# 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:							
MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF ALL OLD AND ALL OF ALL OLD AND A	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:							

**GOShawk** 



Information@gos.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VALDOSTA, GA
PERMIT NO. 271

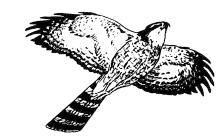
Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society P.O. Box 5825 Valdosta, GA 31603-5825







# **GOShawk**



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862 GOS on the web: www.gos.org

# Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding & Nature Festival: Postscript By Bob Sargent

Georgia's first birding festival on the coast was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of many dedicated people. Although the weekend was a damp one, the weather didn't appear to lessen anyone's enthusiasm. The schedule was packed, featuring seminars, a field trip to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and a birthday bash to celebrate the centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge system on day one. The next two days featured field trips to most of the hot spots along the coast including many of the barrier islands, seminars on various aspects of ornithology, a great line-up of vendors displaying their wares, a scientific poster session, Pierre Howard as the master of ceremonies for the evening events, and a Saturday night banquet featuring a very funny presentation by noted birder and author Kenn Kaufman. (See page 4 for event pictures)

Included in the Saturday evening schedule was a special presentation by John Swiderski and Giff Beaton in which they presented a copy of the new Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds autographed by the checklist committee to Dick Parks. The presentation was not only meant to thank Dick for donating the beautiful print that graces the checklist's cover, but also to recognize the countless things he has done to support GOS. Lydia Thompson

# **CONTENTS**

Bird Festival - Postscript	1
Member News	2
President's Messages	3
Festival Pictures	4
Festival Checklist	5
GA's Underbirded Areas	6
Student GIS Project	6
<b>Christmas Bird Count Listings</b>	7

#### 2003 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 2004 issue. Totals should reflect numbers of species seen as of 12/31/03. All list information must be received by January 15, 2004 to be included and must be submitted by the individual lister.

If you wish to submit data, please include your name, home city & state, telephone, email, # of GA species seen in lifetime and # of GA species seen in 2003 (optional). Please note; results are not automatically carried forward. All list services (including ABA) require that submissions be made annually to be included.

Send information and direct questions to:
Carol Lambert
4608 Westhampton Drive
Tucker, GA 30084 or
Email: lambertsewell@mindspring.com

was also recognized Saturday night for the amazing job she did in pulling the whole festival together, as were the members of the festival committee, particularly Amy Ochoa and Diana Churchill. GOS president Gail Russell briefed the banquet audience on the results of the Saturday afternoon GOS elections, then handed over the reigns of the organization to me with the symbolic passing of the gavel.

With nearly all species lists for field trips received, the tally appears to be 169. The high counts were 92 species detected for both Altamaha WMA and Little St. Simons Island. Highlights included: Plain Chachalaca, Tricolored Heron, Rough-legged Hawk, Black Rail, Piping Plover, Black-necked Stilt (still needs confirmation information for the checklist committee), Long-billed Curlew, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Western Kingbird, Goldenwinged Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow. The species list is included in this newsletter (page 5). The final list will be posted on the festival (<a href="http://www.shrike.net/ccbf/">http://www.gos.org</a>) and on GABOL. If you didn't make it to this event, don't despair – something tells me that this will happen again next year. Hope to see you then!

GOShawk—2 December 2003

# Georgia Ornithological Society

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President
Bob Sargent
478/953-9246
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Bob Sargent
478/953-9246
Bill Lotz
Anne Mursch
Nancy Gobris
Jeannie Wright

#### **Special Projects:**

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

### NOTE:

## SPRING MEETING

Tentatively April 23-25

# Milledgeville, GA

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

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

Text by email (arial) is appreciated.

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

Alan & Diann Bailey. Savannah Teresa Dabbs, Marietta Maurice A. Crenshaw III. Brunswick Sandra & Elliott Edwards, Savannah Paul Hoinowski. Macon Larry & Elaine Johnson, Hampton Blythe Layng, Atlanta John F. McMahan. Columbus Michael & Sheryl Meadows, Kingsland Mallory Pearce. Tybee Island Charles Planck, Warner Robins Joe & Marcia Pugh, Decatur Charles Ratliff, Athens Dawn Sherry, Round Oak

### GOS Officers Elected By Gail Russell

At a special members meeting held at the recent bird festival, the officers shown in the adjacent column were elected to serve the next two years. The other members of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs are being appointed at this time and will be listed in the next *GOShawk*.

As a side note, Ted Reissing will be "retiring" as *GOShawk* editor after this issue. This periodical is our main internal vehicle for communication with members and Ted has compiled four issues per year for the past couple of years. It is not an easy effort to collect, edit, and produce the newsletter, especially when many of the authors (myself included) have trouble meeting deadlines. Thanks, Ted, for all your efforts and for helping to make *GOShawk* the excellent publication it is. Your efforts were appreciated.

GOShawk is in need of a new editor; and if you would like to assume these duties, please let Bob Sargent know.

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

GOS annually offers 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, 2004. Interested candidates should check the GOS website, www.gos.org. for complete program guidelines. GOShawk—7 December 2003

#### Christmas Bird Counts - 2003-2004

This year marks the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count season. The CBC period is 12/14-1/5. If you are interested in participating in any of the counts, contact the compiler as soon as possible. Several have indicated that they need more participants, including Amicalola Falls, Bainbridge, Chattahoochee N.F., Floyd County and the Okefenokee. 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, while contributing to important bird data collection. For additional Georgia CBC information, check the GOS website: www.gos.org or the Atlanta Audubon website: www.atlantaaudubon.org. The Audubon CBC home page is www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.

Date	Count	Compiler(s)	Phone	Email	
Dec. 14 (Sun.)	Athens	Eugenia Thompson Mary Case	706-549-7318 706-548-3848	erthomps@negia.net mecase@arches.uga.edu	
	Chattahoochee N.F. Songbird Mgmt. Area	Johnny Parks	706-937-7163	ringgold_birdchaser@juno.com	
	Columbus	Sam Pate	706-327-2574	spate@brookstoneschool.org	
	Floyd County	Owen Kinney	706-234-6248	okinney@darlingtonschool.org	
	St. Catherines Island	By invitation.	7 00 20 1 02 10	grammey e damingtoneshering	
Dec. 15 (Mon.)	Piedmont NWR & Rum Creek WMA	Terry Johnson	478-994-1438	Terry_W_Johnson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us	
Dec. 19 (Fri.)	Eufaula NWR	Sam Pate	706-327-2574	spate@brookstoneschool.org	
	Harris Neck NWR	Steve Calver	912-351-0841	James.S.Calver@sas02.usace.army.mil	
2	Harris Neck contacts. Diana Churchill 912-786- 5703 or Dot Bambach 912-598-2764	: *	а		
Dec. 20 (Sat.)	Albany	Alan Ashley	912-439-8232	pa521aa117@prodigy.net	
	Augusta	Anne Waters	706-793-2788	birdannelady@earthlink.net	
	Dalton	Phil Riner	706-226-0956	phil_riner@mohawkind.com	
	Macon	Marie Amerson	478-746-5697	jamerson@cox.net	
	Peachtree City	Brock Hutchins	770-461-5042	brockhutchins@msn.com	
Dec. 21 (Sun.)	Atlanta-Marietta	Giff Beaton Bill Blakeslee	770-509-1482	giffbeaton@mindspring.com	
Dec. 27 (Sat.)	Okefenokee NWR	Sheila Willis	912-285-0419	swillis@wayxcable.com	
Dec. 29 (Mon.)	Amicalola Falls	Jim Greenway	770-796-2580	greenway@bellsouth.net	
Dec. 30 (Tue.)	Bainbridge/ Lake Seminole	Oscar Dewberry	229-246-1890	boscar@planttel.net	
Jan. 3 (Sat.)	Callaway Gardens	LuAnn Craighton	706-663-5192	lkcraig@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	
	Savannah contacts: Diana	1			
Dates to be an- nounced:	Churchill 912-786-5703 of Dot Bambach 912-598-2764				
	Cumberland Island	Sheila Willis	By invitation.		
	Lake Blackshear	Terry Johnson			
	Lune Diacksileai	I on y continuon		compiled by Carol L	

compiled by Carol Lambert

Albany	12/20	Columbus	12/14	Macon	12/20
Amicalola Falls	12/29	Cumberland Island	?	Okefenokee	12/27
Athens	12/14	Dalton	12/20	Peachtree City	12/20
Atlanta	12/21	Eufala NWR	12/19	Piedmont/Rum Creek	12/15
Augusta	12/20	Floyd County	12/14	Savannah	1/3
Bainbridge/L. Seminole	12/30	Glynn County	1/3	St. Catherines Island	12/14
Calloway Gardens	1/3	Harris Neck NWR	12/19		
Chattahoochee N.F.	12/14	Lake Blackshear	?		

GOShawk—6 December 2003

### Georgia's Underbirded Areas River Bend WMA By Giff Beaton

I did not start birding in River Bend WMA in Laurens County until after I had written Birding Georgia, because if I had, I certainly would have included the site in the book! This great WMA has two parcels, both very easy to get to off I-16 near Dublin, and both with many different types of habitat. The parcels run between GA 199 and the Oconee River, and both have habitats like pasture, scrub, pine forest, and riparian forest right along the river. Many species of interest to birders can be found here such as Mississippi Kite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Prothonotary, Swainson's and Hooded Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks and Orchard Orioles. Areas near the river in both segments are also good during migration in both spring and fall.

To bird here, take Exit 58 off I-16 and head south. The first parcel is only 0.3 miles on your right, and this road goes about 1.6 miles to the river. You will travel through some open fields, pine forest, and then riparian forest for about the last 0.9 mile. Anywhere in here is good, but the best part is probably along the river at the end of the road. There is a "t" junction there, and to the right is a gate past which you can bird on foot. To the left the gravel/dirt road winds shortly to a small overflow part of the river, always good to check. Beyond here the "road" becomes a trail (frequently wet, especially in spring) through the forest for 0.3 mile to a large bar on the river. You have to walk past the overflow. To get to the other parcel go back to GA 199 and turn right (away from I-16). In 5.9 miles you will reach the second site's entrance on your right. You have been paralleling the river on GA 199, watch for kites soaring along here in summer. The first 1.4 miles in this next parcel is mostly scrub and pine forest. At this point there is a small spur off to the right, which goes 0.1 mile to a nice cypress slough. Back on the main road continue another 0.9 mile to the river, the last 0.5 again in good riparian forest with another slough at the end, and with similar species as the first parcel. The main roads in each parcel are partly gravel, and partly dirt, and both are normally fine for passenger cars except after heavy rain. This is a great place to do a little birding to break up the drive along I-16, and is good all year long but best in spring and summer.



# GIS Bird Project By Tim Bennett - Student, Kennesaw State

This semester I am taking a course in Advanced Geographic Information Systems, and for my GIS project I am examining the role cell phone transmission towers might play in disrupting the migration of bird species in Georgia. intend to illustrate tower location and migration routes to pinpoint any negative effect the towers might possibly have on migrating species. I became interested in this after reading a newspaper article on a study the FCC is conducting on bird kills caused by the towers. Tower location data is readily available from the FCC in GIS format, but I have been less successful in my search for data examining the migration routes of species through Georgia. What I am seeking is data illustrating the migration patterns of songbird or other species through Georgia, if indeed such data is available. GIS data would be preferable, but barring that an online map or even a printed one could be utilized in my project to see if towers do indeed play a disruptive role in migration. I will welcome any information regarding the migration routes of bird species through Georgia. I will also appreciate any other suggestions that would help the value of my project.

Leafs61@wmconnect.com

## **Conservation Appeal**

If you have not already made your year end charitable contributions, please consider donating to one of the following "bird friendly" sites. Both of these groups work to save a species on the endangered list.

California Condor:

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

Atwater Greater Prairie-chicken:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744-3291

Checks in any amount are welcome, please make them out to the body noted in the first line of the address.

# Membership Dues

GOS maintains dues records on a calendar basis, with renewals in January of each year. Please save us the expense of mailing renewal notices by forwarding your dues payment to the address shown on the back page.. The rates for various member classes can also be found there.

GOShawk—3 December 2003

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES

# INCOMING- CHALLENGES By Bob Sargent

It seems like it was just a few months ago that I was elected 1st Vice President of GOS at our meeting on Skidaway Island State Park, but it has now been over two years. At the time I had only a rudimentary understanding of GOS, and I certainly didn't fully appreciate everything its members did for the organization and in support of bird conservation in Georgia. In the past two years I've been the recipient of a crash course on the inner workings of GOS, thanks to the mentoring of some great teachers. As most of you know, the 1st VP's job is to arrange guest speakers and field trips for meetings. I definitely didn't fully appreciate the pitfalls I would encounter in that position and managed to fall into some of them. Those of you who were at the meeting on Jekyll Island last year know what I mean! Thank you to the outgoing Executive Committee for all that you've done for GOS over the past two years. You'll be a tough act to follow, but the new committee will do its best to mirror your example.

Our first challenge will be to fill committee positions soon to be vacated. For example (and noted elsewhere), this will be the last issue of the GOShawk edited by Ted Reissing. Another change could involve long-time GOS Business Manager and former President John Swiderski, who is interested in getting some well-deserved rest after serving GOS for 30 years. No, I can't see John entirely giving up an active role in GOS, but I definitely understand when he tells me that he would like a change of pace. My point is, if you would like to become more involved with GOS, we need to hear from you. The past and future successes of this organization have been, and will be, dependent on the dedication of its members. GOS will only go as far as you, the members, are willing to take it.

Another challenge will be preparing for our spring meeting in Milledgeville. The current program (tentative) for that meeting includes Dr. Alan Feduccia of North Carolina State University speaking on "Bird Evolution's Big Bang," and possibly Dr. William Post, Curator of Ornithology at The Charleston Museum The tentative field trips schedule includes Piedmont NWR, Baldwin Forest, Ocmulgee National Monument, Lake Sinclair, Lake Laurel, Gauthier Preserve, and Hitchiti Experimental Forest. If you have suggestions for field trips, or would like to lead a trip, please let us know.

Our meetings began to include a scientific poster session starting with Valdosta in the spring of 2002. This program has proven to be very popular, and some have suggested that we further enhance the scientific side of our meetings by adding a paper presentation session as is done by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. This is something we should consider. Another challenge will involve determining GOS's role in the organization of future coastal birding festivals. Some are encouraging GOS to play a bigger role

# OUTGOING- BACK TO THE FIELD By Gail Russell

As I step down as president of GOS, I would like to thank all the members of the board who have worked so hard on behalf the organization. They have made many contributions and have worked effectively and efficiently which made my job considerably easier. Now, it is back to the field for MORE BIRDING!!

I'm looking forward to the Christmas Bird Count and any surprises it might bring. With the increasing development, route 16 in Marietta cannot be considered the "best" place to bird. However, even it has interesting observations. For example, one Christmas there was a light cover of snow and ice on the ground. However, the snow, for the most part, had melted on the roads. On one back road, a small flock of pine warblers had descended on the blacktop and were pressing their chests onto the road to get warmth from the payement.

Most of the horse farms have been replaced by subdivisions. The most common bird seems to be the crow, which according to the BirdScope (Cornell Lab) did not begin to encroach into urban areas until the 1950s. But now, the Lab's latest project is Crows Count which will allow detailed information to be collected by citizen scientists and which will probably allow some monitoring of the West Nile virus.

Birding is great during the winter months, especially on crisp cold days with bright clear blue skies. Looking at ducks at a wildlife refuge is particularly good, especially this year in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which now numbers 542 refuges. A good New Year's resolution would be to visit five "new" refuges during 2004 with an ultimate (perhaps 10 year) goal to eventually visit all 542 of them.

#### INCOMING- Con't

in the festival, while others have suggested that GOS should limit its role and focus on organizing a meeting later in the winter (e.g. a waterfowl meeting in January) that wouldn't conflict with the festival.

Still another challenge relates to conservation issues in Georgia and across the country. As most of you know, the value of some major environmental protection laws are being weakened or eliminated. GOS should play a strong role in speaking for the conservation of resources.

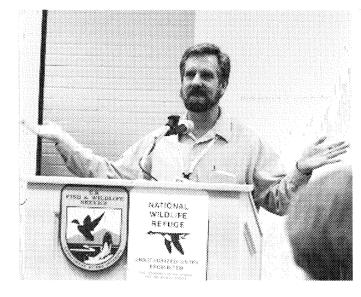
These are some of the challenges GOS faces in the coming months. I'm looking forward to working with all of you to meet these challenges, and to make GOS grow.

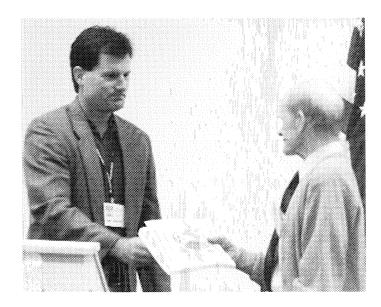
#### PICTURES FROM FALL FESTIVAL



Outgoing President, Gail Russell, passes the gavel to incoming President, **Bob Sargent** 

Featured speaker, Kenn Kauffman





Giff Beaton (left) presents autographed copy of Annotated Checklist to Dick Parks

Congratulations also to Dick for winning a copy of Thomas Burleigh's book Georgia Birds at the Festival donated by the Ocmulgee Audubon Society

#### Photos by Len Horton

#### COLONIAL COAST BIRD FESTIVAL - CHECKLIST

October 10-12, 2003; Countdown 10/11 + Later E-mails

Wood Duck American Wigeon Mottled Duck Blue-winged Teal Northern Shoveler Northern Pintail Green-winged Teal Plain Chachalaca Common Loon Pied-billed Grebe Northern Gannet American White Pelican Brown Pelican **Double-crested Cormorant** 

Anhinga American Bittern Great Blue Heron **Great Egret** Snowy Earet Little Blue Heron Tricolored Heron Reddish Egret Cattle Egret Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

White Ibis Glossy Ibis Roseate Spoonbill Wood Stork Black Vulture Turkey Vulture Osprey Bald Eagle Northern Harrier Cooper's Hawk Red-shouldered Hawk Red-tailed Hawk Rough-legged Hawk American Kestrel

Merlin Peregrine Falcon Black Rail

Clapper Rail King Rail Sora

Purple Gallinule Common Moorhen American Coot Black-bellied Plover Wilson's Plover Semipalmated Plover

Piping Plover Killdeer

American Ovstercatcher Black-necked Stilt \*\* **Greater Yellowlegs** Lesser Yellowlegs Solitary Sandpiper

Willet Spotted Sandpiper

Long-billed Curlew Marbled Godwit Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot

Sanderling Semipalmated Sandpiper Western Sandpiper Least Sandpiper Pectoral Sandpiper

Dunlin Stilt Sandpiper

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** Short-billed Dowitcher Common Snipe Laughing Gull Bonaparte's Gull Ring-billed Gull Herring Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull Great Black-backed Gull

Caspian Tern Royal Tern Sandwich Tern Common Tern Forster's Tern Black Skimmer Rock Dove

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove Common Ground-Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo Eastern Screech-Owl

Barred Owl Chimney Swift Belted Kingfisher Red-bellied Woodpecker Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Downy Woodpecker Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker Eastern Phoebe

**Great Crested Flycatcher** Western Kingbird Loggerhead Shrike White-eyed Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Blue Jay American Crow

Fish Crow Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged Swallow Barn Swallow

**Tufted Titmouse** Brown-headed Nuthatch Carolina Wren

Carolina Chickadee

House Wren Sedge Wren Marsh Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Eastern Bluebird Gray-cheeked Thrush Swainson's Thrush Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird **Brown Thrasher European Starling** Golden-winged Warbler

Tennessee Warbler Northern Parula Yellow Warbler Magnolia Warbler Cape May Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler Blackburnian Warbler

December 2003

Yellow-throated Warbler Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler Palm Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler American Redstart Northern Waterthrush Common Yellowthroat Summer Tanager Eastern Towhee

Clay-colored Sparrow Savannah Sparrow Grasshopper Sparrow

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Seaside Sparrow Northern Cardinal Indigo Bunting Painted Bunting

Bobolink

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark **Boat-tailed Grackle** Common Grackle Brown-headed Cowbird **Baltimore Oriole** 

\*\* Checking details

House Sparrow

