

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

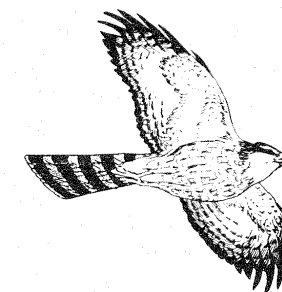
NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1684
Cartersville, GA 30120



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Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

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

FALL MEETING WRAP-UP

Jekyll Island, Georgia October 2-4, 1998

A few brief showers failed to dampen the enjoyment of another GOS weekend on the Georgia coast for 90 or so members and friends. Eighteen attendees were selected by drawing for a trip to Little St. Simons Island, while the others enjoyed well-led field trips to the customary Jekyll-Brunswick area hot spots. Mike Chapman coordinated the field trips, also ably led by pros like Giff Beaton, Lydia Thompson, Bill Blakeslee, Gene Keferl, Les Davenport and Paul Raney.

...continued on p. 2



GOS Birders on Little St. Simons

Photo by Dot Freeman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

H. Branch Howe, Jr.

We are saddened to announce the death of Dr. H. Branch Howe, Jr., GOS past president (1989-1993). Branch and his wife, Anne Haden Howe, were traveling on safari in Africa when he was taken ill in Tanzania and flown to Nairobi Hospital in Kenya where he died of pneumonia on October 24. According to Ann, they had spent the previous two weeks visiting national parks in Africa and having a wonderful time. He retired from the faculty of the University of Georgia where he taught microbiology and focused much of his research on fungal genetics. A member of GOS since 1942, Branch is well and fondly remembered for his life-long interest in birding and his valuable services to the society. As a long-time member of the Editorial Committee, he guarded the standards of excellence of the society's publications. He created the society's Graduate Student Research Grant and chaired that committee until his death. He served two consecutive terms as president and in 1993 was the recipient of the society's Earle R. Greene Award for outstanding service. Branch will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues in GOS. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Stephen Jeffrey Howe and Alan Haden Howe of Atlanta, and daughter, Barbara Howe McArthur, of Columbia, SC We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

State Botanical Garden / Orange Trail Donations

By honoring or memorializing friends and relatives with a gift to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, GOS members are helping support the Orange Trail.

Georgine Pindar has recently made gifts in memory of:

Maibelle Hodgins

Carolyn Hatcher

Branch Howe

For information concerning donations and memorials, call Georgine Pindar at 404-355-8454.

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Ornithological
Society**

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1997-99*

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Gail Russell, *2nd V.P.*
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GOShawk

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Birder's Guide to Georgia

Joel Hitt

Internet Home Page

Jim Flynn

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

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(March, June, September, December).

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*Deadline for submission is
the 1st of the month prior to
publication unless otherwise noted.*

Welcome New Members!

Richard, Michael, Eric and Jessica Beohm	Thomaston, GA
Jean Blake	Cartersville, GA
Steve Holzman	Brunswick, GA
Jill Ann Mabley	Blue Ridge, GA
Todd Plummer	Lawrenceville, GA
Sigrid Sanders	Bishop, GA
Peter Stangel	Stone Mountain, GA
Eran Tomer	Atlanta, GA

(Fall Meeting Wrap-Up... continued from p. 1)

Birders identified 160 species, including 20 species of warblers, notably Tennessee, Nashville, Cape May, Blackburnian and first of season sighting of an Orange-crowned. A large number of migrating Merlins and Peregrin Falcons (16 on Little St. Simons alone) lent spice to the day. Bald Eagles soared over three different widely separated groups. A variety of gulls, terns and shorebirds included Reddish Egret and Gull-billed Tern. A Philadelphia Vireo seen mid-day Sunday climaxed the weekend.

Mary Elfner, an environmental planner for the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, told us Friday evening about work she has been conducting with Partners In Flight and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, conducting point counts of birds on Blackbeard and Wassau Islands. She encouraged us to learn more about this undertaking and how we can participate.

Saturday's speaker was Mike Harris, DNR's Nongame-Heritage Program Supervisor, who talked about the status of nesting shorebirds on Georgia's coastal islands and briefed us on the proposed Georgia Heritage Fund, which, unfortunately, did not pass in the November election.

Following Saturday evening's presentation there was a short business meeting, the minutes of which appear below.

General Business Meeting Minutes

A brief general business meeting of the society was held following the program on Saturday, October 3, 1998. To save time, a written report on the status and recent accomplishments of the society was prepared by the president and handed out at registration, with questions and comments invited at the meeting. Comments were favorable and the suggestion made that the report be summarized and distributed to the entire membership. This summary follows on p. 3 of this issue.

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**GOS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 1998**

President	Ken Clark 6310 Stapleton Rd., Macon, GA 31216-5233	(912) 474-1924 gosclark@juno.com
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Chair, Checklist & Records Committee	Chuck Hunter 5363 Milieo Place, Lilburn, GA 30047	(770) 923-4742 chuck_hunter_at_4AT~ES@mail.fws.gov

(Field Notes...continued from p. 7)

noteworthy. In June, Sheila Willis found a pair nesting on a power pole in Bacon Co.; Steve Ehly saw a pair with young near Chamblee High School in Atlanta on 2 July and Giff Beaton saw a fledgling begging food from an adult in Floyd Co. on 31 July.

After having bred in Macon for two years in a row, the four COMMON MOORHENS who returned this year apparently did not nest (Paul Johnson). Brad Bergstrom discovered a prime PURPLE GALLINULE breeding site at the Grand Bay WMA in Lowndes Co., counting 20 adults and chicks in mid-June. An adult was seen on Cumberland Island on 20 June for the first live sighting since the Park Service started record-keeping there (Sheila Willis). Perhaps it was the dry conditions this summer that forced RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS to feeders, most notably to Buddy Rowe's feeders in Newton Co. where on the morning of 5 June, he and Terry Johnson banded 28 birds, mostly males. WILLOW FLYCATCHERS seem to be slowly expanding in the mountains. Several were found this period near a shopping center in Blairsville, a new location (Dot Freeman). A LEAST FLYCATCHER was discovered by Brock Hutchins on the Sky Valley Golf Course in Rabun Co. in May, remaining until at least 14 June. No evidence of nesting was noted. This is near the Hale Ridge Road site where a pair nested a few years ago. For the second year in a row, a pair of TREE SWALLOWS raised young at E. L. Huie in Clayton Co. (Carol Lambert). Two immatures with adults were noted at Carter's Lake, Gilmer Co. on 2 July (Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett). During her breeding bird surveys, Sheila Willis found several nesting colonies of BARN SWALLOWS in Clinch, Atkinson and Bacon Counties where the species is not known to breed, as well as 4-7 adults on Cumberland Island where they also are not known to nest. In June, Sheila also re-sighted five NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOWS on Cumberland Island where a pair nested for the first time in May. Also expanding rapidly as nesters are CLIFF SWALLOWS. Several new colonies were found this summer including one in Bartow Co. (Chris Loudermilk).

Two WOOD THRUSH were heard singing in Valdosta during June and July as though on territory (Brad Bergstrom). One 11 June a BLUE-HEADED VIREO was spotted in western Morgan Co., another location that is well south of their usual breeding range (Giff Beaton). An immature NORTHERN PARULA seen on 10 July at Kennesaw Mountain was interesting (Kevin Danchisen). An outstanding report was received of a female BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER seen with two immature birds and feeding a fledgling on 11 July at Kennesaw Mountain (Giff Beaton). This is well south of their breeding range in the mountains. Due to her breeding bird atlasing, Anne Waters now believes that BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLERS nest in the Augusta area. Gail Menk reported a SWAINSON'S WARBLER apparently on territory in May and June in Grady Co. where it is rare. He

also found a KENTUCKY WARBLER in Grady Co. at the edge of their breeding range in Georgia. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS were notable for their absence on Rabun Bald on two visits in June (Giff Beaton, Jeff Sewell), where they can usually be found. PAINTED BUNTINGS expanded a bit in Macon where three males were singing in new locations in July (Paul Johnson, Ty Ivey). A few DICKCISSELS were found around the piedmont. Two pair returned to a soon-to-be industrial park near McDonough (Michael Bell), two were seen on 11 June in Morgan Co. (Giff Beaton) and Marion Dobbs spotted one on 26 June near Cedartown. Judging from Sheila Willis' breeding bird surveys, BACHMAN'S SPARROWS are doing well in her area of southeast Georgia and one apparently on territory in eastern Lowndes Co. was considered noteworthy (Brad Bergstrom). For the second summer in a row, Paul Johnson found a pair of SONG SPARROWS in Macon but this year found no nest. This is the most southerly nesting site I know of. A female BALTIMORE ORIOLE seen on 11 June near Rutledge in western Morgan Co. causes one to wonder whether another piedmont area colony may be in the making (Giff Beaton).

Readers will note the many good findings turned up by birders working on Georgia's Breeding Bird Atlas, yet I received reports from only a few individuals. Perhaps future reports for this season can include more from those doing this important field work. I regret that due to space limitation I could not include more sightings here. Look for them in future issues of *The Oriole*.

Please send your Fall 1998 (August-November) reports to me immediately. The winter season reports (December-February) are due by March 20, 1999.

Send reports to:

Jeff Sewell, 4608 Westhampton Dr., Tucker, GA 30084
e-mail: lambertsewell@mindspring.com

RARE BIRD ALERTS

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)

(Meeting Minutes...cont. from p. 2)

A proposed amendment of the GOS Bylaws to include the chair of the Checklist and Records Committee on the Executive Committee was approved by acclamation. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Kenneth B. Clark, President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

Financially the society is in good health. It takes about \$10,000 a year to operate, including publishing *The Oriole* and *GOShawk*, operating the Rare Bird Alerts, mailing out meeting and dues notices, printing stationery, envelopes, brochures and the like and reimbursing volunteers for postage, telephone tolls, photo-copying and similar expenses on behalf of the society. Dues cover about 75% of our operating costs. Interest on deposited reserves provides the other 25%.

Additional funds from the sales of occasional publications, Peterson prints, T-shirts, hats and patches, and occasional grants and donations from other sources provide capital for printing occasional publications such as *Birders' Guide to Georgia* and *Annotated Checklist*, replenishing stocks of saleable items, and maintaining reserves for contingencies. As one of 22 organizations comprising the Environmental Fund for Georgia, we share in workplace environmental giving programs, which allow us, in turn, to award an annual research grant of \$1500 to a deserving Georgia graduate student in ornithology and make donations to environmental and conservation causes. This year we are buying a set of *Birds of North America Life Histories* which will be available to members and other interested persons at the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta. We also contributed \$300 toward accomplishment of the Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas.

Meetings are planned to be self-sufficient, with registration fees only enough to cover expenses: meeting notices, name tags, programs, meeting room and audio-visual rental, meals and accommodations for guest speakers and the like. We try to neither gain nor lose on these events, hoping to keep them within our members' budgets.

Publications. We had fallen a little behind on *The Oriole* issues, but the new editors, Ray Chandler and John Parrish, plan to be current by early next year and are intent on continuing it as a premier ornithological journal. Dick Parks has painted a new cover for the publication, which should appear on the 1998 issues. The Checklist and Records Committee is hard at work on a revised *Annotated Checklist* with a publication target date of 31 July 1999. Another publication in the

offing is an update of Bob Loftin's *Annotated Bibliography of Georgia Birds*, a labor of love by GOS member Rick West of Tallahassee, with input from DNR's Todd Schneider.

An important new GOS publication is our Web page on the internet, thanks to webmaster Jim Flynn. The address appears in each issue of *GOShawk*. This introduction to the modern world, as well as e-mail communication among officers and committee chairs, and a South Georgia/North Florida Rare Bird Alert were facilitated and encouraged by a generous grant from the Price-Campbell Foundation of Valdosta, of which GOS member Barbara Passmore is one of three trustees.

A fifth edition *Birders' Guide to Georgia* by Joel Hitt, Kenneth Blackshaw and Giff Beaton, which hit the streets in the summer of 1996, has sold well to date. Dick Parks painted a new version of the State bird, the Brown Thrasher, for the cover. GOS members Mark Oberle and Giff Beaton are working on a photographic field guide to the birds of Puerto Rico, the grant for which came from Massachusetts Audubon, and is channeled through GOS as a 501C3 entity. Puerto Rico has no such tax arrangement.

Membership. Our membership remains constant at around 500, but the turnover is high (20% a year for regular members). Seeing familiar faces at our meetings obscures the fact that we've taken in nearly 200 new members in the past three years. But since we've grown by only about thirty, it follows that a goodly number have slipped away in that same period. Can it be that in our eagerness to renew acquaintances with old friends at our meetings, we are missing opportunities to make new ones welcome?

Conservation and Environment. GOS actively supports wildlife conservation and environmental protection by publicizing and endorsing favorable movements, proposals, activities and legislation. The September 1998 *GOShawk* carried an article concerning the Georgia Heritage Fund as a means of acquiring, managing and rehabilitating natural and historical areas, parks and recreational facilities. The June 1998 *GOShawk* devoted a page to The Environmental Resources Network (T.E.R.N.) which supports Georgia's Nongame-Endangered Wildlife Program. GOS customarily donates something of value, such as a Peterson oriole print, to be auctioned at T.E.R.N.'s annual Weekend for Wildlife event. In June 1997 a two-page insert in the *GOShawk* dealt with DNR's efforts to protect the habitat of beach-nesting birds on five small islands off the Georgia coast, and GOS member Mike Chapman was appointed the society's spokesperson at public hearings on the subject in the Brunswick/Savannah area.

Conservation Chair, Georgine Pindar, has been

diligent and faithful in representing GOS on the Georgia Environmental Council and maintaining the society's eligibility for disbursements from the Environmental Fund for Georgia. GOS contributed *Annotated Checklists* and other enclosures for Partners in Flight resource kits distributed to Georgia's public libraries in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

Administration. The work of the society is carried on by its elected and appointed officers and its various committees, all volunteers. The officers and chairs of principal committees comprise the Executive Committee (Excom) which coordinates and oversees the work. The Excom meets three or four times a year, and GOS members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Minutes are kept and may be obtained on request from the Secretary.

Elections are held at the fall meeting in odd-numbered years. New officers are installed at the close of that meeting and serve two years. Proposed slates of a Nominating Committee are published in the *GOShawk* issue preceding the meeting, and nominations may be made from the floor. Names, addresses, telephone and e-mail addresses of Excom members are published in the December *GOShawk* and at the end of the annual membership list, also published in December. Members are encouraged to communicate directly with Excom members at any time.

Future Plans and Objectives. This administration will complete its term in office in October 1999. By then *The Oriole* should be back on schedule as a quarterly publication of the society, the Excom should be completely linked by electronic mail, and meeting times and places determined and arrangements under way for the year 2000. The editors of *The Oriole* are determined to make it a premier ornithological journal. A principal aim of GOS from its founding has been to foster cooperation among bird students and clubs throughout the state. These are our most promising sources of new members to keep GOS a lively and effective society. We should grow as a "force to be reckoned with" in environmental matters in Georgia, and continue to offer outstanding birding information and opportunities for our members.

Kenneth B. Clark, President
3 October 1998

CALL FOR 1998 GEORGIA LIST DATA

Attention listers... the year is almost over and it's time again to count up what you saw in Georgia this year and send it in if you're so inclined. A summary list will be published in the March 1999 *GOShawk* of GOS members' Georgia life and Georgia year species totals. Please send your name, hometown, phone number and total species seen during 1998 in Georgia and the total species seen in your Georgia birding lifetime. Please do not send your entire list - just the totals as of 12/31/98. If you don't keep an annual list, but would like to send your life list total that's fine. You can use the form below, scribble it on a paper napkin or whatever. For those of you/us who are just a little competitive about this, the top ten listers from 1997 are recapped below. DEADLINE: Feb. 1, 1999.

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ADDRESS (CITY/STATE) _____

GEORGIA LIFE LIST TOTAL _____
1998 GEORGIA LIST TOTAL _____

Send to: Carol Lambert, 4608 Westhampton Drive,
Tucker, GA 30084 or e-mail to:
lambertsewell@mindspring.com

1997 TOP 10 LISTS - GA LIFE BIRDS

1. Bob Manns, Atlanta	363
2. Joe Greenberg, Atlanta	336
3. Bill Blakeslee, Atlanta	332
4. Jeff Sewell, Tucker	331
5. Patrick Brisse, Tucker	330
6. Bruce Dralle, Marietta	330
7. Billy Dunbar, Watkinsville	329
8. Giff Beaton, Marietta	327
9. Paul Sykes, Watkinsville	325
10. Mark Oberle, Atlanta	322

NOTE: Those of you who are new to this idea of listing, should not be discouraged by these numbers. Our summary life list last year ranged from 241-363 and our year numbers from 250-271. Any list is worth having and sharing. There are so many more birders in the field now, and even though this sounds competitive -- and is for some folks -- it's also fun and our lists are the basis of important documentation. 1998 has been an excellent year for many Georgia birders, especially those who added pelagic species to their lists, and the new list totals should be interesting.

F I E L D N O T E S

Summer 1998 (June, July) by Jeff Sewell

The highlight of this season for many birders was the appearance of a BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK at the E.L. Huie facility in Clayton Co. Discovered on 6 June by Earl Horn and Rusty Trump, the sighting was at first dismissed by some as an escaped bird due to the fact that in 1991 an escaped bird was found at Lake Sinclair. However, the Huie bird bore no evidence of captivity. It was subsequently learned that the species was found this spring and summer in places all over the south. In fact, the species is undergoing a rapid range expansion from its original U.S. range along the southern Texas coast and is well-known for vagrancy. In fact, the two pair that bred in 1996 and 1997 at a phosphate mine in north Florida 25 air miles from the Georgia line could have been from a well-established colony near Sarasota, FL. The Huie bird was last seen on 5 July (Jeff Sewell). The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (GOS, 1986) shows the species on the "Hypothetical List" and notes that the report of 2 on Jekyll Island in 1976 was not documented.

Following is a brief account of some other unusual summer vagrants: a WILSON'S STORM-PETREL seen on 13-14 July in the Altamaha River Estuary (Chuck DeCurtis); a lone SANDHILL CRANE at Eufaula NWR-Bradley Unit on 8 June (Giff Beaton, Shawn Reed); a WESTERN KINGBIRD in Fayette Co. on 16 June (Brock Hutchins); a LARK SPARROW on 7 July on Hutchinson's Island near Savannah (Steve Calver); and not one, but two, SHINY COWBIRDS were reported, one on 1 June on Cumberland Island (Carol Ruckdeschel fide Doris Cohrs) and one in Glynn Co. at his feeder on 26 June (Gene Kerferl).

Coastal plain waders dispersed into the piedmont in huge numbers this summer if reports from several well-known sites are indicative of a region-wide event. At the Phinazy Swamp in Augusta, 237 GREAT EGRETS were counted on 13 July, but none on 27 July (Steve Wagner). More unusual in the piedmont were the five SNOWY EGRETS seen at E.L. Huie on 30 July (Rusty Trump), with smaller numbers at Phinazy Swamp (Steve Wagner). Here are some other sightings by Steve Wagner and Anne Waters from the Phinazy Swamp: 300+ LITTLE BLUE HERONS on 27 July; 60 CATTLE EGRETS on 13 July; and 100+ WHITE IBIS on 18 July. A TRICOLORED HERON appeared at the Clayton Co. Water Authority (CCWA) Wetlands Center on 30 July (Carol Lambert) and six WOOD STORKS were seen elsewhere on CCWA property on 15 July, a huge count for the Atlanta area (Tim Walker fide Carol Lambert). A few of these moved to the nearby Huie ponds and stayed through the month. This season's errant ROSEATE SPOONBILL was spotted in Coffee Co. on 30 July (Libbo Belger fide Sheila Willis).

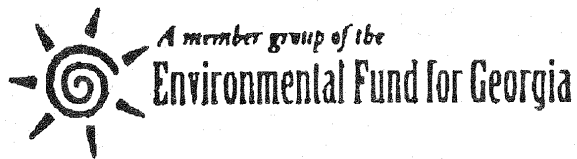
Several interesting duck reports were received.

Two pair of REDHEAD were seen for several days in mid-June in a developed area in south Cobb Co. (Chris Loudermilk) and one on 23 July in Rome (Marion Dobbs). In Augusta, three female RING-NECKED DUCKS spent several days in June (Anne Waters). They should have joined the two males who stayed all summer at the E.L. Huie facility in Clayton Co. (Carol Lambert). Back in Augusta, a female LESSER SCAUP lingered into June (Anne Waters). A lone BLUE-WINGED TEAL was seen in Macon on 21 June, this being the first June record for Bibb Co. (Ty Ivey, Jerry Amerson).

Two sod farms at different ends of the state hosted notable shorebird migrants. At the Bulloch Co. sod farm near Statesboro three UPLAND SANDPIPERS were seen for several days in late July (Andy Kinsey). The newly discovered sod farm west of Rome hosted about 400 PECTORAL SANDPIPERS on 30 July as well as two BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS (both Nelson Dobbs). Two LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS were very early at Jekyll Island on 18 July (Darrell Lee). Normally this species doesn't arrive until late September. Brad Bergstrom reported that in Valdosta radar detected three huge post-breeding PURPLE MARTIN roost sites located in south Georgia. Estimates of numbers were not given, but the locations were near Camilla, near Ga. 37 on the Calhoun/Baker Co. line and the largest site near Sylvester in Worth Co.

Now follows a brief look at the more noteworthy breeding species or those that summered over this season. Most of us know that a flock of AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS winter along the St. Mary's River on the Georgia-Florida line. On 13 July 11 were seen on Raccoon Spit off the north end of Cumberland Island. I suppose this is a non-breeding group of immature birds who decided not to make the long flight to the breeding grounds in the center of the continent. The sighting on Sapelo Island in June of a newly fledged REDDISH EGRET (Brad Winn) gives rise to speculation that this species, which we have grown to expect as a post-breeding wanderer from Florida, may now have nested in Georgia. As there are only a few records of nesting HOODED MERGANSERS in Georgia, Brad Winn was also delighted to find a hen with eight chicks at Bowen's Mill WMA, Wilcox Co. in June. Is there a MISSISSIPPI KITE nesting site in Newton Co.? This year Becky Boston saw only one near her home, but last year she saw two pair with two juveniles regularly toward the end of the summer. In developed areas of both Valdosta (Brad Bergstrom) and Macon (Paul Johnson) Mississippi Kite young were seen with adults. A SHARP-SHINNED HAWK near Ludowici on 30 June was apparently quite disoriented (Giff Beaton), as was an adult COOPER'S HAWK on 8 June in Coffee Co. (Sheila Willis). Any nesting of AMERICAN KESTREL in Georgia is

...continued on p. 8



ENVIRONMENTAL FUND FOR GEORGIA (EFG)

We have received a check for \$1,707.71 from EFG, our 1/22 part of the proceeds from amounts pledged to EFG through workplace giving. We have also received \$670.51 designated directly for GOS by people in the Combined Federal Campaign (federal employees).

This is the time to encourage companies/agencies to join the program so that next fall their employees can make a pledge to the environment as others have done.

GEORGIA BIRDERS ONLINE - LISTSERV AVAILABLE

Sara Schweitzer (UGA) and Steve Holzman have created a "listserv" for Georgia birding. The list is intended to foster discussion about birding in Georgia. So far over 100 birders have utilized this method of communication to discuss and obtain information about bird sightings, locations, behavior, migratory trends, trip reports, etc. This is strictly for Georgia wild bird and birding information.

The list functions through e-mail only -- it is not a website. It is called GABO-L and you can subscribe (for free) by e-mailing a one-line message to: listserv@listserv.uga.edu

In the body of your e-mail, include the following one line message:
subscribe GABO-L Firstname Lastname

Follow the directions in the e-mail that you receive back for confirmation. If you have trouble connecting, contact Steve Holzman at: steve_holzman@hotmail.com

2ND ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The 2nd Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, co-sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon, will take place February 19-22, 1999. For the count, every birder in North America is being asked to count the birds you see at your feeders, local parks and other areas, and to enter your reports at the BirdSource website:

<http://birdsource.tc.cornell.edu/gbbc/>

The count is a way to add to a vast database that will help make sure common birds remain common and to help species whose numbers are already in decline. This database also includes information from the Winter Finch Survey, Warbler Watch, Christmas Bird Counts and Project FeederWatch.

The technology should be in place this year to allow anyone to query the database with specific questions about which species were reported where, down to zipcode. There will again be species accounts, bird images and sounds, an extensive Map Room for within- and between-project abundance and distribution comparisons and other information.

There is no fee to participate and no pre-registration. Just go to the website and enter your data. Last year over 14,000 reports were received during a three-day period. Questions can be directed through the website or to: Allison Wells, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

SPRING 1999 GOS MEETING

Plans are underway for the GOS Spring 1999 Meeting to be held May 14-16 in Rome, Georgia at Berry College. Details will be published in the March *GOShawk*.

Christmas Bird Counts - 1998

December

- 18 (Fri.) Eufaula NWR (Sam Pate 706-327-2574)
Harris Neck NWR (Steve Calver 912-351-0841)
- 19 (Sat.) Athens (Mary Case 706-548-3848 and Eugenia Thompson 706-549-7318)
Columbus (Sam Pate 706-327-2574)
Cumberland Island (Sheila Willis 912-285-0419)
All slots are filled at this time. Call to be put on waiting list.
Dalton (Harriett DiGioia 706-278-3858)
Macon (Marie Amerson 912-746-5697)
St. Catherines Island (Emil Urban: by invitation)

- 20 (Sun.) Atlanta (Bill Blakeslee 404-881-6570)
Chattahoochee NF Songbird M.A. (Harriett DiGioia 706-278-3858)
Peachtree City (Brock Hutchins 770-461-5042)

- 21 (Mon.) Piedmont NWR-Rum Creek WMA (Terry Johnson 912-994-1438)

- 24 (Thu.) Aiken, SC [near Augusta] (Anne Waters 706-793-2788)

- 26 (Sat.) Albany (Alan Ashley 912-439-8232)
Augusta (Anne Waters 706-793-2788)

- 28 (Mon.) Bainbridge (Oscar Dewberry 912-246-1890)

January

- 2 (Sat.) Glynn County (Mike Chapman 912-262-6370)
Sapelo Island (William Dopson: by invitation)

- 3 (Sun.) Callaway Gardens (LuAnn Creighton 706-663-5192)

Undecided:

Blairsville (Lou Laux 706-745-8824)
May not be done this year. Call for details.

Dublin (Allen Rhodes 912-272-4757)
May not be done this year. Call for details.

Okefenokee NWR (Sheila Willis 912-285-0419)
Date will be scheduled prior to count period.



If you are interested in participating in a christmas bird count, contact the compiler as soon as possible.

Thanks to Todd Schneider of DNR for compiling this list.