

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:
John Swiderski, GOS, P.O.Box 5825, Valdosta, GA 31603
Information@gos.org

GOShawk



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

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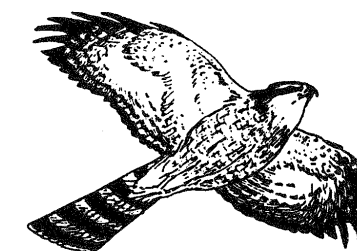


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GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

Georgia's First Ever Birding Festival COLONIAL COAST BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

By Bob Sargent

The Festival will begin on October 10th with a field trip to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, followed by seminars on gulls and terns (taught by Kenn Kaufman), shorebirds (Brad Winn), and documenting wildlife sightings (Jonas Jordan). That first day will conclude with a birthday bash to celebrate the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge system. The featured speaker for the party will be Bill Hartwig, Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Peter Stangel of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will serve as the master of ceremonies (MC) for that evening, and Pierre Howard will be the MC for Saturday night at the Festival.

The list of field trips for Saturday and Sunday includes Okefenokee NWR, Harris Neck NWR (two each day), Altamaha WMA, Little St. Simons Island, Blackbeard NWR (two each day), Jekyll Island (three trips each day including a natural history tour), Savannah NWR (two each day), Sapelo Island (Two on Saturday, one on Sunday), Savannah-Ogeechee Island, Wassaw NWR, Moveable Feast, Jekyll Island Banding Station, and birding by kayak tours of Melon Bluff, St. Simons Island, and the marshes of Glynn County. Seminars on Saturday afternoon feature choosing optics, Wood Stork status, Swallow-tailed Kite status, creating backyard habitats for birds, birding for kids, birding by ear, birds of the long-leaf pine ecosystem, Native American bird lore, hummingbirds of Georgia, increasing your bird list, confusing

fall warblers, bird photography, barrier island ecology, and gardening with native plants. As if this isn't enough, the agenda will also provide opportunities for exhibitors such as binocular sales companies to show off their wares. Saturday afternoon will also include a brief GOS business meeting to elect officers at the Convention Center at 4:30 p.m., followed by a GOS poster session from 4:00 until 6:30 p.m. The evening will conclude with a low country boil banquet including vegetarian meal options, and a presentation by author and birder extraordinaire Kenn Kaufman, the evening's guest speaker.

The registration booklet for the Festival should be available for distribution during the week of August 11th. The booklet will be distributed by mail, and the registration form will be available at the Festival website (<http://www.shrike.net/ccbf/>) and the GOS website (<http://www.gos.org>). The entire registration process, including sign ups for field trips and seminars, will be done by mail. There will not be an option to register electronically. Advance registration will begin on August 15th and end on September 30th. You will be asked to complete a registration form and mail with a check or money order, made payable to Coastal Georgia Audubon Society. The mailing address will be provided in the booklet.

Registrants will receive a packet containing written confirmation of all of your registered events plus any other pertinent information. Field trip registration will be on a first-come first-served basis. If a trip(s) you choose is sold out, you will be contacted and asked to select an alternate trip(s). Upon arrival at the Festival you will need to check-in at the registration desk located inside the Jekyll Island Convention Center where all pre-registered guests will receive a welcome tote-bag containing tickets to all of your registered events, maps to field trip locations, and various other goodies.

Festival registration will cost \$25, and the banquet charge will also be \$25. GOS members will receive a \$10 discount off the cost of registration. There will be a minimum fee of \$5 for field trips, and some will be as high as \$30-49. All seminars except those scheduled

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**Georgia
Ornithological
Society**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Gail Russell
770-956-8469
1st Vice President Bob Sargent
2nd Vice President Anne Mursch
Secretary Nancy Gobris
Treasurer Jeannie Wright
Business Mgr. (Acting) John Swiderski
Historian Ken Clark
Past President John Swiderski
The Oriole, Editors Ray Chandler
John Parrish
GOShawk, Editor Ted Reissing
Webmaster Jim Flynn
www.gos.org

Committee Chairs:

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Terry Moore 770-641-9017
Conservation:
Steve Livingston 404-315-6911
Earl Greene Award:
John Swiderski 229-242-8382
Editorial:
Georgann Schmalz 404-633-1527
Earth Share of Georgia:
Bill Lotz 404-261-1906
Membership:
Stacy Zarpentine 770-587-4073
Howe Research Grant
Bill Van Eseltine 706-543-3072

Special Projects:

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

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

Ted Reissing, Editor
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<treissing@bellsouth.net>

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

Welcome New Members!

Christine Basso,	Waleska
Robert R. Bell,	Duluth
Carolyn & Randy Collins,	Snellville
Elizabeth R. Johnson,	Valdosta
Suzanne M. Jones,	Grayson
Harold Lavender,	Griffin
Connie & Frank Madia,	Woodbine
Mary Ann Moore,	Jonesboro
Frank G. Sisk,	Blackshear
Jim Throckmorton,	Atlanta
The Peregrine Fund,	Boise, ID

In Memorium

Grace Pfeiffer Boddiford, Sylvania, GA

Mrs. Grace Pfeiffer Boddiford passed away at the age of 89 on June 2, 2003, in Sylvania. She and her late sister Anne who died in 1994 were GOS charter members and both maintained their keen interest in birds throughout their lives. Mrs. Boddiford was a life member of GOS and was active in several local bird clubs.

Wayne F. Freeman, Orlando, FL

Wayne F. Freeman passed away on July 27, 2003, in Orlando, FL. He and his wife Dot have been members of GOS since 1981 and were married 50 years. Although they maintained their home in Orlando, Dot made regular birding trips to the mountains of north Georgia and has many friends in the GOS family.

COAST FESTIVAL Con't from pg. 1

for Friday will be free of charge. On-site registration will be available, though it is likely that many of the events, especially the more popular field trips, will be sold out by that time.

If you do not have access to the Internet and you don't receive a registration booklet by August 18th, contact Bob Sargent at bob.sargent@robins.af.mil or (478) 953-9246. If you haven't already made hotel reservations, you should do so quickly. Rooms are filling up fast. GOS has reserved a block of rooms for a rate of \$74 per night at the Jekyll Island Holiday Inn, 200 S. Beachview Drive, 1-800-753-5955. Information concerning other hotel accommodations is listed on the Festival website, and will be provided in the registration booklet.

**GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SALES LIST**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POSTPAID PRICE</u>
ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS (2003) Prepared by the GOS Checklist and Records Committee. Includes 446 species with range, status, dates of occurrence in Georgia. 156 pages, 7 x 10, spiral bound.	\$14.00
BIRDING GEORGIA (2000) Giff Beaton. A site guide to over 100 birding locations in Georgia. Bar graphs, species information and maps are additional features. 320 pages, Falcon Press	19.00
AN INDEX OF GEORGIA BIRD RECORDS IN "AMERICAN BIRDS" AND "AUDUBON FIELD NOTES" (1985) Compiled by Robert W. Lofton. Lists all Georgia bird records in the "Seasonal Reports", "Changing Seasons" and articles in "American Birds" and its predecessor "Audubon Field Notes" through 1983. 28 pages, 6 x 9.	4.00
THE BIRDLIFE OF BEN HILL COUNTY, GEORGIA AND ADJACENT AREAS (1975) Milton Hopkins, Jr. Description of birdlife in Ben Hill, Irwin and Tift counties. Hopkins is a native of the area and has been a careful observer of birdlife. 93 pages, 6 x 9.	4.00
GOS GEORGIA FIELD CHECKLIST – Pocket size card listing 312 species for use on field trips. Sold in sets of 10 cards.	2.00
GOS CLOTH PATCH – In color, 3 1/2" diameter cloth patch	4.00
THE ORIOLE – Back issues 1936 to date. Single copy price is \$1.00. Write for price on complete sets or multiple copies.	

Make check payable to GOS and mail to: GOS, P O Box 5825, Valdosta, GA 31603-5825

Name: _____ Birding Georgia _____ @\$19 _____
Address: _____ Annotated Cklist _____ @ \$14 _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Index of Ga Birds _____ @ \$4 _____
Birdlife of Ben Hill _____ @ \$4 _____
Field Checklist Card (10) _____ @\$2 _____
GOS Cloth Patch _____ @ \$4 _____

TOTAL OF YOUR ORDER IS _____

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JEFF SEWELL

By John Swiderski



Jeff Sewell and wife, Carol Lambert, have been GOS members since 1988. In addition to being an avid birder, Jeff has found time to volunteer for various tasks over the years, mostly related to bird records and sightings.

Since 1994 Jeff has been the operator of the GOS Rare Bird

Alert phone system checking incoming calls frequently and updating the recording on a regular basis. Although Jeff in some cases benefits from early notification of a "good" bird sighting, the task also requires consistency and quite a bit of work. In the latest published record list for Georgia (see GOShawk 03/03), Jeff's name was at the top with 367 species.

Jeff also compiled and wrote the "From the Field" section for The Oriole from 1994 to 1998 pulling together sightings and records on a quarterly basis. He and Carol have led numerous field trips, both for GOS and Atlanta Audubon Society as well. If you have ever joined Jeff on one of these outings you will know that they are highly "user friendly." Thanks Jeff!



CHECKLIST AND RECORDS COMMITTEE CHANGES *By John Swiderski*

Following the publication of the 2003 Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (ACOGB), major changes have been made in the GOS Checklist and Records Committee.

The newly revised committee appointed by Gail Russell, President is as follows:

- Terry Moore, Roswell, Chairman
- Bob Cooper, Athens
- Malcom Hodges, Riverdale
- Giff Beaton, Marietta, Secretary
- Jim Flynn, Cumming
- Brad Winn, St. Simons Is.

Records and reports should be sent to the Secretary directly at:

Email: <giffbeaton@mindspring.com>
Postal: 320 Willow Glen Drive, Marietta, GA 30068

The former committee which consisted of Chuck Hunter, Chairman, Giff Beaton, Bruce Hallett, John Parrish, Paul Sykes and Bill Blakeslee, Secretary, worked many hours to bring the committee records up to date. They carried out considerable research to develop and enhance the species accounts which appear in the new ACOGB. Beaton, Parrish and Sykes brought the ACOGB manuscript to completion. The normal term on the committee is six years. However the committee terms were extended until the ACOGB was published and as a result several served as much as ten years. Service above and beyond the call of duty, but the quality of the ACOGB certainly reflects their efforts.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The five elected GOS Officers serve a two year term of office. The current Officers will complete their term this October and a new slate of candidates will be considered and voted on the membership during the Colonial Coast Birding Festival on Jekyll Island.

A General Business meeting of the membership is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 2003, in the Jekyll Island Convention Center which will be the location for all activities during the Festival. Information about the specific location or room for the election will be available at the GOS table.

The Nominating Committee consisting of John Swiderski, Chair, Helen Ogren and Ken Clark has identified a slate of nominees. The slate was presented to the Executive Committee when it met on July 26, 2003. The nominees are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Bob Sargent, Warner Robins |
| First Vice-President | Bill Lotz, Atlanta |
| Second Vice-President | Anne Mursch, Woodstock |
| Secretary | Nancy Gobris, Macon |
| Treasurer | Jeannie Wright, Atlanta |

Presidents Message FOR BIRDING ENTHUSIASTS

By Gail Russell

The new edition of the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Georgia is out and is very impressive. This fifth edition informs us that there are now 407 birds on the Regular Species List in Georgia. On noting taxonomic changes it can be seen that the Rufous-sided Towhee has been split into Eastern Towhee and Spotted Towhee and that BOTH have occurred in Georgia. But not to worry. It's not likely that the towhee in your yard might be a Spotted, as there has only been one observance of the Spotted in the state (Cobb County, 2000) and it is thus on the Accidental list. The increase of 37 species, up from the 370 reported on the Regular list in the 1986 edition, appears to be the result of increased observations of species and/or better documentation, rather than from specie splits. Of these 407 species on the Regular list, 185 have been documented as breeding in Georgia. This checklist will be an indispensable reference for Georgia birders for years to come. For the dedicated birder, it serves as an impetus to carefully observe and identify birds and to provide the best documentation possible for unusual occurrences.

This guide, along with the explosion of other bird books and guides, serves the growing birdwatching community. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife survey published a couple of years ago revealed that the number of people in this country who regularly watch birds has grown to 46 million, of which, 18.3 million are considered "serious birders" (e.g., they travel to places to see birds). This growth has undoubtedly spurred the development of birding trails in many states (see www.audubon.org/bird_trails for a listing), including our own. The Georgia Colonial Coast trail features 18 sites and there will be fieldtrips to many of these locations in conjunction with the upcoming Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival, details of which are provided in this newsletter.

So, I encourage all "serious" birders as well as less serious "enthusiasts" to purchase a copy of the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Georgia and refer to it frequently whether you're birding along the coast, the coastal plain or offshore waters, or whether you're birding in the mountains or the piedmont region of the state. Isn't it great to have so many habitats to choose from?



NEW EDITOR FOR "FROM THE FIELD"

By Bob Zaremba

Compiling bird records for such a large and diverse state takes a considerable amount of time and care to ensure that accurate and interesting information is presented to the readers of **The Oriole**, the official publication of the Georgia Ornithological Society, and for posterity.

"FROM THE FIELD", which chronicles the seasonal occurrence and abundance of Georgia birdlife, is one of the most popular features of **The Oriole**. The current editor, Michael Bell, has done an outstanding job of tracking, compiling, editing and documenting bird sightings and trends so that we can all appreciate the seasonal movement of birds through our state.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Bell for his efforts over the past several years while writing "FROM THE FIELD".

Starting with this spring migration, March through May 2003, I will be taking over Michael's responsibilities and be the new compiler for "FROM THE FIELD". Please continue to provide me with your bird sighting data and take the time to thank Michael for a job well done! Reminders will be posted periodically when the deadlines approach for each season on our listserve, Georgia Birders Online (GABO). Feel free to send me any sightings you wish to submit at any time, and everyone is encouraged to submit rare bird sightings to the records committee with the appropriate documentation.

The "From The Field" reporting periods stated below have been designed to capture information about birds during spring migration, summer breeding, fall migration and the winter period.

Please submit input for the column within two months of the end of each reporting period. The reporting deadlines, therefore, are as follows:

- Spring (March through May) - reports by July 31
- Summer (June and July) - reports by September 30
- Fall (August through November) - reports by January 31
- Winter (December through February) - reports by April 30

Reports can be sent to me at the following e-mail address or regular mail address;

bobzarem@prodigy.net,
or

Bob Zaremba
2702 Lillie Lake Drive
Marietta, GA , 30064