

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.

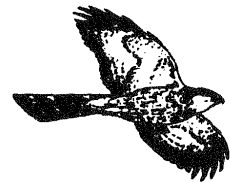
NAME(S)

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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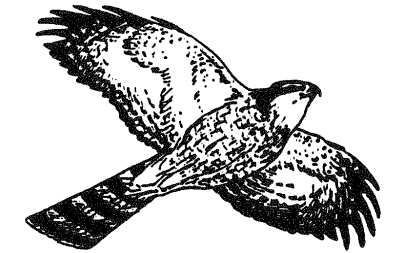


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President's Message

OF HUMANS, CHIMPANZEES AND VIREOS

By Gail Russell

Most people know by now that humans are closely related to chimpanzees, especially the pygmy chimpanzee, the bonobo, sharing 98.4 percent of our DNA. While reading during the holiday season, reference was made to the fact that humans and the two chimpanzee species (the common chimpanzee and the bonobo), really should all belong to one specie based upon their ("our") genetic similarity. Since the human genus (*Homo*) was proposed first, the chimps should be reassigned from their genus of *Pan* to the genus of *Homo* such that we would have *Homo sapiens*, *Homo troglodyte* (for the common chimpanzee) and *Homo paniscus* (for the bonobo). We, in other words, would be *The Third Chimpanzee* of Jared Diamond's 1992 book.

For humans and bonobos, the genetic difference is only 1.6 percent. However, for the red-eyed and white eyed vireos, which are both assigned to the same genus *Vireo*, the difference is 2.9 percent; thus we are genetically more similar to the chimpanzees than red-eyed and white-eyed vireos are similar to each other! (Additionally, it should be noted that the African gorilla would be part of our family group hominidae and would be renamed from *Gorilla gorilla* to *Hominidae gorilla*. As far as I know, we do not have other relatives, such as orangutans, baboons, gibbons, etc).

GOS Meetings

Spring 2003 meeting in Augusta, April 25 -27
(See page 3)

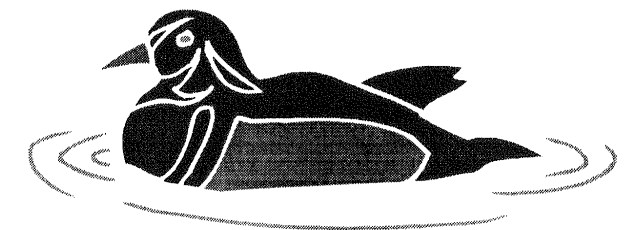
Fall 2003 meeting to be combined with
Georgia's first Birding Festival.
Jekyll Island, October 10-13
(page 3)

Only time will tell what the study of the human genome will show when it is compared to the genome of other species. As Eran Tomer noted in her article for Atlanta Audubon's newsletter *Wingbars*, similarities and differences based on genetics yield much different results than those based on appearance. As taxonomy based on cladistics (i.e. morphology or shared characteristics, whether primitive or derived) gives way to one based on molecular sequencing, it will be interesting to see how we end up "lumped, split and diced."

However, it may be that similarity in genes will not be the "be all and end all" of our biological destiny. Since genes must be "turned on" in order to accomplish anything and since we probably have inherited a lot of "genetic debris" over time, perhaps we should just reorder life based upon the "relevant" genes. One would have to admit that it would be interesting to return in 100 years and see how things have been sorted out.

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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!

- Rollie & Irell Harp, *Augusta*
- Nancy Jordan, *Richland*
- Alexander Mercer, *Marietta*
- R. A. Merrell, *Carrollton*
- Tim Miller, *Pooler*

HOWE GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUE TO EXCEL

By Bill Van Eseltine

A search through the index of authors presenting papers at the 2002 annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union has revealed that nine former recipients/applicants of the GOS Howe grant award made a total of 13 presentations at the meeting. Included in the effort were oral presentations, posters and symposium participation.

Grant Year	Name	Presentations	
1992	Sara R. Morris	1 paper, 2 symp.	3
1993	R. Terry Chesser	1 paper	1
1995	Larkin A. Powell	1 paper	1
1999	Sandra B. Cederbaum	1 paper	1
	Sharon M. DeFalco	1 paper	1
	Dawn E. W. Drumtra	1 paper	1
2000	Alison B. Styring	2 papers	2
2001	R. Clay George	1 paper	1
	Elizabeth Wright	1 paper	1
2002	Barry J. Mattson	1 paper	1
	Total		13

All those listed had received Howe grants except for the three shown for grant year 1999 when there had been seven well qualified applicants all competing for the single available award. It appears that the grant program has been able to attract some good students doing research that is timely and of potential significance to ornithology.

Membership List Available

The current GOS membership list is available to members upon request. You may request a copy by email to <information@gos.org> or by mail to GOS, P O Box 5825, Valdosta, GA 31603.

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

GEORGIA LISTS 2002 (Con't)

By Carol Lambert

Thanks to those folks who contributed their information to this list for 2002. The year was an astounding one for birding in Georgia. The fact that 6 of these birders observed over 300 species, with 4 others over 290, is indicative of the kind of year it was, as well as the level of birding skill, activity and intensity that some of us have.

Birds such as Pacific Loon, Sage Thrasher, Western Tanager, Scott's Oriole, Cave Swallow and White-faced Ibis all made appearances. Good pelagic trips added White-tailed Tropicbird, Brown Booby and Masked Booby. Our strong communication systems, the Rare Bird Alert and Georgia Birders Online, got the word out. All of this contributed to the excitement and intrigue of this year's bird-quests and the countless hours that we spent in pursuit of our interest in birds and the natural environs of Georgia. We all had fun and we all learned more about bird life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PINEWOODS BIRD FESTIVAL

By John Swiderski

The first annual Pinewoods Bird Festival will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2003, on the grounds of Pebble Hill Plantation in southwest Georgia. The festival hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Plantation entrance is on US319 highway about 5 miles south of Thomasville. The only cost to enjoy the festival is the normal gate fee of \$3 per adult, and \$1.50 per child.

A number of activities will be offered throughout the day. A raptor show is on the schedule (Georgia Southern) along with frequent field trips to nearby long-leaf pine habitat led by Todd Engstrom and others. GOS will be staffing a bird watching basics table and there will also be a build-a-bird-house table. Seminars on various bird and natural history topics will be scheduled during the day.

The brand new Southwest Georgia Bird Trail is nearing completion and Georgia DNR will be offering information and brochures about the stops on the trail. Other organizations will have information tables. Pebble Hill Plantation will offer tours (\$5) of the Main House throughout the day.

For the latest information about the Pinewoods Bird Festival you may access the festival website easily via the prominent link on our GOS website homepage at <www.gos.org>.

A number of organizations have partnered to make the Pinewoods Bird Festival a reality. Jim Cox, Tall Timbers Research Station, has led the effort. Other organizations involved in the planning and festival events include GOS, The Nature Conservancy, The Georgia Conservancy, Pebble Hill Plantation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism and Birdsong Nature Center.



**Featured Bird Site of the Quarter
DAWSON FOREST WMA**

Need one of the nightjars or a Woodcock for your lifelist? How about close up views some of those special warblers and vireos? One spot to view all of these specialties near Atlanta is the Dawson Forest WMA. At the entrance to the site just before dawn in the spring, numerous Chuck-will's-widows can be heard and seen. Where the road first nears the Etowah River, Woodcocks display. Taking a right turn just before the entrance and heading toward the bridge on this side road can be rewarding for vireos and warblers (e.g. Philadelphia and Blue-winged respectively).

At least a few of our more active birders have never been to the site which is owned by the City of Atlanta. The area can be reached by heading north on GA 400, crossing the Forsyth County line into Dawson County and turning left on Dawson Forest Rd just before the large outlet mall. In approximately 5 miles this road will cross GA 9 (careful at this intersection) and proceeds directly into the WMA. The pavement ends just as you enter the site.

Dawson Forest needs more attention and should be considered for occasional field trips.

Earth Share of Georgia and GOS Need Your Help!

Every April Earth Share of Georgia celebrates Earth Day with "A Party in the Park" and a "Silent Spring Auction." GOS as a member of ESG participates in these events. You can help both groups by attending the party and auction and/or by donating items for the auction. Some examples of previous donations include; environmental art prints and paintings, books about the environment or birds and stays at a vacation or second home. There may be many other potential items that we have not considered so please be creative. Contact Bill Lotz, your liaison for GOS to ESG, at 404-261-1906 or blotz@mindspring.com if you have anything you'd like to contribute.

SPRING 2003 MEETING

By Bob Sargent

Our spring meeting will be held the weekend of April 25-27 in Augusta at the Holiday Inn located at 1057 Stevens Creek Road. For reservations call (706) 738-8811. Be sure to ask for the \$49 per night GOS group rate. The cut-off date for this rate is April 4th, though the hotel staff would prefer to receive all reservation requests by March 25th.

The meeting programs feature two prominent ornithologists in the Augusta area. On Friday night, Larry Bryan, Research Coordinator with the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), will present, "Ecology and conservation of the endangered Wood Stork." Mr. Bryan has been involved in Wood Stork and wetlands research at SREL for 19 years. His presentation will review the historical and current status of the species, its breeding season chronology in Georgia, and some aspects of parental behavior. He will also discuss stork foraging ecology in both inland and coastal settings. Finally, he will cover on-going management activities to aid in the recovery of this endangered species and briefly mention some SREL research activities.

Our guest speaker following Saturday's banquet dinner will be John Kilgo, Research Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, who will present, "Songbird ecology in a managed forest landscape." Dr. Kilgo notes that the landscape of the Southeastern coastal plain has changed dramatically in the last half century. Many areas under agricultural production in 1950 are now managed pine forests. He will present findings from his research on the effects of forestry on songbird populations and communities. His studies have examined bird response to several aspects of forest management, including regional land use patterns, timber harvest, and wetland restoration.

Saturday night's activities will begin with a research poster exhibit, featuring the results of studies conducted by scientists and students from some of Georgia's leading wildlife research institutions. The exhibit will provide us with an opportunity to learn about discoveries scientists are making, as well as conservation needs and priorities for Georgia's birds. This exhibit will also feature a sample of Dick Park's wonderful avian art, which is always a special treat for meeting participants.

A busy weekend field trip schedule includes some of the more popular birding destinations in the state, as well as a few in South Carolina. As always, the trips will be led by some very talented birders. The tentative slate of destinations includes Phinizy Swamp, Merry Bothers Brickyard Ponds, Silver Bluff, Augusta Levee, Savannah River Site, Clarks Hill Reservoir, and Stevens Creek Heritage Area. Species to look for include Purple Gallinule, Wood Stork, King Rail, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, and Henslow's Sparrow. Expect to see a diversity of small migrants, particularly warblers.

For additional information concerning programs or field trips, contact Bob Sargent at 478/953-5515 or e-mail bob.sargent@robins.af.mil. Registration materials are either included with this newsletter or will reach you shortly in a separate mailing.



COLONIAL COAST BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL (Fall Meeting)

By Bob Sargent

Organizations, agencies, and citizens are working together to arrange what will hopefully become a premier annual birding festival on the Georgia coast. During October 10-13, 2003, hundreds of birders from across the country, as well as those who are simply enthusiastic about nature, are expected to gather at Jekyll Island for this event. This festival will celebrate the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge system and showcase the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Colonial Coast Birding Trail. Along with a huge list of field trips to choose from, attendees can expect to see seminars on feeding birds, constructing nesting boxes, landscaping for hummingbirds, rehabilitating injured wildlife, and more.

The agenda will also include opportunities for exhibitors such as binocular sales companies to show off their wares, and will feature prominent guest speakers from the world of birding and ornithology such as Kenn Kaufman, author of many birding articles and books including a popular field guide. Our normal GOS fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the Festival, and our society will be responsible for arranging the field trips for this major event. Start planning now to join us on the coast in October, and stay tuned for additional details!

Georgia Birders and Their Lists 2002

Name	Home	GA Life List 2002	GA Life List 2001	GA Year List 2002	GA Year List 2001
Jeff Sewell	Tucker, GA	367	360	294	295
Bruce Dralle	Marietta, GA	358	354	294	-
Pierre Howard	Atlanta, GA	357	352	304	-
Bill Blakeslee	Atlanta, GA	356	-	-	-
Jim Flynn	Cumming, GA	353	347	312	300
Paul Sykes	Watkinsville, GA	351	-	-	-
Bob Zarembo	Marietta, GA	349	344	305	301
Earl Horn	Lawrenceville, GA	349	338	317	311
Deb Zarembo	Marietta, GA	343	338	304	283
Paul Raney	Stockbridge, GA	342	-	255	-
Carol Lambert	Tucker, GA	338	336	241	250
Karen Theodorou	Lawrenceville, GA	337	332	282	-
Tom Egan	Marietta, GA	336	329	306	300
Jerry Amerson	Macon, GA	335	331	209	224
Marie Amerson	Macon, GA	332	327	211	207
Walt Chambers	Ellerslie, GA	331	323	275	312
Rusty Trump	Suwanee, GA	331	325	-	225
Michael Bell	Bainbridge, GA	330	329	-	250
Mike Chapman	Brunswick, GA	324	322	-	-
Gene Keferl	Brunswick, GA	320	314	234	258
Marion Dobbs	Rome, GA	320	311	-	-
Johnny Parks	Ringgold, GA	318	309	-	-
Traci Brown	Decatur, GA	311	272	293	272
Mark Beebe	Marietta, GA	306	288	222	212
John Gatchet	Calhoun, GA	306	233	303	233
Brad Bergstrom	Valdosta, GA	305	300	-	-
Bill Lotz	Atlanta, GA	305	251	298	240
Joel Hitt	Lawrenceville, GA	301	299	-	-
Ted C. Reissing	Dunwoody, GA	298	257	250	185
Dot Freeman	Orlando, FL	282	267	-	-
Dan Vickers	Lilburn, GA	278	-	265	-
Mark Freeman	Athens, GA	266	259	227	253
Michael Bender	Athens, GA	259	245	222	219
James Keener	Martinez, GA	246	-	-	-
Ted K. Reissing	Peachtree City, GA	221	-	172	-
John Hintermister	Gainesville, FL	218	-	173	-

List compiled by Carol Lambert