

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

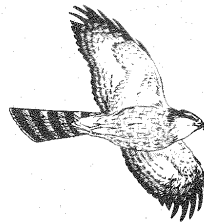
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS AND PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND ANY ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS!

# GOShawk

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1684  
Cartersville, GA 30120

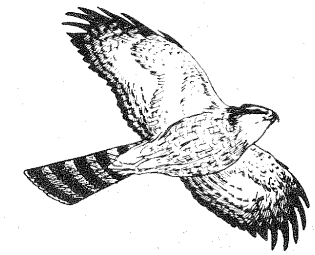


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Vol. 25 No. 3

September 1998

# GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alerts: Statewide (770) 493-8862 ♦ South Georgia (912) 244-9190

## F A L L M E E T I N G P U B L I C A T I O N S

### Holiday Inn - Jekyll Island October 2-4, 1998

All members should have received a registration packet by separate mailing this summer for the GOS Fall Meeting. We all look forward to returning to our favorite coastal haunt, Jekyll Island - don't forget last year's Townsend's Warbler, which conveniently stayed in place for the duration of the combined GOS/AFO conference. The meeting will again be based at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort (800)753-5955.

The registration desk will open at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Friday night's program (dinner on your own) will feature Mary Elfner who will discuss her research on Blackbeard & Wassaw Islands. Saturday night's banquet speaker will be Mike Harris of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He will talk about the status of nesting shorebirds on the Georgia coastal islands.

There will be the usual array of great field trips organized by Mike Chapman to some of our favorite spots -- South Beach on Jekyll, Andrew's Island in Brunswick, Gould's Inlet on St. Simons, Harris Neck NWR, Paulk's Pasture, etc.

For conference registration information, call Jeannie Wright at (770)451-1518.

### Editorial Changes

After 17 years as Editor of *The Oriole*, Terry Moore has decided to step down. *The Oriole*, GOS' quarterly journal of Georgia Ornithology, is now under the editorship of C. Ray Chandler and John W. Parrish. Effectively immediately, please submit all material for possible publication to them at the Department of Biology, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30460-8042. The goal of this publication is to advance the study of birds in Georgia and adjoining areas. All persons with an interest in Georgia birds are encouraged to submit manuscripts. Instructions to authors can be found on the inside back cover of any issue of *The Oriole*. Sightings information for the "From the Field" section of *The Oriole* should continue to be sent to Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Drive, Tucker, GA 30084.

### Thanks to Terry Moore by Ken Clark

With the upcoming publication of Volume 61, No. 4, December 1996 issue of *The Oriole*, Terry Moore will have completed 17 years as its editor, the longest stint of any predecessor. As he relinquishes the post he joins a distinguished company of multi-year editors including Fred Denton, Richard Parks, David Johnston, Milton Hopkins, Leslie Davenport and Bill Lovejoy.

When GOS was formed in 1936 one of its stated purposes was to publish a quarterly journal that would encourage the gathering and dissemination of accurate information about birdlife in Georgia. At that time the Atlanta Bird Club published the first issue of *The Oriole* as its official organ, and was instrumental in forming the state-wide ornithological society. *The Oriole* became the official journal of the newly formed organization, with such names among early editors as Norman Giles, Don Eyles, Earle Greene, Mrs. Hugh Harris and Herbert Stoddard. Current editors, therefore, are not only maintaining a proud tradition of a premier publication, they are also

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# Georgia Ornithological Society

## Executive Committee

1997-99

Ken Clark, *President*

(912) 474-1924

Eugenia Thompson, *1st V.P.*

Gail Russell, *2nd V.P.*

Marie Amerson, *Secretary*

gos@hom.net

Jeannie Wright, *Treasurer*

John Swiderski, *Business Mgr.*

Helen Ogren, *Past President*

## Membership Committee

Kristi Avera, *Chair*

(912) 559-6008

## Editorial Committee

Georgann Schmalz, *Chair*

(404) 633-1527

## Conservation Committee

Georgine Pindar, *Chair*

(404) 355-8454

## The Oriole

Ray Chandler, John Parrish, *Editors*

## GOShawk

Carol Lambert, *Editor*

## Other Committee Chairs

1995-97:

Doug Phillips, *Finance*

(404) 255-8017

Chuck Hunter, *Checklist & Records*

(770) 923-4742

## Special Projects:

Georgia Rare Bird Alert

Jeff Sewell (770) 493-8862

Birder's Guide to Georgia

Joel Hitt

Internet Home Page

Jim Flynn

<http://www.gos.org/index.html>

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

[lambertsewell@mindspring.com](mailto:lambertsewell@mindspring.com)

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

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carrying out one of the main missions of the Society. GOS is deeply indebted to Terry Moore for accomplishing this mission so ably for so many years.

Volunteering to assume the task and responsibilities of *The Oriole* editorship are two very qualified and well-placed former members of the GOS Editorial Committee. We are most fortunate to have the team of Ray Chandler and John Parrish take on the challenge of this project.

## M E M B E R S H I P

### Welcome New Members!

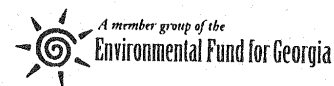
Deirdre Allen	Watkinsville, GA
James Bollback	Duluth, GA
Jim & Peggy Bloom	Lilburn, GA
LuAnn Craighton	Pine Mountain, GA
Michelle Ducharme	LaGrange, GA
Christopher Feeney	Martinez, GA
Carolyn Flythe	Macon, GA
Don Grotegut	Columbus, GA
Thomas Harbin, Jr.	Atlanta, GA
Darrell Lee	Brunswick, GA
Barbara Lowery	Cartersville, GA
M/M Keith MacVicar	Tallahassee, FL
Season Platt	Pine Mountain, GA
Jon Sherman	Kennesaw, GA
Thomas Striker	Dunwoody, GA

### E-mail Addresses

Any member who would like their e-mail address included in the next membership list should send their e-mail address to: Kristi Avera, Membership Chair at <kravera@datasys.net> Deadline for receipt of directory information is December 1st.

### Missing Life Members

We have three life members whom we have lost track of: **Ellery McClintock, Will Hon, Leigh Mills.** Anyone with a valid address for any of these folks, please send it to: John Swiderski, Business Manager, GOS, P.O. Box 1684, Cartersville, GA 30120 or e-mail: <katejohn@mindspring.com>



## Species Requiring Documentation for the Georgia Ornithological Society ("Review List") Checklist and Records Committee (August 1998)

### Regular Species List

Red-necked Grebe  
Black-capped Petrel  
Greater Shearwater  
Sooty Shearwater  
Manx Shearwater  
Leach's Storm-Petrel  
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel  
White-tailed Tropicbird  
Red-billed Tropicbird  
Great Cormorant  
Magnificent Frigatebird  
Reddish Egret  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck  
Greater White-fronted Goose  
Ross's Goose  
Brant  
Eurasian Wigeon  
Mottled Duck  
Cinnamon Teal  
King Eider  
Harlequin Duck  
Common Merganser  
Masked Duck  
Northern Goshawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Golden Eagle  
Plain Chachalaca  
Yellow Rail  
Black Rail  
Limpkin  
Whooping Crane  
Snowy Plover  
Long-billed Curlew  
Ruff  
Red Phalarope  
South Polar Skua  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Franklin's Gull  
Little Gull  
Iceland Gull  
Glaucous Gull  
Black-legged Kittiwake  
Sabine's Gull  
Arctic Tern  
Bridled Tern  
Sooty Tern  
Brown Noddy  
Dovekie  
Razorbill  
White-winged Dove  
Smooth-billed Ani  
Snowy Owl  
Long-eared Owl  
Northern Saw-whet Owl  
Magnificent Hummingbird  
Black-chinned Hummingbird

Anna's Hummingbird  
Broad-tailed Hummingbird  
Allen's Hummingbird  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Alder Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Say's Phoebe  
Vermilion Flycatcher  
Western Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Warbling Vireo  
Florida Scrub-Jay  
Bewick's Wren  
Bicknell's Thrush  
Varied Thrush  
Sprague's Pipit  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Townsend's Warbler  
Kirtland's Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
MacGillivray's Warbler  
Western Tanager  
Green-tailed Towhee  
American Tree Sparrow  
Lark Bunting  
Harris' Sparrow  
Lapland Longspur  
Snow Bunting  
Black-headed Grosbeak  
Western Meadowlark  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Bullock's Oriole  
Red Crossbill  
Common Redpoll

### Provisional Species List

Northern Fulmar  
Masked Booby  
Brown Booby  
Common Eider  
Swainson's Hawk  
Mountain Plover  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Roseate Tern  
White-winged Tern  
Burrowing Owl  
Bell's Vireo  
Virginia's Warbler  
Painted Redstart  
Shiny Cowbird

### Hypothetical Species List

Any species now listed as hypothetical (see GOS Occasional Publ. No. 10) or not previously recorded for Georgia, i.e. not listed on checklist inserted in this issue.

(continued from p. 5)

Co. on 4 May (Jeff Sewell); and one WILSON'S PHALAROPE in Laurens Co. on 9 May (Tommy Patterson). The prize, however, goes to Terry Johnson for three BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS seen in Monroe Co. on 9 May. Baird's are rare anywhere, usually only one is seen at a time and almost always in the fall.

LAUGHING GULLS are rare inland, so two on 5 May at Lake Lanier are notable (Jim Flynn); so are CASPIAN TERNS as Thomas Co. claimed a first county record with two on 2 May (Bobby Crawford fide Gail Menk). Two LEAST FLYCATCHERS were discovered on 25 May on the Sky Valley Golf Course, Rabun Co., where they remained into June (Brock Hutchins). Michael Bell scored big with WESTERN KINGBIRDS with two at opposite ends of the state: one in Carroll Co. on 12 April and one on Ossabaw Island on 24 May, a new late date. For the second year in a row a pair of TREE SWALLOWS nested and fledged young out of the same bluebird box at E.L. Huie L.A.F. near Jonesboro (Carol Lambert). Further north, Jim Flynn found at least three pair nesting at Carter's Lake, Gilmore Co. on 25 April. Sheila Willis found two pair of NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS nesting at Cumberland Island where they have never nested before. She also found BARN SWALLOWS nesting in three locations in and around Waycross where they are not known to nest. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES, which had a good flight this winter, held over at a number of feeders in the piedmont area, with several lingering into late April and one into May (5 May, Kennewsaw Mountain, Giff Beaton).

Three lucky birders at Kennesaw Mountain spotted a BREWSTER'S WARBLER, the dominant hybrid of the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, on 5 May (Pierre Howard, Giff Beaton, Kevin Danchisen). A BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER made news in Grady Co. on 14 May where one was seen by Kathleen Brady (fide Gail Menk), a first county spring record. The rare CONNECTICUT WARBLER was spotted twice this spring, one above average: one on 17 May at the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park (Michael Bell) and one on 18 May at Kennesaw Mountain (Giff Beaton, Pierre Howard, Kevin Danchisen). Several sightings of YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS were made in southeast Georgia where they are rare. In Lowndes Co. Brad Bergstrom noted that a pair had returned to the same nest site where they have nested since 1996, the only known nest site in the county. Sheila Willis found CHATS in several places in late May in Ware, Pierce and Atkinson counties and one each on Jekyll and Cumberland Islands. A few DICKCISSELS turned up as usual. Several pair returned on 23 May to a recent nest site in Henry Co. (Dale Hardee) and four were found in Monroe Co. on 9 May (fide Terry Johnson). BACHMAN'S SPARROWS are also unusual in southeast Georgia so the following are noteworthy: one on 2 May in Lowndes Co. (Brad Bergstrom, Kristi Avera), and one each in late May in Ware, Clinch and Atkinson counties (Sheila Willis). A LINCOLN'S SPARROW on 11 April was a first spring record for Kennesaw Mountain (Giff Beaton) and a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (GAMBELII) was very unusual on a barrier island, on 16 May on Wassau (Steve Calver). In

March a wintering oriole in Carrollton caused quite a stir, but unfortunately it turned out to be a pale female BALTIMORE ORIOLE and not a Bullock's (Victor Williams, Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn).

Many observers noted the late arrival of winter finches as PURPLE FINCHES did not appear at many feeders until March. There were quite a few scattered report of EVENING GROSBEAKS, but PINE SISKIN reports were spare. Only Dianne Wilkie of Acworth reported big numbers of Pine Siskins, with a high count of about 90 birds on 18 March. Her flock of 25-30 Evening Grosbeaks stayed into May when they were joined by ROSE-BREASTED and BLUE GROSBEAKS. What a sight! Unfortunately, I received no reports from feeder watchers in the mountains.

So that's it. I apologize for the many good reports I did not have space for. Look for them in *The Oriole*. It would be a great help if those of you who send me sightings could use the following format: name of species in checklist order; the date seen, numbers seen, male/female/immature if known; location of sighting (please include county); any other observers of the sighting, a comment, if needed, to explain why the report is noteworthy; a detailed description for hard-to-identify birds. For example: *Barn Swallow, 5/28/98, ...pair nesting..., Pierce Co., with John Doe, first nesting record for the county...*

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have a report for June and July (Summer 1998) please send it in immediately.

The deadline for Fall 1998 reports (August/September/October/November) is December 20, 1998.

Send reports to:  
Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Dr., Tucker, GA 30084 or  
e-mai: lambertsewell@mindspring.com

**R A R E B I R D A L E R T S**

GEORGIA	(770) 493-8862 (statewide) (912) 244-9190 (South GA)
Alabama	(205) 987-2730
N/S Carolina	(704) 332-2473
Florida	(561) 340-0079 (statewide) (912) 244-9190 (North Florida)
Tennessee	(615) 356-7636 (statewide) (423) 843-2822 (Chattanooga) (423) 577-4717 (Knoxville)

**C O M M U N I C A T I O N S**

**GOS Communications Going Hi-Tech**

In recent months GOS has not only joined the internet with its own web page, but most of the officers and committee chairs are communicating by e-mail. The GOS Rare Bird Alert is also being greatly facilitated by e-mail exchanges. A moving force behind this modernization has been a generous grant by The Price-Campbell Foundation of Valdosta, Georgia, specifically targeted for the acquisition of computers and the payment of fees to internet providers. GOS member Barbara Passmore is one of three trustees of the foundation and we are grateful to her for placing GOS in nomination for the enabling grant. We are also deeply indebted to our GOS webmaster, Jim Flynn, for his generous donation of time and talent to the creation of our Web page, which can be visited at:

Web Site Address: <http://www.gos.org/index.html>

**G O S B Y L A W S**

**Proposed Change to the Bylaws of GOS**

The Executive Committee has approved the following proposed change to the GOS Bylaws, to be voted on by the membership at the next General Meeting in October 1998.

Article VIII, Section 1:

The Executive Committee...shall consist of the elective and appointive officers, the past president, the chairpersons of the membership, editorial, conservation AND CHECKLIST AND RECORDS committees and the editors of *The Oriole* and *GOShawk*. (change in CAPS).

The object of the change is to recognize the primary mission role of the Checklist & Records Committee: to collect and record Georgia ornithological records.

**CHECKLIST & RECORDS COMMITTEE**

**Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds**

The GOS Checklist and Records Committee plans to publish a new edition of the Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds in 1999 and needs your help in documenting significant bird sightings from 1 January 1986 through 31 December 1998.

If you have any observations of birds that are on the "Review List" for which you have not submitted details to the checklist committee, please submit them as soon as possible. The "Review List" (formerly called *Species Requiring Documentation for the GOS Checklist and Records Committee, October 1996*) was last published in *The Oriole* in March 1997 (Vol. 60, No. 4) and in the *GOShawk* in December 1996 (Vol. 23, No. 4) and is reprinted on in current form on p. 7 in this *GOShawk* issue. Rare Bird Report forms are also in the December 1996

issue of the *GOShawk*. You may obtain Rare Bird Report forms by calling the secretary of the checklist committee, Bill Blakeslee, at (404)881-6570 or writing to him at 1772 Noble Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. **The Annotated Checklist will not contain reports of birds on the Review List for which the committee has not received supporting documentation.**

We are also interested in new early and late dates that are outside those published in the current checklist, peak periods of passage, expanding or contracting populations, and new breeding records for the state.

We are still seeking photos or specimens taken in Georgia of the following species: Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Plain Chachalaca, Carolina Parakeet, Warbling Vireo and all species on the Provisional and Hypothetical Lists. Please submit your records to Bill Blakeslee at the address listed above.

**C O N S E R V A T I O N**

**The Georgia Heritage Fund**

This November the Georgia ballot will have a proposed amendment to the state constitution - Amendment #1. If approved, it will provide for the creation of the *Georgia Land, Water, Wildlife and Recreation Heritage Fund* ("The Georgia Heritage Fund"). The Fund would be used to acquire, manage and rehabilitate natural lands, historic areas, parks and recreational facilities. The Heritage Fund's primary funding would come from an increase in the real estate transfer tax, the one-time fee that is paid in a Georgia real estate transaction at the time of sale or transfer. Currently the transfer tax is 0.1 percent (or \$1 per \$1000) of property value and each portion thereof at the time of the sale. Passage of this amendment would raise the transfer tax to 0.2 percent (or \$2 per \$1000) of property value. Even with this increase Georgia will still be among the ten states in the country with the lowest real estate transfer fees. This is not an annual tax -- it is applicable *only upon sale or transfer of real property*, not upon refinancing of a mortgage. It is estimated that the Fund would raise as much as \$32 million annually.

- A sunset clause in the legislation will require that voters review the Fund and its impact after four years and vote for or against it again.
- The Fund will be administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and overseen by an unpaid advisory board or council of 15 Georgia citizens appointed by the Governor.
- The money in the Fund will only be appropriated for the following purposes:
  - Assisting local governments in acquisition and improvement of parks and recreational facilities
  - Acquisition, protective management, rehabilitation and preservation of Georgia's natural and historic areas

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- It will not be used for administrative, research or other purposes not stated in the legislation
- At the end of each year, unobligated funds will not roll into the General Fund. They will remain as part of the Heritage Fund.

**The Georgia Ornithological Society recognizes and supports the Georgia Heritage Fund as being in keeping with the basic principles of GOS to foster ecological and environmental preservation by protecting and preserving vital habitat for birds and other wildlife. We feel this initiative is worthy of our support.**

#### More on Bird Collisions

The massive kill of Lapland Longspurs at a Kansas communications tower last January (see June 1998 *GOShawk*) has prompted a flurry of media attention, constituent calls and Congressional requests. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service agencies have been meeting with the FCC on issues such as tower siting and lighting, the impact on birds, possible mitigation measures and compliance with the Endangered Species Act. FWS has also met with representatives of Motorola and hopes to meet with others in the communications industry.

Meanwhile, on the overcast night of April 30, more than 300 neotropical migrants -- including 131 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 108 Blackpoll Warblers, 35 American Redstarts, 21 Ovenbirds, 9 Black-and-white Warblers, 6 Northern Parulas and 5 Cape May Warblers -- were killed when they collided into an 829' tall communications tower in central Florida. The Florida Audubon Society is planning to organize an effort this fall to monitor the approximately 2,000 towers in the state.

Contacts: Al Manville, USFWS Office of Migratory Bird Management (703)358-1824 or <albert\_manville@mail.fws.gov>;

Gian Basili, FL Audubon Society (407)539-5700 or <gbasili@audubon.org>

\*The USFWS Office of Migratory Bird Management has posted an annotated bibliography of bird collisions on their website. It focuses primarily on collisions with communications towers, lighted buildings and windows. It is titled "Bird Kills at Towers and Other Man-Made Structures: An Annotated Partial Bibliography (1960-1998)" and be accessed at:

<<http://www.fws.gov/r9mbmo/issues/tower.html>>

Source: "Bird Calls", American Bird Conservancy

#### Shorebird Sites: Threats and Issues Growing

New threats to shorebirds and their habitats are developing, and populations are suffering rapid, substantial declines. Of the 41 species that migrate through North America, five have declined by 24% or more over the past five years; 16 others have projected or actual population declines of 5 to 20% per five years. Inland, shorebird habitats compete for water with agriculture and municipal demands. Some of the more critical areas include California's Mono Lake, Cheyenne Bottoms in Kansas (which hosts 39 species and up to 800,000 birds during spring and fall migrations), Utah's Great Salt Lake and Alaska's Copper River Delta -- to name a few. Issues facing shorebird habitats are complex, and sustainable protection requires dedicated support from local scientists, environmentalists and communities, as well as from regional and national organizations.

For more information on Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites currently facing serious threats, see Manomet website:

<<http://www.manomet.org/threaten.htm>>, or contact: Jim Corven, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (508)224-6521 or <jmcorven@manomet.org>.

Source: "Bird Calls" American Bird Conservancy

**JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING (JIBS)**  
September 19 through October 18, 1998  
**BUTLER ISLAND ALTAMAHA STATION (BIAS)**  
August 30 through through October 18, 1998

For information, contact Doris & Don Cohrs  
P.O. Box 1908, Darien, GA 31305  
(912) 437-3333  
Internship & college/graduate level  
student training available

#### F I E L D N O T E S

Spring 1998 (March, April, May) by Jeff Sewell

What are the odds of a birder with a Georgia life list in the 320's seeing two life birds within 16 days and 40 miles of each other? This happened in March for several veteran birders, kicking off a very good spring season with good numbers of most migrants and no shortage of rarities. On 11 March John Dalton of Winder notified the Rare Bird Alert that he had a COMMON REDPOLL at his feeder. For the next 5 days he and his wife, Marsha, graciously accommodated about 30 delighted birders in their home. The bird was last seen on 16 March. The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (1986) lists only five previous sightings of the species. Many thanks to John and Marsha for sharing this event with the rest of us.

On 28 March Georgann Schmalz discovered a LONG-EARED OWL in a tree adjacent to the Fernbank Science Center in DeKalb County. It flew a short distance away to an easily visible perch in a pine tree where several score birders saw it over the course of that Saturday afternoon. At dusk, it flew off and was not located again. I am told this is the first sighting of a live bird in the Atlanta area in 60 years. Most recent reports have been of dead or wounded birds, including, quite amazingly, a road kill found earlier in March near Pine Mountain (Geoff Hill fide Bill Blakeslee).

At the other end of the checklist, blackbirds scored big this spring. Leading the list is a report of a BRONZED COWBIRD seen 3-5 May by Virginia Dolan in her yard in Ocilla. She described the bird well and has submitted a detailed report. This species' U.S. range is confined to southern Texas. The SHINY COWBIRD, an invader from South America was reported twice! On 27 March, a male was reported by Ronna Janssen (fide South Georgia Rare Bird Alert) in southeast Pulaski Co., only the second inland sighting, and Kevin McIntyre, the naturalist on Little St. Simons Island, reported one there during the period. When this



Long-eared Owl at Fernbank  
Photo: Jim Flynn

species was first found in the U.S., it was feared they would spread rapidly up the East Coast, but, so far, they have not exploded upon us as has the Eurasian Collared-Dove. There are fewer than ten Georgia reports, the first was in 1989. The other blackbird making the charts this spring was the YELLOW-HEADED. In fact, we had something of an invasion. On 10 May Mick Rogers, a visiting birder from England, was amazed to find a flock of 14, including 11 males, near the Athens Airport. Has anyone ever heard of this many being seen in Georgia? On the same day Carol McClelland reported seeing a male at Skidaway Island. The scene then shifted to northeast Cobb Co. where on 17 May a male was seen by Tammy Malacher. The word went

out but the bird could not be relocated. Then, on 25 May, the same or another male was discovered by Maria LaSalle about six miles away in a subdivision. This bird remained in the area for four days and was seen by many birders.

Now follows a quick look at some of the other great birds seen this spring in more or less taxonomic order beginning with a great pelagic trip on 27 May in which Pierre Howard, Giff Beaton, Jim Flynn and Andy Kinsey saw the following: BLACK-CAPPED PETREL (1), CORY'S SHEARWATER (2), AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER (3), WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (34), BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL (2), POMARINE JAEGER (1), ARCTIC TERN (1) and BRIDLED TERN (5). This is great variety but rather low numbers for some of these species. Other coastal notables: a RED-NECKED GREBE on 6 March near Wassau Island (Ted Reising); a WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD on 16 April at Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary (Eric McClanahan fide Dennis Forsythe); and two terns determined to be ARTICs seen from Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island on 13 May (Lydia Thompson).

Five GLOSSY IBIS were way off course in Forsyth Co. off GA-400 on 5 May (Frank McCamey). A year ago the report of a COMMON EIDER would have caused hearts to flutter, but after several reports beginning last July, many of us have now listed this species for the state. Yet another, a female, was seen this period, this one off the south end of Cumberland Island. It was reported to Sheila Willis on 12 April, she saw it the next day and it was last seen on 21 April (Steve Ehly). The only report of a GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE was of one on 8 March in Dawson Co. (Jim Flynn).

The best sightings of raptors were the following: three pair of OSPREY were unusual at Commerce Lake in March (Eugenia Thompson); a record early SWALLOW-TAILED KITE was seen on 9 March at Ft. Stewart (Larry Carlisle); and a banded GOLDEN EAGLE was spotted on 9 April on the Sea Island Causeway by Barb Zoodsma. A PURPLE GALLINULE was found at the DNR facility in Floyd Co. that we call the Arrowhead Fish Hatchery on 22 April (Gordon Hight, Jr.). It stayed for several weeks. This, of course, is way north of its usual range.

Plover sightings of note were: AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER are unusual on barrier islands, so one on 23 May on Wassau Island was noteworthy (Steve Calver); and Sheila Willis scored big with 26 WILSON'S on 31 May and 20 PIPINGS on 22 March, both on Cumberland Island and both high counts for those species.

Unusual shorebird reports were: ten WILLETS at Arrowhead, Floyd Co. on 30 April (Dan Harrison fide Gordon Hight, Jr.); the now-expected one inland SANDERLING, seen on 9 May in Monroe Co. (Terry Johnson); four LONG-BILLED DOWITCHERS in Clayton

...continued

# Georgia Ornithological Society

## Regular Species List

GOS Checklist and Records Committee requests documentation for *italicized species*.

\* Denotes birds added to the Georgia Checklist since publication of the **Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds** (1986).

‡ Denotes species which are extinct or presumed extinct.

Taxonomy and names based on the **Check-List of North American Birds, 7th Edition** (AOU, 1998).

Red-throated Loon	<u>Mottled Duck</u>	<u>Whooping Crane</u>	<u>Sabine's Gull</u>
Common Loon	Blue-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover	Gull-billed Tern
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>Cinnamon Teal</u>	American Golden-Plover	Caspian Tern
Horned Grebe	Northern Shoveler	<u>Snowy Plover</u> *	Royal Tern
<u>Red-necked Grebe</u>	Northern Pintail	Wilson's Plover	Sandwich Tern
Eared Grebe	Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover	Common Tern
<u>Black-capped Petrel</u>	Canvasback	Piping Plover	<u>Arctic Tern</u>
Cory's Shearwater	Redhead	Killdeer	Forster's Tern
<u>Greater Shearwater</u>	Ring-necked Duck	American Oystercatcher	Least Tern
<u>Sooty Shearwater</u>	Greater Scaup	Black-necked Stilt	<u>Bridled Tern</u>
<u>Manx Shearwater</u>	Lesser Scaup	American Avocet	<u>Sooty Tern</u>
Audubon's Shearwater	<u>King Eider</u>	Greater Yellowlegs	Black Tern
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<u>Harlequin Duck</u>	Lesser Yellowlegs	<u>Brown Noddy</u>
<u>Leach's Storm-Petrel</u> *	Surf Scoter	Solitary Sandpiper	Black Skimmer
<u>Band-rumped Storm-Petrel</u>	White-winged Scoter	Willet	<u>Dovekie</u>
<u>White-tailed Tropicbird</u>	Black Scoter	Spotted Sandpiper	<u>Razorbill</u>
<u>Red-billed Tropicbird</u>	Oldsquaw	Upland Sandpiper	Rock Dove
Northern Gannet	Bufflehead	Whimbrel	Eurasian Collared-Dove *
American White Pelican	Common Goldeneye	<u>Long-billed Curlew</u>	<u>White-winged Dove</u>
Brown Pelican	Hooded Merganser	Marbled Godwit	Mourning Dove
Double-crested Cormorant	<u>Common Merganser</u>	Ruddy Turnstone	<u>Passenger Pigeon</u> ‡
<u>Great Cormorant</u>	Red-breasted Merganser	Red Knot	Common Ground-Dove
Anhinga	<u>Masked Duck</u>	Sanderling	<u>Carolina Parakeet</u> ‡
<u>Magnificent Frigatebird</u>	Ruddy Duck	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Black-billed Cuckoo
American Bittern	Osprey	Western Sandpiper	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Least Bittern	Swallow-tailed Kite	Least Sandpiper	<u>Smooth-billed Ani</u>
Great Blue Heron	Mississippi Kite	White-rumped Sandpiper	Barn Owl
Great Egret	Bald Eagle	Baird's Sandpiper	Eastern Screech-Owl
Snowy Egret	Northern Harrier	Pectoral Sandpiper	Great Horned Owl
Little Blue Heron	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Purple Sandpiper	<u>Snowy Owl</u>
Tricolored Heron	Cooper's Hawk	Dunlin	Barred Owl
<u>Reddish Egret</u>	<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	Stilt Sandpiper	<u>Long-eared Owl</u>
Cattle Egret	Red-shouldered Hawk	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl
Green Heron	Broad-winged Hawk	<u>Ruff</u>	<u>Northern Saw-whet Owl</u>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Red-tailed Hawk	Short-billed Dowitcher	Common Nighthawk
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<u>Rough-legged Hawk</u>	Long-billed Dowitcher	Chuck-will's-widow
White Ibis	<u>Golden Eagle</u>	Common Snipe	Whip-poor-will
Glossy Ibis	American Kestrel	American Woodcock	Chimney Swift
Roseate Spoonbill	Merlin	Wilson's Phalarope	<u>Magnificent Hummingbird</u> *
Wood Stork	Peregrine Falcon	Red-necked Phalarope	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Black Vulture	<u>Plain Chachalaca</u>	<u>Red Phalarope</u>	<u>Black-chinned Hummingbird</u> *
Turkey Vulture	Ruffed Grouse	<u>South Polar Skua</u>	<u>Anna's Hummingbird</u> *
<u>Fulvous Whistling-Duck</u>	Wild Turkey	<u>Pomarine Jaeger</u>	<u>Broad-tailed Hummingbird</u> *
<u>Greater White-fronted Goose</u>	Northern Bobwhite	Parasitic Jaeger	Rufous Hummingbird
Snow Goose	<u>Yellow Rail</u>	Laughing Gull	<u>Allen's Hummingbird</u> *
<u>Ross's Goose</u> *	<u>Black Rail</u>	<u>Franklin's Gull</u>	Belted Kingfisher
Canada Goose	Clapper Rail	<u>Little Gull</u> *	Red-headed Woodpecker
<u>Brant</u>	King Rail	Bonaparte's Gull	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Tundra Swan	Virginia Rail	Ring-billed Gull	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Wood Duck	Sora	Herring Gull	Downy Woodpecker
Gadwall	Purple Gallinule	<u>Iceland Gull</u>	Hairy Woodpecker
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	Common Moorhen	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
American Wigeon	American Coot	<u>Glaucous Gull</u>	Northern Flicker
American Black Duck	<u>Limpkin</u>	Great Black-backed Gull	Pileated Woodpecker
Mallard	Sandhill Crane	<u>Black-legged Kittiwake</u>	<u>Ivory-billed Woodpecker</u> ‡

**Regular Species List *continued***GOS Checklist and Records Committee requests documentation for *italicized species*.\* Denotes birds added to the Georgia Checklist since publication of the **Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (1986)**.

‡ Denotes species which are extinct or presumed extinct.

Olive-sided Flycatcher	House Wren	Pine Warbler	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow *
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Winter Wren	<i>Kirtland's Warbler</i>	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
<i>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</i>	Sedge Wren	Prairie Warbler	Seaside Sparrow
Acadian Flycatcher	Marsh Wren	Palm Warbler	Fox Sparrow
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Bay-breasted Warbler	Song Sparrow
Willow Flycatcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Blackpoll Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Cerulean Warbler	Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Eastern Bluebird	Black-and-white Warbler	White-throated Sparrow
<i>Say's Phoebe</i>	Veery	American Redstart	<i>Harris's Sparrow</i>
<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Prothonotary Warbler	White-crowned Sparrow
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Bicknell's Thrush</i> *	Worm-eating Warbler	Dark-eyed Junco
<i>Western Kingbird</i>	Swainson's Thrush	Swainson's Warbler	<i>Lapland Longspur</i>
Eastern Kingbird	Hermit Thrush	Ovenbird	<i>Snow Bunting</i>
Gray Kingbird	Wood Thrush	Northern Waterthrush	Northern Cardinal
<i>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</i>	American Robin	Louisiana Waterthrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Varied Thrush</i>	Kentucky Warbler	<i>Black-headed Grosbeak</i>
White-eyed Vireo	Gray Catbird	Connecticut Warbler	Blue Grosbeak
Yellow-throated Vireo	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mourning Warbler</i>	Indigo Bunting
Blue-headed Vireo	Brown Thrasher	<i>MacGillivray's Warbler</i> *	Painted Bunting
<i>Warbling Vireo</i>	European Starling	Common Yellowthroat	Dickcissel
Philadelphia Vireo	American Pipit	Hooded Warbler	Bobolink
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Sprague's Pipit</i>	Wilson's Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Blue Jay	Cedar Waxwing	Canada Warbler	Eastern Meadowlark
<i>Florida Scrub-Jay</i>	<i>Bachman's Warbler</i> ‡	Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Western Meadowlark</i>
American Crow	Blue-winged Warbler	Summer Tanager	<i>Yellow-headed Blackbird</i>
Fish Crow	Golden-winged Warbler	Scarlet Tanager	Rusty Blackbird
Common Raven	Tennessee Warbler	<i>Western Tanager</i>	Brewer's Blackbird
Horned Lark	Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Green-tailed Towhee</i>	Common Grackle
Purple Martin	Nashville Warbler	Eastern Towhee	Boat-tailed Grackle
Tree Swallow	Northern Parula	Bachman's Sparrow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Yellow Warbler	<i>American Tree Sparrow</i>	Orchard Oriole
Bank Swallow	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Chipping Sparrow	Baltimore Oriole
Cliff Swallow	Magnolia Warbler	Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Bullock's Oriole</i> *
Barn Swallow	Cape May Warbler	Field Sparrow	Purple Finch
Carolina Chickadee	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Vesper Sparrow	House Finch
Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Lark Sparrow	<i>Red Crossbill</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Black-throated Gray Warbler</i>	Lark Bunting	<i>Common Redpoll</i>
White-breasted Nuthatch	Black-throated Green Warbler	Savannah Sparrow	Pine Siskin
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>Townsend's Warbler</i> *	Grasshopper Sparrow	American Goldfinch
Brown Creeper	Blackburnian Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow	Evening Grosbeak
Carolina Wren	Yellow-throated Warbler	Le Conte's Sparrow	House Sparrow
<i>Bewick's Wren</i>			

**Provisional Species List**

GOS Checklist and Records Committee requests documentation for all of the following species.

Northern Fulmar	Swainson's Hawk	Roseate Tern	Virginia's Warbler *
Masked Booby	Mountain Plover	White-winged Tern	Painted Redstart
Brown Booby	Hudsonian Godwit	Burrowing Owl *	Shiny Cowbird *
Common Eider *	Long-tailed Jaeger	Bell's Vireo *	

**Hypothetical Species List**

The Hypothetical List includes species reported with unclear origin or unsubstantiated identification. Records for species listed on the Hypothetical List still serve important functions, as future acceptable records may require reevaluation of these past records to best interpret the increasing occurrence of certain species in Georgia over time. The Checklist and Records Committee requests written documentation for any species not appearing on the Regular or Provisional Lists.

For a copy of the GOS Rare Bird Report Form, please contact:

Checklist & Records Committee c/o Bill Blakeslee  
1722 Noble Dr  
Atlanta, GA 30306

The Rare Bird Report Form is also available at the GOS Web Site at the following URL: <http://www.gos.org/rarereport.html>