

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

1995-99:

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

Website: www.gos.org

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

Carol Lambert, *Editor*
4608 Westhampton Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
(770) 939-7668

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.

M E M B E R S H I P

Welcome New Members!

Patty Adamcak and Steve Livingston	Decatur, GA
Mark Beebe	Marietta, GA
Frances Bulluck	Clarkesville, GA
Phillip Casteel	Nashville, TN
Beverly, Brooks, Andre & Alex Coville	Rome, GA
Glyn Hatchell	Athens, GA
Elizabeth Kinsey	Gainesville, GA
Marie & Byron LaSalle	Marietta, GA
Wilton Persons, Jr.	Savannah, GA
Susanna Rinard	Dallas, GA
Ari Savola	Savannah, GA
Beverly Woodward	Rome, GA

Continued from p. 1...Spring Meeting

Saturday evening as the guest speaker, reporting on his research on the nesting biology of mockingbirds. An additional highlight of the evening was the announcement that the GOS Graduate Student Research Grant would, henceforth, be known as the *H. Branch Howe, Jr. Research Grant* in honor of its creator and administrator until his death in October 1998. Anne Howe and family, Alan, Stephen and Barbara MacArthur, were present for the announcement and presentation to Anne of a plaque commemorating the occasion.

Arranging meetings of the Society requires considerable planning, effort, attention to detail and on-site supervision and service. We are indebted to our meeting planners, 1st Vice President, Eugenia Thompson, and 2nd Vice President, Gail Russell, for their splendid teamwork on our behalf. For the Rome meeting we are also indebted to Stephen Stewart for both field trip coordination and program, and to field trip leaders: Eugenia Thompson, Owen Kinney, Todd Plummer, Ann and John Stewart and Stephen Stewart. As newcomer, Todd Plummer, said after the meeting "It was a blast!"

GOS has purchased a limited number of copies of the book *Annotated Checklist of Birds of Middle Georgia* by Paul Johnson. This book is 64 pages, spiral bound and contains up to date information about bird occurrences in Middle Georgia. You may order a copy for \$10 postpaid, by sending your check payable to GOS to P. O. Box 5825, Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

Kevin McIntyre
PO Box 21078

Patricia Metz
Phone: Ext. 103

Dr. J. Michael Meyers
J.Meyers@ibm.net

Anne Mursch
Phone: 678/445-5106

Mark Oberle
1034 Fayetteville Avenue, SW,
Calabash, NC 28467
oberle@mindspring.com

Carole and Howard Ory
hwo@bellsouth.net

Karen Osborne
Kosborne@kslaw.com

Barbara Passmore
passmore@datasys.net

Todd Plummer
tplummer@bellsouth.net

Tom Pratt
tpratt5404@aol.com

Chandler S. Robbins
301-497-5641
chan.robbins@usgs.gov (Subline
between chan and robbins)

Bob Sargent
Warner Robins
bob.sargent@emrobins.af.mil
bob.sargent@em041088.robins.af.mil

Georgann Schmalz
georgann.schmalz@fernbank.edu

Donny Screws
scinat@peachnet.campuscwix.net

Jason and Bobbi Sedam
jasonks@mindspring.com

Jeff Sewell
lambertsewell@mindspring.com

Jon Sherman
678/560-0869
the3shermans@earthlink.net

Marcus Simpson
marcusb@pol.net

Alan Spearman
Mansfield House
800 Chatham Hall Circle
Chatham, VA 24531
(804) 432-2941, ext. 270
mke@mindspring.com
aspearman@chathamhall.com

Stephan P. Stewart
Stephan and Stephanie Stewart

Sweetgrass Farm
Transcnd2K@aol.com.

Kathleen E. Toomey (97)
825 Crestridge Dr., NE
Atlanta, GA 30306
404/657-2700
ket1@dhr.state.ga.us

Tommy & Betsy Willard
tomewillard@juno.com

Beth Willis
willisba@emh5.stewart.army.mil

Brad Winn
brad_winn@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

New Members:

Patty Adamcak & Steve Livingston,
2128 Spring Creek Rd.,
Decatur, GA 30033, 404/315-6911,
patty_adamcak@shepherd.org

Mark Beebe
2069 Mills Lane
Marietta GA 30060-4917

Frances M. Bulluck
207 Windrose Meadow Lane
Clarkesville, GA 30523
706/754-0451

Phillip Casteel
2722 Bobby Avenue
Nashville, TN 37216
615/226-6503
tigerwrblr@aol.com

The Covilles, Beverly & Brooks,
Andre & Alex,
8 Quail Hollow Rd., Rome, GA
30161, 706/295-1109,
bacoville@aol.com

Glyn Hatchell
5500 Old Lexington Road
Athens, GA 30605-5042
706/546-5323

Joan Johnson, 10870 Duncan
Bridge Rd., Cleveland, GA 30528,
706/865-4046

Elizabeth C. Kinsey
7170 Jot-em Down Rd.,
Gainesville, GA 30506
770/887-5541

Marie & Byron LaSalle
3362 Claire Cir.
Marietta, GA 30066
770/971-0513

Wilton B. Persons, Jr.
17 Coventry Close
Savannah, GA 31411,
912/598-0114

Susanna Rinard
2284 Dabbs Bridge Rd.
Dallas, GA 30132,
770/445-8455

Ari Savola
219 Island Creek Lane
Savannah, GA 31410
912/898-1326

Beverly Woodward
2 Richland Court
Rome, GA 30161,
706/290-0205

Corrections and additions to the January 1999 GOS Directory.
Please consult the directory for the remainder of the information.

Jay Adams
 wootman@mindspring.com

Arthur Crowe
 Phone: 770/420-6353

Theresa Hartz
 jthartz@aol.com

Marie & Jerry Amerson
 2210 Plantation Dr
 Macon Ga 31211-6358

Leslie Curran
 tcurran@mindspring.com

Art and Lisa Hurt
 arhurt@mindspring.com

Ken & Janice Badke
 Wildbirds Unlimited
 1327 Augusta West Parkway
 Augusta, GA 30909
 706/855-1955
 CSRABirds@aol.com

Mark Davis
 msdavismd@aol.com

Brock Hutchins
 brockhutchins@msn.com

Ian Baldock
 Phone: 215/345-0237

Joe and Linda Dobbs
 captjdobbs@aol.com

James L Hanna, Jr
 706/546-1924

Leo Barber
 barber@alltel.net

Marion M. Dobbs
 9 Bridlewood Ln
 Rome, GA 30165
 706/291-6956
 marion@mindspring.com

Lynn Hennelly
 lhennell@arthritis.org

Brad Bergstrom
 bergstrm@valdosta.edu

Chris Eberly
 ceberly@dodpif.org

Penny Henritze
 pen@gslaw.com

Nancy Born
 Ernie & Nancy Born
 MSNC@aol.com

Larry Edmonds
 lde@cdc.gov

Norma and Paul Herd
 npherd@aol.com

Jane Brann
 jane_brann@atl.checkfree.com

Mary Elfner
 elfnerm@thempc.com

Joel Hitt
 Zip code: 30043

W D Burbanck
 P O Box 15134

Bill & Beth Fletcher
 Bflet12532@aol.com

Anne Howe
 ahowe130@aol.com

Carlile, Lawrence D.
 DPW, Fish and Wildlife Branch
 1557 Frank Cochran Dr
 Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4928
 912/767-8241
 carlilel@emh5.stewart.army.mil

Jim Flynn
 Zip code: 30040-4231

Paul Johnson
 g.pauljohnson@juno.com

Dave Chaffin
 davchaffin@aol.com

Mark Freeman
 120 Jockey Club Dr.
 Athens, GA 30605,
 mfreeman@ars.usda.gov

Terry Johnson
 2246 Highway 42 South
 Forsyth, GA 31029

Sue Chambliss
 suecham@gateway.net

Ken Grahl
 Fort Valley Game Management
 1014 Martin Luther King Blvd.
 Fort Valley, GA 31030-6246.
 Day: 912/825-6354
 grahl@cstel.net.

Andy Kinsey
 Zip code: 30460-8042

Mike & Kathy Chapman
 mchapman@darientel.net

Tom Gurley
 Zip Code: 30004-3183
 tteeeegg@mindspring.com

John Kiser
 jkiser6386@aol.com

Stan Chapman
 stanacha@aol.com

Pamela Hall
 philph@emory.edu

Thomas Lewis
 1280 West Peachtree St., Apt 3714
 Atlanta, GA 30309
 404/876-6248

Julia McDonald
 218 W. Moore St
 Valdosta, GA 31602
 912/257-0635
 jmcdonal@peachnet.campuscwix.net

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

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE SURVEY

If you see a Swallow-tailed Kite, Georgia Partners in Flight wants to know about it. You can call, fax or e-mail information when you sight one of these elegant raptors. In cooperation with Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Center, PIF is beginning a 3-year assessment of the status of kites in Georgia. Locating kite nests and roosts is critical. They received over 200 observations of kites in 1997 and 1998 which will form the basis for future initial searches.

Pay special attention to "Priority Observations:"

- * carrying nest material
- * repeated observations in the same area
- * vocalizations

Notify E.J. Williams of these sightings as soon as possible. Sightings in the Coastal Plain are particularly important during the April through June breeding season, but observations from the entire state during March through September are important for understanding migration and dispersal.

Georgia Partners in Flight
 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029
 Phone: 912-994-1438 Fax: 912-993-3050
 E-mail: <ej_williams@mail.dnr.state.ga.us>

**HOW FOREST FRAGMENTATION AFFECTS
 MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS**
 by Randall White

If you like birds and forests you've probably heard about the effect of fragmentation of the forest on migratory songbirds. The warblers, tanagers and vireos that come from Central and South America to our woods to breed find a very different situation now compared to 200 years ago. The forest now exists in patches, especially in the heavily populated piedmont and ridge-and-valley provinces. At the boundary of farm or suburb with woods thrive certain species that prey on the songbirds. Raccoons, house cats, blue jays and crows eat eggs and nestlings, while brown-headed cowbirds, once native only to the prairies, lay their eggs in other birds' nests. Ground-nesting birds, such as ovenbird, whippoorwill and worm-eating warbler, are especially vulnerable to mammalian predators. Of course, clear cuts in national forests also create edges.

Research by biologists has documented this effect, but until recently the work had been done only in midwestern and northeastern forests. Last year, three scientists published a study on ground-nest predation carried out at Fort McClellan, Alabama near the Talladega National Forest. The lead author, Amber Keyser, now at the University of Georgia, and her

colleagues documented that birds in southern forests are also vulnerable to the edge effect, since the eggs they placed in artificial nests on the ground showed more predation when closer to an edge than when deeper in the interior. Overall, nests in smaller forest fragments were more preyed upon than those in larger fragments.

Some measures may reduce the impact of fragmentation. Cowbirds feed on grassy areas, i.e. lawns and fields, and in some regions with intensive agriculture, cowbird traps have been used to reduce their numbers. The edge effect is probably less severe when intact forest borders on areas with some remaining trees, such as well-planted residential areas. But the most important lesson of this research is that songbirds, along with other plants and animals, need large areas of undisturbed native forest to survive.

Article reprinted with permission from Georgia ForestWatch "News Update" Vol. 1, 1999. Georgia ForestWatch is based in Ellijay, GA. For more information on this organization, call 706-635-8733 or visit their website at: www.wildgeorgia.org

ACTION ADVISORY - CHLORFENAPYR UPDATE

Never before has the public had such an opportunity to halt the registration of a pesticide with devastating reproductive effects for birds.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced April 30, 1999 that it would not grant a full registration to American Cyanamid for the cotton pesticide chlorfenapyr (brand names Pirate and Alert). The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) leads the opposition to this pesticide, which has a half-life of one or more years in soil, as well as high reproductive toxicity to birds and other wildlife. Chlorfenapyr has been characterized by EPA as one of the most reproductively toxic pesticides to avian species that Environmental Fate and Effects Division has evaluated.

Although full registration (section 3) of chlorfenapyr has not been granted, EPA is considering the possibility of again granting state-by-state emergency exemptions but under very severe use restrictions. The Agency has approved such exemptions over the past four years in several states. American Cyanamid however, objects to the limited conditions of emergency exemptions and is pressing EPA to reverse its position. Some members of Congress, primarily from cotton growing states, support Cyanamid's bid for full registration.

Because of this, ABC is again calling for those who oppose registration of chlorfenapyr to send letters to EPA asking that they protect birds and other wildlife by denying ALL chlorfenapyr registrations. Even limited registration of a chemical by EPA has the potential to influence

Continued on p. 5

An Open Letter to GOS Members

Dear Members,

If you are like I am, you are probably turned off by polls and questionnaires, but how else can the leadership of GOS find out what the members think? With apologies beforehand, we need some feedback from you and hope you'll take a minute to respond to this request for your views on a few subjects.

We are as guilty as most in our tendency to do things the way we've always done them. There's a certain comfort in the familiar, and it's a lot easier on management...no experiments or surprises. If all of you were the same people who were around when these "traditions" were started, we could assume you are happy that they continue. But most of you are not "old timers." Half of today's GOS members are newcomers with less than five years' membership. That's the good news. The bad is that a lot of the folks who were members five years ago are no longer on the mailing list.

Evidently, "the way we've always done it" hasn't satisfied some folks' expectations about the organization. So, before half of you drop out in the next few years, we'd like to know what you think about the way things are going in GOS. For example:

- The general membership meets only twice a year. Should we meet more often or sponsor other birding activities between meetings? _____

- Do we vary meeting locations enough or do we go back to the same old places too often? What other locations should we explore? _____

- What about the evening programs at our semi-annual meetings? Are they too scholarly? Should we do more on bird identification and birding techniques? What are your suggestions for programs? (Please identify yourself as a professional or hobbyist when answering this question). _____

- Are the field trips to your liking? If you are a beginning birder, do you feel welcome or intimidated? As a more experienced birder, do you feel you are wasting your time? How could the field trips be improved? _____

- What do you think of our methods of communication? Are the publications (*The Oriole*, *GOShawk*, *Birders' Guide to Georgia*, *Annotated Checklist*) interesting and/or useful? Do you visit our website or call the Rare Bird Alerts on a regular basis? _____

Please take a moment to reflect on these questions or others you may have concerning any aspect of the Society's operation, and give us your comments by mail, phone or email. Thank you.

Ken Clark, President
6310 Stapleton Road, Macon, GA 31216
(912) 474-1924
gosclark@juno.com

Chlorfenapyr...Continued from p. 3

other nations' acceptance and use (for example, a US registration that allows the import of products from other countries in which the chemical is used). Chlorfenapyr use on cotton or other products grown outside of the US, but in the Western Hemisphere, will pose risks for migratory bird species--as well as for other birds and wildlife. EPA needs to send a strong message to the industry that the risks of chlorfenapyr to the environment and to avian species worldwide are unacceptable. EPA needs to hear the public they serve ask the agency to deny registration.

EPA's decision to not grant full registration comes after an overwhelming response to the action advisory sent out by ABC through Pesticide Action Network and numerous bird related networks in the US and Canada. Approximately 200 opposing responses were received in EPA's public docket. ABC and Defenders of Wildlife also worked to insure that EPA initiated formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a process to which Cyanamid is opposed.

American Cyanamid has proposed use of chlorfenapyr as an insecticide and miticide on cotton. Cyanamid claims that it is one of the most effective controls available for beet armyworm in chemically intensive cotton agriculture. Applications for use on citrus and vegetables and for termites and ants are also pending. Chlorfenapyr belongs to a new class of chemical called "pyrrole" -- never before registered by EPA.

Letters of continuing opposition to registration and public support for EPA current position can be e-mailed to: EPA Administrator Carol Browner at <browner.carol@epa.gov> and to Senator John Breaux (D LA) who supports registration at <senator@breaux.senate.gov>.

For further information or copies of the original action advisory contact: Kelley R. Tucker, Director Pesticides and Birds Campaign, American Bird Conservancy, 1250 24th St., NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20037, phone: 202/778.9773 fax: 202/778.9778 e-mail: <ktucker@abcbirds.org> web: www.abcbirds.org.



F I E L D N O T E S

NEW FIELD NOTES EDITOR FOR *THE ORIOLE*

Michael Bell of Tallapoosa, Georgia has been selected as the new Field Notes Editor of *The Oriole*. This position is one of the more time-consuming and demanding positions in our organization. It is of the utmost importance in the accurate, systematic documentation of the bird sightings reported in Georgia, and a valuable source of information for birders and ornithologists. Michael, originally from Ireland, has acquired an extensive knowledge of the avifauna of this state, having birded tirelessly in just about every nook and cranny from the mountains to the barrier islands. His energy and knowledge of our birds, migration patterns and habitats will be a great asset in his efforts as editor.

Many thanks to Jeff Sewell, the retiring Field Notes Editor. His contribution to both *The Oriole* and this publication are known by all and respected. It may be fairly said that Jeff's field notes have raised the bar for future editors, for both the quantity of species covered and also the wealth of information given about each species.

Effectively immediately, please send your reports to Michael Bell, 131 Doe Valley Road, Tallapoosa, GA 30176-3384 or email: <birdbrainy@mindspring.com>. It is of enormous time-saving and organizational benefit if the following format is used when submitting reports of sightings. Give your report using the new taxonomic order, recently published by the Checklist & Records Committee in the *GOShawk*, and state the information in the following order: name of species, date, number of birds seen (designate sex if known), place seen, names of observers and a short statement, if appropriate, explaining why you think the sighting is noteworthy. Reports of rare species may require a detailed explanation.

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 FL) (850) 934-6974 (Northwest FL)
Tennessee	(615) 356-7636 (statewide) (423) 843-2822 (Chattanooga) (423) 577-4717 (Knoxville)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

G O S has a new mailing address, which will be used for dues, payments, book and print orders and any correspondence not sent directly to an officer or editor. The new address is:

G O S
P O Box 5825
Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

The reason for this change is that our Business Manager, John, and his wife, Kate, have relocated to Valdosta from Cartersville. Their personal address and phone number is:

John and Kate Swiderski
P O Box 5707
Valdosta, GA 31603-5707
912/242-8382