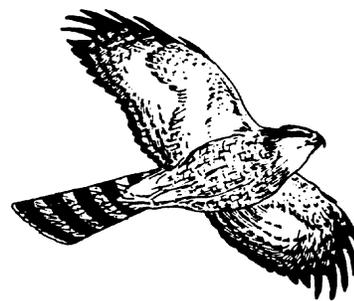


GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society



Georgia Rare Bird Alert: (770) 493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

President's Message: "Change is the Only Constant"

Bob Sargent

I often use this column to bring you up to date concerning GOS business, and this time around is no exception to that rule. First of all, major changes are about to occur inside *The Oriole*. Bob Chandler will be stepping down as editor following the publication of the next issue, which should appear in October. Bob has done an admirable job attempting to steer the journal back on schedule, and the editorial and executive committees extend our gratitude to him for his countless hours of hard work and selfless dedication to getting the job done right. One of the changes we made to the executive committee this year was to remove the journal editor as a member, thus making it possible for GOS to provide some compensation to Bob (and future editors) per journal issue, but he wouldn't accept it. Bob, thank you for volunteering to take on this steep challenge two years ago, and for all the patience and professionalism you showed in coping with much commentary and some criticism.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

October 13-15, 2006, Jekyll Island
www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org

2007 GOS Winter Meeting

January 12-14, 2007
 Tybee Island, Georgia
(see page 7)

Marion Dobbs has also decided to leave her post with the journal, where she has been serving as chair of the editorial committee for three years. Because I was on Marion's committee, and editing manuscripts requires a mind-numbing devotion to worrying about microscopic details, she and I exchanged enough e-mails about comma splices and heading formats to crash a standard personal computer. Marion, thank you for your limitless skills, attention to detail, diplomatic gifts and great sense of humor. I'm sorry you sided in favor of chasing lesser creatures.

Sara Schweitzer and I will assume co-editor responsibilities of the journal in 2007. We'll update the journal contact information on the website soon, but for now, **manuscripts should be mailed to me at: 105 Pointer Court, Warner Robins, GA, 31088.**

(continued on page 3)

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

On a different note, we've adjusted the rates for our various membership levels over the past year to bring them in line with those of similar societies, and, as I hope you've noticed by now, we've even come up with some "birdy" names for those levels (e.g., Bachman's Sparrow = regular level). What we didn't do was make a likewise adjustment to our life member rate (i.e., Northern Goshawk), which hasn't been increased in many years and isn't in concert with the same membership level for many other ornithological societies. In short, we've decided to raise the rate for life membership to \$400 (individual and family), effective January 1, 2007. If you have been considering signing up for life membership, but just haven't quite gotten around to it, it's not too late yet to get the \$300 rate. Look for our membership brochures at our display table in The Rookery at next month's Festival.

Speaking of the Festival, the fourth chapter of that remarkable story is about to unfold. It's hard to believe just how far this three-day event has come since a group of people got together over the winter of 2002-03 and pondered, "What if?" The advent and success of the Festival, as you know, has meant the demise of GOS' fall meeting – a long-time tradition. The decision to temporarily shelve our fall meeting in order to give the Festival a chance was one none of us took lightly. However, we realized at the time that Georgia needed to have its own major birding event, just as some of our neighboring states do, that GOS could play an important role in helping to ensure its success, that we certainly couldn't afford to be the sole sponsor of the Festival and that competing with it could hurt GOS as well as the Festival. We realized, too, that a successful Festival would attract birders from throughout the Southeast and maybe from other parts of the country, in essence putting Georgia on the national birding map. Along the way, everyone associated with the Festival had hoped that business owners would sit up

and take notice, recognizing the financial windfall a few hundred passionate birders could bring to a small community. The rationale involved, of course, is that the birding community might get added support for local conservation issues from non-birders if the latter better appreciated the potential financial ramifications of those issues.

Now we're approaching the weekend of the fourth Festival, and its field trips and programs are attracting birders from across the country. Additionally, community support for the Festival is growing. I mention these facts because a few birders have expressed a longing for a return of our fall meeting tradition, meaning a smaller meeting than the Festival, with GOS-specific field trips. The executive committee has devoted much discussion to this issue, and our consensus is that GOS should stay the course, supporting the Festival and the diverse interests which work so hard to ensure that event's success each year.

We realize that winter meetings will never replace our fall meetings in terms of bird diversity and abundance, but the birding and the camaraderie in Gunter'sville and Tallahassee were high caliber, not to mention the scenery, and the upcoming four-day meeting in January on Tybee Island promises to be even better. If you haven't been attending the Festival, you're missing great birding and great programs, and you're also missing a weekend with many birders (GOS and non-GOS) you've known for years. You're also missing the chance to meet and bird with many non-Georgians. If you haven't attended one of our winter meetings, come embrace our new tradition. Join us on Tybee in January. I look forward to seeing you in the field.



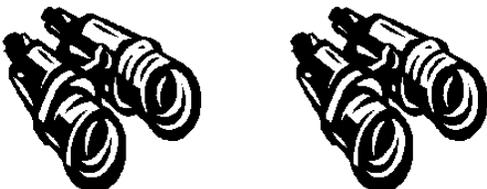
The Birders' Exchange Program Meets the Birding Festival

Steve Holzman
GOS Business Manager

The Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) is coordinating the collection of birding equipment to assist the American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange program. The ABA describes the goal of the Birders' Exchange program in this quote from their website:

"To successfully address Neotropical migratory bird issues, good science and public awareness are essential. However, in the Neotropics, many researchers, educators, and conservationists work without the most basic equipment. The ABA addresses this need for equipment and educational tools and contributes to bird conservation through its Birders' Exchange program. Birders' Exchange takes new and used birding equipment and educational materials and matches it with local scientists, conservationists, and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean." (<http://www.americanbirding.org/bex/index.html>)

Bring your new or used birding equipment (see box at right) to the GOS booth at this year's Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival (<http://www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org>), and we'll get it to the Birders' Exchange at ABA. Go a step further and help us by collecting equipment at your next Audubon chapter meeting. If you need help getting it to Jekyll Island, contact me and I'll make sure it gets there. We should be able to make a great contribution to help conserve our neotropical migrants on their increasingly fragile wintering grounds. If you have any questions I can be contacted at steve_holzman@yahoo.com.



Donate to the Birders' Exchange

- * Binoculars — *we are especially in need of rubber armored and/or waterproof binoculars*
- * Digital cameras
- * GPS units
- * Spotting scopes
- * Tripods
- * Field guides to Neotropical birds
- * Field guides to North American birds
- * Ornithology texts
- * Laptop computers
- * Backpacks

In Memoriam, John Ripley Forbes

John Ripley Forbes passed away at age 93 on August 26, 2006, in Atlanta. Forbes devoted most of his life to establishing nature centers, nature preserves and museums across the United States, more than 200 in all. If you have enjoyed birding and other activities at centers such as Chattahoochee, Cochran Mill, Dunwoody and Sandy Creek, or at preserves including Autry Mill, Reynolds and Big Trees Forest — all in Georgia — they are here for us to enjoy because of Forbes.

Forbes first came to Atlanta in 1946 to help establish the original Fernbank Science Center, and during that visit he met his future wife, Margaret Sanders. In 1971 they moved to Atlanta where Mr. Forbes continued to direct the activities of the Natural Science for Youth Foundation and the Southeast Land Preservation Trust. He joined GOS in 1976 and later became a life member.

In 1989 Forbes was a leader in the fight to preserve a large tract of wooded land in Sandy Springs. This natural treasure is now known as the John Ripley Forbes Big Trees Forest Preserve. A more complete biography of this remarkable man is available on the website of the forest preserve, www.bigtreesforest.com.

Carbofuran Pesticide Finally Banned by Environmental Protection Agency

Carol Lambert

GOS Conservation Chair

The highly toxic pesticide, carbofuran (manufactured and sold by the FMC Corporation, under the trade names Furadan, Curater, Bay 70143, Furacarb, and Rampart), has finally been banned by the EPA. The announcement was made on August 3 after many years of review and the deaths of millions of birds, including eagles, other raptors and migratory songbirds. As of now, it has been banned for 98 percent of its main uses (alfalfa, corn, cotton, potatoes and rice), with a four year phaseout of the other 2 percent considered minor crops (sunflowers, artichokes, chili peppers, cucumbers, spinach for seed and pine seedlings). This cancellation also applies to use on most major imported agricultural products, preventing its use on those crops.

However, according to the American Bird Conservancy, North American migratory birds are still at risk of exposure to carbofuran while on their wintering grounds in Latin America. International attention and cooperation are needed to address pesticide use in all of the Americas to protect migratory birds adequately. Although it is one of the most heavily used insecticides in the world, the extreme toxicity of this chemical not only to wildlife but also to farm workers makes it very dangerous to use. It is hoped that the EPA cancellation will have a domino effect internationally, since other countries often follow the EPA lead.

Carbofuran was introduced into our environment in 1967 and has been considered the greatest chemical threat to wild birds since DDT and dieldrin were banned in the early 1970s. Although carbofuran has been a "restricted use" pesticide, up to two million pounds of the liquid form has been used annually in the U.S. The granular form, which is especially dangerous for birds, was largely phased out in 1994. More than 100 species of birds, in addition to mammals and fish, have been documented as having died from carbofuran poisoning. They are susceptible to the chemical from direct spraying, ingestion of granules or contaminated drinking water and from the consumption of contaminated prey. Some of the bird species hardest hit have been Bald Eagles, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Pintails, Fulvous Whistling Duck, American Wigeon, Northern Bobwhite, American Robin, Owls, Swallows, Grackles, Killdeer and Kestrels.

This decision is considered by many to be long overdue. In 1989 the EPA estimated that one to two million birds were killed annually by carbofuran, making it responsible for more bird deaths than any other pesticide. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that the EPA cancel all registrations for this chemical in 1992, having stated that "there are no known circumstances under which carbofuran can be used without killing birds." According to the EPA's own analysis, carbofuran is a threat to human health through contaminated food, drinking water and occupational exposure.

As we puzzle over why such an obvious decision has taken so long, consider the following information from the American Bird Conservancy:

In 1974 Congress passed the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), to require stricter controls on pesticides and to encourage the development of less toxic alternatives to older chemicals. More than 1,000 alternative pesticides have since been registered, but a few "dinosaur chemicals," such as carbofuran, have remained on the market because they were grandfathered into the regulations when FIFRA was passed.

In 1996 Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act, which set higher standards for pesticide registration and residues in food, and gave EPA a deadline of ten years to re-evaluate the most dangerous pesticides. This announcement by the EPA to cancel the registration of carbofuran came on the precise day of the ten-year deadline. Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence of carbofuran's extreme toxicity and the availability of better alternatives, the manufacturer fought all efforts on the part of the EPA and conservationists to have the chemical banned.

According to information on the website of the watchdog organization Beyond Pesticides (www.beyondpesticides.org), the cancellation of the carbofuran registration by the EPA may not be the final word. If the manufacturer, FMC Corporation, does not voluntarily withdraw the registration and decides to challenge this decision in court, it could continue to sell and distribute this pesticide for years throughout the world. FMC has an interesting *Code of Ethics & Business Conduct*, which can be found on their website: www.fmc.com.

In Memoriam, David Jackson “Jack” Dozier

Jack Dozier passed away after a lengthy illness on July 28, 2006, at his home in Alligator Point, Florida. He was 61 and had been a member of GOS for 26 years.

Long before becoming a GOS member, Jack was a very active field birder in his native Thomasville, Georgia, and surrounding areas. In 1958, when he was 13, he came under the tutelage of ornithologist Henry M. Stevenson of Florida State University, who instilled in Jack the discipline of regular, systematic bird counts coupled with accurate record keeping. Jack and his companions quickly put these techniques to work in acquiring a remarkable portrait of the birdlife of Thomas County, mostly while they were in their early teens and on bicycles.

Jack's field work and meticulous records were a major contribution to the first account of the birdlife of Thomas County by Crawford and Dozier, published in 1973 in *The Oriole* (Volume 38, pages 13 – 27).

Jack worked in sales, briefly in Roanoke, Virginia and in Jacksonville, Florida, and for many years in Tampa, Florida. He contributed to the Archbold Biological Station's survey of Florida Scrub-Jay distribution, took part in many different Christmas Bird Counts and made birding forays throughout the U.S. (and once, memorably, into Mexico).

In the early 1990s Jack relocated to Alligator Point, in Franklin County, Florida, where he became a successful real estate agent while still pursuing his bird activities. He compiled a valuable archive of local bird records and entertained a stream of Georgia and Florida birders with his friendship, wit, bird knowledge, and his wonderful panoramic bird window in his home. He was also active in conservation issues and was instrumental in the establishment of The Nature Conservancy's Phipps Preserve at Alligator Point.

In 2004, with his health declining, Jack embarked on a four-month, 30,000-mile birding odyssey that ranged all over the U.S. and parts of Canada. His goal was to see 700 species of birds in North America without going to Alaska. He fell just short, attaining about 684 species. Nevertheless, what

he managed to see and photograph, almost entirely from his vehicle, was truly remarkable. He showed what a handicapped person could accomplish with determination, superb optics and a good four-wheel drive vehicle.

During the last months of his life, Jack continued to spend as much time as possible at his bird window, keeping track of the birds, the unusual flock of white squirrels and, once, a visit from a bear. Jack's many friends have lost a great companion and a font of bird lore.

Contributions to this memorial were made by his long-time friends, Robert L. Crawford and John Murphy, and by John Swiderski.

Want to Win a Free Birding Trip to Ecuador? Richard Parks Young Adults' ABA Quito Conference Scholarship

What is it? GOS wants to help young adults learn about the fascinating and fun hobby of bird watching (birding). We are offering one scholarship to an interested young person (age 19-26) to attend the American Birding Association's (ABA) Conference in Quito, Ecuador, September 1-7, 2007. This is an extraordinary opportunity for a young birder to experience the thrill of birding in the valleys, foothills and cloud forests of the Ecuadorian Andes. You will have the opportunity to see as many as 250 species, from Andean Condors to Toucan Barbets. For more information about the conference, visit the ABA website:
<http://www.americanbirding.org/mtgs/conferences/2007quito/>

How will GOS help? GOS will pay the registration fee and up to \$1,000 to cover the travel expenses for one young birder. The registration fee covers the cost of food and lodging, as well as five birding trips and round-trip transportation to and from the airport in Quito. GOS will make arrangements with ABA to register the scholarship recipient. The recipient will need to make his/her own travel arrangements.

What do you have to do to apply? The applicant must be age 19-26 during the period of the conference, and must be a Georgia resident. The interested birder must fill out the application (<http://www.gos.org/grants/parks.html>) and write an essay (minimum 300 words) explaining why he/she is interested in birds and birding, what he/she plans to do with the knowledge gained from going to the conference and how he/she will

(continued on page 7)

Parks Scholarship *(continued from page 6)*

spread interest in birding to friends, including recruiting friends to join GOS. Three letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application.

What do you have to do for GOS? The recipient of this scholarship must write an article for the GOS newsletter (*GOShawk*) when he/she returns home describing the birding conference experience, and present a poster about the conference at a GOS meeting. The recipient will also serve a one-year term on the GOS education committee, assisting that committee with providing information to the public about birding.

When should you apply? The deadline for submitting your application, essay and letters of recommendation is November 30, 2006. The winner of this scholarship will be selected by December 15.

Where do you apply? Send your application paperwork to: Robert Sargent (Parks Scholarships), 105 Pointer Court, Warner Robins, GA, 31088.



Need an Excuse to Go to the Beach?

Bob Sargent

Our first two winter meetings were a great success, but they involved long road trips to Guntersville and Tallahassee. This time around we're staying "home" for this meeting, which will be held on Tybee Island January 12-15, 2007. That's right: It will be a four-day weekend of birding (on an island!), because it will coincide with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Last time we met in the Savannah area, we stayed at a hotel in the city and held the meeting on Skidaway Island. The meeting was very popular and the species tally was terrific, but the commute in heavy traffic between the hotel and the island wasn't so entertaining. So we've learned our lesson, and this time the meeting and lodging will be combined at the Ocean Plaza Beach Resort on Tybee Island. (We'll send details to you soon.)

The Friday night program for this meeting will be presented by Renee Carleton, DVM and PhD student at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Renee is the

recipient of one of our 2006 H. Branch Howe Jr. Graduate Student Research Grants, and will present a program on her project, "Disease Ecology of Eastern Bluebirds in Northwest Georgia."

On Saturday night, following the banquet, our featured speaker will be Christopher Cokinos, author of *Hope is the Thing with Feathers*, a book which hauntingly details the slow demise of six bird species (Passenger Pigeon, Carolina Parakeet, etc.), but still manages to convey a powerful message of hope for the future conservation of rare bird species.

Of course, it goes without saying that there will be many field trips to some great birding spots around the Savannah area, and, as a bonus, we are scheduling two pelagic trips, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, with Monday as a "weather day." More information about the pelagic trips will be posted on the GOS website and on the GABO listserv in the fall.

Now that we've got you in an island frame of mind, how about joining us on Jekyll Island for our spring meeting April 20-22, 2007? For years we've been programmed to point our cars toward Jekyll in the fall, but it has been four years since we had a GOS meeting there, and a much longer time since we had a spring meeting there.

We're still working on the details, but I can tell you now that we will be headquartered at the Buccaneer Inn, and our featured speaker for banquet night will be Alan Tennant, author of *On the Wing: to the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon*. Alan's book describes his astonishing attempt to follow radio-instrumented falcons from their capture site on the Texas coast both to the Arctic and to Central America — with a small airplane! If Alan's presentation even remotely resembles his book, it's safe to say the audience will be in for quite a ride.

So are you doing anything interesting in January and April? I bet I know where you will be!



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:

_____	Bachman's Sparrow (Regular)	\$20.00
_____	Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Sustaining)	\$30.00
_____	Northern Bobwhite (Patron)	\$50.00

(The above are annual rates for individuals or families; below are rates for individuals only)

_____	Fledgling (Student)	\$10.00
_____	Northern Goshawk (Life Membership)	\$300.00

_____ Please send me a list of publications available from the GOS.

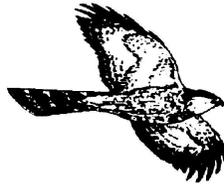
NAME(S):

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL CHANGES TO:
Libby Mojica, GOS, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645

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