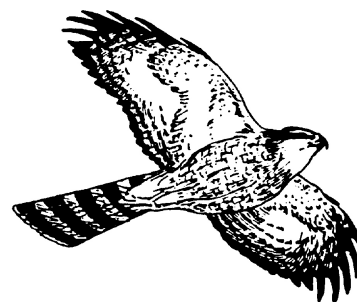


# GOShawk

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: "The Future of Bird Conservation"

By Bob Sargent

Whew! Like cedar waxwings assaulting a berry-laden holly tree, another crazy-busy year has tried to pluck clean the last vestiges of the executive committee's sanity, crested with the festival in October, and has eased somewhat as 2008 approaches. I say "somewhat" because December is actually a very busy month for us. Obviously, the Bainbridge meeting is right around the corner, so we're putting the finishing touches on the planning for that get-together. Several of our committees have also just begun reviews of proposals from graduate students and scientists vying for support from both our two graduate student grants sources and from the newly established Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants. You'll note elsewhere in this newsletter the announcement for the 2008 Richard Parks Young Birder's Conference Scholarship – the third time we've made this award available. And, although the 2008 festival is still 10 months away, there's a great deal of discussion going on regarding ways in which that tradition can be continued, as the cost, both monetary, and especially in volunteer hours, continues to be a tough row to hoe. Suffice it to say, 2008 is go-

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Winter GOS Meeting

January 18-21, 2008, Bainbridge, GA  
(see page 6)

### Pinewoods Bird Festival

April 11-13, 2008, Pebble Hill Plantation  
(Thomasville), GA  
(see page 7)

### Spring GOS Meeting

May 16-18, 2008, Clayton, GA  
(see page 7)

ing to be a pivotal year in terms of the survival of the festival.

By now you should have received the membership renewal letter for 2008 with its abbreviated summary of this year's activities. I won't rehash that summary except to say that some projects and initiatives were successful, while others came up short. The one shortcoming that is most glaring to me is the fact that *The Oriole* did not appear in your mailbox this year, and we're more than two years in arrears on publishing that journal. We are a science-based organization, and our journal is the most visible reminder of that fact. Most of you have been very patient about this shortcoming – thank you – while others have let me know exactly how you feel about this – thank you, too. The buck stops with me on this, and the problem will be fixed early in 2008. We are currently putting together a double issue that will bring us up to this fall, and I expect us to publish that issue within the next two months. *The Oriole* will fly again, and very soon.

Speaking of the journal, "From the Field" (FTF) editor Bob Zaremba has elected to step down from that post

(continued on page 3)

## **Georgia Ornithological Society**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>President</i>              | Bob Sargent<br>478-397-7962                  |
| <i>1st Vice President</i>     | Bill Lotz                                    |
| <i>2nd Vice President</i>     | Dan Vickers                                  |
| <i>Secretary</i>              | DeeAnne Meliopoulos                          |
| <i>Treasurer</i>              | Jeannie Wright                               |
| <i>Business Manager</i>       | Steve Holzman                                |
| <i>Historian</i>              | Phil Hardy                                   |
| <i>Past President</i>         | (Vacant)                                     |
| <i>The Oriole, Co-Editors</i> | Sara Schweitzer<br>Bob Sargent               |
| <i>GOShawk, Editor</i>        | Jim Ferrari                                  |
| <i>GOShawk, Asst. Editor</i>  | Mim Eisenberg<br>(www.wordcraftservices.com) |
| <i>Webmaster</i>              | Jim Flynn                                    |

### **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>               | Open              |              |
| <i>Howe Research Grant:</i>     | Bill Van Eseltine | 706-543-3072 |
| <i>Membership:</i>              | Allison Reid      | 404-783-2756 |
| <i>Education</i>                | Bob Sargent       | 478-397-7962 |

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Jeff Sewell, Compiler

Internet Transcriber rotates among:  
Steve Barlow, Ken Blankenship, Jim Flynn, Steve Holzman, Charlie Muise, Tracey Muise, Larry Russell, and Lois Stacey.

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

## **Welcome, New Members!**

### **Northern Bobwhite Members**

Lowrie & Margaret Glasgow      Greenville, SC

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

Stephen Mammoser      Ringgold, GA

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

Bill Wiggins      Avondale Estates, GA

### **Fledgling Members**

Dallas Ingram      Tifton, GA  
Aaron Louviere      Bainbridge, GA

*The 2007 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.*

## **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).



## **GOShawk Now Available Online**

Past and current issues of the *GOShawk* are now available online in .pdf format at the following URL: <http://www.gos.org/newsletters/newsletter.pdf>

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

and will be succeeded by Ken Blankenship. Bob: Thank you for all your hard work and for all the ways in which you strived to improve the FTF section. As part of our effort to make publication of *The Oriole* timely, we will start posting the FTF section on the website, immediately after it has been reviewed by the editorial committee, so that birders don't have to wait until the journal appears to learn about significant sightings.

Enough about the past; since we're starting a new term for GOS officers, let me describe for you one particular goal that we will emphasize in the coming two years. I know I've talked with some of you in the past about concerns over the lack of recruitment of "twenty- and thirty-somethings" to GOS. This problem isn't unique to our society, of course. Some of you may be familiar with a provocative book by Richard Louv called *Last Child in the Woods* that focuses on what the author referred to as "nature deficit disorder." The reality is that far fewer young people in America today are growing up with any sort of contact or appreciation for nature and the outdoors, as compared with young Americans from just two generations ago, and this reality is only going to become more profound unless the people who do appreciate nature and birds do something about it. In the words of Baba Dioum, an African environmentalist, "We will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand what we are taught." This problem isn't just about turning kids on to birds and nature. More importantly, it's about educating people who, at voting booths in the future, will make monumental decisions concerning habitat conservation.

Hopefully, most of you have heard this refrain before, but what I'm asking our membership to do is to get seriously involved (I realize some of you already are) in teaching younger generations about your passion for birds and conservation. Bring a teenager to a GOS meeting. I know they'll protest and try to spend the entire weekend in the hotel room tuned into their iPod and surfing the Internet, but bring them anyway! We'll arrange birding field trips for teenagers, if there's a demand for them. If you have strong convictions about this problem, we need your involvement in implementing the GOS education and outreach committee. In fact, we need an ambitious person to take the reins and run with that committee. We have the flexibility within our budget to initiate worthwhile education projects; we need your help with proposing and implementing them.

I recently received an e-mail from one of our members asking what GOS could do to recruit younger members to the society. In fact, we have been doing many things: 1) we arrange at least one poster session at a meeting every year, and we pay the hotel costs for stu-

dent presenters; 2) starting with the Bainbridge meeting, we will be hosting a "Flocking" event on Sunday, which will provide a forum in which everyone can give a presentation, especially non-scientists; 3) we've increased dramatically the amount of grant money we provide to graduate students, and we've started recruiting those grant recipients to be speakers at our meetings; 4) we have been providing free membership to new student members during the past three years; 5) we are now a dedicated sponsor for DNR's terrific Youth Birding Competition, which is one of the best ideas we've seen for recruiting young people to birding in years; 6) we're sponsoring the attendance of one young person to an ABA conference each year (see DeeAnne's article in this newsletter); 7) we're attempting to network with our student members to provide birding information to student clubs on college campuses; and 8) hopefully, you've met or interacted with two of our younger, hard-working new executive committee members – Allison and DeeAnne.

Some members have suggested that we hold more of our meetings in college towns, which is a great idea except that our membership also wants us to arrange meetings in rarely-visited corners of the state. We can, of course, strike a balance among meeting in college towns and in hot spots and out-of-the-way locations. When we do meet in college towns, we have to do a better job of attracting the "non-converts" to our meetings, not just the biology majors. We realize, too, that most of the initiatives described in the previous paragraph are designed to attract outdoors-oriented young people to GOS, not the young people who've never pointed binoculars at a flock of waxwings in a holly tree on a cold winter's day.

Please join in this discussion. E-mail, write, or call me with your thoughts. Better still, submit a one-page proposal to GOS explaining how you're going to expose inner city kids to birding for a couple of weekends, or how you're going to assist several local scout troops with getting their birding merit badges, or how you can merge one of the educational efforts of multiple bird societies around the state into a single, more-influential program. And ask for financial support from GOS. We'll listen.



## 2007 Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

By Bill Lotz

The fifth Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival was held October 12-14, 2007, and by all accounts was a huge success. The field trips actually began on Thursday, October 11, at the Glennville Water Treatment Facility and did not conclude until Monday, October 15, with a trip to Little St. Simons Island. In between were more than 60 field trips, a Nature Day on Saturday, workshops and seminars on Friday and Saturday, the banquet on Saturday evening with a wonderful talk by John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, activities and exhibits at The Rookery, and the shared fellowship of more than 300 birders and nature enthusiasts.

This year's species count was 199, down a bit from the last two years, possibly because the fabulous weather and northern winds were ideal for pushing migrants along on their southbound journey, so many birds were quickly moving through Georgia into Florida. Still, some great birds were found over the weekend, including a Western Kingbird on the south end of Jekyll Island, several sightings of Cave Swallows at different locations, a MacGillivray's Warbler that was banded at the Jekyll Island Banding Station, a Franklin's Gull on the South Beach of Jekyll, and a Clay-colored Sparrow at the Altamaha WMA.

Saturday's Nature Day at The Rookery was a new feature this year, with activities for the whole family. It was a full day of educational programs and events, such as beginning birding for adults and kids, the history of the barrier islands, why the Georgia coast is such a birding magnet, a raptor show, and presentations on reptile and turtle biology. Other activities during Nature Day included a beach walk, a marsh walk, and a nature trip on the Little Satilla River. "Passports" were issued to each registrant and were stamped at each activity or exhibit. More than 100 people signed up for Nature Day.

The banquet Saturday night featured a very good dinner, the election of the GOS officer slate (see the new list in this newsletter), and the announcement of the winners of the Colonial Coast Birding Challenge. John Galvani and Gene Keferl won

the challenge, with 86 species seen in one day and only at sites that are part of the Colonial Coast Birding Trail.

Dr. Fitzpatrick began his talk with a somewhat haunting recording of an Oo, a bird of the Hawaiian Islands. Then he stunned his audience with the announcement that this was actually a recording of the last bird of this species and that they would never hear this beautiful, distinctive song again except on a recording. "Fitz" went on to present a fascinating case-by-case talk on how important it is to save the habitat of endangered birds (or any other plant or animal), not just because of the values those habitats provide for wildlife, but also because preserving them is vital to ensuring the future health of planet Earth. As he so eloquently put it, "It is not about the species, it is about preserving the environment that supported that species." Fitz also fascinated the audience with his review of the evidence concerning the existence of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

As we look forward to next year's festival, we owe a great big thank you to all those who put in so much time and effort to put on these festivals. It is truly an outstanding event on Georgia's uniquely beautiful coast.

### Congratulations to New GOS Officers for 2007-2009

A new slate of Georgia Ornithological Society executive officers was elected at the October birding festival. The following will serve as GOS officers for two-year terms, until October 2009:

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Dr. Bob Sargent     | President          |
| Bill Lotz           | 1st Vice President |
| Dan Vickers         | 2nd Vice President |
| DeeAnne Meliopoulos | Secretary          |
| Jeannie Wright      | Treasurer          |

Many thanks to both Anne Mursch (former 2<sup>nd</sup> VP) and Gail Russell (past president) for their years of service; both opted to retire from those positions this fall. John Swiderski has stepped down as GOS historian after 31 years of service on the executive committee. Phil Hardy has agreed to fill the society's historian position.

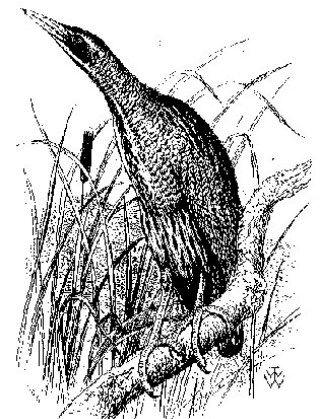
## Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival Bird Species List

Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 12-14, 2007

*Compiled by Steve Holzman*

|                              |                          |                               |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Black-bellied Whistling-Duck | Semipalmated Plover      | Eastern Kingbird              | Common Yellowthroat            |
| Canada Goose                 | Piping Plover            | Loggerhead Shrike             | Hooded Warbler                 |
| Wood Duck                    | Killdeer                 | White-eyed Vireo              | Wilson's Warbler               |
| Mallard                      | American Oystercatcher   | Yellow-throated Vireo         | Summer Tanager                 |
| Mottled Duck                 | American Avocet          | Blue-headed Vireo             | Scarlet Tanager                |
| Blue-winged Teal             | Spotted Sandpiper        | Red-eyed Vireo                | Eastern Towhee                 |
| Northern Shoveler            | Solitary Sandpiper       | Blue Jay                      | Bachman's Sparrow              |
| Northern Pintail             | Greater Yellowlegs       | American Crow                 | Savannah Sparrow               |
| Green-winged Teal            | Willet                   | Fish Crow                     | Henslow's Sparrow              |
| Black Scoter                 | Lesser Yellowlegs        | Tree Swallow                  | Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow  |
| Surf Scoter                  | Long-billed Curlew       | Northern Rough-winged Swallow | Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow |
| Hooded Merganser             | Marbled Godwit           | Cave Swallow                  | Seaside Sparrow                |
| Plain Chachalaca             | Ruddy Turnstone          | Barn Swallow                  | Song Sparrow                   |
| Wild Turkey                  | Red Knot                 | Carolina Chickadee            | Swamp Sparrow                  |
| Pied-billed Grebe            | Sanderling               | Tufted Titmouse               | White-throated Sparrow         |
| American White Pelican       | Semipalmated Sandpiper   | White-breasted Nuthatch       | White-crowned Sparrow          |
| Brown Pelican                | Western Sandpiper        | Brown-headed Nuthatch         | Northern Cardinal              |
| Double-crested Cormorant     | Least Sandpiper          | Carolina Wren                 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak         |
| Anhinga                      | Dunlin                   | House Wren                    | Blue Grosbeak                  |
| American Bittern             | Stilt Sandpiper          | Sedge Wren                    | Indigo Bunting                 |
| Least Bittern                | Short-billed Dowitcher   | Marsh Wren                    | Painted Bunting                |
| Great Blue Heron             | Wilson's Snipe           | Ruby-crowned Kinglet          | Bobolink                       |
| Great Egret                  | Laughing Gull            | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher         | Red-winged Blackbird           |
| Snowy Egret                  | Franklin's Gull          | Eastern Bluebird              | Eastern Meadowlark             |
| Little Blue Heron            | Ring-billed Gull         | Veery                         | Common Grackle                 |
| Tricolored Heron             | Herring Gull             | Gray-cheeked Thrush           | Boat-tailed Grackle            |
| Reddish Egret                | Lesser Black-backed Gull | Swainson's Thrush             | Brown-headed Cowbird           |
| Cattle Egret                 | Great Black-backed Gull  | Hermit Thrush                 | House Finch                    |
| Green Heron                  | Caspian Tern             | Wood Thrush                   | House Sparrow                  |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron    | Royal Tern               | Gray Catbird                  |                                |
| Yellow-crowned Night-Heron   | Sandwich Tern            | Northern Mockingbird          |                                |
| White Ibis                   | Common Tern              | Brown Thrasher                |                                |
| Glossy Ibis                  | Forster's Tern           | European Starling             |                                |
| Roseate Spoonbill            | Black Skimmer            | Tennessee Warbler             |                                |
| Wood Stork                   | Rock Pigeon              | Orange-crowned Warbler        |                                |
| Black Vulture                | Eurasian Collared-Dove   | Northern Parula               |                                |
| Turkey Vulture               | Mourning Dove            | Yellow Warbler                |                                |
| Osprey                       | Common Ground-Dove       | Chestnut-sided Warbler        |                                |
| Bald Eagle                   | Yellow-billed Cuckoo     | Magnolia Warbler              |                                |
| Northern Harrier             | Barn Owl                 | Cape May Warbler              |                                |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk           | Eastern Screech-Owl      | Black-throated Blue Warbler   |                                |
| Cooper's Hawk                | Great Horned Owl         | Yellow-rumped Warbler         |                                |
| Red-shouldered Hawk          | Barred Owl               | Black-throated Green Warbler  |                                |
| Broad-winged Hawk            | Chimney Swift            | Blackburnian Warbler          |                                |
| Red-tailed Hawk              | Belted Kingfisher        | Yellow-throated Warbler       |                                |
| American Kestrel             | Red-headed Woodpecker    | Pine Warbler                  |                                |
| Merlin                       | Red-bellied Woodpecker   | Prairie Warbler               |                                |
| Peregrine Falcon             | Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Palm Warbler                  |                                |
| Clapper Rail                 | Downy Woodpecker         | Bay-breasted Warbler          |                                |
| King Rail                    | Red-cockaded Woodpecker  | Blackpoll Warbler             |                                |
| Virginia Rail                | Northern Flicker         | Black-and-white Warbler       |                                |
| Sora                         | Pileated Woodpecker      | American Redstart             |                                |
| Purple Gallinule             | Eastern Wood-Pewee       | Swainson's Warbler            |                                |
| Common Moorhen               | "Trail's" Flycatcher     | Ovenbird                      |                                |
| American Coot                | Eastern Phoebe           | Northern Waterthrush          |                                |
| Black-bellied Plover         | Great Crested Flycatcher | MacGillivray's Warbler        |                                |
| Wilson's Plover              | Western Kingbird         |                               |                                |

*199 species total*



## Winter 2008 GOS Meeting in Bainbridge

By Bill Lotz

The Winter 2008 meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held in Bainbridge, Georgia, from Friday, January 18, through Monday, January 21, 2008. Please note that this meeting will be held over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. Our headquarters hotel is the Charter House Inn in Bainbridge. The registration desk will open in the lobby of that hotel at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 18, 2008.

There will be a field trip on Friday at the Bradley Unit of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Dinner on Friday is on your own. The Friday night program, "A Bird's Eye View of Peru," will begin at 7:30 PM and will be presented by Nico Dauphine. Nico has loved birds since her earliest memory and aspired to become an ornithologist while growing up on California's central coast. She has a special interest in collaborating with indigenous and local communities in remote and little-known parts of the world to carry out research and outreach for bird conservation. Nico received B.A. and M.S. degrees from Yale and Cornell universities, respectively, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate under Dr. Bob Cooper in Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. She has had a passion for international engagement since first going overseas in her youth, spending four years as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer working on environmental issues in West Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. As a graduate student, she has led ecological research projects in Egypt, Madagascar, and, most extensively, Peru, which will be the subject of her talk and for which she has received generous support from the Georgia Ornithological Society.

Field trip destinations on Saturday and Sunday include the various sites around Lake Seminole, Lake Walter F. George, Birdsong Nature Center, Tall Timbers Research Station, and St. Marks NWR in Florida. We will again have a Field Trip Reservation Form included with the registration packet, and field trips should be reserved in advance in order for you to get your first or second choice. (We will still have field trip sign-up sheets available on Friday evening.)

The social hour will begin Saturday night at 6:00 PM, followed by the banquet at 7:00 PM. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Lynn Fowler, a naturalist who leads expeditions to the Galápagos on behalf of Lindblad Expeditions. Lynn is the niece of Jim Fowler (of *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom* fame) and through her contact with him, his animals and his travels, she became interested in wildlife at a very early age. She first visited Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands in 1976 and was captivated by the fearless island inhabitants and the stark beauty of the volcanic archipelago. After receiving her master's degree in zoology from the University of Florida studying sea turtles, she returned to the Galápagos and worked for one year as one of the first female naturalist guides for the Charles Darwin Research Station. She then returned to research, including projects on the feral burros and giant tortoises of Volcan Alcedo on Isabela Island in the Galápagos. After receiving her Ph.D. she studied the rainforest white-lipped peccary in conjunction with the National Geographic Society. Dr. Fowler's presentation will, of course, be on the Galápagos Islands, truly one of the most magical places on Earth.

There will not be a formal meeting Sunday evening, but everyone is invited to join us in the meeting room of the hotel in the late afternoon to view slides or PowerPoint presentations given by some of our members depicting birding trips around Georgia and the world. We have borrowed this idea from the Florida and Alabama ornithology societies. FOS calls it "Flocking" and we thought we would try it at this meeting. If you would like to present a short, 10- to 15-minute slide or PowerPoint presentation, please contact me at [blotz@mindspring.com](mailto:blotz@mindspring.com) or 404-261-1906.

On Monday there will be a field trip to Birdsong Nature Center and one to Chickasawhatchee WMA, north of Bainbridge. Both of these are designed to be on your way back home.

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

## GOS Spring 2008 Meeting in Northeast Georgia

By Bill Lotz

The Spring 2008 Meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held in Clayton, Georgia, from Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18, 2008. Our headquarters hotel will be the Old Clayton Inn in Clayton.

The Friday night program will feature Dallas Ingram, who will present the results of her research in South Georgia on viruses in Wild Turkeys, which was partly funded by GOS through the H. Branch Howe Research Grants program.

Could there be better birding in Georgia than North Georgia in May? We will have field trips to such great sites as Burrell's Ford Road, Brasstown Bald, Ivy Log Gap Road, Vogel State Park, Rabun Bald, Sosebee Cove, Lake Winfield Scott, Suches, Dillard, and Blackrock Mountain State Park. Warblers, vireos, thrushes and other passerines will be in full song and in their finest breeding plumage.

Saturday evening will feature Alan Tennant as the guest speaker at our banquet. Alan is the author of *On the Wing: To the Edge of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon*. You may remember that Alan was scheduled to be our speaker at the Brunswick meeting last April, but had to postpone his appearance due to travel scheduling problems. We eagerly look forward to hearing about his exciting adventures following migrating Peregrine Falcons from south Texas to their Central American wintering grounds in a small airplane and then, the next spring, tracking one north from Texas to its breeding territory in northern Canada. Alan will also fill us in on his experiences the last few winters in Panama and Columbia.

You will not want to miss this exciting weekend of birding and fellowship in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains.

## Pinewoods Bird Festival

By John Swiderski

The Sixth Annual Pinewoods Bird Festival will be held April 11-13, 2008, at historic Pebble Hill Plantation, located five miles south of Thomasville, Georgia. The festival offers field trips, seminars and activities for visitors of all ages. Highlights include a chance to observe Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows, and there is a very popular children's activity area. Complete festival information can be found at <[www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com](http://www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com)>.

## Teaming with Wildlife and the State Wildlife Action Plan

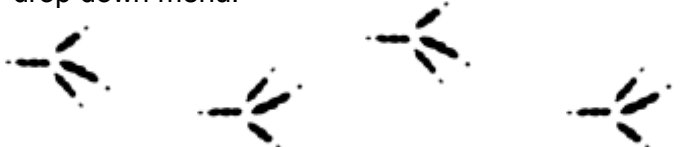
By Shirl Parsons

Conservation Issues Coordinator  
Georgia Wildlife Federation

Created by Congress in 2001, the State Wildlife Grants program is our nation's core program for keeping wildlife from becoming endangered on a statewide level. Once a species becomes endangered it is very expensive to bring it back from the edge of extinction. This program prevents species from ever getting to that point. Like most conservation programs nationwide, the State Wildlife Grants program funding has been decreasing in recent years. In order to receive more federal funds through this grant, Congress charged each state with developing a state wildlife action plan (SWAP). These proactive plans will help conserve wildlife and vital natural areas before they become too rare and costly to protect. The Georgia plan, completed in 2005, identifies the rare species and important habitats to be conserved and the conservation actions needed to protect wildlife in Georgia.

The Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) coalition is a group of conservation organizations, outdoor groups, hunting and fishing groups, businesses and other groups originally formed in the late 1990s to help obtain government funding for managing wildlife in Georgia. The Teaming With Wildlife coalition has now been revitalized and consists of more than 300 groups. The TWW objectives are to educate the public about the SWAP and to help the Wildlife Resources Division of the DNR with on-the-ground implementation of the plan. Various synergistic, cooperative conservation partners are needed to make the goals of Georgia's SWAP real, tangible, effective, and sustainable in the long term. TWW projects will include inventories of birds and amphibians, removal of invasive species of plants and animals, and education of the public about the SWAP.

For more information about TWW and for a summary of the Georgia Wildlife Action Plan go to [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com) and click on Georgia on the drop down menu.



## Impressions of Ecuador

By DeeAnne Meliopoulos

In early September, I found myself making a pilgrimage to a birding Mecca, Ecuador. I was traveling to the American Birding Association (ABA) conference in Quito, on a scholarship from the Georgia Ornithological Society. I had it a little easier than the migratory birds that make the trip every year, as I was traveling on a 757 instead of on the wing. During the ride, I scrutinized my copy of *Birds of Ecuador* and learned of birds with names like “bush-tyrant,” “toucanet,” and “woodstar,” names that evoked images of exotic birds lurking in the midst of lush greenery and colorful tropical flowers. When we landed, I weaved through the crowded airport and spotted the Sword-billed Hummingbird sign held aloft by the taxi driver who would take me and other conference-goers to the Hotel Dann Carlton, which would be hosting the conference. Though it was late when the taxi pulled up to the hotel, I was charged with energy as I thought of all the new birds that were so near.

The days started at the brisk hour of 4 AM, but the delicious hotel breakfasts always revitalized us. After breakfast, we walked out to the buses that would deliver us to the day’s birding site (and allow us to catch up on sleep!). Each day meant an exciting new expedition: Volcanoes, cloud forests, polylepis forest, and mountains were all on the itinerary. Each place held breathtaking landscapes, a fascinating natural history, and, of course, captivating birds. And no matter what kind of habitat we were in, there were always hummingbird feeders. There was an extraordinary diversity of hummers that could be found at each feeder, and I always looked forward to arriving at the feeders and watching hummers of all sizes and colors vying for the feeding ports.

After arriving back at the hotel, we all got to know each other at the social hour. It was a great way to meet birders from all over the country and share stories about day trips. I also enjoyed conversing with the guides and learning how they got to be so knowledgeable in birds and natural history. The conversations continued while we savored Ecuadorian dinners. After dessert, the evenings concluded with a presentation from an expert guest speaker on birding. Then we all went

to our well-furnished rooms to rest up for the next day’s adventures, visions of birds dancing like so many sugar plums in our heads.

I found that birding in Ecuador pleasantly reminded me of getting into birding for the first time: The thrill of spotting a new bird in a unknown place brought back all the uncertainty and excitement of being a novice, when almost every bird was a new discovery. Then again, some things were very familiar: Finding birds in the dense foliage was as much of a challenge as it is in the U.S., and warbler neck feels the same anywhere!

In Ecuador, I experienced moments that I’ll always remember: watching dawn break over a meadow from the bus window, touching a hummingbird perched on a feeder and feeling the quiver of its wings, seeing a toucan suddenly emerge from the foliage of a banana tree. I made connections with unique people that I wouldn’t have met anywhere else. I hope that in the future, I will again get a chance to follow in the path of the migratory birds and find my way back to Ecuador.

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## Know a Teen-aged Birder?

2008 Richard Parks Young Birders’ Conference Scholarship

**What is it?** GOS wants to help young people learn about the fascinating and fun hobby of bird watching (birding). We are offering one scholarship to an interested young person (ages 14-18) to attend the American Birding Association’s (ABA) Young Birders’ Conference (YBC) in Minot, North Dakota, from June 17-22, 2008. This is an extraordinary opportunity for a young person to learn about all aspects of birding from some of the best birders in the country. The tentative schedule for this conference is attached to the bottom of this announcement. To learn more about ABA’s YBC, visit: <http://www.americanbirding.org/yb/conf/index.html>

**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 the birding trips and round-trip airline transportation. GOS will make arrangements with ABA to register the scholarship recipient. The recipient will need to make his/her own travel arrangements.

(Continued on page 9)



**Teen-aged Birder** *(Continued from page 8)*

**What do you have to do to apply?** The applicant must be age 14-18 during the period of the conference, and must be a Georgia resident. The interested birder must fill out the application at <http://www.gos.org/grants/GOS-ApplicationForm-ParksScholarship20071205.pdf> 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 spread interest in birding to friends, including recruiting friends to join GOS. Three letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application. The recipient of this scholarship must write an article for the GOS newsletter (*GOShawk*) and website when he/she returns home describing the birding conference experience.

**When should you apply?** The deadline for submitting your application, essay, and letters of recommendation is **January 31, 2008**. The winner of this scholarship will be selected by February 15.

**Where do you apply?** Send your application paperwork to: Robert Sargent (Parks Scholarships)  
115 Tom Chapman Blvd, Apt 605  
Warner Robins, GA, 31088

**2008 Young Birders' Conference Tentative Schedule (17-22 June 2008)**

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Time</u>                    | <u>Event</u>  |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Tues (6/17)  | 3:30-4:30 PM                   | Meet Group at Minot International Airport                       |
|              | 5:00 PM                        | Welcome and Orientation in Minot                                |
|              | 6:00 PM                        | Dinner  |
|              | 7-8:00 PM                      | Workshop: Intro to Birds of North Dakota – Ron Martin           |
| Weds (6/18)  | 5 AM-3:30 PM                   | Field Trip: J. Clark Salyer NWR (Lunch talk by Refuge employee) |
|              | Free time                      |   |
|              | 5-6:00 PM                      | Dinner  |
| Thurs (6/19) | 6-8:00 PM                      | Workshop: Steve Howell  |
|              | 4 AM-5 PM                      | Field Trip: Turtle Mountains                                    |
|              | 6-7:00 PM                      | Dinner  |
|              | Free evening – optional owling |   |
| Fri (6/20)   | 5 AM-12 noon                   | Field Trip: Garrison Dam  |
|              | 12 noon                        | Lunch then free time  |
|              | 3-5:00 PM                      | Workshop: Michael O'Brien                                       |
|              | 5:00 PM                        | Dinner  |
|              | 6:00-8:00 PM                   | Workshop: Louise Zemaitis                                       |
| Sat (6/21)   | 4:30 AM-3:30 PM                | Lostwood NWR and Des Lacs NWR (Lunch talk by Refuge employee)   |
|              | Free time                      |   |
|              | 5:30-6:30 PM                   | Dinner  |
|              | 6:30-8:00 PM                   | Panel Discussion, Photo Quiz, and Closing                       |
| Sun (6/22)   | 6:00 AM-11:00 AM               | Minot Area Birding  |
|              | Lunch and hotel check-out      |   |
|              | 2:30 PM                        | Check in for departures at MOT                                  |

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change to accommodate weather conditions, birding, or unavoidable circumstances.

# 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 |

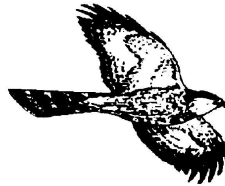
### Life Membership Rates for individuals or couples:

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <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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