

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 5825
Valdosta, GA 31603-5825
E-mail: gos@hom.net

Current Members:
Annual membership dues have been paid
through the year shown adjacent to your
name on the mailing label below.

Please enroll the undersigned as a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the calendar year.
Dues are enclosed as follows:

_____ Regular \$20.00 _____ Sustaining \$30.00
_____ Patron \$50.00

(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)

_____ Life Membership \$300.00 _____ Student \$10.00 per year

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

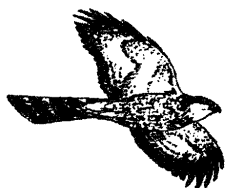
NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL CHANGES TO:
Kristi Avera, Membership Chair, 5406 Moss Oak Trail, Lake Park, GA 31636
<kravera@datasys.net>

GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 5825
Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

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GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message

By John Swiderski

When you read the report of the Nominating Committee you will realize that my two-year term as your president will be completed this October at the Savannah meeting. Hard to believe that two years have evaporated already. I believe it has been a good two years for GOS with many of you sharing in the credit for our achievements, meetings and fellowship.

In particular I want to thank Eugenia Thompson and Gail Russell for putting our spring and fall meetings together. They had significant help from Walt Chambers (Eufaula), Brenda Brannen (Statesboro) and Jerry Amerson (Macon). For the upcoming Savannah meeting Diana Churchill, Beth Roth and Pat Metz have been most helpful with facility arrangements and field trips. Who can forget trying to keep up with Chan Robbins in Statesboro, the fun we had with Bob and Martha Gail Sargent in Macon and the enjoyable field trips?

We have made a lot of progress with our publications recently. Co-editors Ray Chandler and John Parrish, professors at Georgia Southern University, have brought our journal, *The Oriole*, back to publication on schedule. They are planning to return to four issues in 2002 and need support from all of us in the form of notes, articles and photos.

Carol Lambert continues to publish a quality newsletter on a regular schedule. Another member I

would like to thank is Jim Flynn who has done a terrific job in developing our first class website. If you haven't checked it out lately, you are missing out on some great features. Jeff Sewell has been tireless in continuing to maintain the Georgia RBA phone line with regular updates that provide timely information to members and visitors alike.

After serving GOS for some 28 years, I really did not expect to learn anything new about GOS during my term as your president, but I was wrong in that expectation. I discovered that GOS has an impact all out of proportion to its rather small size, because of what our members contribute professionally and as volunteers. We have members who teach and influence students at all levels of education from elementary to post-graduate. Other members are professional biologists and ornithologists with federal and state agencies, carrying out programs beneficial for birds and our environment. We also have members directing or on-staff of environmental education centers around the state.

Volunteers? Our members are active in their local clubs and Audubon chapters, participate in Christmas counts, summer breeding bird routes, banding and the fieldwork for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Speaking of that, the steering committee for the BBA project is made up of GOS members under the direction of Todd Schneider. We have members serving on the boards of organizations such as The Nature Conservancy of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources just to name two.

Well, you get the idea and can fill in the blanks with the names and other activities that I have not mentioned. And the really neat thing is that you have fun along the way while doing all of this!

THANKS!



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Georgia Ornithological Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	John Swiderski 229-242-8382
1st Vice President	Eugenia Thompson
2nd Vice President	Gail Russell
Secretary	Marie Amerson <gos@hom.net>
Treasurer	Jeannie Wright
Business Mgr. (Acting)	John Swiderski
Past President	Ken Clark
<i>The Oriole</i> , Editors	Ray Chandler John Parrish
<i>GOShawk</i> , Editor	Carol Lambert

Committee Chairs:

Checklist & Records:	Chuck Hunter 770-923-4742
Conservation:	Stephen Stewart 706-802-0686
Editorial:	Georgann Schmalz 404-633-1527
Environmental Fund for Georgia:	Vacant
Membership:	Kristi Avera 229-559-6088

Special Projects:

Georgia Rare Bird Alert	770-493-8862
Jeff Sewell, Compiler	
Joel Hitt, Internet Transcriber	
GOS Website	Jim Flynn, Webmaster
	Website: <www.gos.org>
GOS Historian	Ken Clark 912-472-1924

GOShawk is published quarterly
(March, July, September, December)

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

<lambertsewell@mindspring.com>

Deadline for article submission is the 1st
of the month prior to publication.
Text by email is appreciated.

Welcome New Members!

- John Bacon, *Decatur*
- Michael Boatwright, *Atlanta*
- Vicki Ham, *Decatur*
- Clifford Gibbons III, *Dublin*
- Templeton Hill, *Athens*
- Cecil Kersting, *Wakefield, RI*
- Tracy Meeker, *Lawrenceville*
- Jonathan Mock, *Garden City*
- John Outler, III, *Murrayville*
- Sam and Mary Ann Teal, *Mableton*

Membership List changes

The following changes to the GOS Membership List were reported so close to publication time that they were not included. Please correct your list to reflect these changes:

- Roger Atchison 546 Ashville Hwy., Monticello, FL 32344
- Patrick Brisse <birdman350@aol.com>
- Carol Meyer 8146 Alderman Rd., Melrose, FL 32666
- Mark Oberle (206) 324-3844
- Bob Sargent 108 Crestview Church Rd., Warner Robins, GA 31088
- Todd Schneider <macon4@netzero.net>

Membership dues increase

By John Swiderski

On July 28, 2001 the GOS Executive Committee decided that it was necessary to change the dues structure, to allow the Society to keep up with increased costs of publication of *The Oriole* and *GOShawk*. This is only the second GOS dues increase since 1982. Over that same period of time our publication costs have increased well over 100%.

The new dues schedule for categories which include the member's immediate family are: Regular - \$20 Sustaining - \$30 Patron - \$50

Life Membership has been increased to \$300 and Student dues to \$10. These two categories are for the individual member only.

For 2002, Ray Chandler and John Parrish plan to return *The Oriole* to a true quarterly publication so that you will receive four timely issues per year. Publication of a completely revised *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* is anticipated and a new Occasional Publication by Giff Beaton is in the works. Your continued membership support makes these projects possible and is appreciated.



Duck Stamps are not just for hunters...
if you're a birder, you should have one!

The Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp for 2001-2001 went on sale July 1st for \$15. Federal Duck Stamps may be purchased from the Federal Duck Stamp Office (DSO) in Washington, D.C., any first or second class U.S. Post Office, various sporting goods stores (including many KMart and Walmart stores), and most national wildlife refuges.

Federal Duck Stamps have generated millions of dollars that has been used to preserve over 5 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States. Many of the more than 510 national wildlife refuges have been paid for all or in part by Duck Stamp money. Waterfowl are not the only wildlife to benefit from Federal Duck Stamps. Numerous other birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians have similarly prospered because of habitat protection made possible by the program. Further, an estimated one third of the nation's endangered and threatened species find food or shelter in refuges preserved by Duck Stamp funds.

Not only wildlife, but people, too, have benefited from the Federal Duck Stamp Program. In addition to hunters, other outdoor enthusiasts gain places to hike, bird watch or merely visit. Moreover, the protected wetlands help dissipate storms, purify water supplies, store flood water, nourish fish hatchlings important for sport and commercial fishermen. For more information about the Duck Stamp program check the website: <www.duckstamps.fws.gov>

Upcoming Events

JIBS (Jekyll Island Banding Station)
Sept. 22nd—Oct. 14th
Contact: Chris & Jan Pittman 770-339-0916
Email: janchrisbirders@juno.com

Florida Panhandle Birding & Wildflower
Festival, Port St. Joe, FL
Oct. 11th-14th
Contact telephone: 850-229-9464
Website: www.birdfestival.org

Whooping Crane Celebration
Chattanooga, TN
Oct. 26th
Email: craneinfo@cs.com

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will host a "Whooping Crane Celebration" recognizing the arrival of the cranes to Tennessee, on Friday, October 26, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. at the Chattanooga Choo Choo's Imperial Ballroom.

The TOS event is in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to benefit the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. Funds will go to expand educational outreach and to enhance habitat for the cranes that pass through Tennessee. The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, Operation Migration video, and special guest speaker, John Christian, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Admission or a donation is \$10.00 and is and should be sent with a SASE to: Bonnie Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 487 B, Dunlap, TN 37327.

Where are your favorite birding spots in Georgia?

Have a favorite state or city park, WMA, nature center, stream, lake or beach that you get to when you can for birding?

Please submit articles to the *GOShawk* editor on the subject of your experiences in your favorite birding places in Georgia. They don't have to be hot-spots, but they should be accessible to the birding public; and as birdy as they may be, these articles should not be about your yard.

Many of us cover the state or our towns pretty regularly in our birding pursuits, and we all know there are many, small out-of-the-way places that may or may not be listed in the birders' guides, but are definitely worthwhile stops. Where are yours?

Conservation

By Stephen Stewart

Several conservation issues that will have an effect on Georgians and potentially on Georgia's birds have recently come to the fore in Congress. CARA (Conservation And Reauthorization Act) is again in the news and recently passed the House Resources committee with no important amendments. Recall that the House of Representatives passed the bill last year but time ran out before it made its way to the Senate for a vote. CARA again goes to the House of Representatives for a vote this fall.

Sometime after midnight on August 2, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 240-189, passed the energy bill that will allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The bill includes 33.5 billion dollars in tax breaks for energy producers of coal, oil, and nuclear energy, but only minimal conservation measures. Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, said "...the ANWR was far from a pristine treasure....a hostile ground made for oil development." The passage of this bill was called a victory for the American people by Republicans, while Democrats countered that it did little to get Americans to conserve energy and endangered one of America's last pristine treasures. The bill now goes to the Senate where it may encounter resistance.

Literature Review

The American Bird Conservancy published a report last summer entitled, "Communication Towers: A Deadly Hazard To Birds." The report includes over 149 documents addressing collisions between birds and communication towers, with 47 of these documents containing specific data on numbers and species of birds killed. Two of the documented studies come from Georgia. D.W. Johnston published "Bird Mortality in Georgia" in the 1957 edition of the *Oriole* volume 22 number 4. D.W. Johnston and T.P. Haines together published, "Analysis of mass mortality in October", in the 1957 edition of *The Auk* volume 74 number 4. This second publication documented tower kills in Macon.

Each year an additional 5000 communication towers are erected adding to the total of over 77,000 towers in the U.S. Over 60% of these towers are over 199 feet tall which requires them to be lighted. In the 47 detailed studies, the average tower height was 1,124 feet. Because there are so few studies on this topic, it is not clear what effect the thousands of cell phone towers are having on birds. While they are relatively short compared to the average tower height in the 47 studies, cell phone towers are most often placed on mountain tops which may increase their danger. There are plans for these towers to be erected at 5 mile

intervals in high population areas.

The ABC report lists 230 species of birds as being killed at towers and by tower support wires. Fifty-two of these species are on the US Fish and Wildlife Service's, Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern List. The total number of birds in the report was 184,797. Do not be misled by this small number, because it is only a total from the 47 documents generated over the past 50 years. The real number of bird deaths due to tower kills is estimated by the USFWS at **four to five million** annually. Even this number may fall far short of the actual number because of a lack of studies.

Of the birds killed at towers, 92% were migratory and 53% of these were primarily nocturnal migrants. Specifically, a look at the largest subgroups of birds revealed that 17.8% were warblers, 10% were sparrows, 9.5% were waterfowl, finches were 5%, and 23% fell into the "others" category. Twelve of the 20 most often killed species were warblers, while three of the top 20 were vireo species. The top ten species killed at towers were:

1. Ovenbird (22,619 killed)
2. Red-eyed Vireo (19,707)
3. Tennessee Warbler (17,689)
4. Common Yellowthroat
5. Bay-breasted Warbler
6. American Redstart
7. Blackpoll Warbler
8. Black-and-white Warbler
9. Philadelphia Vireo
10. Swainson's Thrush

By comparison, the species found least often (but having at least one individual killed) were:

221. White Ibis
222. White-breasted Nuthatch
223. Willet
224. Yellow-headed Blackbird
225. Semipalmated Sandpiper
226. Cliff Swallow
227. "Brewster's" warbler
228. Pectoral Sandpiper
229. Common Tern
230. Killdeer

Birds appear to be drawn to those towers that are lighted and there are generally more fatalities during inclement weather. The report calls for a reduction on the number of 199 foot and higher towers, and the use of white strobe lights which seem to lesson the circling behavior which often leads the birds to crash into support wires. In some areas conservation groups have filed lawsuits blocking the construction of these towers due to their documented effects on migratory birds. If you would like further information on this topic or have information concerning tower kills in Georgia, please contact Stephen Stewart, 706-802-0686 or email: <bikesnbirds@cs.com>.

Georgine S. Pindar

Georgine Skogberg Pindar, 81, passed away on August 7, 2001, at her home in Atlanta. She was a GOS life member who first joined the Society in 1964.

Over the years, Georgine was one of our most active volunteers. She served as president from 1977 to 1979 and following that term continued to be a very active member of the Executive Committee serving as past president, chair of the conservation committee and most recently as chair of the Environmental Fund for Georgia committee. Just last fall Georgine received the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in recognition of her outstanding service to GOS.

It was Georgine who quickly recognized the potential of the fledgling EFG coalition some nine years ago. She was active in supporting the development of EFG, now known as Earth Share of Georgia. Almost solely due to her persistence and prodding, GOS joined the coalition and she served on the EFG Board and on various committees.

Another project close to her heart was the adoption of the Orange Trail at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. Just over 10 years ago, on July 13, 1991, GOS formally adopted the Orange Trail at a ceremony held at the trailhead. Since that time several thousand dollars have been raised in support of maintenance and upgrades for the trail due mainly to Georgine's reminders and solicitations.

It's really impossible to fully state the impact that Georgine has had over the years. She was a voice for conservation and the environment long before most of us were aware of the need. GOS was not her only interest as a volunteer either. Atlanta Audubon Society, the Georgia Environmental Council and many other organizations benefited from her volunteer service. It was entirely appropriate that the Turner Foundation recognized Georgine as one of the Super Seventeen Volunteers in 1999.

Perhaps less known was her enthusiastic support and mentoring for young people. She came in contact with literally thousands of school children as a music teacher and gave many of these youngsters an exposure to nature and the environment. Perhaps this is her most lasting legacy.

A contribution form for the Orange Trail in memory of Georgine Pindar may be found on p. 4. Please also use this format for contributions in memory of other friends or loved ones.

EFG Becomes Earth Share of Georgia

Effective July 1, EFG changed its name to Earth Share of Georgia. In addition to its 23 local and regional members, Earth Share of Georgia will support 41 leading national and international environmental and conservation charities through workplace campaigns. The Earth Share alliance brings together over 500 environmental groups worldwide. We are very excited to become a part of Earth Share. The national public announcement will take place on September 12. Our efforts will be strengthened through the focused messages of multiple organizations.

Earth Share of Georgia maintains the same mission as before, to offer local environmental choice for employee payroll donations. It currently conducts fund-raising through state and federal campaigns, and at workplaces around Georgia. In addition to its statewide members, Earth Share of Georgia now also supports organizations such as National Parks Conservation Association, Izaak Walton League of America, and Rainforest Alliance. If you want to learn more about Earth Share, visit <www.earthshare.org>

The 2000 State Charitable Campaign was a huge success for the environment. Over 2,000 state employees donated almost \$125,000 to EFG and its member groups!

Turner Foundation supports efforts

Great news! Earth Share of Georgia will receive a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Turner Foundation. This three-year commitment will provide funds to hire needed staff and pursue new marketing strategies. The contribution will serve as the cornerstone for a three-year, \$300,000+ fund-raising campaign to build the organization's capacity. "These funds will enable us to explore new developmental landscapes in the next few years, particularly as we embark on our affiliation with Earth Share," says Alice Rolls, ESGA Executive Director.

GOS has received over \$26,000 in EFG donations since 1994!



a member of Earth Share
OF GEORGIA

Georgine Pindar Memorial Contributions

Just a little over ten years ago in 1991, the late Georgine Pindar participated in the formal ceremonies when GOS adopted the Orange Trail of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. Georgine was the moving force behind this GOS project and it was a project that she was quite proud of. Over the past decade funds raised in support of the maintenance and improvement of the Orange Trail have provided for informational signs, a small shelter and maintenance. The shelter, by the way, displays a memorial plaque in memory of Branch Howe.

The Orange Trail and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia grounds, in general, have proven to be a refuge for birds in addition to being a popular place for walking and enjoying nature.

If you would like to make a contribution in memory of Georgine Pindar please use the form below and send your contribution directly to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the address on the form.

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia
Attn: Jane Kidd
2450 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605

Enclosed is my check payable to The State Botanical Garden of Georgia in the amount of _____ which is a contribution in memory of Georgine Pindar. This contribution is designated for maintenance and improvements for the Orange Trail.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____



AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

GOS Fall Meeting

October 5-7

Savannah / Skidaway Island

All members should have received a registration packet for the Fall Meeting on the coast. All meeting events will take place on Skidaway, with lodging at the LaQuinta Inn on Abercorn Street in Savannah. On Friday night Paul Sykes, Wildlife Research Biologist with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, UGA, will speak on "The Atlantic Coast Population of the Painted Bunting," giving a short report based on his research of this species. The Saturday night program will feature Brad Winn, Waterbird Biologist, Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. His program is entitled "Shorebirds and the Georgia Coast: A Special Connection."

Diana Churchill and Pat Metz have put together a great array of field trips for Saturday and Sunday. Complete trip descriptions and sign-up will be held Friday night, and we can look forward to the following excursions:

- Fort Stewart
- Harris Neck NWR
- Sterling Creek Wastewater Treatment Area
- Fort Pulaski & Tybee Island North Beach
- Savannah-Ogeechee Canal
- Savannah NWR
- Little Tybee Island (boat trip on Sunday limited to 12 participants whose names will be drawn by lottery Saturday night)

This promises to be a great meeting, so plan to attend.

Anyone needing more information should contact Eugenia Thompson 706-549-7318 <erthomps@negia.net> or Gail Russell 770-956-8469 <grussell@mindspring.com> The deadline for meeting registration is Sept. 28th.

Spring 2002 Meeting — Mark your calendar

Plans are underway for the Spring 2002 meeting to be held in Valdosta April 26-28.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the Georgia Ornithological Society is pleased to submit the following slate of nominees to fill positions on the Executive Committee for the 2001-2003 term of office. All nominees have agreed to serve in these positions for the term stated if approved by the GOS membership at the Fall 2001 General Meeting.

President	Gail Russell, Atlanta
First Vice President	Bob Sargent, Warner Robins
Second Vice President	Anne Mursch, Woodstock
Secretary	Nancy Gobris, Macon
Treasurer	Jeannie Wright, Atlanta
Business Manager	John Swiderski, Valdosta
Past President	John Swiderski, Valdosta
<i>The Oriole</i> , Editor	Ray Chandler, Statesboro
<i>The Oriole</i> , Editor	John Parrish, Statesboro
<i>GOShawk</i> , Editor	Carol Lambert, Tucker

On behalf of the membership, we would like to express our appreciation to the outgoing members of the Executive Committee for their years of service and hard work on behalf of the GOS:

John Swiderski as President
Eugenia Thompson as First Vice President
Marie Amerson as Secretary
Ken Clark as Past President

Nominating Committee Members:
Carol Lambert (Chair), Ken Clark, Giff Beaton

Mission...

The Georgia Ornithological Society's mission is to encourage the scientific study of birds by gathering and disseminating information on Georgia bird life. To promote the interest in, and appreciation of, the value of birds so as to help with the preservation of bird habitat. The Georgia Ornithological Society gives scholarships and produces scientific publications. The GOS also provides fellowship among those interested in nature.