#### 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.

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



Stacy Zarpentine, Membership Chair, 1736 Wood Creek Trail, Roswell, GA 30076

<nuthatch3@aol.com>

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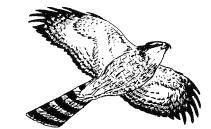
Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society P.O. Box 5825 Valdosta, GA 31603-5825





Vol. 30 No. 2 June 2003

## **GOShawk**



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

#### President's Message

"WINGED MIGRATION"

By Gail Russell

Jaques Perrin's documentary "Winged Migration" opened in Manhattan at the end of April to rave reviews. The dramatic saga (containing few words) about the migration of birds across all seven continents took four years to make requiring five field crews totaling over 450 people including 14 cinematographers and 17 pilots. Perrin used many innovative techniques from flying along side the birds in ultra-light aircraft and balloons to mounting tiny cameras on the birds themselves. Perrin describes the reaction of a camera crew while filming:

"The cameraman was following the movement of geese, with one hand the assistant pushed away those who came too near the camera: the whole spool of film ran out. Radiant, tears in their eyes, they looked at me speechless, motionless, their mastery and the technical result were of minor importance, they had been in the confidence of birds in flight."

Jaques Perrin also produced "Microcosmos" a captivating documentary on insects, providing a riveting view of the world from the viewpoint of a dung beetle, among others. With no narrative provided, the subject provided its own powerful statement.

The New York Times film reviewer Stephen Holden summed up the reaction best:

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#### **GOS Meeting**

The Fall 2003 meeting will be combined with Georgia's first Birding Festival at Jekyll Island, October 10-13. GOS has 80 rooms reserved at:
Holiday Inn Beach Resort,
2000 S. Beachview Drive
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
1-912-635-3311

"Winged Migration" provides such an intense vicarious experience of being a flapping airborne creature with the wind in its ears that you leave the theatre feeling like an honorary member of another species"

Those in the Atlanta area will be able to see the documentary on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Hills theatre. This is the only venue in the state carrying the documentary, so unless you happen to be traveling to a city in another state at a time when it might be showing, your best bet is to keep an eye out for it at a video rental store, or better yet, request it on video cassette or DVD as a holiday present. You won't be disappointed---and it's rated a "G" so it's good for children (although there is one graphic scene showing a wounded bird being covered with crabs). It would be a great film to sponsor at a local college campus or some environmental association meeting. More information on the documentary is available on the internet at www.sonyclassics.com.



GOShawk—2 June 2003

#### Georgia Ornithological Society

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President	Gail Russell	
	770-956-8469	
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John Swiderski 229-242-8382

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Bill Van Eseltine 706-543-3072

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Georgia Rare Bird Alert 770-493-8862
Jeff Sewell, Compiler
Internet Transcriber rotates among Carol
Lambert, Jim Flynn, Michael Boehm, Steve
Holzman and Bob Zaremba

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

Ted Reissing, Editor 5102 Hidden Branches Dr Dunwoody, GA 30338-3912 770-393-1853 <tcreissing@bellsouth.net>

Deadline for article submission is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

Text by email (arial) is appreciated.

#### **Welcome New Members!**

- Jerry L. Banks, Decatur
- Diane C. Barnsley, Atlanta
- Linda Ann Daniel, Fairmount
- Lucy Duncan, Gulf Breeze, FL
- Will Duncan, Athens
- John & Sharon Ebbert, Bluffton, SC
- Francis Ehnat. Savannah
- Todd Engstrom, Thomasville
- Tom & Nancy Gates, Savannah
- Wendy Grus, Ann Arbor, MI \*
- Kirsten R. Hazler, Athens \*
- Mike & Deborah Ivie, Senoia
- Kathleen O'Grady, Columbia, SC
- · Kerry E. Robbins, Alpharetta
- John B. Sabine, Athens \*
- Kristina Simms. Kathleen
- David M. Takeuchi, Vallejo, CA
- Cathy Taylor & Bob Matson, Smyrna
- Tim White, Bluffton, SC

#### HOWE AWARD WINNERS

By Bill VanEseltine

The H. B. Howe, Jr. Graduate Student Research Grants for 2003 include:

Wendy Grus, 1st year Ph.D.student, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan (\$1750). Wendy, from Dunwoody, GA, will extract and compare nucleic acids isolated from tissues from the collections of Michigan's Museum of Zoology and similar institutions (Falconidae Phylogenetics).

Kirsten R. Hazler, Ph.D. applicant, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia (\$1750). Kirsten will focus on the neotropical migrant Acadian Flycatcher as affected by the Brown-headed Cowbird (brood parasite) and the Red-bellied Woodpecker (nest predator) at a site in Mississippi (risk aversion territory selection).

John B. Sabine, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia (\$1500). John will study the effects of disturbance and predation on the reproductive success of American Oystercatchers on Cumberland Island National Seashore. This work will be done in cooperation with other researchers in North and South Carolina.

GOShawk—7 June 2003

#### ( APPRECIATION OF PARKS Con't)

In addition to birds, Dick painted some naval scenes while on the heavy cruiser USS Baltimore. One of these was the sinking of an escort carrier by a Japanese submarine with a heavy loss of life. This event occurred in the Gilbert Islands where the cruiser was part of a large task force supporting a Marine landing on Makin Island. At war's end Dick left the service, returned to Atlanta and took up his life's work as an architect in an Atlanta-based firm. He became active in the state-wide ornithological society (GOS) and in 1948 was elected Regional Vice President for the Atlanta area. A year later he became editor of The Oriole, a job he held for six years. With a full-time job and a family to raise, Dick continued to paint when time allowed and some of his work was published. He learned that Thomas Burleigh was preparing a manuscript on Georgia Birds and Dick spoke with him about doing the illustrations, but the publisher chose a well-known ornithologist, George Sutton, as illustrator. A few years later, however, Dick won a competition to illustrate much of Thomas Imhof's Alabama Birds. He guit his job with an architect firm in order to complete the contract on time.

Dick continued to serve the Georgia Ornithological Society in many ways - presenting programs on birding and painting, donating prints to be sold to raise money for the society, designing brochures, publication covers, membership cards, logos and displays. In 1961 he was given an award of appreciation for his work on behalf of the society, and in 1976 he was the second recipient of the then new Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for outstanding service to ornithology and the society. In 1986 GOS celebrated its 50th anniversary and Dick, as the only charter member still active in the Society, was asked to serve as chair of the planning committee for the anniversary meeting. He suggested inviting Roger Tory Peterson, with whom he had developed a friendship over the years. Peterson and his wife, Virginia, accepted Dick's invitation and drew a crowd of over 300 people for the November meeting in Macon, Georgia. Dick's committee, which included long-time GOS members Frank McCamey and Betsy Phillips, was also charged with developing a special anniversary pamphlet. It so happened that Dr. Peterson had long wanted to draw a new cover design for The Oriole to replace his 1936 illustration, and he had finally done so earlier in the year. Dick took Peterson's design to the printer and it became the cover of the anniversary pamphlet as well as 1986 and subsequent issues of The Oriole. Peterson gave GOS permission to prepare prints from the color illustration and personally autographed each one of 280 prints produced. The sale of these prints has supported the H. Branch Howe, Jr. research grant program, providing financial

support to graduate students engaged in ornithological research, and has also contributed to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

Over the years several GOS members had suggested to Dick that he paint a cover for *The Oriole*, but he said he would never do that while Roger Tory Peterson was alive. After Peterson died in 1996, Dick painted a new *Oriole* cover and submitted it to the GOS Executive Committee, which eagerly accepted it with compliments to the artist. It first appeared on the September/ December 1998 issue of the quarterly. In this and other ways Dick continues to be an active and valuable member of the Society, attending nearly all meetings of the Executive Committee as well as our regular semiannual meetings. He's a living history of the organization that we all very much enjoy and appreciate.

#### Featured Bird Site of the Quarter BIG HAMMOCK WMA By Jim Wilson

There are many areas along the Altamaha River that have great habitats for migrating and breeding neotropical birds. Big Hammock Wildlife Management Area is one of the best of these areas where Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites, Summer Tanagers, plus Kentucky, Hooded, Yellow-throated, Worm-eating, and Prothonotary Warblers can be seen during much of the spring and summer. Swainson's Warblers, difficult to find anywhere in Georgia most of the time, can also be observed here along the flood plains, particularly where river cane grows. The site covers 6500 acres with the main road being gravel and many side trails that are good for getting in closer to the river and prime wetlands habitats.

To reach Big Hammock from the nearby town of Reidsville, take Hwy 121 South for about 19 miles. Just before reaching the Altamaha River, look for the gravel road into the area on your left.

Big Hammock WMA has been determined to be an Important Bird Area by the Georgia IBA Technical Committee. Good data on the birds located there is very useful for determining baseline and trends of these bird populations, so please keep a record of the number and species of birds you observe and send to Jim Wilson, GA IBA Coordinator, at gaiba@bellsouth.net.

<sup>\* 2003</sup> Howe Grant Recipients (also see below)

GOShawk—6 June 2003

## AN APPRECIATION OF RICHARD A. PARKS

By Kenneth B. Clark Historian

It would come as no surprise to read in a GOS news-letter that Dick Parks exhibited some of his bird paintings at a recent meeting of the society. He is, after all, our resident artist. His illustrations have appeared in several books and many magazines. They have graced the covers of a number of birding publications, including our own *The Oriole, A Birder's Guide to Georgia, Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds,* and our membership brochure. He designed the GOS logo that appears on our patches and letterhead. His painting of the Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose (the State Bird and State Flower of Georgia) hangs in the Governor's mansion. We all know and appreciate Dick. He's our man.

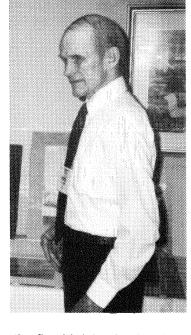
It might be surprising to some, however, to learn that the first time Dick was invited to exhibit his paintings at a GOS meeting was in the spring of 1946! It was right after WW II, when the society resumed two meetings a year after a wartime hiatus. President Eugene Odum welcomed members recently returned from wartime military service, including Branch Howe, Jr. and Richard A. Parks, whose bird paintings were "the feature of an exhibit" at the meeting. How those paintings came about is best told in Dick's own words.

"My interest in birds began in a very small way with the sighting of several blue jays in an oak tree in our yard. I was 14 years old and like many boys my age was familiar with some of the most common birds. I knew enough to know, or think I knew, what these birds (blue jays) were, but I wanted to be certain. I had no bird book but did have a Boy Scout handbook. I found a blue jay and confirmed my identification. This trivial incident began a lifetime of bird study.

"Since I knew no one, family member or friend, with an interest in birds, my bird study was done alone. Later I learned of a Junior Audubon Club in the school I attended, which I joined The biology teacher who organized the club was an active member of the Atlanta Bird Club, so I also joined it. From my earliest school days my favorite pastime was drawing, so I began drawing and eventually painting birds, and I am still involved with these activities today.

"I continued bird study and painting through high school and college. I was a Charter Member of GOS but was unable to attend a meeting until after WW II. I graduated from Georgia Tech in February, 1943, and having been in the Naval ROTC, went immediately on active duty as an ensign. I assumed that my bird watching would be over while in the Navy, but I did take my Peterson field guide and my drawing and painting materials, although I did not expect to have much use for them.

Dick



"Surprisingly, the first bird that I painted was a burrowing owl, one of two caught by some of the men when the ship was 30 or so miles off San Diego. Being diurnal, these owls had undoubtedly come on the ship during the night to roost when the ship was moored at Coronado Island in San Diego harbor. My interest in birds was known and they were brought to me. One of the birds was terrified; the other was very calm and behaved as though nothing unusual was happening. I placed it on a desk where it stood on one leg, rocking back and forth with the slight roll of the ship while I painted it. Both owls were set free when we returned to San Diego.

"No matter how far at sea we were there was hardly a day that I did not see birds. Some were easily identified, such as sooty tern, black-footed albatross, frigate bird and a few others, but most were pretty difficult even with Alexander's *Birds of the Ocean* (1928) as a guide."

GOShawk—3 June 2003

#### EARLE R. GREENE MEMORIAL AWARD, 2003 By John Swiderski

James F. Flynn, Jr., is the recipient of the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for 2003. Jim was recognized for his outstanding service to GOS as our webmaster and creator of the gos.org website. The award was presented to him on April 26, 2003, during the evening banquet and program by Gail Russell, President, and John Swiderski, Chair of the selection committee. This is the 28<sup>th</sup> award made since it was instituted in 1975.

Jim was raised in Erie, PA, and developed a serious interest in birds in his teen years. He came to Georgia in 1996 and joined GOS almost immediately. He soon recognized that GOS had a need for a website and offered to create one, at first on his own web account. As the content on the website continued to increase he suggested that GOS set up its own account with www.gos.org as the address. With significant funding assistance from the Price-Campbell Foundation of Valdosta, Jim launched the new website in 1998. It is now widely recognized as one of the best and most comprehensive websites in the world of birds and birding. There are hundreds of links, dozens of photos, trip reports, printable checklists and full information about GOS.

During the presentation, John mentioned the value of the website to GOS. It has made GOS accessible and easy to find to anyone with web access. He pointed out that most of our new memberships and book sales are generated by the website.

In accepting the award, Jim said that the website was really the creation of the many GOS members who sub-



John and Gail Present Award to Jim (center)

mit their photos, trip reports, suggestions and comments to him. He and his wife, Cathy, reside in Cumming, GA. They have two sons, Jacob who is 7, and Zachary who is 4. Jim stays very busy with his family and his employment in the computer world. Even so, he has found time to be an active birder and his photographs have been definitive for some of the additions to the state list in recent years. An area of special interest to Jim is the Dawson Forest which he birds regularly.

#### UPDATE - COLONIAL COAST BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL (By Bob Sargent)

Details are now falling into place, and this upcoming Festival is being advertised nationwide (see the ad in the most recent issue of ABA's *Birding*). 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's Convention Center for this event. This Festival will celebrate the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge system and will showcase the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Colonial Coast Birding Trail. The tentative list of field trips includes: Okefenokee NWR, Harris Neck NWR, Altamaha WMA, Little St. Simons Island, Blackbeard NWR, Jekyll Island, Paulk's Pasture WMA, Savannah NWR, Sapelo Island, Savannah-Ogeechee Island, Wassaw NWR, Skidaway Island State Park, and Melon Bluff. We expect to offer up to 20 field trip destinations on both Saturday and Sunday of the Festival, providing birding opportunities for about 400 people. Along with this diverse array of field trips to choose from, attendees can expect to see seminars on choosing optics, Wood Stork status, Swallow-tailed Kite status, creating backyard habitats for birds, birding for kids, birding by ear, birds of the longleaf pine ecosystem, Native American bird lore, hummingbirds of Georgia, increasing your bird list, confusing fall warblers, bird photography, butterflies of Georgia, and gardening with native plants. As if this isn't enough, 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. We will not be having our usual Saturday night banquet, as there will be a banquet associated with the Festival that night at the Convention Center. Registration details will be distributed soon. Expect all field trip registrations to occur via snail mail, rather than via sign up sheets as is usually done at GOS meetings. Since we have many field trips planned, this means that we are going to need many volunteer field trip leaders. Please contact Bob Sargent (bob.sargent@robins.af.mil) if you can assist with leading one of these trips. For additional details, visit the Festival web site at <a href="http://www.shrike.net/ccbf/">http://www.shrike.net/ccbf/</a>. Start planning now to join us on the coast in October, and stay tuned for additional details!

GOShawk—4 June 2003

### SPRING MEETING, AUGUSTA By John Swiderski

Predicted stormy and wet weather did not materialize and the GOS Spring Meeting weekend (April 25-27) turned out to be just fine for all involved. Including those registered, field trip leaders and program and poster presenters, nearly 100 participated in the weekend events. Kudos to Bob Sargent and Anne Mursch for their efforts in planning and making arrangements for the meeting.

Six field trips were scheduled to five locations on both sides of the Savannah River. As of this writing, 148 species were located during the weekend. Highlights included a lengthy look at an adult Peregrine Falcon at the entrance to Phinizy Swamp Nature Park on Saturday morning as well as numerous Painted Buntings, 25 warbler species, Pectoral Sandpiper, Bald Eagle and many others. Calvin Zippler and Anne Waters toured the Merry Brothers Brickvard. Dan Connelly led the trips to the Audubon Silver Bluff Sanctuary. Paul Champlin and George Reeves provided the long distance trip to Clark's Hill Reservoir, Stevens Creek and other locations as they were out all day Saturday. Two field trips each morning went to Phinizy Swamp, the first out led by Ruth Mead and Paul Sykes. Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell piloted the second group. Lydia Thompson and Gene Howard led the field trips to the Augusta Levee and Lover's Lane area. Thanks to all of these birders for sharing their time and knowledge that made the field trips so interesting.

On Friday evening, Larry Bryan, a research coordinator with the Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL) presented a program focused on the Wood Stork in which he described the status of the bird from historical times when they were located mostly in Southern Florida to the present day distribution. His program was illustrated with numerous Wood Stork photos and informative maps and distribution information.

Late Saturday afternoon program activities kicked off with three displays. Dr. Joe Meyers, UGA, presented a poster describing continuing Swainson's Warbler nesting studies in the Bond Swamp near Macon. Beth Wright, a former Howe Grant recipient, has been assisting with the field research. Gina Zimmerman, also a previous Howe Grant recipient, presented a poster about her continuing work on the Swallow-tailed Kite migration and distribution. Their use of radio telemetry tracking of the kites is beginning to identify the previously unknown migration path used by the kites including a Florida-Cuba-Yucatan route. On the lighter side, Dick Parks, presented a display of 19 color studies of various birds. Dick explained that he prepares color studies and renditions of proposed paintings before he executes the actual painting.

Following a very lively social hour, a plentiful and deli-

cious buffet dinner was served as fellowship carried over from the social hour. As the dinner wound down, Gail Russell, President, asked John Swiderski to come up for the presentation of the 2003 Earle R. Greene Memorial to James R. Flynn, Jr., our GOS webmaster (see separate story). She then asked Bill Van Eseltine, Chair of the Howe Grant Committee to identify the three recipients of research grants this year (see page 2).

The evening program was presented by Jim Kilgo of the US Forest Service. His program focused on changes in habitat in the Southeast over the past 50 years and described his research into songbird response to changes in habitat, forestry practices and wetland restoration.

The evening closed with the traditional countdown of species found. Paul Champlin conducted the countdown (148 species recorded) that he enlivened with the call or song of a number of the birds.

This was the 128<sup>th</sup> semi-annual meeting of GOS since the first meeting in Milledgeville in April of 1937. Augusta, always a good place for birding, hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> GOS meeting, the most recent being 1995.

## CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEED

The Atwater subspecies of the Greater Prairie-chicken struggles to maintain its existence. There were only 40 birds left in the wild in 2002. Breed - Ing programs exist at a series of sites in Texas and there has been an increase in wild born chicks this year. However, this bird remains the most critically endangered of all Texas species. You can adopt a chick for a \$25 donation, but any amount you could send would be appreciated. All donations go to the breeding and research efforts for the bird. Folks who do contribute receive an invitation once/year to observe the bird in its natural habitat.

Please send tax deductible contributions to:

Adopt a Prairie-Chicken Texas Parks & Wildlife 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744-3291 GOShawk—5 June 2003

#### GOS 2003 SPRING MEETING - SPECIES (148) CHECK LIST

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe

**Double-crested Cormorant** 

Anhinga

American Bittern

Least Bittern

Great Blue Heron

**Great Egret** 

Snowy Egret

Little Blue Heron Cattle Egret

Green Heron

Black Vulture

Turkey Vulture

Canada Goose

Wood Duck

Mallard

Blue-winged Teal

Lesser Scaup

Hooded Merganser Red-breasted Merganser

Osprey

Mississippi Kite

Bald Eagle

Northern Harrier Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cooper's Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk

Broad-winged Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel

Peregrine Falcon

Wild Turkey

Northern Bobwhite

King Rail Virginia Rail

Sora

Common Moorhen American Coot

Killdeer

Lesser Yellowlegs

Solitary Sandpiper Spotted Sandpiper

Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper

Pectoral Sandpiper Bonaparte's Gull

Ring-billed Gull Caspian Tern Rock Dove

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Barn Owl Barred Owl Chuck-will's-widow Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-headed Woodpecker

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker Northern Flicker

Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Acadian Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird

Loggerhead Shrike White-eyed Vireo

Yellow-throated Vireo

Blue-headed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay

American Crow

Fish Crow

Purple Martin Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Barn Swallow

Carolina Chickadee

Tufted Titmouse

White-breasted Nuthatch Brown-headed Nuthatch

Carolina Wren House Wren

Marsh Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Eastern Bluebird American Robin

Gray Catbird Northern Mockingbird

Brown Thrasher

European Starling Cedar Waxwing Northern Parula

Yellow Warbler Chestnut-sided Warbler

Cape May Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler Yellow-rumped Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler Blackburnian Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler

Pine Warbler Prairie Warbler Palm Warbler

Blackpoll Warbler

Cerulean Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird

Northern Waterthrush

Louisiana Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat

Summer Tanager Scarlet Tanager

Eastern Townee

Bachman's Sparrow Chipping Sparrow

Field Sparrow

Savannah Sparrow

Grasshopper Sparrow Swamp Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue Grosbeak

Indigo Bunting Painted Bunting

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark

Rusty Blackbird Common Grackle

Brown-headed Cowbird

Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole

House Finch
American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

