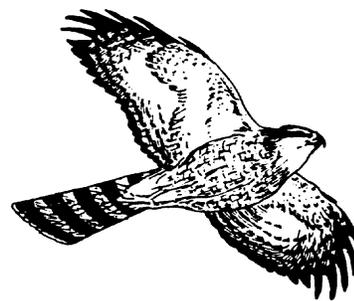


# GOShawk

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: "Report to the Membership"

By Bob Sargent

It has been several months since I last brought you up to date concerning GOS business matters, so I'll take this opportunity to do so again now, and by doing so will describe for you our game plan for this year. Our attention at the moment is focused primarily on all the scheduling details associated with our joint meeting with the Florida Ornithological Society in Brunswick in April, and some of our folks are also assisting with the planning of the upcoming Pinewoods Birding Festival (see the article in the December newsletter). At the same time, members of our executive committee are assisting the team of talented folks down on the coast with the planning for this year's coastal birding festival, scheduled for October 12-14.

If you are familiar with the coastal festival format and are planning to attend this year's event, and I hope you do, you should expect to see several changes in the way this one will operate as compared to the previous four. First of all, the cost of

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Spring 2007 FOS/GOS Meeting

April 20-22, 2007  
Brunswick, Georgia  
(see page 5)

a few of the field trips will be increased, and there will be limitations placed on how many island trips each registrant can register for. However, you should see an increase in the number of field trips being scheduled for some of the most popular destinations. Please understand that the intention here isn't to make festival field trips inconvenient or prohibitively expensive for anyone. This three-day event is very expensive to organize and pay for, and the festival committee needs to ensure that those expenses can be covered each year. We realize that some people continue to miss out on participating in the "greatest hits" field trips such as Little St. Simons Island and St. Catherines Island, which is why we are limiting the number of island trips per person and increasing the number of trips available to the hottest destinations.

Just as we are doing with the upcoming Brunswick meeting, we will also be encouraging folks who have previously visited the most popular islands to give others a chance to visit them. As for the registration process itself, one of the comments we've heard is that people who register for trips via "snail mail" are at a disadvantage compared to those who register online. The festival committee took this complaint seriously, investigated, and found out that it isn't true. The playing field is most certainly level. The festival, much like other public

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## **Georgia Ornithological Society**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Anne Mursch
<i>Secretary</i>	Dan Vickers
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeannie Wright
<i>Business Manager</i>	Steve Holzman
<i>Historian</i>	John Swiderski
<i>Past President</i>	Gail Russell
<i>The Oriole, Co-Editors</i>	Sara Schweitzer Bob Sargent
<i>GOShawk, Editor</i>	Jim Ferrari
<i>GOShawk, Asst. Editor</i>	Mim Eisenberg (www.wordcraftservices.com)
<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

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<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	
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Bill Van Esseltine	706-543-3072
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of the month prior to publication.  
Text by e-mail is appreciated.

## **Welcome, New Members!**

### **Northern Goshawk Members**

Steve Holzman Bishop, GA

### **Northern Bobwhite Members**

Lanny and Diane Hoyal Macon, GA

### **Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

Dr. Alison Beringer	Tuscon, AZ
Laurie and Marshall Jackson	Dublin, GA
Jeremy and Jennifer Stout	Johnson City, TN
Dr. Rick Wright	Tuscon, AZ

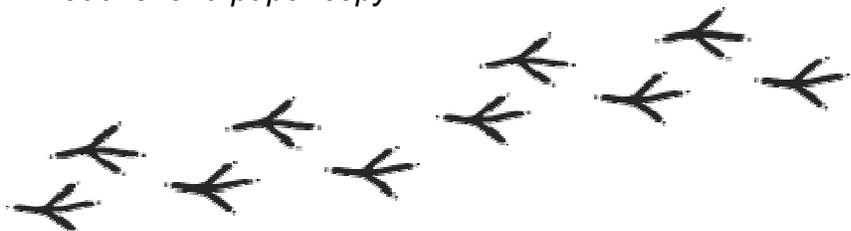
### **Bachman's Sparrow Members**

Victor Carpenter	Savannah, GA
Fitz and Rebecca Clarke	Savannah, GA
Robert H. Cowart	Alpharetta, GA
Doreen Cubie	Awendaw, SC
William Dopson	McRae, GA
Kathryn S. Ginett	Savannah, GA
Mike Grieneisen	Davis, CA
Sandra Morgan	Savannah, GA
Kathryn Morrison	Canton, GA
Allison Reid	Atlanta, GA
Kathy Schaefer	Savannah, GA
Peggie Simmons	Cumming, GA
Regi and Stuart Sonnen	Savannah, GA

### **Fledgling Members**

Cynthia Chan	Statesboro, GA
Colleen E. Sacco	Statesboro, GA
Kate Spear	Athens, GA
Jared Zimmerman	Statesboro, GA

*The 2006 GOS membership list is available electronically via e-mail or as a hard copy. Please send your request to [membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org) (Allison Reid) for an e-mail copy or to GOS, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645 for a paper copy.*



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

attractions such as museum exhibits, needs to grow and evolve every year if we are going to keep it fresh, continue to attract our birding community, and continue to build Georgia's growing nationwide reputation as a great birding destination. We know that some of you have ideas concerning how the festival should be evolving. Please share those ideas with me, Bill, or Dan. This is your festival.

On a different note, our three grants committees are as busy as they've ever been reviewing proposals from graduate students, professional ornithologists, and citizen scientists. We anticipate awarding nearly \$28,000 in grant money this year to support research, conservation, and public education projects. Additionally, we're considering matching funds with wildlife management agencies on behalf of projects designed to better understand conservation needs of key shorebird species, promote conservation of birds and their habitats on private property, and expand the number of Breeding Bird Survey routes being conducted in the state. Finally, we just formally awarded the first Richard Parks Young Birder's Conference Scholarship to DeeAnne Meliopoulos, a student at the University of Georgia. DeeAnne was selected from a pool of four outstanding applicants for this scholarship, and GOS will be paying her expenses so she can attend ABA's birding conference in Quito, Ecuador, this September. DeeAnne, in turn, has committed to helping GOS recruit more students to our membership in the future, as part of our emphasis on recruiting young birders to the Society and to ornithology. Our efforts in this arena are paying dividends, as the number of student members in the Society has increased dramatically over the past 12 months, as has our total membership – we now have nearly 580 members, a record for GOS.

In previous issues of this newsletter, I wrote about GOS' possible involvement in assisting state and

federal agencies with the purchase of sensitive habitats; we haven't written off this idea and, in fact, have developed a set of criteria concerning the qualities we would look for in any land being considered for acquisition. However, as anyone who has monitored habitat acquisition efforts in Georgia will tell you, you can't get much with a budget the size of ours. If an exceptional piece of property becomes available for purchase, meets our criteria, and a contribution from GOS can make the difference between saving or losing the property, then by all means we should consider diving into the fray. However, we shouldn't rush into assisting with land acquisition just for the sake of doing so, especially when one considers how GOS can support valuable conservation projects such as those I described above for years to come if we invest our budget wisely and operate off the interest (and rest assured – we have).

All of our ideas and initiatives, of course, are always evaluated against the Society's stated mission: ". . . to encourage the scientific study of birds by gathering and disseminating information on Georgia bird life. GOS actively promotes bird conservation by encouraging the preservation of habitats that are vital to the survival of resident and migratory birds. The GOS also gives scholarships, produces scientific publications, and provides fellowship among those interested in nature." In keeping with the bird conservation theme of our mission statement, we are working closely with other conservation groups across the state to ensure a united voice is heard on behalf of saving sensitive habitats on Jekyll Island, and we hope that this united voice will set a precedent – combining the efforts of the entire conservation community in the future on behalf of birds and their habitats throughout Georgia. This, too, is a critical part of our game plan for this year. I hope to see you in the field soon.

### 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 Allison Reid, GOS Membership Chair, at [membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org).

## Bob and Martha Sargent – 2007 Greene Award Recipients

By John Swiderski

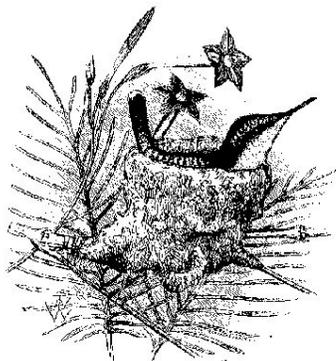
In recognition of their outstanding achievement in ornithology, particularly their work with hummingbirds, Bob and Martha Sargent received the 2007 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award at the Tybee winter meeting, January 13, 2007. Theirs is the 32<sup>nd</sup> Greene award given by GOS.

The Sargents developed a passionate interest in birds when Bob earned his bander's permit more than 25 years ago. They operate the well-known banding station at Ft. Morgan, Alabama, where, with the help of numerous "band-aides," they capture and band more than 5,000 birds annually during spring and fall migration. They are eager to share their passion and excitement about birds with the public and use the banding station as a hands-on teaching tool, especially for children.

As Bob points out in the introduction to his definitive book, *Ruby-throated Hummingbird*, "What started in 1982 as a love of watching hummingbirds feeding on the flowers in my yard somehow got out of control." Bob came to realize that our knowledge of hummingbirds was far from complete. He applied for the special hummingbird banding permit, which he received in 1987. At the time there were less than 40 such permits in the world. Bob and Martha first worked with hummingbirds in their native Alabama; currently, they are certified in 22 states and the District of Columbia to work with hummingbirds and have banded well over 20,000 of these tiny birds!

Consider some numerical aspects of their accomplishments during the past 20 years. They band more than 800 Ruby-throats at their home near Trussville, Alabama, each year. As you might imagine, their back yard is hummingbird friendly, with numerous feeders and appropriate plantings. This wonderful home site has become a training facility for others, and to date they have successfully trained 57 banders who operate throughout the Americas. Included in this number are Georgia banders Terry Johnson and Rusty Trump.

The Sargents' study of winter hummingbirds in the Southeast has been equally important in increasing our knowledge of these tiny birds and has contributed to many a life list entry along the way. Their efforts have resulted in the identification and documentation of more than 60 first state records representing 15 different species of hummingbirds. Last winter they and their research team captured more than 500 wintering hummingbirds in the eastern United States.



As is the case with the Ft. Morgan banding station, Bob and Martha are eager to share their knowledge, presenting hummingbird lectures, seminars, and wonderfully illustrated programs reaching some 22,000 people annually. They were recognized by the American Birding Association in 2003 when they received the prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for Outstanding Contribution to Regional Ornithology.

Some 12 years ago, Bob and Martha established the Hummer/Bird Study Group, Inc., now over 2,000 members strong. More information about them, their activities, membership, and sales items is available on the website, [www.hummingbirdsplus.org](http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org).



John Swiderski (at left) with 2007 Greene Award winners Martha and Bob Sargent.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### All-Women's Birding Bust

The seventh All-Women's Birding Bust will be conducted on Saturday, April 28, 2007. This event is open to all female participants whether they are beginning birders or experienced. The \$8 registration fee covers a T-shirt for each birder. Go to [www.birdingadventuresinc.com](http://www.birdingadventuresinc.com) for more information and to sign up.

### Pinewoods Bird Festival

The 5th Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival takes place April 13-15, 2007, at Pebble Hill Plantation, just south of Thomasville, Georgia. Complete festival information is available on the website, [www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com](http://www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com).

## Spring 2007 Joint FOS/GOS Meeting in Brunswick

By Bill Lotz

The Spring 2007 Joint Meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society and the Florida Ornithological Society will be held in Brunswick, Georgia, from Friday, April 20, through Sunday, April 22, 2007. Our headquarters hotel is the Park Inn Brunswick. The registration desk will open in the lobby of that hotel at 3:00 PM on Friday, April 20, 2007.

On Friday there will be field trips to Little St. Simons Island and the Glennville Water Treatment Facility in Glennville, Georgia. Dinner on Friday is on your own. The Friday night program will begin at 7:30 PM and will be presented by Rick Wright, editor of *Winging It*, the Newsletter of the American Birding Association. Rick's talk is entitled "RTP's RBI: How Roger Tory Peterson Founded American Birding, Twice." The talk is about how the 1980 "new Peterson" changed birding's social aspect even more than the 1934 edition. (By the way, 2006 was the 10th anniversary of Peterson's death, and 2008 will be the 100th anniversary of his birth.)

Field trip destinations on Saturday and Sunday include Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Jekyll Island State Park, Little St. Simons Island, Sapelo Island, Paulk's Pasture Wildlife Management Area, Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, St. Catherines Island and, of course, the Brunswick area. We are trying a new procedure for this meeting: there will be

a reservation form included with the registration packet, and field trips should be reserved in advance.

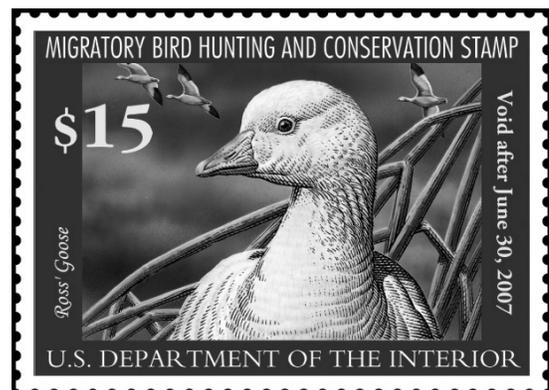
A poster session featuring various avian research projects in the Southeast will take place Saturday night from 5:00–7:00 PM. The Social Hour will begin Saturday night at 6:00 PM, and the banquet will start at 7:00 PM. Our featured speaker is Alan Tennant, who will talk about his book *On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon*, National Best Seller, *New York Times* Best Seller, *Washington Post's* "50 Best Books of 2004", *New York Times'* "Notable Book, 2004", New York Public Library Award and Finalist, *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize.

Please plan to join us in Brunswick for what will be an exciting weekend of birding and fellowship.

## Support Habitat, Buy a Duck Stamp

By Steve Holzman

GOS is joining the effort to get more birders to purchase the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation (Duck) Stamp. We need to show everyone that we also support habitat acquisition for birds. Many of the life birds on my list were first seen on a National Wildlife Refuge. Ninety-eight percent of the \$15 spent on a duck stamp goes directly to land acquisition and/or lease for our National Wildlife Refuge System. If you need another reason to purchase a stamp, then how about this: Show your duck stamp at refuges that charge a user fee and get in free! To obtain a duck stamp and holder send \$15 and a SASE (with two stamps) to GOS - Duck Stamp, P.O. Box 181, North High Shoals, GA 30645. Alternatively, order via the GOS website, <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm>



2006-2007 Federal Duck Stamp. Ross' Goose, by artist Sherrie Russell Meline.

## Why Did We Wait So Long?

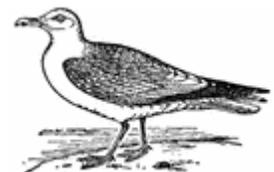
By Bob Sargent

Hopefully you know first-hand that our Tybee Island meeting was a big success. Our first two winter meetings in recent years took us to Alabama and Florida, where we found terrific birding and an abundance of hospitality. However, attendance at both was fair, which could be attributed, at least in part, to the distance from here to those somewhat far-away destinations. Of course, the Alabama ice storm and the Florida flooding might have kept a few people away! This time, there were no excuses for poor turnout, and we didn't need them. One hundred people attended our third consecutive winter meeting, and the question I heard most often over that Martin Luther King Jr. weekend was, "Why did we wait so long to come here?"

The weather was gorgeous, even though a small craft advisory was posted just before the weekend, nearly torpedoing all the pelagic trips. One of the pelagic trips sailed anyway, on fairly smooth seas I might add, and field trips took us to sites in and around the Tybee Island community and Savannah, as well as into South Carolina. In fact, the Bear Island Wildlife Management Area and Savannah spoils site field trips (both in South Carolina) were very popular, and the folks who participated in those two trips really racked up the bird species count. On the second day of the meeting I found myself on the Little Tybee Island boat tour commanded by Capt. Rene Heidt, and was treated to a truly remarkable day filled with great company, facts about island ecology and history, visits to sandbars and remote islands, and great birding, including fabulous close-up views of both sharp-tailed sparrow species. The species total for the four-day weekend was 173 (see the complete list in this newsletter), and highlights included Tundra Swan, Mottled Duck, Black and Surf scoters, Pacific Loon, Manx Shearwater, Roseate Spoonbill, Merlin, American Avocet, Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Prairie Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, and Le Conte's Sparrow. Those of us who attended the trip to the Glennville Water Treatment Plant on Friday encountered a stunning treat: as many as 12 Baltimore Orioles visiting a feeder filled with grape jelly on private property near the treatment facility. I'm not so sure the lady who invited us to her property knew what she was getting herself into, as about 25 cars covered her yard (whatever happened to carpooling?), resembling a caravan come to pay our respects to some deity.

Friday evening started with an enthusiastic and informative update on the Georgia IBA (Important Bird Areas) program by Mary Elfner, the new coordinator. Renee Carleton, DVM and University of Georgia graduate student, then presented a program featuring a fascinating and unusual mix of bluebird biology and disease ecology. (Note: Do the birds a favor once they've completed nesting activity – clean out the nest boxes!) Saturday night started off with John Swiderski, GOS historian and "historical artifact" (his self-imposed title), presenting the Earle Greene Award to Bob and Martha Sargent for their decades of service on behalf of hummingbird research and conservation (see the full story in this newsletter). Then Mallory Pearce awed the audience with his truly fierce imitation of an American Crow's call. Tybee Island's Mayor, Jason Beulterman, succeeded Mallory to the podium and graciously welcomed everyone, noting that he had no idea what to expect when he attended the banquet, and much to his surprise and delight, accidentally ended up seated next to Pierre Howard. Obviously he didn't realize just how diverse birder demographics can be! The evening was capped off by a presentation given by Christopher Cokinos, English professor and author of *Hope is the Thing with Feathers*. Chris read excerpts from his eloquently sad tales about the extinction of six North American bird species. Just as fascinating and haunting were his stories about his encounters with relatives of people who witnessed the last wild individuals of some of those species, and his pilgrimages to the properties where the last wild Passenger Pigeon was shot and where the last (?) "population" of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers was observed.

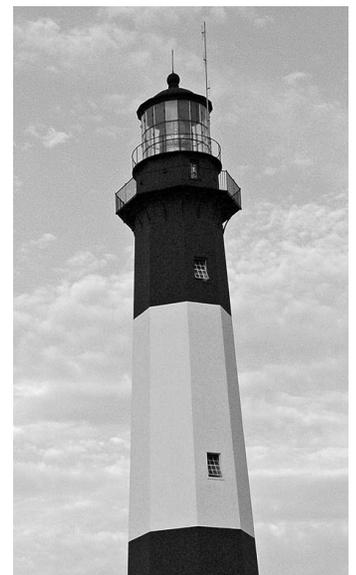
My sincere thanks, as always, go to the people who work so hard behind the scenes and on site to make these meetings run so smoothly: Bill Lotz, Anne Mursch, Steve Holzman, Jeannie Wright, and Barbara Brigham, as well as all the gifted field trip leaders. A special thank you is also due to Mallory Pearce for his hospitality, and for bringing our Society and our meeting to the attention of the Tybee Island community and political leadership. I look forward to seeing all of you in Brunswick in April. And start planning ahead now to attend our next winter meeting in January 2008 in Bainbridge, Georgia.



## GOS Winter Meeting Bird List Tybee Island, January 12-15, 2007

Compiled by Steve Holzman. 173 species total

Canada Goose	Turkey Vulture	Common Ground-Dove -	SC only
Tundra Swan - SC only	Osprey	SC only	Common Yellowthroat
Wood Duck	Bald Eagle	Great Horned Owl	Eastern Towhee
Gadwall - SC only	Northern Harrier	Calliope Hummingbird	Chipping Sparrow
American Wigeon - SC only	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Rufous Hummingbird	Field Sparrow
American Black Duck	Cooper's Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Vesper Sparrow
Mallard	Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow
Mottled Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Le Conte's Sparrow -
Blue-winged Teal	American Kestrel	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	SC only
Northern Shoveler	Merlin - SC only	Downy Woodpecker	Nelson's Sharp-tailed
Northern Pintail	Clapper Rail	Northern Flicker	Sparrow
Green-winged Teal -	King Rail	Pileated Woodpecker	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed
SC only	Virginia Rail	Eastern Phoebe	Sparrow
Canvasback - SC only	Sora	Western Kingbird	Seaside Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Common Moorhen	Loggerhead Shrike	Fox Sparrow - SC only
Greater Scaup	American Coot	White-eyed Vireo	Song Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	American Oystercatcher	Blue-headed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Black Scoter	Black-necked Stilt - SC only	Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow
Surf Scoter	American Avocet - SC only	American Crow	White-crowned Sparrow -
Bufflehead	Black-bellied Plover	Fish Crow	SC only
Common Goldeneye	Semipalmated Plover	Tree Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco - SC only
Hooded Merganser	Killdeer	Northern Rough-winged	Northern Cardinal
Red-breasted Merganser	Greater Yellowlegs	Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruddy Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Carolina Chickadee	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-throated Loon	Willet	Tufted Titmouse	Rusty Blackbird - SC only
Pacific Loon	Spotted Sandpiper	White-breasted Nuthatch -	Common Grackle
Common Loon	Marbled Godwit	SC only	Boat-tailed Grackle
Pied-billed Grebe	Ruddy Turnstone	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Horned Grebe	Sanderling	Carolina Wren	Baltimore Oriole
Eared Grebe - SC only	Western Sandpiper	House Wren	House Finch
Manx Shearwater	Least Sandpiper	Sedge Wren	American Goldfinch
American White Pelican	Purple Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	House Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Dunlin	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Northern Gannet	Short-billed Dowitcher	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Double-crested Cormorant	Long-billed Dowitcher -	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Anhinga	SC only	Eastern Bluebird	
Great Blue Heron	Wilson's Snipe	Hermit Thrush	
Great Egret	Red Phalarope	American Robin	
Snowy Egret	Parasitic Jaeger	Gray Catbird	
Little Blue Heron	Laughing Gull	Northern Mockingbird	
Tricolored Heron	Bonaparte's Gull	Brown Thrasher	
Cattle Egret - SC only	Ring-billed Gull	European Starling	
Green Heron	Lesser Black-backed Gull	American Pipit	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	American Herring Gull	Cedar Waxwing	
Yellow-crowned Night-	Great Black-backed Gull	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Heron	Royal Tern	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
White Ibis	Sandwich Tern	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Glossy Ibis - SC only	Forster's Tern	Pine Warbler	
Roseate Spoonbill -	Black Skimmer	Prairie Warbler - SC only	
SC only	Rock Pigeon	Palm Warbler	
Wood Stork	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Black-and-white Warbler	
Black Vulture	Mourning Dove	Northern Waterthrush -	



Tybee Island Lighthouse

## Announcement of GOS Bylaws Modifications

Our bylaws is a living document and, as such, requires modifications from time to time to reflect new ideas, new technologies, and newly proposed operating procedures. The following modifications (see the underlined sections) will be presented to the Society for a vote of approval at the Brunswick meeting:

Article III. Section 2. The life membership rate was recently increased. Traditionally, this membership category has been made available only to individuals. The new \$400 rate also applies to married couples.

Article VI. Section 3. Current language in this section stipulates that special meetings of the entire Society may be called by the president if problems arise or if requested in writing by five or more members of the Society. The latter portion of the preceding statement will be modified, as it is much more efficient and expedient for members to bring issues to the executive committee, rather than calling a meeting of the entire Society.

Article VIII. Section 3. This section refers to the duties of the editorial committee and will be modified to indicate that this committee shall review all manuscripts submitted for publication in *The Oriole*, even if the journal's editor elects to solicit advice from independent referees.

Article VIII. Section 4. This section refers to the duties of the conservation committee and currently says very little about said committee's goals and operation. The section will be updated to correct these shortcomings.

## Support the Georgia Ornithological Society through Earth Share of Georgia

By Mark Beebe

One easy way to support the work of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) can be through your donation in a workplace giving campaign sponsored by your employer. Many local employers partner with Earth Share of Georgia to make workplace giving to an environmental organization such as GOS a simple choice.

Earth Share of Georgia plays a vital role in promoting environmental education, volunteerism, and charitable giving by partnering with businesses across Georgia. Since its founding in 1992, employees across the state have generously pledged their financial support and time to the important work of Earth Share's member organizations, including GOS. These contributions are growing as more and more businesses move to place the environment alongside United Way and other approved charities as a key recipient of annual employee payroll pledges. Earth Share now participates in more than 70 corporate and government campaigns such as those sponsored by American Express, Kaiser Permanente, McKenna, Long & Aldridge, Microsoft Corp, REI,

the State of Georgia, and many local governments and schools.

Employees can check with their payroll offices or with Earth Share of Georgia to determine if they have the option to contribute to Earth Share of Georgia. If your workplace already has a partnership with Earth Share, it's as simple as filling out a pledge card and designating how much money should be taken out of each paycheck. Earth Share allows employee donors the unique option of designating a pledge to one or more organizations of their choice or making one gift (to be shared among all member groups).

If your workplace isn't a current Earth Share partner, ask your human resources department to consider this option. Check out [www.earthsharega.org](http://www.earthsharega.org) for more information.

## Long-Time GOS Member Passes Away

Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., 80, of Osierfield, GA, died March 5, 2007. He was a member of GOS since 1939 and served as editor of *The Oriole*, 1960 - 1965. A more complete memorial will appear in the June issue of the *GOShawk*.

## Birding on Kennesaw Mountain

By Giff Beaton, Catharine Brockman Kuchar,  
and Dan Vickers

Most members of GOS have probably birded at Kennesaw Mountain (KMT) at one time or another and those that haven't probably at least know that the birding is great there. The number of migrant passerines is so good that we have been conducting a long-term migration study for the last 15 years at KMT, possibly the most complete migratory database in the inland south. Numerous rarities have also shown up during that time, and if that wasn't enough, it's one of the best places anywhere to see a Cerulean Warbler.

Now that I have your attention, change is in the air at KMT. Usage of the park, in particular the Mountain Road, is increasing steadily, but the park continues to face a shrinking budget. Traffic patterns on the Mountain Road are currently being reviewed, and federal road safety engineers have told the park that the road cannot continue to operate as it is now because of serious safety concerns. They are deciding how to best handle the various constituencies that use it, from pedestrians to bicyclists to cars. The increased traffic of all kinds has also strained the park's limited resources. What can we do to try to make sure that birders are heard from and seen as responsible and cooperative users of this great site, you ask?

1) Stop by the KMT Visitor Center if you are at the park, and just mention that you are birding and that's why you came. We think mentioning that you are there to walk up and down the mountain via the Mountain Road may also be helpful.

2) The University of Georgia will be conducting surveys of users on the Mountain Road. If you are asked, please answer the representative's questionnaire. It will be important to get birders' opinions included in the survey findings.

3) Drop a note or an e-mail to Dan Brown, the superintendent, in support of continuing pedestrian access on the Mountain Road. But please be courteous! We want to promote goodwill, not antagonize anyone by protesting too strongly. Sending him a note now will put you on a contact list for the upcoming changes, and you will then be notified when the various proposed alternatives are published. At that time, it will be crucial to comment on the alternatives that would allow road birding to continue. Here is his contact info:

Daniel R. Brown  
Superintendent  
National Park Service  
Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park  
905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive  
Kennesaw, GA 30152

[daniel\\_r\\_brown@nps.gov](mailto:daniel_r_brown@nps.gov)

4) Please be mindful of the posted rules about using the road. Please don't walk up the middle of the road, and try to stick to the edges to stay out of the way of cars and bikes. Stay to the left on the way up, and to the right on the way down. This works out well for us because the best viewing is usually down the hill anyway, and helps you avoid "warbler neck." If you are there with a large group of birders, please stretch your group out a bit so you aren't blocking the road. Basically, just be nice like birders usually are, and promote a positive image of our community among all the other users of the park.

Thanks for your help, and hopefully we can keep watching warblers from the road for many years to come.



### Address Changes

If your address changes, please notify us directly by mail (P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645) or by e-mail ([membership@gos.org](mailto:membership@gos.org)). 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!

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the form and mail with your payment to: Georgia Ornithological Society, P.O. Box 181, High Shoals, GA 30645

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachman's Sparrow (Regular)          | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Sustaining) | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite (Patron)           | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fledgling (Students only)            | \$10 |

### Life Membership Rates for individuals or couples:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk | \$400 |
|---|-------|

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Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of GOS and its programs.

# GOShaw



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