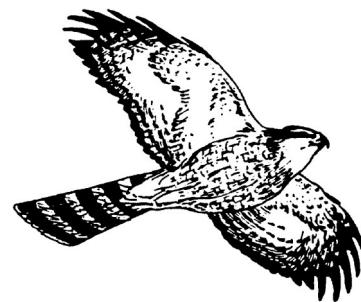


GOShawk



Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society

Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message

By Bob Sargent

Our Spring Meeting took place April 22-24 in Columbus – a city we've left off the meeting schedule since the 1980s. Considering the great time we had, and the 146 species we counted, a commonly heard question from attendees was, "Why has it been so long?"

Several of the attendees arrived early at the meeting headquarters, the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn, and quickly discovered that we wouldn't have to travel far to enjoy good birding. In fact, good birding could be had right behind the hotel, where a lake and forested nature trail provided habitat for 43 species. Highlights from the field trips (Fort Benning, Oxbow Meadows, Eufaula NWR, Callaway Gardens, etc.) included Wood Stork, American Bittern, Swallow-tailed Kite, Pectoral Sandpiper, Caspian Tern, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bank Swallow, Blackpoll Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, Bobolink, and many, many Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

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Save the Dates!

Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

October 7-9, 2005, Jekyll Island

GOS Winter Meeting

January 27-29, 2006, Tallahassee, Florida

Friday night's program was a tag-team affair presented by Dr. Bill Birkhead, Walt Chambers, and Julie Ballenger. They spoke about a remarkable international education program they manage for students at Columbus State University (CSU). Through this program, CSU students attend ecology boot camps in Australia, Africa and South America. Speaking of ecology, Saturday night's program by Dr. Peter Frederick (University of Florida) was an exceptionally entertaining program concerning wading birds. Peter discussed the biology, ecology, habitat needs and environmental issues impacting long-legged wading birds in the South. Saturday's program concluded with the traditional species countdown led by Bill Birkhead.

As always, the success of these meetings is due to the hard work and exceptional organizational skills of a few people. Thank you to Bill Lotz for arranging the field trips and speakers, and to Anne Mursch for smoothly handling the details associated with the hotel and banquet. Thanks also to Steve Holzman for manning the GOS business table, and for the "chair prizes" idea – a terrific addition to our meeting. I'd also like to thank the many talented field trip leaders who scouted, pa-

(continued on page 3)

Georgia Ornithological Society

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

Welcome, New Members!

Patron Members

Jim Bloom	Conyers, GA
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Sustaining Members

Jonathan Spingarn & Karen Scheib	Atlanta, GA
Ken Blankenship & Rachel Cass	Marietta, GA
Margaret Tyson	Cairo, GA

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Willard Arte Rahn Jr.	Savannah, GA
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Student Members

Marilyn Tarantino	Norcross, GA
Daria Protopopova	Columbus, GA

*GOS Membership lists are available upon request to
Angela McMellen, PO Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645 or
mcmellen@uga.edu*

In Memoriam, Martha Ann Lovejoy

Martha Ann Lovejoy, 77, died Tuesday, April 26, 2005, in Brevard, North Carolina, where she and her husband, Dr. Bill Lovejoy, had made their retirement home since 1996. They had been married for 53 years.

The Lovejos lived in Statesboro, Georgia, for many years, where Bill was a professor of biology at Georgia Southern University and Martha taught in public school. Members of GOS since 1969, they both enjoyed birds and were also very active in the Briar Creek Bird Club in the Statesboro area.

Martha also loved flower gardening, and she and Bill shared many other outdoor interests, including camping and canoeing. They also traveled extensively throughout the world.

GOS E-MAIL LIST

In order to more efficiently communicate with our members, GOS has established an e-mail list. The e-mail list will be used to communicate with you about bird conservation issues, membership renewals, birding events in Georgia, and occasional items that may be of interest to GOS members. If you wish to add your e-mail address to the GOS database, please contact Angela McMellen, GOS Membership Chair, at angela_mcmellen@yahoo.com.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

tiently pointed out hard-to-see birds in treetops, and strived to teach others the skills they've so wonderfully mastered.

The registration information for the Third Annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival will be ready soon. Keep checking the GOS website for updates, or contact Bill Lotz or myself. The list of field trips for this year's festival is the most ambitious to date, featuring nearly twice as many trips as those offered in 2003 or 2004. As usual, participants will have a chance to visit nearly any barrier island (four trips to Little St. Simons!) they would like to see, but this year's lineup will also include trips to many lesser-known but equally beautiful small parks and historic sites along the coast. The Convention Center will once again be jam-packed with vendors and classroom sessions about almost any aspect of bird ecology or identification, and Saturday night's banquet will feature Dr. Scott Robinson of the University of Florida's Department of Zoology. Dr. Robinson has worked with many prominent ornithologists in the world of migratory bird research, including Richard Holmes and John Terborgh, but Scott is more than a highly-respected scientist; Scott is also "one of us," in that he once set the North American Big Year record and still owns the World Big Day record (331 species), which he accomplished with the legendary Ted Parker.

In January we're holding our second consecutive Winter Meeting, scheduled for the 27th to the 29th in Tallahassee. Our tentative list of guest speakers for that meeting includes well-known authors and ornithologists Jim Cox and Susan Cerulean. Of course, any winter meeting in the Florida panhandle will include field trips to such great destinations as St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla Springs State Park and Apalachicola National Forest.

So why aren't you making reservations to attend one of our meetings? See you in October!



2005 Howe Grants Awarded

GOS has awarded four students with H. Branch Howe Jr. Graduate Student Research Grants worth a total of \$6,825:

- Nico Suzanne Dauphine, University of Georgia, "Bird Conservation in the Cordillera de Colan, Northern Peru," \$2,000
- Cary Leung, Emory University, "Immune Function, Stress, and Territorial Behavior in a Native Songbird," \$825
- Elizabeth K. Mojica, University of Georgia, "Effects of Nest Zone Disturbance on Bald Eagle Territorial Occupancy in Florida: a GIS Approach," \$2,000
- Brandon L. Noel, Georgia Southern University, "The Winter Ecology of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melanotos*) in Coastal Georgia," \$2,000

Congratulations to the graduate students and thanks to Bill Van Esseltine for chairing the Howe Research Grant Committee.

2005 Earth Share Party

By Mark Beebe

An adventure-themed silent auction was just one of the highlights of the 2005 Earth Day Party on April 23rd, benefiting Earth Share of Georgia. The GOS is a member organization receiving funds from Earth Share of Georgia. The Earth Day Party celebrated the contributions local companies and non-profits have made to preserve and protect Georgia's natural heritage. Partygoers helped raise more than \$13,000 for Earth Share by bidding on getaway packages that included everything from a trip to the 2005 Colonial Coastal Birding Festival to a stay at a charming villa in Tuscany, Italy. The party was held at the LEED-CI Platinum Interface Showroom in Midtown Atlanta. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system was originally developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to assess the environmental sustainability of building designs.

ROBERT L. CRAWFORD HONORED AT THE THIRD ANNUAL PINEWOODS BIRD FESTIVAL

By John Swiderski

The Third Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival was held on April 9, 2005, at Pebble Hill Plantation near Thomasville, Georgia. The festival was well attended, the weather was perfect, and the field trips of interest to birders were fully subscribed. During the early morning field trip to nearby Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies, three birds were netted, and participants were able to watch the banding of two of the birds.

Each year the planning committee for the festival identifies a person to be recognized and honored for his or her contributions to ecology, conservation or environmental protection of the Red Hills region of Florida and Georgia. Robert L. (Bobby) Crawford was selected as the honoree this year for his significant and continuing contributions to the knowledge of bird life and species distribution. He was presented with a framed Barn Owl print by Dick Parks in appreciation for his many contributions the past 35 years.

Bobby, a native and lifelong resident of Thomasville, has been a member of GOS since 1962. He is one of those relatively rare GOS members who has kept detailed records of birdlife in an area or region (Thomas County, in his case) and then took the time and effort to write a number of articles published in *The Oriole* describing species occurrences and distribution. His ongoing documentation of Thomas County birdlife first appeared in *The Oriole* in 1973 and was last updated to 1997 in *The Oriole* (63: 1-28). These articles and many additional field notes are not only significant and descriptive of birdlife in Thomas County, but also give us a picture of birdlife in southwestern Georgia as a whole. Since 1970, Bobby has published 85 books, monographs, articles and field notes.

Crawford graduated from the University of Georgia with a BA in history in 1969. He taught school for a short while and then joined the staff of the Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS), which is located in the heart of the Red Hills region between Thomasville and Tallahassee, Florida. During the 15 years that he was associated with TTRS, one of his primary tasks was to continue the long-term

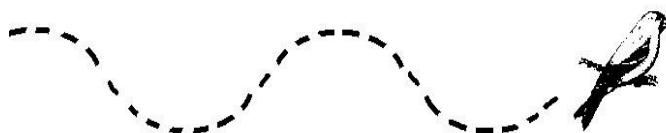


Bobby Crawford (center) receives Barn Owl print from John Swiderski (left) and Todd Engstrom (right) at the Pinewoods Bird Festival.

study of birds killed at the WCTV tower site. This well-known study was initiated by Herbert L. Stoddard in 1955. Crawford also served as museum curator for TTRS during this period and he prepared bird skins on a regular basis.

After Bobby left TTRS in 1985 for other pursuits, he continued to carry out special projects for TTRS upon request. Perhaps the most significant project, completed in 1999, involved the creation of an Excel spreadsheet file listing more than 42,000 birds recovered at the tower site, thus making it possible to easily search for specific records, species trends and the effects of a large, lighted transmitting tower on birdlife.

"The Great Effort: Herbert L. Stoddard and WCTV Tower Study" by Robert L. Crawford, was published by TTRS in 2004 as Miscellaneous Publication No. 14. It is available for purchase for \$10 via the TTRS Web site, www.ttrs.org.

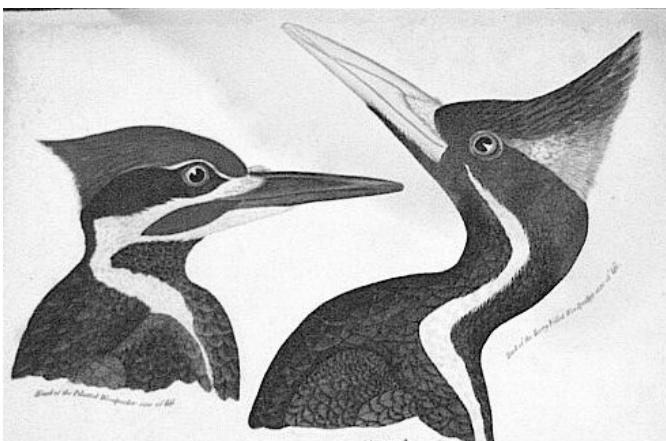


Ivory-billed Woodpecker Rediscovered in Arkansas

By Jim Ferrari

By now every birder worth his or her binocular straps has heard the stunning news that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, thought extinct in North America for 60 years, has been located in the Big Woods of eastern Arkansas. The research paper documenting the discovery, entitled "Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) persists in continental North America," can be viewed at www.scienceexpress.org; this online article has the by now famous video clip of the bird as well as analyses of selected frames from the video. For further details, see the websites of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu/) and the National Audubon Society (www.audubon.org/).

While at least one Ivory-bill is still in the Big Woods, the species is not "out of the woods" yet and may still become extinct. As a reminder of the finality of extinction, and to honor the memory of Georgia's four extinct bird species (Eskimo Curlew, Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon and Bachman's Warbler), the GOShawk is reprinting a poem by David Wagoner, with his permission. Mr. Wagoner is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Washington, Seattle. He has published numerous works of poetry and fiction and was longtime editor of the journal *Poetry Northwest*.



Pileated (left) and Ivory-billed (right) woodpeckers, from Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*, ca. 1808. Plate number 29. (Alexander Wilson, 1766 – 1813)

THE AUTHOR OF *AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY* SKETCHES A BIRD, NOW EXTINCT

By David Wagoner

When he walked through town, the wing-shot bird he'd hidden
Inside his coat began to cry like a baby,
High and plaintive and loud as the calls he'd heard
While hunting it in the woods, and goodwives stared
And scurried indoors to guard their own from harm.

And the innkeeper and the goodmen in the tavern
Asked him whether his child was sick, then laughed.
Slapped knees, and laughed as he unswaddled his
prize,
His prize and burden: an ivory-billed woodpecker
As big as a crow, still wailing and squealing.

Upstairs, when he let it go in his workroom,
It fell silent at last. He told at dinner
How devoted masters of birds drawn from the life
Must gather their flocks around them with a rifle
And make them live forever inside books.

Later, he found his bedspread covered with plaster
And the bird clinging beside a hole in the wall
Clear through to already-splintered weatherboards
And the sky beyond. While he tied one of its legs
To a table leg, it started wailing again.

And went on wailing as if toward cypress groves
While the artist drew and tinted on fine vellum
Its red cockade, gray claws, and sepia eyes
From which a white edge flowed to the lame wing
Like light flying and ended there in blackness.

He drew and studied for days, eating and dreaming
fitfully through the dancing and loud drumming
Of an ivory bill that refused pecans and beetles,
Chestnuts and sweet-sour fruit of magnolias,
Riddling his table, slashing his fingers, wailing.

He watched it die, he said, with great regret.

Reprinted with permission from TRAVELING LIGHT: COLLECTED AND NEW POEMS by David Wagoner (U. of Illinois Press, 1999).

THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA ONLINE

Continual updates and web-based capabilities make the online version of the landmark 18-volume print series a necessity for all researchers and birds enthusiasts

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a nonprofit membership institution devoted to the study of birds, announces the launch of The Birds of North America Online (BNA Online), the “live” version of the landmark, 18-volume print series of more than 700 species, *The Birds of North America: Life Histories for the 21st Century* (BNA). BNA Online is a powerful new research tool that is fully interactive and searchable with linked citations, digital images, and full video and sound. For the first time, users can search by species, topic or keyword; access up-to-date information and the latest scientific findings on North America’s breeding birds; view videos of diagnostic bird behaviors; and listen to the songs and calls of each bird.

Alan Poole, editor of BNA Online, reported: “BNA is quickly becoming the standard reference for anyone interested in life history information on North America’s breeding birds. From migration, to food habits, to plumage details, to life at the nest – it’s all there in BNA Online, available 24/7 with just the click of a mouse.” Where do Blackburnian Warblers winter? Where do Least Sandpipers nest? Do kingfishers eat anything other than fish? How big is an Osprey nest? What do Blue-headed Vireos feed their young? What do we really know about the nesting habits of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker? Have a question about a North American bird? BNA has the answer.

Subscribe today and help build GOS promote the conservation of birds. Every subscription (\$40) to BNA brings \$10 to GOS. For more information and to try the free sample species accounts, visit the BNA Online website by going to GOS.org and clicking on the BNA link.

About the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institution whose mission is to interpret and conserve the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. The lab has been a partner in The Birds of North America since 1995, and a major supporter of its development.

GOS Habitat Conservation “Calling Cards”

By Carol Lambert, GOS Conservation Chair

In an effort to get the word out in Georgia that birders care about habitat conservation and are also an economic force that needs to be recognized, GOS will soon have business-type cards for its members to distribute in their travels throughout the state. This isn't an original idea, but one that we have seen in other states and think is worthwhile. To start, there will be two cards, one with a general conservation message and one specifically designed to address imminent threats to habitat on Jekyll Island. As other areas of concern are targeted by GOS, area- or issue-specific cards will be provided for distribution in those areas.

This may seem like a quiet way to get the word out. But we believe that we can make a strong statement by having our members leave these cards in restaurants, stores, hotels, visitors' centers, gas stations, etc., as we travel around Georgia. Yes, we realize that many will be thrown away or ignored; however, we hope that many recipients of the cards will realize the importance of what we're saying and let it be known to their colleagues, legislators, rotary clubs, civic associations, etc. We are especially hopeful that the Jekyll Island Authority will be covered up with these cards.

Below is the message that will start this campaign. Bird graphics will be added. The cards will be provided free to members. When the cards are available and we've decided how to get them to members as soon as possible, the information will be posted on the GOS website and in the September GOShawk. Please get involved in this project on behalf of the bird life of Georgia.

A birdwatcher has visited your business. My friends and I come here (*or visit Jekyll Island*) to enjoy the birds and the natural environment they depend upon for their survival. Destruction of the natural habitats in this area will reduce our reasons for visiting your community.

Please support nature conservation activities
in this beautiful area!
Thank you.

From a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society
(www.gos.org)



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Yellow Warbler by Mike Hopiak/CLO



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Enjoy BNA and
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SUPPORT THE COASTAL BIRDING FESTIVAL

By Dorothy Bambach

Those of you who have attended the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival on Jekyll Island know what a treat birding coastal Georgia is. The festival will be held again October 7-9, 2005, but needs additional financial support to keep its activities going. If you would be willing to sponsor any of the following items, please contact Dot Bambach at 912-598-3764 or dot-bam@bellsouth.net.

Sponsors will be given special recognition for funding any of the following:

Festival Registration – cost of an online registration system and telephone lines: \$3,000.

Brochures – printing and mailing expenses for our program brochure: \$3,000.

Outreach – cost of display ads in national, regional and local media: \$5,000.

Website maintenance: \$200.

“Adopt an Island” – support a Festival field trip to the barrier island of your choice: \$1,500 each

- Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Cumberland Island National Seashore
- Little St. Simons Island
- Ossabaw Island
- Wassau Island National Wildlife Refuge

Seminars – choose from 15 nature-related topics to support: \$200 each.

Overnight accommodations for field trip leaders and seminar speakers, where needed: \$100 each.

Friday “Toast to the Coast” – light refreshments and social hour for Festival participants: \$1000.

Musician for Friday social hour: \$150.

Sunday “Fun Day” – programs and activities offered at no charge to children and the general public: \$1,000.

Raptor Show – Georgia Southern University’s free-to-the-public program showcasing live birds of prey: \$2500.

Turtle Talk – free-to-the-public educational program about Georgia’s sea turtles: \$175.

Reptile Show -- free-to-the-public educational program featuring live snakes and lizards: \$175.

“Loaner” binoculars for children – for use on special nature walks for kids: \$40 each or \$1000 for an entire school class.

Field Guides for children – a pocket guide to common Georgia birds to help kids learn more about birds: \$30 for 5 guides.

Disposable cameras for children – for use on nature walks for kids: \$50 for 10 cameras.

Audio-visual equipment rentals – for use at multiple venues during the Festival: \$700.

Audio-visual equipment carts – for seminar rooms and exhibit area: \$20 each.

Tables and chairs – for children’s activity area and seminar rooms: \$25 each.

Laptop computer – for PowerPoint presentations and registration support: \$1,600.

Exhibit area set-up costs: \$1,000.

Electrical outlets in exhibit hall: \$45 each.

Address Changes

If your address changes, please notify us directly by mail (P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645) or by e-mail (angela_mcmellen@yahoo.com). As a non-profit organization, we are able to mail items to you at a bulk (i.e., discounted) rate. This is a great cost savings for us, but it means that our items WILL NOT be forwarded to you if you move. We do not want you to miss out on any of our newsletters, meeting announcements, or journals!

2005 Spring Meeting Species Checklist

List compiled by Bill Lotz

The complete list of the 146 species seen or heard at the recent GOS Meeting in Columbus is presented below. This is exceeded only by the total of 148 at Augusta in 2003 for a spring meeting in recent years. Please make your plans now to attend the next GOS Meeting in Tallahassee, Florida (Wakulla Springs SP and St. Marks NWR), which will be held January 27-29, 2006.

Snow Goose	Caspian Tern	Swallow	Scarlet Tanager
Canada Goose	Forster's Tern	Bank Swallow	Eastern Towhee
Wood Duck	Rock Pigeon	Cliff Swallow	Bachman's Sparrow
Mallard	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Barn Swallow	Chipping Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Mourning Dove	Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Wild Turkey	Common Ground-Dove	Tufted Titmouse	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	White-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Eastern Screech-Owl	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Great Horned Owl	Carolina Wren	White-throated Sparrow
Anhinga	Barred Owl	Sedge Wren	Northern Cardinal
American Bittern	Common Nighthawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Great Blue Heron	Chuck-will's-widow	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Great Egret	Whip-poor-will	Eastern Bluebird	Indigo Bunting
Snowy Egret	Chimney Swift	Veery	Bobolink
Little Blue Heron	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Cattle Egret	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Eastern Meadowlark
Green Heron	Red-headed Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Rusty Blackbird
Wood Stork	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird	Common Grackle
Black Vulture	Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Brown-headed Cowbird
Turkey Vulture	Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling	Orchard Oriole
Osprey	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	American Pipit	House Finch
Swallow-tailed Kite	Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	American Goldfinch
Mississippi Kite	Pileated Woodpecker	Blue-winged Warbler	House Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Northern Parula	
Northern Harrier	Acadian Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Cooper's Hawk	Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Kingbird	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Broad-winged Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike	Pine Warbler	
Red-tailed Hawk	White-eyed Vireo	Prairie Warbler	
American Kestrel	Yellow-throated Vireo	Palm Warbler	
Sora	Blue-headed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler	
Common Moorhen	Red-eyed Vireo	Black-and-white Warbler	
American Coot	Blue Jay	Prothonotary Warbler	
Killdeer	American Crow	Worm-eating Warbler	
Greater Yellowlegs	Fish Crow	Swainson's Warbler	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Purple Martin	Northern Waterthrush	
Solitary Sandpiper	Tree Swallow	Louisiana Waterthrush	
Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Rough-winged	Kentucky Warbler	
Pectoral Sandpiper		Common Yellowthroat	
Wilson's Snipe		Hooded Warbler	
Ring-billed Gull		Yellow-breasted Chat	
		Summer Tanager	



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

TO: Georgia Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 181
High Shoals, GA 30645

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:
Angela McMellen, GOS, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645

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