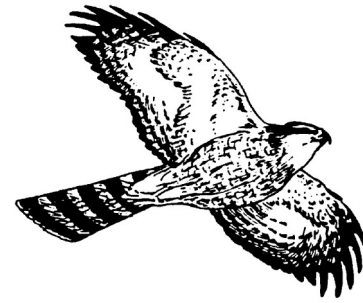


# GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

## President's Message

By Bob Sargent

If you take a moment to look over the list of GOS Executive Committee members, you'll notice that we've experienced considerable turnover in the past few months. Many of the names may be new to you, yet the list is still sprinkled with the names of GOS veterans. Yes, we've got many new faces in leadership positions, but it's an exceptionally talented group. If you haven't looked at the titles of the committee members in a while, you might be struck by another thought: our group is involved in many aspects of ornithology, including publications, sightings verification, and public education through avenues such as our web site. Our group is also involved in providing grant money to graduate students and providing awards in recognition of outstanding contributions to ornithology in Georgia. Of course, this committee is just one of the more visible parts of a society that includes hundreds of dedicated people working in all aspects of ornithology and public education efforts on behalf of bird conservation.

The success of our agenda over the next 15 months will depend on the contributions and dedication of our many talented members. Currently, we're getting

## GOS Meetings

The Spring 2004 meeting will be held in Milledgeville, April 23-25 (See page 3)

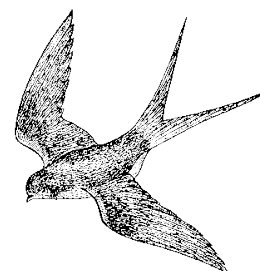
Mark your calendars now for the Winter 2005 joint meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society, Guntersville State Park (AL), January 28-30, 2005

ready to assist with organizing the second Pinewoods Birding Festival at Pebble Hill Plantation on April 3<sup>rd</sup> (see John Swiderski's article in this newsletter, p. 3). April also features our Spring Meeting in Milledgeville. The planning for that meeting doesn't just involve the people who invite the speakers and reserve the meeting space and rooms; it also involves many other people, especially those who always step forward and volunteer to lead field trips. This upcoming meeting will feature our first ornithological paper session – an opportunity for students and faculty to showcase their fascinating research, and for our members to meet and learn from the scientists of today and tomorrow. We're not eliminating the poster session we instituted in Valdosta; instead, we plan to hold paper sessions at our Spring Meetings and poster sessions during our "other meeting" (see the next paragraph for clarification) each year.

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**Georgia  
Ornithological  
Society**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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<i>The Oriole, Editors</i>	Ray Chandler John Parrish
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**Committee Chairs:**

<i>Checklist &amp; Records:</i>	Terry Moore	770-641-9017
<i>Conservation:</i>	Carol Lambert	770-939-7668
<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	John Swiderski	229-242-8382
<i>Earth Share of Georgia:</i>	Mark Beebe	770-435-6586
<i>Editorial:</i>	Bob Chandler	478-445-0811
<i>Howe Research Grant:</i>	Bill Van Esseltine	706-543-3072
<i>Membership:</i>	Angela McMellen	706-372-9099

**Special Projects**

<i>Georgia Rare Bird Alert</i>	770-493-8862
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Internet Transcriber rotates among:	
Jim Flynn, Michael Boehm, Steve Holzman, and Bob Zaremba	

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Jim Ferrari, Editor  
242 Riverdale Drive  
Macon, GA 31204  
478-757-0293  
<jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu>

Deadline for article submission is the 1st  
of the month prior to publication.  
Text by e-mail is appreciated.

**Welcome New Members!**

Nico Dauphine	Athens
Gerald Gillette	Peachtree City
John T. and Phyllis Hiers	Valdosta
Pam Higginbotham	Atlanta
Mary Louise MacNeil	Atlanta
Priscilla Marshall	Columbus
Lois Stacey	North Augusta, SC
Tom Striker	Blue Ridge
Simon R. B. Thompson	Skyland, NC

GOS Membership lists are available upon request to  
John Swiderski, PO Box 5825, Valdosta, GA 31603 or  
<katejohn@surfsouth.com>

***In Memoriam, William F. Terrell***

William F. (Bill) Terrell passed away February 6, 2004 in Atlanta, GA. Bill joined GOS as a Life Member in 1975 and was also active with Atlanta Audubon Society. He was an active participant in Christmas Bird Counts over the years.

Bill made his career with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, where he worked for 32 years.



**President's Message** (continued from page 1)

This fall GOS will once again be heavily involved in helping to organize the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival on Jekyll Island (October 8-10). Last year's event was a great success, thanks to the efforts of many conservation groups. This year's Festival promises to be an even bigger event, but it will not serve as our annual Fall Meeting. Our game plan is to assist with arranging the Festival's field trips, serve as the host for the banquet speaker, and hold a brief business meeting. Instead of a Fall Meeting in 2004, we're planning to hold a joint Winter Meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society at Guntersville State Park, a site famous for its concentration of wintering Bald Eagles, in northern Alabama during January 28-30, 2005. We're also currently planning to hold our 2005 Spring Meeting in Columbus, a beautiful city we haven't been to in many years. We hope you'll write these meetings on your calendars now, and please don't hesitate to contact me and ask how you can become more involved.

## GOS Meets in Historic Milledgeville

By Bob Sargent

Our Spring Meeting will take place April 23-25 in the former capital city of Georgia and current home of Georgia College and State University. We'll be based at the Holiday Inn Express at 1839 N Columbia St. (478-454-9000), and the registration desk will open an hour earlier than usual (at 2:00 PM) so attendees can meet Dr. Bob Chandler at 4:00 PM for a tour of the university campus. Bob's walking tour will showcase the Biology Department, ornithological artifacts and manuscripts collection, the impressive library facilities, and other points of interest. We've reserved a block of rooms at the hotel at a special GOS rate until April 1, so make your reservation soon.

The Friday night program will start at 7:30 PM and will feature Dr. Alan Feduccia, the S. K. Heninger Professor in the Biology Department of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Alan will present a program called "Bird Evolution's Big Bang" in the meeting room of the Holiday Inn Express. The Saturday lineup of field trips features some of the best birding locations in east central Georgia, including Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Ocmulgee National Monument, Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area, Baldwin Forest, Gauthier Preserve, Lake Laurel and Lake Sinclair. Attendees may register for field trips by filling out sign-up sheets following the Friday evening program. Leaders for the Saturday field trips will describe their trip destinations Friday night, including habitat information, species to expect, and special needs for trip participants. Among the species we expect to see during these field trips are Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW), Bachman's Sparrow, Swainson's Warbler, and a variety of other Neotropical migrants.

Saturday afternoon will feature a first for GOS: an ornithological paper session from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, presented by scientists and graduate students who conduct research in Georgia. Speakers will give 15-minute presentations (mostly PowerPoint) on bird conservation, management techniques, and unique studies, such as the search for avian fossils in the Southeast. This paper session will give GOS members an opportunity to meet current and future scientists in the field of ornithology, and learn about the remarkable work being done on behalf of bird conservation in Georgia.

The Saturday evening social hour will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by the banquet at 7:00 PM. The program for that evening will feature one of our own: Dr. Sara Schweitzer, professor in the Warnell School of Forest Resources at the University of Georgia. Sara

has recently had the opportunity to teach and lecture in Europe, and will give a presentation on bird conservation efforts and conservation groups of Bulgaria and Croatia. As always, the Saturday program will conclude with a description of the Sunday field trips and the species countdown.

The Sunday field trips lineup includes Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area, Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area and Lake Juliette, Baldwin Forest, Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, and Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center. Highlights to be expected include Neotropical migrants, especially warblers that inhabit wetlands, RCW's, wading birds, and Bachman's Sparrow. As always, our field trips will be led by some of the most talented birders in Georgia.

For additional information regarding programs or field trips, contact Bill Lotz at 404-261-1906, or e-mail [blotz@mindspring.com](mailto:blotz@mindspring.com). For additional information concerning registration or lodging, contact Anne Mursch at 678-445-5106, or e-mail [rturnstone@mindspring.com](mailto:rturnstone@mindspring.com).

We look forward to seeing you in Milledgeville!

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## PINEWOODS BIRD FESTIVAL

By John Swiderski

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pinewoods Bird Festival will be held on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Pebble Hill Plantation, five miles south of Thomasville on U.S. Highway 319. GOS is again a partner in this festival and will be conducting short on-site bird walks for beginning birders.

Activities have been enhanced this year and will include seven field trips, which will require pre-registration. There will be an early morning field trip with Jim Cox to band Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. He will also conduct a field trip later in the morning for banding of Bachman's Sparrows. Information and a registration form are available on the festival website, [www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com](http://www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com).

Throughout the day at Pebble Hill, activities will include programs on butterfly gardening (Julie Neel) and hummingbirds (Terry Johnson), including a demonstration of hummingbird banding. A raptor show will be presented at noon, and short tours into the Red Hills pinewoods habitat will run frequently.

## Georgia Birders and Their Lists December 31, 2003

Thanks to those folks who contributed their information to this list for 2003. This was another great year of birding in Georgia. We started the year with a Pacific Loon and ended it with a Yellow-billed Loon, a pretty amazing fact. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Kennesaw was a thrill for many birders from around the state; in addition, a series of successful pelagic trips added birds such as Brown Noddy, Razorbill and Manx Shearwater to the year's list.

...Carol Lambert

Name	Home	GA Life List 2003	GA Life List 2002	GA Year List 2003	GA Year List 2002
Jeff Sewell	Tucker, GA	370	367	294	294
Bob Manns	Camden, ME	367	-	-	-
Bruce Dralle	Marietta, GA	362	358	-	294
Bill Blakeslee	Atlanta, GA	360	356	288	-
Pierre Howard	Atlanta, GA	360	357	-	304
Jim Flynn	Cumming, GA	356	353	288	312
Paul Sykes	Watkinsville, GA	354	351	-	-
Earl Horn	Lawrenceville, GA	353	349	310	317
Bob Zaremba	Marietta, GA	353	349	301	305
Deb Zaremba	Marietta, GA	345	343	-	304
Karen Theodorou	Lawrenceville, GA	342	337	-	282
Tom Egan	Marietta, GA	341	338	-	306
Carol Lambert	Tucker, GA	339	338	253	241
Jerry Amerson	Macon, GA	336	335	212	209
Marie Amerson	Macon, GA	333	332	212	211
Rusty Trump	Suwanee, GA	333	331	-	-
Michael Bell	Bainbridge, GA	331	330	-	-
Marion Dobbs	Rome, GA	328	320	-	-
Mike Chapman	Brunswick, GA	327	324	-	-
Gene Keferl	Brunswick, GA	326	320	253	234
Bill Lotz	Atlanta, GA	321	305	285	298
Johnny Parks	Ringgold, GA	320	318	-	-
Mark Beebe	Marietta, GA	316	306	279	222
Traci Brown	Decatur, GA	314	311	-	293
Daniel Jacobson	Hixson, TN	314	-	205	-
Doris Cohrs	Darien, GA	311	-	169	-
Dan Vickers	Lilburn, GA	306	278	275	265
Brad Bergstrom	Valdosta, GA	305	305	-	-
Ted C. Reissing	Dunwoody, GA	305	298	-	250
Joel Hitt	Lawrenceville, GA	303	301	-	-
Mark Freeman	Athens, GA	290	266	271	227
Dot Freeman	Orlando, FL	283	282	-	-
Michael Bender	Athens, GA	278	259	244	222
John Henderson	Hixson, TN	263	-	-	-
Jim Throckmorton	Dunwoody, GA	242	-	242	-
Ted K. Reissing	Peachtree City, GA	227	221	-	172
John Hintermister	Gainesville, FL	226	218	-	173
Jenny Michaels	Tucker, GA	209	-	188	-

## Southern Company Powers Georgia Bird Conservation

By Peter Stangel

Southern Company, one of the nation's largest energy producers and the parent company of Georgia Power, has launched an important new bird conservation program that will benefit many of our state's most important species and their habitats. Southern Company joins with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in this five-year partnership, called the Power of Flight, which began in August of 2002. Through the Power of Flight, Southern Company will provide \$250,000 annually, which will be matched by the Foundation, for a competitive grants program. Southern Company will also provide an additional \$50,000 annually to support the Foundation's bird conservation efforts.

Grants awarded in the first year of the Power of Flight include:

\$100,000 to Quail Unlimited for habitat improvements on more than 17,000 acres in Georgia, Alabama, and parts of Florida and Mississippi that will benefit Northern Bobwhite and a variety of grassland songbirds;

\$60,000 to the American Forest Foundation to encourage bird conservation practices to Georgia's 3,600 members of the American Tree Farm Society, who collectively manage more than 2.3 million acres;

\$60,000 to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to develop techniques for restoring longleaf pine on state lands now in loblolly or slash plantations;

\$55,000 to the Georgia Wildlife Federation to expand their Schoolyard Habitat Program, which will encourage teachers and their students to conserve and restore bird habitat;

\$220,000 in other grants to a variety of organizations to fund efforts on behalf of Sandhill Cranes, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and raptors; for development of birding trails in Mississippi and Florida; and to restore 350 acres of wetlands at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge.

The Power of Flight will complement a second Southern Company program that will help restore thousands of acres of longleaf pine forests. This effort, the Longleaf Pine Reforestation Program, is also a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Southern Company will provide \$500,000 annually, which will be matched by the Foundation, for a grant program to replant this most southern of ecosystems. Southern Company is providing an additional \$100,000 annually to support the Foundation's longleaf conservation efforts. The first awards for this partnership will be announced in April of 2004.

"Conserving bird habitats and the longleaf pine ecosystem are important aspects of Southern Company's stewardship initiatives, as they each play a critical role in the South's culture, environment, and economy," said Charles Goodman, Southern Company senior vice president of research and environmental affairs. "Our partnership with key organizations to accomplish our conservation goals will enable us to make further environmental improvements within our communities.

For more information on this bird conservation program, contact Peter Stangel, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, at [Stangel@nfwf.org](mailto:Stangel@nfwf.org) or 404-679-7099.

### A Note About GOS Memberships

GOS maintains your membership record on a calendar year basis, with renewals due in January. You can check your membership status by looking at the label on this newsletter. To the right of your name you will find your membership code and year. If it shows "04" then you have renewed for 2004. For some members who have paid ahead or made a duplicate payment, your code may show "05" or later.

With the exception of a Life Membership, all GOS membership categories include spouse and immediate family. At GOS meetings, all members, including Life Members, may register their spouse and/or immediate family members at the lower member rate.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society  
P.O. Box 5825  
Valdosta, GA 31603-5825  
E-mail: information@gos.org

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

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