

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.

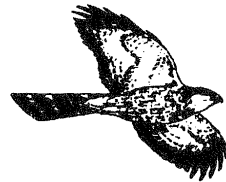
NAME(S)

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
P.O. Box 5825
Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

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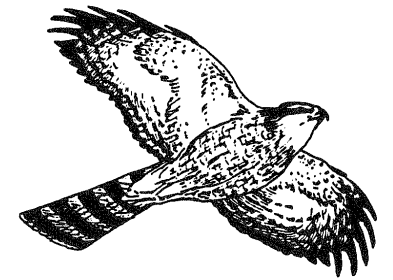


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GOShawK



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message

ENJOYING COASTAL BIRDS

By Gail Russell

Soon we'll be at Jekyll enjoying the fall birds. For those of us who are landlocked city dwellers, nothing lifts the spirit more than a trip to the coast. The cacophony of gulls and terns against a backdrop of sea breezes and the sound of the surf is hard to beat. It is always interesting to see the many varieties of gulls and terns punctuated by American oystercatchers and accompanied by scurrying sandpipers running along the ocean edge. More impressive perhaps is the profile of the brown pelican---the Darth Veder of birds (in appearance only).

One of the most interesting birds of the coast is the wood stork, the only stork native to North America. His dark featherless head evokes images of dinosaur times from which birds supposedly emerged. If, indeed, birds originated in the late Jurassic as the six complete and/or partial skeletons of the Archaeopteryx suggest (based on feather evidence alone), their 138 million years makes hominid presence of 5 million years (plus or minus a couple million) pale in comparison. Even if we date their emergence to the modern bird era of the late Cretaceous, that's still at least 68 million years. The search for clues in the missing 30 million years of fossil history should

GOS Meetings

Reminder - Fall 2002 Meeting dates @ Jekyll Island, October 4-6 (see Pg 4)

Mark your calendars now for the Spring 2003 Meeting in Augusta, GA - April 25-27.

provide many interesting lifetime careers. It is still intriguing that birds may be our modern day dinosaurs, separated by a mere few million years from Velociraptor himself.

Jekyll gives much bang for the buck for in addition to the above species of birds there are many others---all very interesting. White ibis with their decurved bills, roseate spoonbills, assortments of rails and other marsh birds plus passerines, including warblers preparing for migration, which may be seen up close at the bird banding station operated by JIBS (Jekyll Island Birdbanding Station). JIBS is operated for three weeks every fall.

I have always thought that one of the best features of Georgia was its five physiographic zones which includes both mountains and coast, with piedmont in between. I have met people recently who have lived all their lives in Georgia and have never been to Jekyll---people interested in birds no less. For many in the public the word "ornithology" is daunting, scary even. It's so "hardcore". I wonder if the problem would be the same if the Latin root "avis" had been selected for "avisthology" rather than the Greek root "orni". At any rate GOS members can be ambassadors for birds by making an interest in "ornithology" more accessible to the average person. After all, many people are already interested in ornithology; they just don't know it. So invite all your bird loving friends, relatives, colleagues, or other acquaintances to enjoy a weekend at Jekyll with GOS. As we all know, it's an interesting, informative getaway that can't be beat.

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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

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

Welcome New Members!

- Carole Anderson, Athens
- Kelly A. Bettinger, Watkinsville
- John F. Gatchet, Calhoun
- Steve Holzman, Athens
- Frank & Veronica Renfrow, Bellevue, KY
- T. Wayne Skelton, Kingston
- Daniel F. Vickers, Lilburn

MARY ANN VERNOCY

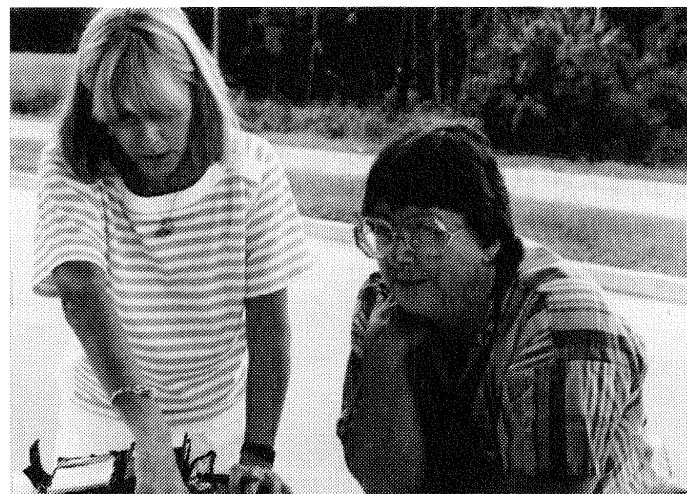
By John Swiderski

Longtime GOS member Mary Ann Vernocy passed away in Atlanta on July 6, 2002. She had suffered from kidney disease and was on dialysis for some 10 years prior to her death.

Mary Ann was born February 16, 1937, in Port Jefferson (Long Island), New York. She came south and settled in Atlanta more than 30 years ago. She joined GOS in 1976 and also was an active member of Atlanta Audubon Society serving as recording secretary and board member for a long period of time.

She expressed her interest in the birds of Georgia in a number of ways. She was a regular participant ("band-aide") at the Jekyll Island Banding Station. She and Helen Ogren conducted the Juliette route of the Breeding Bird Survey for many years. Mary Ann managed to make this annual survey even after her kidney disease became acute. She was also a regular participant in the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count.

Mary Ann will be remembered for her sense of humor and positive attitude in the face of her many medical challenges. A memorial fund has been established by Atlanta Audubon Society. Contributions in her memory to this fund should be sent to the society at 2504 Brookdale Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345.



Anne Mursch and Mary Ann Vernocy (left) at the Jekyll Island
Banding Station - 1989

UPCOMING EVENTS

JEKYLL ISLAND BANDING STATION 2002 SEASON

Jekyll Island Banding Station will be in operation September 22 until October 13, 2002. The station is a completely volunteer organization that contributes scientific data to promote the understanding of bird migration. If you are looking for a new dimension to your birding experience and would like to volunteer or visit, please contact Chris and Jan Pitman before the season begins. All volunteers are trained and supervised by our trusted experienced people. We will train you in any of the different aspects of a bird banding station that suit your abilities and interests. To volunteer you should have good hand eye coordination, patience, be able to walk on the sandy trails, be able to get up early, and have a keen interest in nature and birds. Not sure if you would like to invest the time in the full volunteer training? Well then, we have introductory positions that require only a small amount of instruction. Visitors are welcome, too. JIBS visitor hours are from 9AM till closing. If your group has more than five people, please schedule an appointment. Whether first time, experienced volunteer or a visitor; come and join us. More information is on our website: www.jibspage.com

All inquiries to:
Jekyll Island Banding Station
Co/ Chris and Jan Pitman
2192 Amber Creek Trail,
Buford, GA 30519

GEORGIA'S FIRST BIRDING FESTIVAL

Following on the tremendous financial success achieved by other regions holding festivals in the US, Jekyll Island will be the site of the first activity of this nature in Georgia. The event is planned for October 10-12, 2003, and initial planning sessions have already occurred. You will obviously be hearing a lot more about this event in future GOShawk newsletters.

NC MOUNTAIN BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES

Chimney Rock Park, NC, is offering two bird walks this fall. September 29 features "Fall Migration," and November 3 brings "Returning Winter Birds." Both events start at 9:00 AM and there is a \$5 fee (annual pass holders free). For more info contact Sarah or Adrienne at 828-625-9611, or www.ChimneyRockPark.com

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA BIRDING TRAIL

Again building on the success of previous similar ventures, a trail is being established in the SW part of our state. Early information on The Southern Rivers Birding Trail has it running from Stephen Foster State Park to Calloway Gardens with up to 20 individual sites. Additional details will be reported as they are made known.

Featured Bird Site of the Quarter Alpharetta Greenway

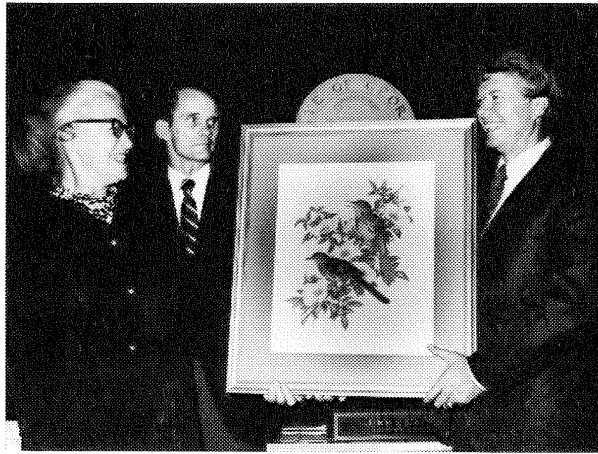
The Atlanta area has two great birding spots adjacent to large shopping malls. Partially nestled next to North Point Mall on Big Creek runs one of them, the 6.2 mile Alpharetta Greenway. Many of us were treated to our first American Bittern in Georgia there last year. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen in the main parking lot early this spring, and it's a great place to spot Kentucky Warblers that breed there.

The voters approved construction of the trail in March, 1995, and a 12 foot wide concrete path now runs from Webb Bridge Rd to Mansell Rd in upper Fulton County. Even though the pathway is paved, heavily wooded areas border the trail for all but the major road crossings.

The Greenway can be accessed at many points, but the main site is less than a mile off GA 400. This location includes a large wetlands in addition to Big Creek and a small side stream. To get to this location, go North on GA 400 to the Mansell Rd exit (#8). Turn right and then left at the first intersection, North Point Parkway. The entrance to the Park is just a few tenths of a mile on your right (there is a small sign) across the street from Haverty's. Who knows what other specialties could be uncovered if more of the Greenway's length would get birded?

Bulletin: As this issue was being prepared to send to the printer, we have learned that Dr. Eugene P. Odum passed away on August 10. He was 88 years old, an ornithologist and known in later years as "The Father of Modern Ecology." In the coming months we will have time to memorialize Dr. Odum, but for now we refer you to a lengthy article on the Athens Banner Herald website <www.onlineathens.com>.





Georgine Pindar and Dick Parks present his painting to Governor Jimmy Carter at the Governor's office - October 31, 1972

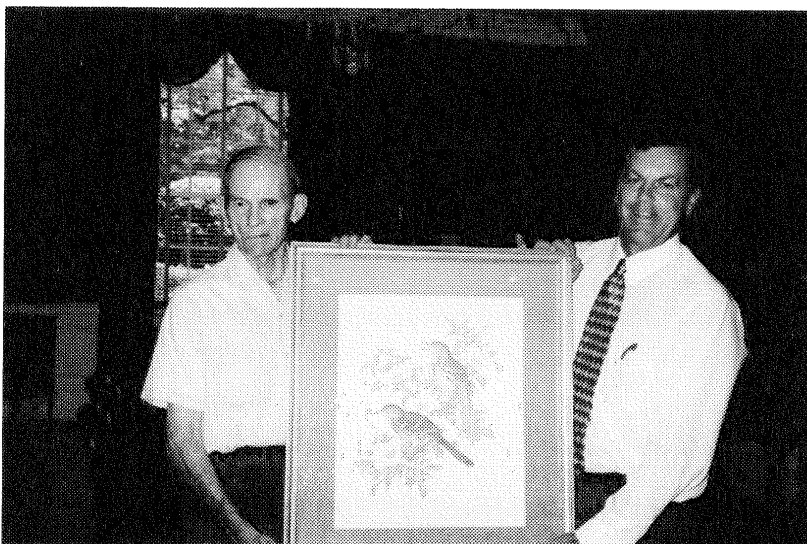
BROWN THRASHER AND CHEROKEE ROSE REVISITED

By John Swiderski

Dick Parks was invited recently to come to the Governor's Mansion by Mansion Director, Maurice Perron. On July 29, 2002, Dick was treated to a personal tour of the Mansion by Mr. Perron including Dick's painting, "Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose."

His visit came nearly 30 years after the painting of Georgia's state bird and state flower was presented to the state. There is a story behind the painting. The late Georgine Pindar was President of Atlanta Audubon early in the 1970s, and she conceived the idea of using an art print as a fund raiser for Audubon and other organizations. Dick responded generously (as he has done so many times), executed the painting and allowed prints to be made. Sale of the prints generated funds for Atlanta Audubon, the Georgia Conservancy, the Rose Society and other organizations.

On October 31, 1972, the painting was presented to then Governor Jimmy Carter at the State Capitol Governor's Office as a gift to the State of Georgia. Since that time the painting has been displayed in the Governor's Mansion. For a number of years it hung in the Mansion Ballroom and currently is displayed in a prominent spot in the office of the Mansion Director. Mr. Perron remarked that he enjoys being able to see the painting every day and share it with others.



Dick Parks and Maurice Perron, Mansion Director, at the Governor's Mansion - July 29, 2002

Membership List Available

The current GOS membership list is available to members upon request. If you would like the file sent to you by e-mail or a printed copy please make your request as follows:

By email to: <information@gos.org>

By mail to: GOS, PO Box 5825,
Valdosta, GA 31603

Indicate in your request if you prefer the Word file or a printed copy. GOS member information is not provided to any person or organization other than our own members.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL MEETING
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
October 4-6, 2002

Our fall GOS meeting will be held on Jekyll Island, GA, at the Clarion Resort located at 85 South Beachview Drive. This extremely popular birding area offers many species during fall migration, so please make your plans now to attend. An abundance of field trips have been planned, as well as outstanding evening programs.

Registration as well as Friday and Saturday night programs will be held at the Clarion. The registration desk will open at 4:00 pm on Friday. Dinner will be on your own. Our Friday program, which will begin at 7:30 pm, features Dr. Mark Welford, Associate Professor at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Welford has led many tours to South America and will present a program entitled, "Why Bird in Ecuador - 1,540 Breeding Bird Species and Counting." Dr. Welford says many North American birders ignore Ecuador when contemplating Latin American trips even though the country has the highest avian species diversity per area of any country on earth. He will explore some of the reasons why Ecuador should be preferred to such hot spots as Costa Rica and Panama.

After a day of field trips, our Saturday evening festivities will begin with a social/happy hour at 6 pm, followed by the banquet at 7:00 pm. Dr. Doug Levey, Professor at the University of Florida will present "The Importance of Fruit to Birds." Dr. Levey has studied fruit-eating birds and the plants they use for 20 years in the Southeastern US and Costa Rica. He will discuss studies that have examined the ecological and evolutionary importance of fruit to birds. Specifically the importance of a proposed evolutionary link between Neotropical migrants and fruiting cycles in Central America will be examined. Other aspects of bird feeding habits will also be explored.

Due to the success of the ornithological research poster session at the Spring Meeting, another scientific poster session is being planned for the Saturday evening program. This session will feature research being conducted at some of Georgia's leading wildlife scientific institutions and review discoveries about and conservation needs of our birdlife.

Field trips will be on both Saturday and Sunday and include Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (Red-cockaded Woodpeckers possible), Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge (possible Fulvous Whistling Ducks), and Altamaha Wildlife Management Area offering Mottled Ducks. Other field trips include Cumberland Island National Seashore, Little St. Simons Island, Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge (7 miles of beach), Jekyll Island south beach, Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS), the lower Altamaha River basin, and Paulk's Pasture Wildlife Management Area. Also included will be a "Moveable Feast," - a whirlwind tour of local hot spots. Some of the above trips will include birding from a boat. As usual, these latter will entail a cost and be limited in terms of number of participants. The chosen dates coincide with the peak migration period for Peregrine Falcon on Jekyll itself. The Island can usually be expected to "offer-up" Merlin, Oystercatcher, Painted Bunting, Wood Stork, Wilson's Plover and Roseate Spoonbill to compliment the Falcons.

A pelagic trip from Tybee Island on Monday following the meeting is being offered. To follow up on this possibility, contact First Vice-President, Bob Sargent by email at <bob.sargent@robins.af.mil> or phone (478) 953-5515.

Meeting Registration: Register for this meeting by mailing the enclosed registration form to the GOS Treasurer, Jeannie Wright (address on form which has been mailed separately). The deadline for receipt of meeting registration is October 1, 2002.

Make your own arrangements for lodging. Our official lodging is the Clarion Resort, 85 S. Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA. The room rate is \$69.00 plus taxes. **(A BLOCK OF ROOMS IS BEING HELD FOR GOS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11, 2002.)** To ensure a room at the group rate, reservations need to be made by this date. The phone number of the Clarion Resort is (912) 635-2261. When making your reservation, identify yourself as a member of the GOS group party.

There are many other motels on Jekyll Island. The closest to the Clarion Resort are Holiday Inn, and Days Inn. Jekyll Island Campground offers tent camping as well as RV camping.



MAKE TRACKS FOR JEKYLL