, *Bird Calls*

BIRD COLLISIONS

An estimated 5,000-10,000 birds, mostly Lapland Longspurs, were killed on the night of January 22, 1998 at a 420 foot tall communications tower in western Kansas. Apparently a heavy snowstorm sent the birds up looking for bare ground. Dense fog caused the tower's aviation-safety lights to reflect off water in the air and form an illuminated space, causing the birds to switch to their diurnal (visual) mode of navigation. The flock circled the lighted tower and collided with its guy wires. Some birds were impaled by wheat stubble, suggesting they were so disoriented that they couldn't tell which way was up and flew into the ground at full force. The tower had three white strobes, which is interesting because it has been suggested that flashing lights cause less mortality than steadily illuminated lights. Evidence suggests that continent-wide, communications towers kill 2 to 4 million songbirds every year. Though it is generally agreed that towers less than 500' tall pose less threat to migrating birds, the January 22 incident shows that massive kills can occur at smaller towers. This is alarming because these shorter towers are rapidly proliferating. It is also estimated that within the next ten years 1,000 of the taller 1000'+ size will be built across the continent to broadcast the new digital TV (DTV) medium. Based on current evidence, these towers will likely add another million songbirds to the annual tower kill toll. The Federal Communications Commission has issued a proposed rule pre-empting state and local zoning and land-use ordinances in an effort to speed the construction of these towers. The American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon and Senators Leahy and Jeffords of Vermont are working to oppose this FCC ruling. Bill Evans of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is working on a study to determine a tower-lighting pattern that would reduce bird mortality by using a slower light blinking rate during bad weather, possibly triggered by acoustic sensors able to detect circling birds.

Another huge source of bird collisions - illuminated buildings -- is being addressed by FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) started in Toronto where building managers have been persuaded to turn off lights at night in over 100 buildings. It is hoped that other cities including New York City (and why not Atlanta?) will follow suit. In a recent New York City independent study, a researcher reported the following sad totals: on 144 mornings last year, she found 117 injured birds and 296 dead ones at the bases of ten skyscrapers -- an average of 41.3 casualties per building. She documented 449 collisions involving 58 species with White-throated Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Ovenbird, Dark-eyed Junco and American Woodcock accounting for 55% of the total. Contact Rebekah Creshkoff, *Linnaean Society*, 212-493-3525 or <rcreshkoff@mingspring.com> or Bill Evans at Cornell, 607-254-2459 or <bill@ornith.cornell.edu>.

CAT PREDATION CAMPAIGN

Cats Indoors! The Campaign For Safer Birds And Cats

The ABC released its report, *Cat Predation of Birds and Other Wildlife*, which includes information on the extent of cat predation on native wildlife, and results of an independent national poll on attitudes and behavior regarding cats. The report also offers recommendations for saving birds and other wildlife, improving cats' welfare, and protecting human health. (Portions of this report will be printed in an upcoming issue of GOShawk). There are several action steps that we, as bird conservationists, can take at the local level such as working for local ordinances requiring cats to be licensed, spayed/neutered and under the owner's control at all times, publicizing the problem, and advocating policies to humanely remove free-roaming cats from the wild. As a personal first step, we can all keep our own cats indoors and encourage friends and neighbors to do the same. Contact: Linda Winter, ABC, 202-778-9619 or <lwinter@abcbirds.org>.

NORTHEAST ICE STORMS GOOD FOR BIRDS?

At least one good thing may come out of the severe ice storms that devastated much of the Northeast in January. Managed, even-aged forests tend to have minimal understory. With the canopy now opened up in places, more sunlight should reach the forest floor, yielding mixed forest with shrubby understory. These habitat changes should benefit many of northern New England's high-priority forest birds, such as the Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush, Veery, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher. However, this is pure speculation; only with the arrival of summer will observers be able to determine the extent of "damage" to the forest and its impact on birds. Ken Rosenberg of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology will consolidate data gathered by observers this summer. Contact: Ken Rosenberg at 607-254-2412 or <kvr2@cornell.edu>.

Jan. he saw eight species of gulls on Ossabaw Island including ICELAND, GLAUCOUS and both BLACK-BACKEDS. Wow! The same or another ICELAND was seen on 24 Jan. on South Beach, Jekyll Island by Mark Wellford and many others. Was it possible to top the two Iceland reports, for which there is only one, possibly two, accepted sightings since 1973? How about Georgia's second LITTLE GULL? On 9 Feb., Jim Flynn found and photographed a second winter bird at West Point Lake, Troup Co., on the western edge of the state. Georgia's first documented Little Gull was seen only three years ago, that one at Jekyll Island.

Leaping now over many other good reports to HUMMINGBIRDS, it seemed a bit of an off-year for total number of wintering hummers. Perhaps the thrill has worn off and people are not reporting them as much as a few years ago, or maybe there are other factors at work. Yet several very good reports were received including one Archilochus in December in Valdosta (Barbara Passmore), a RUBY-THROATED banded in Warner Robbins (27 Dec., Terry Johnson), a recaptured RUFIOUS in Duluth in late Jan. (Bob Sargent) and two (!) ALLEN'S: one banded on 2 Dec. in Lafayette by Donna & Dwayne Berger (fide Bob Sargent) and one in Ringgold first seen 20 Nov., last seen 3 Dec. and banded by Bob Sargent (fide Buddy Rowe).

It was a very good year for RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES in spite of the warm winter. Thirty or so individuals were reported, most north of the fall line, although Barbara Passmore had one in her yard in Valdosta in Dec.

The mild weather may have induced several GRAY CATBIRDS to spend the winter. There were three reports north of the fall line including the Piedmont NWR CBC's second, on 22 Dec. (fide Paul Johnson). Following are some other reports of unusual wintering birds that may be related to the mild winter. A BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER near Lake Seminole on 14 Dec. (Giff Beaton, Shawn Reed, Jim Flynn), very rare for the area; YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT on 20 Dec. near Macon (Giff Beaton, Jerry Amerson), a first winter record for middle Georgia per Paul Johnson; a female BLUE GROSBEAK on 27 Dec. in Augusta, seen at very close range (Anne Waters); a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW on 20 Dec. in Lamar Co. (Jerry Amerson, Giff Beaton); lots of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS in the Piedmont; and an unusual number of BALTIMORE ORIOLES over-wintering in the Piedmont (at least 4 in separate locations). I did get one report from south Georgia of one on Cumberland Island on 20 Dec. by Lydia Thompson, but surely there were more and I suspect folks just aren't reporting them. Out of range were two AUDUBON'S YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS seen for several weeks in Jan. and Feb. at Thomaston (Michael Boehm). Unusual on the coast were 100 or so AMERICAN PIPITS near Brunswick on 15 Dec. (Darrell Lee). Two female WESTERN TANAGERS reported from Augusta on 27 Dec. will not be further reported unless documentation is received.

Finally, in spite of the mild winter, we had a very good winter finch year. For the first time since I started birding, RED CROSSBILLS were consistently located in one spot -- at Betty Gap in the Cohutta Mountains, with a high count of 10 on 1 Feb. (Eran Tomer). It was a good winter for PURPLE FINCHES with many reports coming in the all over, but mostly from the Piedmont. Many said they were absent until about mid-February. The highest count was 11 in Mike Chapman's yard in Brunswick on 16 Feb. Unfortunately, I

received no reports from feeder watchers in the mountains and so have no idea what kind of year it was there. As for EVENING GROSBEAKS, so many were seen away from feeders, I have to think they were probably common at mountain area feeders, but went unreported. The Betty Gap area scored big here too. In Dec., Johnny Parks had 35 there and I had several reports of smaller numbers there throughout the period. Cloudland Canyon State Park produced 23 and Ft. Mountain State Park 6 on 25 Dec. for Shawn Reed. Diane Wilkie's yard in Acworth hosted 20-25 EVENING GROSBEAKS for the period, as well as about the same number of PINE SISKINS which were reported in better numbers this winter than in a long time. Reports came in from all over the state including Brunswick, Grady County and the first ever seen on the Piedmont NWR CBC. Most feeder watchers said that their siskins did not show up until mid-Feb.

All in all, quite an interesting winter in which we were fortunate to have good numbers of winter irruptive species and, at the same time, unusual numbers of migrants that apparently opted to winter in Georgia's mild weather.

The September issue will feature the spring season which started off with the remarkable occurrence in March of a COMMON REDPOLL and a LONG-EARED OWL, both life birds for me -- within 30 miles of my house! As always, your comments are welcomed and encouraged.

*The deadline for the Spring 1998 Report
(March through May) is June 30, 1998.*

*Send reports and correspondence to:
Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084
or e-mail: lambertsewell@mindspring.com*



Little Gull photo by James F. Flynn, Jr.
West Point Lake Dam, 2/9/98

GEORGIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

When is the Atlas season over?

by Rick West

May or early June is the best Atlasing period for recording a lot of breeding species, a time when frequent song, territorial defense and courtship activities make birds easiest to find. The time for finding fledged young and seeing adults carrying food continues through June.

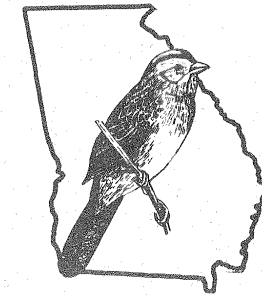
As the summer progresses, the number of species remaining on territory begins to decrease, many species are past their safe date by mid-July. Those present become increasingly quiet. Yet Oscar Dewberry and I had a hard time quitting last year, and, on August 5th we made one more effort to look for Purple Gallinules.

When we met for a dawn start to explore Fishpond Drain (Lake Seminole) Great Horned and Barred Owls were calling -- not in safe dates but still nice to hear. An Osprey's nest

was outlined in the graying sky -- abandoned for the year, but in good enough shape for us to be certain it had been used in the past year or two (breeding code = UN). After a short paddle we found a moorhen with still-dependent young -- another confirmation. A Pied-billed Grebe called, but no Purple Gallinule. We worked

into increasingly narrow waters crowded with lily-pads until we finally found our Gallinule. Actually it seemed to have found us because it first came toward us and then held its ground as we approached -- a clear signal that young were about. We pushed into the only nearby weed patch (Spartina). Our holding still for a minute while the adult called was enough to bring four tiny downy young swimming away from our bow to the adult, the last one struggling to keep up with its bigger siblings. They were so young we looked for the nest -- it was just another two yards away, empty except for a pair of egg shell halves so fresh the lining was still moist and supple. The struggling youngster we had just seen probably hatched this morning or last night.

Having another lake (and another Atlas Block) to go in the chain of lakes, we pushed on under a bridge to the last lake, finding fresh Barn Swallow nests en route to go with the swallows still flying around. Perhaps one nest was still occupied, but we couldn't tell without creating a lot of disturbance. The lake itself



seemed devoid of life except for two fishermen on the far side and a lady coming down to the dock. Stopping for conversation, we soon were being regaled about the birds around. Bluebirds had successfully nested twice in her box this year, and she had a Cardinal nest with eggs in one of her bushes (our fifth and sixth confirmations). In mid-discussion a bird exploded from the reeds by the dock. We were more startled than the lady, who merely inquired about this strange bird that came and went every day! We explained that the buffy wing patches, dangling legs and weak flight were characteristic of Least Bitterns (a new word for her, and a T for the bittern on our field card). We probably should have searched for the bittern's nest, but I was sure neither the lady nor the bittern would welcome that.

Continuing past the fishermen we chased some Coots into the lily-pads. I asked, as always, for Oscar to look out for young -- and always in vain. But the next Coots we saw were a pair with young! Oscar used his glasses and dictated a thorough description of these red-headed balls of fluff while I recorded it in my notebook for the verification form I knew we would need. As far as we knew, this was the first breeding record for south Georgia, though 100,000 coots have wintered on Lake Seminole.

As we crossed back over the lake homeward, we saw a pair of Pied-billed Grebes we had not noticed before, and they, too, had young -- three striped chicks. So perhaps the calling grebe we heard when we set out was also with young. Just as I wondered what else would happen, a King Rail called. A thrill to hear, but it was too late in the summer to count this rail as a breeding season record.

When we totaled up the score for the day, we had confirmed 8 species, had a probably breeding Least Bittern, and knew just where to look next year for a King Rail. This rail's safe dates begin March 20 -- anyone for going after it then? We could arrive early and look for Screech Owls too, and perhaps a heronry will be in view before all the leaves come out.

I started this essay by asking when the Atlas season is over. Well, it is always time to go Atlasing when you can have this much fun. In a more serious vein, late season confirmations can be a significant contribution to knowledge of breeding seasons in Georgia.

Ecology and environment are often mistakenly used interchangeably. Ecology is a biological science in which the relationships of living organisms with each other and with their environment are studied. The environment is the aggregate of external conditions that influence the life of an individual organism or population. Ecology and environment are not the same thing, nor is education about them.

Conservation education is classically regarded as dealing with education about natural resources such as forests, minerals, soil, water and wildlife, and the wise use management of these resources. Solutions to problems are rather specific, such as contour strip-cropping to reduce soil erosion. Environmental education has a much broader perspective, considering the total environment and focusing on the relationship between human values and environmental issues of all types. Instead of relying on specific solutions to problems, environmental education teaches the use of alternative solutions and an analysis of subsequent outcomes. Preservation of a resource may be one of these alternative solutions. Conservation education is neither bad nor archaic: it constitutes a substantive part of the structure of environmental education.

Outdoor education is a valuable method of instruction which contributes substantially to the teaching strategies of environmental education. The traditional subject matter of outdoor education programs constitutes only a part of a complete environmental education program. The latter utilizes numerous indoor as well as outdoor activities and draws heavily on both natural and built environments in trying to prepare citizens who are capable of and motivated to act positively on behalf of environmental quality.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE OF GEORGIA (EEA)

Did you know that Georgia has a very active association of environmental educators whose goals are to strengthen state recognition and value of non-formal environmental education? The EEA is a professional education and networking association that promotes communication and education among professionals in the field of Environmental Education. Its members

are nature center and museum staff, teachers, outdoor interpreters and other professionals that wish to connect with people sharing a common interest in the field of Environmental Education. Spring and Fall Conferences & Field Studies are held around the state featuring key-note speakers, panel discussions, workshops and field trips. In September, the EEA will be the host organization as the *North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE)* comes to Atlanta for its 27th Annual Conference. GOS has recently become a corporate member of EEA in acknowledgment of the importance of environmentally educating the children and adults of Georgia. Individual and Organizational memberships are also available. EEA website: shenandoah.peachnet.edu/~alliance



Membership Form

Name _____ Title _____

Organization Affiliation _____

Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____ Evenings _____

Annual Membership Dues Run from January to December
 Make checks payable to Environmental Education Alliance and mail to:

Individual, \$15.00 Corporate Member, \$100

Organization, \$50.00

Environmental Education Alliance, Inc.
 c/o Elachee Nature Science Center
 2125 Elachee Drive
 Gainesville, GA 30504

by Jeff Sewell

**The Winter Season 1997-98
 December, January, February**

This winter season proves, once again, that the appearance of winter birds in our state is not necessarily related to the severity of the winter farther north, though for a few of the sightings mentioned here, conditions in the locale where the bird was when severe weather struck, may account for its appearance here. Overall though, to what may we attribute during a very mild winter here and further north, the appearance of eiders and other northern ducks, several northern gull species and a good showing of winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches? Oddly, for a mild winter, the number of straying, over-wintering hummingbirds seemed a bit down over previous years. Following is a summary of the highlights of a very exciting winter. 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*.

RED-THROATED LOONS are quite rare inland in Georgia. On 17 Jan. one was seen at Lake Lanier, Hall Co. (Jeff Sewell, Patrick Brisse). West Point Lake, Troup Co., was discovered in a big way this winter, producing some very exciting finds. On 1 Jan. Carol and I counted 52 COMMON LOONS and 246 HORNED GREBES from the dam there. You will notice this location mentioned several other times herein. Perhaps all the Common Loons were there, as one observer noted their absence on several Christmas Bird Counts. EARED GREBE again made a strong showing, but this time Lake Lanier was the big producer. A BROWN PELICAN spent several days at the Walter F. George Dam, Clay Co., and was seen on 28 Feb. by Michael Bell and Aubrey Scott. Another rarity inland was the AMERICAN BITTERN spotted on 31 Jan. in the Augusta brickyard ponds (Steve Wagner fide Anne Waters). It has been a few years since we have had a TUNDRA SWAN, so the one seen 19 through 25 Dec. near Reidsville was an outstanding sighting (Larry Carlisle). Several species of ducks scored high counts this mild winter. GREEN-WINGED TEAL, GADWALL, NORTHERN PINTAIL, BLACK DUCK, NORTHERN SHOVELER AND AMERICAN WIDGEON were all in evidence in above-average numbers at many inland locations. The 75 CANVASBACKS on Lake Seminole, Decatur Co., on 24 Jan. (Giff Beaton, Oscar Dewberry) makes this the prime Georgia location for this uncommon species. However, the coast was the spot for rare ducks this winter. A COMMON EIDER first seen on 3 Jan. off the north end of Jekyll Island (Jerry Amerson, Lydia Thompson) was seen several more times through 12 Jan. by various observers, although there was some debate whether this bird was sub-adult male or a female. This is our second Common Eider in six months. Amazingly, in what must be the state's first two-eider winter, a female KING EIDER was also present up the coast in the same time period. On 20 Dec., Brad Winn discovered the bird off the south end

of St. Catherines Island, where it remained until at least the next day where it was seen by several happy CBC birders, including yours truly. Three OLDSQUAW were seen along the coast, but as it is much rarer inland, the one seen on 2 Jan. at Buford Dam, Lake Lanier (Jim Flynn) gets the mention here. Both WHITE-WINGED and SURF SCOTERS were reported on the coast in above-average numbers. Remember West Point Lake? On 13 Feb., 41 COMMON GOLDENEYE were seen flying over the dam and then setting down on the lake at dusk (Pierre Howard). The next day 37 were seen at the same time of day (Kevin Danchisen). Does anyone know of any higher numbers anywhere in Georgia? Some of these sightings may be due to more birders in the field, but some of these locations have been well covered for years, so I think it's safe to say that this was a very good duck year, both coastal and inland.

Any GOLDEN EAGLE away from the hack site on Pigeon Mountain is a truly rare event, so seeing one at the Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, on 15 Jan. must have been quite a thrill for Aubrey Scott and Michael Bell. They were close enough to get very good looks and submitted detailed descriptions. A prize should be offered to the first person to witness a northbound flock of SANDHILL CRANES meeting a southbound flock. Southbound birds continued through December with a noticeable peak around 2 and 3 Jan. There were a number of January sightings including a flock of about 125 on 2 Jan. on the ground in Sumter Co. (Aubrey Scott, Michael Bell) that spent most of the month there (m.ob.). Brad Bergstrom reports that the wintering population at Grand Bay WMA near Valdosta reached 1400-1500 birds. These began departing in mid-February, leaving behind the smaller resident population.

As for shorebirds, the highlights were a WILSON'S PLOVER at Sapelo Island 3 Jan. (Anne Waters), accidental in winter, and Paul Sykes' report from the Jekyll Island Causeway on 25 Jan.: 5000 WESTERN SANDPIPERS, 1000 LEAST, 600 DUNLIN and 5 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS. What a day! Elsewhere, a DUNLIN wintered at the E.L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co. (m.ob.), 40 GREATER YELLOWLEGS were seen 21 Feb. in Macon, a high count for middle Georgia (Paul Johnson), three LONG-BILLED CURLEWS on Ossabaw Island on 19 Jan. (Giff Beaton), and one on St. Catherines Island on 20 Dec. (Brad Winn), indicating that a few winter on the coast, and an AMERICAN WOODCOCK on 16 Feb. in Valdosta where they are rare (Brad Bergstrom).

It was a great winter for gulls from one side of the state to the other. A first winter GLAUCOUS GULL was seen on the 3 Jan. on Jekyll Island (Jerry Amerson) and the same bird or another was seen there 17 Jan. (David Galewski). Steve Calver had what I believe must be a Georgia first when on 19