

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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 _____ Student \$10.00
(The above are annual rates for individuals or families.)
_____ Life Membership \$300.00

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

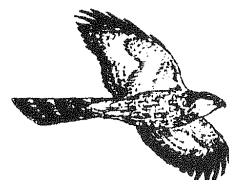
NAME(S)

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL CHANGES TO:
Stacy Zarpentine, Membership Chair, 1736 Wood Creek Trail, Roswell, GA 30076
<nuthatch3@aol.com>

GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
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Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

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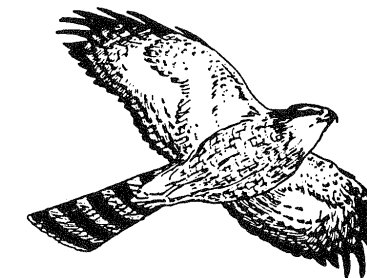


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GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message

OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT By Gail Russell

Today I read the Scientific American (Jan. 2002) abstract from E.O. Wilson's new book *The Future of Life* sent out over the internet by Atlanta Audubon's conservation chair, Lynn Hennelly. While I've always enjoyed Wilson's work since taking a directed reading course in graduate school at Georgia Tech on *Sociobiology*, I found his current treatise to be no less intriguing. The question is what kind of "ecological footprint" man should be having on the earth. The 1987 Brundtland report says that we should reserve 12 percent of Earth's land for "the environment". Here in Georgia Governor Barnes has proposed setting aside 20 percent of each County's land as greenspace (should this exclude soccer fields?)

Wilson reports that people in the developing world use 2.5 acres per person of productive land and shallow sea versus 24 acres per person by the industrialized nations. Current grain yields could sustain 10 billion east Indians versus 2.5 billion Americans (our grain must go through livestock and poultry first). However, the real question is what kind of quality of life we want to sustain for ourselves and what quality is possible when the rest of humanity reach our profligate level of consumption/pollution. Among options itemized by Wil-

son is for us to move down the food chain and eat more vegetables. However, I suggest that perhaps we should all go on one giant diet since Georgia now leads the nation in its rate of growth in the percentage of overweight/obese people. (The percentage of overweight/obese men in Georgia has "grown" from 47 percent to 64 percent between 1984 to 1999 while the rate of overweight/obese women has increased from 28 percent to 51 percent over the same time period).

Now while it is totally possible that we may eventually terraform Mars and establish colonies on Jupiter's moon Io, it is clear that we will not be able to achieve these feats within the next 50 years. Thus, Wilson is correct in proclaiming this the Century of the Environment. Will the Important Bird Areas identified and protected by the Georgia Audubon chapters (and supported by GOS) provide enough of an Ark to carry the state's roughly 350 resident/migratory birds into the next century? I propose that each GOS member heed Peter's Stangel's bidding (i.e. "we should lose no more birds on our watch") at our February 2000 meeting in Eufaula and resolve to take action in large and small ways to ensure that habitat is available to sustain Georgia's, and the world's, flora and fauna.

One interesting observation that I have made is that young people often find nature walks to be "boring." Regardless of their sentiment (rather be playing Nintendo), I believe this exposure is important and consequently laud all the teachers, nature center personnel, volunteers, scout leaders, etc who help children make the connection. And, of course, parental and other family attitudes are hugely important. I had no clue at all about nature until I was about 35 years old when, as a result of doing yard work one day, started noticing these "birds".

The Chattahoochee River offers a fabulous respite for beleaguered urban dwellers. But although there are over 4 million people in the Metro Atlanta area, I still have the river trails totally to myself most mornings if I go to walk around 8 AM or earlier. E. O. Wilson and others have warned of the importance of the environment to our future survival as a species, and others have lauded the inherent value of nature for its own sake. It seems to me that maintaining a connection with nature is more important than ever to individuals living in the postmodern world as we struggle to keep a sense of personal well-being and a more grounded sense of values. I think that GOS helps to maintain this connection.

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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Deadline for article submission is the 1st*
of the month prior to publication.
Text by e-mail is appreciated.

*The June (only) deadline will be April 15

Welcome New Members!

- Jarrett Brunner, *Decatur*
- David J. Decker, *Conyers*
- Marian B. Ellis, *Douglas*
- James Keener, *Evans*
- Ann Mahoney, *Atlanta*
- Fred Rossini, *Atlanta*

New Books by Member

By John Swiderski

Milton Hopkins (39,73L), Fitzgerald, GA, has 2 new books in publication. In One Place: The Natural History of a Georgia Farmer is a memoir which describes over 50 years of his life as a family man, farmer, naturalist, field ornithologist and conservationist. The book was published by the Saltmarsh Press, St Simons Island, with an introduction by Janisse Ray. A book signing event was held in Fitzgerald in January to celebrate the release of the book.

The second book, recently released, is Around Fitzgerald, Georgia in Vintage Postcards. The material for this book was drawn from Milton's extensive vintage postcard collection.

"In One Place..." is available for \$24.95 postpaid from The Saltmarsh Press, P.O. Box 20032, St Simons Island, GA 31522. "Around Fitzgerald..." can be obtained from the publisher, Arcadia Publishing, for \$19.95. Their toll free number is 888-313-2665.

Dorothy Neal

Former GOS President, Dorothy Neal, of Demorest, GA, passed away on November 20, 2001. Mrs. Neal, a life member, had maintained her membership for over 50 years.

Mrs. Neal was an active member of the GOS Executive Committee serving as First Vice-President from 1949 to 1953 and then as President from 1953 to 1955 followed by a term as Past President.

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

As this issue is going to press, a team of six is looking for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana. Ever wonder what the bird sounds like? NPR has a sample of sounds at its web site from Cornell Lab's CD, "Diversity of Animal Sounds." Included in the 'lost sounds' segment is this long-lost bird (recording dates from the 30's). The Woodpecker is #10 of the 11 sounds at <http://npr.org/programs/morning/features/2001/dec/animals/indexhtml>

Upcoming Events of Interest

1) IBA (Important Bird Areas) Dedications -

- a) Grand Bay, April 27, in conjunction with the Spring Meeting. Grand Bay Nature Center, 4:30 to 5:00 PM.
- b) Blackwater Cypress Plantation, April 28 (tentative).
- c) Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Center, May 18.
For additional details or to nominate a site for IBA consideration, see the Atlanta Audubon Society web-site at www.atlantaaudubon.org.

2) Earth Share of Georgia (GOS is a member) will celebrate Earth Day 2002 with several events. Beginning on Friday, April 19, the weekend kicks off with its annual Down To Earth Day Party in The Park at Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park. Great food, great folks and the Silent Spring Auction of great goods.

On Saturday, in partnership with Hands On Atlanta, many environmental projects around the state will bring people out for Green Day, a morning of volunteerism. Also during the weekend, Borders Books will donate 15% of its sales to Earth Share of Georgia. Call 404-873-3173 or visit <http://www.earthsharega.org> for details on all events.

3) International Migratory Bird Day will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year on Saturday, May 11. The theme for this year is Celebrating Special Places for Birds. The focus will be on habitats that migratory birds need, with an emphasis on the Important Bird Area activity.

Major sponsors include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Phillips Petroleum Corp. For additional details try www.birdday.org.

Membership dues notice

GOS maintains dues records on a calendar year basis, with renewals due in January of each year. If you have not renewed your membership, please consider sending it in now so that we can reduce renewal postage costs. Your mailing label on this newsletter has a code in the upper right hand corner showing your membership class (Regular, Sustaining, Patron or Student) and the calendar year you have previously paid for.

You can renew by simply sending your check to GOS, PO Box 5707, Valdosta, GA 31603. The various membership rates are also found on the back of your newsletter.

Featured Bird Site of the Quarter Phinizy Swamp

Is your Georgia list lacking some of the rails or perhaps the Sharp-tailed Sparrows? One really good "hot-spot" in the state to view these toughies is Phinizy Swamp in Augusta. The number of King, Virginia and Sora Rails calling back from the reeds here at times can be unbelievable. This property was developed as a conduit for Augusta's waste and storm water back in the 1880's. The wetlands are now the heart of an award-winning nature park.

There are a number of ponds enclosed by dikes that offer good viewing. In addition, some of the drier areas provide grasslands that are great habitat for wintering sparrows. Only control vehicles are allowed into the park, so come prepared to do some level hiking.

The Swamp is easy to reach by taking I-20 east from Atlanta. Just before Augusta take the I-520 exit east (south) just short of 10 miles to the Doug Barnard Parkway exit (GA Spur 56). Turn right for one mile and watch for the sign that leads you left toward the Swamp, just before the Augusta airport. The Spring 2003 GOS Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Augusta area, and this site should be a prime field trip destination.

Andrew's Island

Many of you are aware that Andrew's Island has been transferred to the GA DOT and they have posted 'No Trespassing' signs on the property. GDOT does realize the interest birders have in the site. A well documented program of public interest could help reopen the area, so please consider writing:

Will Murphy
777 Gloucester St.-Suite 400
Brunswick, GA 31520
and ask that access be made available. Would making this property an IBA be helpful?

Helpful E-Mail Sites

- 1) ABA Birding magazine: 34 year index by authors, subjects, reviews:
<http://americanbirding.org/publications/bdginde.htm>
- 2) Atlanta Audubon web site:
www.atlantaaudubon.org
- 3) Augusta, GA area Audubon web page:
<http://augustaikenaudubon.homestead.com>

Spring Meeting—Valdosta

By Bob Sargent

Our Spring Meeting will be held the weekend of April 26-28 in Valdosta. All members will receive a registration packet soon. The meeting's headquarters will be the Holiday Inn, exit #18 off I-75. We have an excellent pair of programs on the agenda. On Friday night, Dr. Brad Bergstrom, Professor at Valdosta State University will present "From Jamaica to Belize: Birds of Winter in the Hand and in the Bush." In conjunction with field research Brad conducted in these two countries, he also photographed a sampling of their respective bird species. Brad's presentation will feature a comparison of the bird life from the two different landscapes.

On Saturday night, Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute will present "The Trans-equatorial Migration and Conservation Biology of Swallow-tailed Kites." Ken has been conducting research on these Kites in the South for over 12 years. His research has contributed to a better understanding of the nesting and foraging needs of the species, and has led to a clearer picture of the migration route and wintering habitat used and needed by this spectacular bird.

As an added attraction, the meeting will feature two exhibits on Saturday night. Dick Parks, one of the founding members of GOS, will present a collection of bird paintings he did while serving in the Navy in the Pacific theater during World War II. Most of our members have never seen this beautiful collection. We are also planning a session on posters (see adjacent column) that feature ornithological research conducted by scientists and students from Georgia's leading wildlife research institutions. This poster session will provide us with an opportunity to learn about discoveries scientists are making, as well as conservation needs and priorities for Georgia's birds.

A broad diversity of field trips will be offered on Saturday and Sunday. The tentative slate of destinations includes Grand Bay, Moody Air Force Base Bombing Range, Reed Bingham State Park, and Dudley's Hammock. These destinations feature wetlands, weedy fields, forests and open water habitats. This array of habitat types means we should see a wide array of birds. Species to look for include Bald Eagle, Mississippi Kite, Sandhill Crane, American Bittern, Tricolored Heron, Wood Stork, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bobolink and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck.

For additional information concerning field trips, contact Bob Sargent at 478-953-5515 or by e-mail (bob.sargent@robins.af.mil). For additional details regarding registration contact John Swiderski at 229-242-8382 (e-mail, katejohn@surfsouth.com).

Orange Trail Field Trip

By Bob Sargent

GOS is working with the State Botanical Garden in Athens to establish a plaque in memory of Georgine Pindar along the garden's Orange Trail. As most of you know, Georgine was the principal creative talent behind the establishment of that popular birding and jogging trail. GOS and the Oconee River Audubon Society are organizing a birding trip to the garden's Orange Trail on Saturday, May 18th to coincide (approximately) with the unveiling of the plaque. This trail meanders through a diversity of habitats, especially forested area, and borders the Middle Oconee River along much of the trail's length. It is excellent habitat for warblers, especially Prothonotary Warblers, as well as many other species of migratory songbirds. We'll meet at the entrance to the Visitors Center at 8 AM. If you plan to join us, please call or send an e-mail to Bob Sargent (see previous column for calling or e-mail instructions).

For more information about the Orange Trail or the State Botanical Garden, including directions to the site, call 706-542-1244 or visit their website at www.uga.edu.

More on Poster Session

The intent of the poster session at the Spring Meeting is to get more scientific involvement in the GOS, and to make our members aware of the many lessons being learned from ornithological research. The program will provide professionals and students with a forum in which to present their findings to nonscientists, thereby promoting avian conservation among the general public.

This event will take place on the Saturday night (27th) from 5-7 PM in the hotel's ballroom. Poster size will be limited to 4 feet x 4 feet, and easels or tables will be available for mounting. An abstract of 200 words or less summarizing the results of studies to be presented should be e-mailed to Bob Sargent by March 22, 2002. Please use Office 97 (or older version) of MS Word. Include title, names and addresses of authors, and e-mail address of principal author with abstract.

Bob Sargent: bob.sargent@robins.af.mil

Fall 2002 Meeting—Mark Your Calendars

The Fall 2002 Meeting will be October 4-6 on Jekyll Island at the Clarion Hotel

GEORGIA BIRDERS AND THEIR LISTS

December 31, 2001

List compiled by Carol Lambert

Name	Home	GA Life List—2001	GA Life List—2000	GA Year List—2001	GA Year List—2000
Jeff Sewell	Tucker, GA	360	355	295	302
Giff Beaton	Marietta, GA	356	355	291	304
Bruce Dralle	Marietta, GA	354	350	-	-
Pierre Howard	Atlanta, GA	352	350	-	261
Billy Dunbar	Watkinsville, GA	347	344	-	-
Jim Flynn	Cumming, GA	347	341	300	278
Bob Zaremba	Marietta, GA	344	339	301	323
Brenda Dunbar	Watkinsville, GA	339	335	-	-
Earl Horn	Lawrenceville, GA	338	332	311	323
Deb Zaremba	Marietta, GA	338	333	283	302
Carol Lambert	Tucker, GA	336	334	250	247
Karen Theodorou	Lawrenceville, GA	332	328	-	-
Jerry Amerson	Macon, GA	331	328	224	-
Michael Bell	Bainbridge, GA	329	323	250	256
Tom Egan	Atlanta, GA	329	324	300	323
Marie Amerson	Macon, GA	327	324	207	232
Rusty Trump	Suwanee, GA	325	317	225	296
Walt Chambers	Ellerslie, GA	323	-	312	-
Mike Chapman	Brunswick, GA	322	319	-	-
Gene Keferl	Brunswick, GA	314	302	258	263
Marion Dobbs	Rome, GA	311	300	-	-
Johnny Parks	Ringgold, GA	309	307	-	-
John Swiderski	Valdosta, GA	303	300	-	-
Brad Bergstrom	Valdosta, GA	300	299	-	-
Joel Hitt	Lawrenceville, GA	299	298	-	-
Nancy Gobris	Macon, GA	294	287	-	-
Mark Beebe	Marietta, GA	288	273	212	260
Jim Hanna	Athens, GA	283	-	250	-
Rick Waldrop	Cleveland, TN	278	268	-	-
Traci Brown	Decatur, GA	272	-	272	-
Melissa Pappas	Marietta, GA	270	258	-	-
Jim Pappas	Marietta, GA	268	255	-	-
Dot Freeman	Orlando, FL	267	254	-	-
Dale Davis	Lilburn, GA	263	-	-	-
Mark Freeman	Athens, GA	259	-	253	-
R. Gifford Beaton	Isle of Palms, SC	258	-	-	-
Ted Reissing	Dunwoody, GA	257	229	185	170
Bill Lotz	Atlanta, GA	251	-	240	-
Michael Bender	Athens, GA	245	-	219	-
John Gatchet	Calhoun, GA	233	-	233	-
Dot & Pat Donahoo	St. Simons Island, GA	214	-	-	-
Dennis Forsythe	Charleston, SC	208	205	-	-