

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.

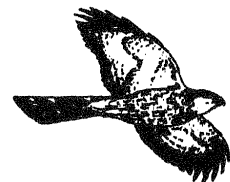
NAME(S)

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

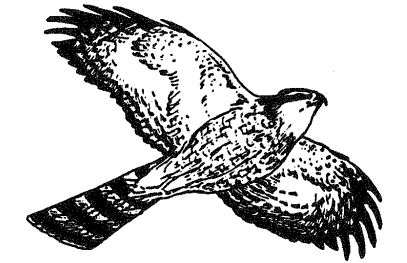
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GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

FALL MEETING REPORT

By Bob Sargent

Meetings at Jekyll Island are always much anticipated by GOS members because they give us an excuse to spend a weekend soaking up the ambience of the Atlantic Ocean while birding the beaches, dunes, estuaries, and maritime forest. For many of our inland members, a trip to Jekyll Island provides a great opportunity to brush up on shorebird identification skills. Nearly 150 GOS members spent the weekend of October 4-6 at the coast enjoying the company of good friends, informative presentations by guest speakers, and some great field trip opportunities that resulted in the observation of 174 species, the best count for a fall (or spring) in many years.

The success of the field trips was due in large part to the very talented group of leaders: Giff Beaton, John Jensen, Paul Sykes, Bob Zaremba, Lydia Thompson, Todd Schneider, Brad Winn, Diana Churchill, Mike Chapman, Gene Keferl, and Jan and Chris Pitman. With their guidance we explored Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Harris Neck NWR, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Jekyll Island, the Jekyll Island Banding Station, and St. Simons Island. We also rode boats out to sea for memorable visits to Blackbeard Island NWR, the lower Altamaha River basin, and Little St. Simons Island. Notable sightings included American Bittern, "Great White" Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Mottled Duck, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew, White-rumped Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bachman's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Painted Bunting.

The Friday evening check-in at the Clarion Resort went smoothly thanks to the efforts of Anne Mursch, Barbara Brigham, Gail Russell and several other members. Dr. Mark Welford of Georgia Southern University was the guest speaker that evening. His presentation, "Why Bird in Ecuador: 1,540 Breeding Bird Species and Counting," led the audience on a fascinating and visually stunning tour of the tropical forests of this small South American country. Mark's presentation featured an excellent mixture of ornithology, ecology, spectacular pictures and witty

observations. Following the presentation, the leaders for the Saturday and Sunday field trips had people scrambling for their binoculars when they finished describing the places we would visit and the birds we might see.

The Saturday evening activities began with a poster session featuring research by Dr. Jim Ferrari, Dr. Doug Levey, Dr. John Parrish, and Paul Sykes. These scientists shared fascinating results from studies on avian diversity, nesting ecology, and capture techniques, featuring Painted Buntings and American Kestrels. Dick Parks exhibited his beautiful collection of Audubon prints, and sold copies of one of his own paintings depicting the Mourning Dove. As he has so often done, Dick generously donated all proceeds from the sale of his paintings to GOS. The banquet proceeded smoothly thanks to the hard work, attention to detail, and organizational skills of Anne Mursch. Gail Russell began the evening program by asking for a moment of silence to remember and acknowledge the passing of so many selfless, dedicated GOS members during the past year. She went on to thank the many people who were responsible for making the meeting a success, and gave a special thank you to Dick Parks, Milton Hopkins, and other long-term members of GOS who have given so much to bird conservation in Georgia.

Following Gail's speech, Bob Sargent and Milton Hopkins had the honor of presenting the Earle R. Greene Award to Paul Sykes (see John Swiderski's article in this newsletter). After the award ceremony, Dr. Doug Levey of the University of Florida presented, "The Importance of Fruit to Birds," a fine lesson in ecology taught with the aid of data from a study that was enormous in scope. Doug's presentation flowed like a well-written mystery, encouraging viewers to think ahead and guess the answers to each of the riddles he posed. Gene Keferl's unique wit and style made the evening's finale, the countdown, highly entertaining to all. The consensus was that the meeting was a great success, and we all look forward to next year's excuse for gathering by the sea to go birding.

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Ornithological
Society**

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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!

- Tom and Jane Blaisdell, Woodstock
- Sterling Blanchard, Atlanta
- Carolyn & Tim Deem, Carrollton
- Palmer & Elizabeth Craig, Warner Robins
- Emily A. Gregory, Nature Havens, Dacula
- Stacia Hendricks, Brunswick
- Kelly Hopkins, Atlanta
- Jayne Reichert, Savannah
- J. P. Thompson, Woodstock
- Jim & Pam Valentine, Atlanta
- Doug & Deb Wilson, Stone Mountain

Paul Sykes receives the Earle R. Greene Award
By John Swiderski

Paul W. Sykes, Jr. received the 2002 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for his lifetime of extraordinary dedication and accomplishment in ornithology. The award was presented by Bob Sargent, First Vice-President, during the Saturday night dinner and program on October 5, 2002, on Jekyll Island. He is the 27th recipient of the award since it was instituted in 1975.

Paul has been a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service since receiving his Master's Degree in Zoology at North Carolina State University in 1967. During his career he has worked in Maryland, Florida, Hawaii and Georgia and specific research projects have taken him to many other locations. Among the avian species he has studied include Kirtland's Warbler, Swallow-tailed Kite and Dusky Seaside Sparrow. For the past few years Paul has conducted intensive field research on the Painted Bunting in the Southeastern Coastal Plain.

Not content to "leave his work at the office", Paul is also well known for making long distance birding forays with other birders and groups. He has logged 13 trips to the island of Attu. For years he has served as compiler for Christmas Bird Counts at Back Bay NWR, VA, Bodie-Pea Island, NC, and Little Creek, VA. He also serves as Regional CBC editor for Georgia and Florida.

Paul is a member of a number of ornithological organizations including GOS since 1987. He has been an active member of the GOS Checklist and Records Committee for the past five years. He is a life elective member of the AOU.

Paul and his wife Joan, married in 1962, live in Watkinsville, GA. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Spring 2003 Meeting — Mark your calendar

Plans are underway for the Spring 2002 meeting to be held in
Augusta, April 25-27.

Christmas Bird Counts – 2002

This year marks the 103rd Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count season. If you are interested in participating in any of the counts, contact the compiler as soon as possible. Several have indicated that they need participants. You must sign up in advance to participate so that areas can be planned and assigned. This is a great way to spend a day with the birds and fellow birders during the holiday season.

Date	Count	Compiler	Phone	Email
Dec. 14 (Sat.)	Athens	Eugenia Thompson Mary Case	706-549-7318 706-548-3848	erthomps@negia.net
	Columbus	Sam Pate	706-327-2574	spate@brookstoneschool.org
	Macon	Marie Amerson	478-746-5697	amerson@hom.net
	Cumberland Is St. Catherines Is.	By invitation. By invitation.		
Dec. 15 (Sun.)	Eufaula NWR	Sam Pate	706-327-2574	spate@brookstoneschool.org
	Floyd County	Owen Kinney	706-234-6248	okinney@darlingtonschool.org
	Cohutta Mountains	Harriett DiGioia	706-278-3858	
Dec. 16 (Mon.)	Piedmont NWR & Rum Creek WMA	Terry Johnson	478-994-1438	Terry_W_Johnson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us
Dec. 19 (Thurs.)	Harris Neck NWR	Steve Calver	912-351-0841	James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil
Dec. 21 (Sat.)	Augusta	Anne Waters	706-793-2788	birdannelady@earthlink.net
	Peachtree City	Brock Hutchins	770-461-5042	brockhutchins@msn.com
	Dalton	Harriett DiGioia	706-278-3858	
Dec. 22 (Sun.)	Atlanta-Marietta	Giff Beaton Bill Blakeslee	770-509-1482	giffbeaton@mindspring.com
Dec. 24 (Tues.)	Aiken, SC	Calvin Zippler	803-642-2264	cazippler53@earthlink.net
Dec. 27. (Fri.)	Okefenokee NWR	Sheila Willis	912-285-0419	swillis@wayxcable.com
Dec. 28 (Sat.)	Sapelo Is.	By invitation.		
Dec. 30 (Mon.)	Bainbridge	Oscar Dewberry	229-246-1890	boscar@planttel.net
Jan. 4 (Sat.)	Callaway Gardens	LuAnn Craighton	706-663-5192	lkraig@callawaygardens.com
	Glynn County	Mike Chapman	912-262-6370	mchapman@darientel.net
	Savannah	Steve Calver	912-351-0841	James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil
?	Albany	Alan Ashley	912-439-8232	pa521aa117@prodigy.net



SKINS

By Bob Chandler

Please note the remaining bird skin collection of E.E. Murphey (@ 230 skins) has been transferred to the Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, GC&SU from the Augusta Museum of History.



CHRISTMAS COUNT, THE EARLY HISTORY IN GEORGIA

By Richard Parks

Christmas Counts are enjoyed by thousands of participants throughout the U.S. and other countries. Where did the idea come from and what were the first counts in Georgia like?

A magazine called *Bird-Lore* (now *Audubon Magazine*) was first published in February of 1899. It was edited and owned by Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Chapman placed an announcement in the December, 1900, issue proposing the first Christmas Bird Census to be held on Christmas Day, 1900. He requested that all who could would go afield, list all the birds observed and send a report of the results to *Bird-Lore*.

The results were published promptly in the January/February, 1901, issue of the magazine. Twenty-four counts were submitted, mostly in the northeastern U.S. However, the highest count came from Pacific Grove, CA, with a total of 36 species and 475 individuals. There were no counts in Atlanta or any other southern city, but they would come soon.

The number of counts increased each year as the Christmas Bird Census continued to attract more participants. Thirty-five counts were made in 1901 with the high count in Moorestown, NJ, reporting 24 species and 428 individuals "not counting many hundred crows."

There were 53 counts made in 1902 with Woodhole, MA, the high count with 38 species and 957 individuals. The first southern counts took place that year in the Carolinas, Tennessee and Kentucky. Charlottetown, PEI, Canada, reported three hours in the field, but no birds.

The first Atlanta count took place in 1903, and it was fourth in the census with 30 species and 556 individuals. Counts continued to spread through the south with reports from Florida and Mississippi included in the 78 counts held that year. The second Atlanta count took place in 1905 in the College Park area. W. H. LaPrade, well known for his study of north Georgia birds at this time, conducted the count which recorded 25 species and 206 individuals.

After an interruption of six years, the third Atlanta census reported 42 species and 1,250 individuals. The 1911 *Bird-Lore* census marked the first time that the high count recorded 100 species (Santa Barbara, CA). In 1912, 50 species were reported from Atlanta. In 1913, 51 species and 960 individuals were seen on the Atlanta count. A count was also conducted in Savannah in 1913, the first in Georgia outside the Atlanta area. This Savannah count was conducted by W. J. Erickson, an active bird student in the area and reported 25 species.

In 1914 the Atlanta count reported 59 species and the Savannah count identified 45 species. In the next few years prior to World War I, Atlanta counts re-

ported 55 species in 1915, a new high of 64 species in 1916 and 32 species in 1917. In the latter year a count of 20 species was reported from Camp Gordon, DeKalb County (now the site of Peachtree-DeKalb Airport). This count was made by a Private John Russell, no doubt stationed at the camp.

In 1916 Francis Harper, a nationally known naturalist was studying the flora and fauna of the Okefenokee Swamp that winter when he carried out a count and reported 49 species.

World War I put an end to Christmas Bird Census reports from Georgia until 1921 when the Atlanta count resumed with 48 species. Earle Greene conducted the next Atlanta count in 1923 and reported 21 species. No reports were filed in 1924 and 1925. In 1926 Greene again conducted the Atlanta count with 32 species reported. A count was also held in Macon where 33 species were identified.

In 1927 there were two counts in Atlanta. One reported 36 species and the second reported 41. Interestingly, Norman Giles was a participant in the latter count and is the only person still living who was on these early counts. Savannah reported 48 species for their 1927 count. In 1928 the Atlanta count was conducted by George Dorsey and reported 44 species.

Atlanta counts in 1929 were conducted in wintry weather with just 17 species recorded in Atlanta and 34 in College Park. Savannah again reported 48 species. Five Georgia counts were conducted in 1930. The Atlanta and College Park counts each had 38 species. From the coast, Brunswick reported 52 species and Savannah had 47. A new count in Tate found 27 species.

By 1930, the Christmas Bird Census had grown to some 230 counts including nine from Canada. The results in these early years seem miniscule compared to modern day Christmas Bird Counts, but considering the transportation and mobility of those times, the numbers are still impressive.

2002 Georgia list information

For those of you who keep life and year lists of bird species seen in Georgia, the *GOShawk* will publish these totals in the March 2003 issue (state lists only). Totals should reflect numbers as of 12/31/02. If you wish to submit data, please include your name, home city & state, telephone, e-mail, # of GA species seen in lifetime and # of species seen in 2002 (optional).

Send information to:
Carol Lambert,
4608 Westhampton Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
or

email: <lambertsewell@mindspring.com>

President's Message

SPECIES DIVERSITY IN GEORGIA

By Gail Russell

Those of you who are members of The Nature Conservancy may have seen the short article in the Fall issue of their publication about the report, *States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity*. This document was prepared for TNC by the science-research group NatureServe. The full version of the report is available on the internet at nature.org/magazine/states. Overall, the report notes that there are roughly 200,000 different species in the United States with one-third at risk and another 500 already extinct or missing. Habitat destruction/degradation and invasive species are cited as the main threats.

The real significance of this report, however, lies in its full version which provides a detailed look at species and their conservation status by state for each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Georgia ranked 6th in total species with 4,436 reported and 12.9 percent at risk. Georgia is 2nd in amphibian species (77) with 19.5 percent at risk; and 3rd in number of fish species (250) with 16.8 percent at risk. Georgia ranks 5th in total extinctions (26 including both presumed and possible).

Of particular interest to GOS is the information about bird diversity and risk in Georgia. The report ranked Georgia 15th in total number of bird species with 328 reported (unknown data base criteria). Georgia ranked 8th in risk status with 2.7 percent of the bird species considered to be at risk.

NatureServe is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with natural heritage programs in all states to compile and maintain an extensive database on species distribution and status. The organization, formed in 1999, carries on the research and database activities formerly performed by TNC. The database is accessible to the public and searches may be done via the internet. Such a database is invaluable in providing the scientific knowledge necessary for effective conservation action. Having detailed information available by state is indispensable for guiding local action. More importantly, it should garner much pride by states in their rich biological heritage and should serve as an impetus for protection.

H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Awards - Call for Applications

GOS offers annually two graduate student research grants of up to \$1500 each in support of ornithological research. The Howe Research Committee, chaired by Bill Van Eseltine, receives and evaluates the applications and selects the grantees.

Grant applications and letters of reference should be received by the committee no later than January 31, 2003. Interested candidates should check the GOS website, www.gos.org, for complete program guidelines.

DR. EUGENE P. ODUM

By now most of you are aware that Dr. Odum died on August 10th of this year just as the last issue of *GOShawk* was going to press. A memorial service in his honor was held on October 16th in the Hugh Hodgson Concert Hall at UGA.

Dr. Odum, widely known as the "father of modern ecology," was on the faculty of UGA for more than a half a century and is credited with bringing important new concepts to the study of ecology.

A documentary on his life and work, first broadcast in 1997, was aired again on Georgia Public TV in September. The program looked at the life of Odum from his boyhood in Chapel Hill, NC through his arrival at UGA in the early 1940's. The documentary traced his ideas which had little initial support through the time when they became accepted worldwide by the scientific community.

Dr. Odum will be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with him.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS NOTICE

GOS maintains dues records on a calendar year basis, with renewals due in January of each year. Payment of your dues now for 2003 will save us the cost of mailing renewal notices. Your mailing label on this newsletter has a code in the upper right hand corner showing your membership class, regular, sustaining, patron or student. If "02" appears next to the class code, it is time for you to renew your membership for 2003.

You can renew by simply sending your check to GOS, PO Box 5825, Valdosta, GA, 31603. The rates for the various membership classes are found on the back of the newsletter.

CONDOR TRIVIA

The last of the originally wild California Condors was freed from the breeding program in April. From the dozen or so birds captured in the 80's, the total population of CACO now stands at 205. Of these, 114 are still in captive breeding (3 locations). The remainder are flying free at four separate sites including the Baja 2002 releases. But the best news is that for the first time three chicks were hatched in the wild in 2002. For additional details check www.hoppermountain.fws.gov.

This has been a highly successful, but very expensive, program to save the Condor from extinction. Donations to help with the cost can be sent to:

San Francisco Wildlife Society
Hopper Mountain NWR Complex
P.O. Box 5839
Ventura, CA 93005

Scenes from the GOS 2002 Fall Meeting



Dr. Mark Welford
on Ecuador



Dr. Doug Levey
on Frutivores



Notching some of the 174



Mike Chapman - "On the count of 3, the Seaside
and Sharp-tailed Sparrows will appear."
(Andrews Island)

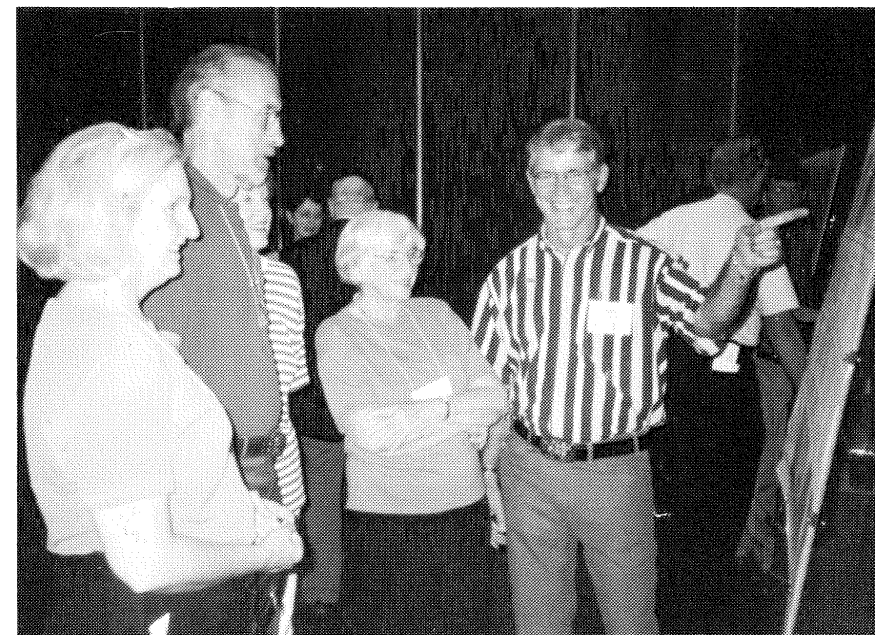


↑ Birds in all directions



President Russell →

Bob Sargent and Milton Hopkins present
award to Paul Sykes →



Dr. John Parrish explains his poster display to Gail
← Russell, Jim & Kay Wilson and Lolly Lederberg