President’s Message: The Sixth Annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival
By Bob Sargent

Last fall I heard some people suggest that there was no way we could improve on the 2007 festival. Now, you know that kind of talk can be perceived as a challenge, and that’s exactly the way the 2008 festival committee chose to interpret the words. The gauntlet has been thrown down, and we’ve kicked it aside on our way to putting together the best birding show ever held on the coast. I know that seems like a mighty bold statement, but visualize this: 1) Fifty-three field trips scheduled from Thursday through Monday, including two to St. Catherines Island, and four each to Sapelo Island, Little St. Simons Island, and Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge; 2) Nineteen seminars covering everything from shorebird and sparrow identification to teaching kids how to bird watch and adults how to digiscope; 3) Identifying thrush species by their night calls and raptors by their silhouettes; 4) Birding from the deck of a working shrimp boat at sea, and from the cockpit of a kayak in a cypress swamp; and 5) A weekend spent as a student of Pete Dunne, author extraordinaire, founder of the World Series of Birding, Vice President of the New Jersey Audubon Society and Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, and recipient of the American Birding Association’s Roger Tory Peterson Award for promoting the cause of birding. That’s right -- you have the opportunity to sit in nature’s classroom as a student of one of the best birders in the country. You see, Pete isn’t just going to be the banquet speaker where he’ll present "Twenty-five Things That Changed Birding"; he’s also going to teach a workshop called “The Art of Pishing,” which is based on one of his books, and he will lead a Saturday morning field trip to Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area.

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Welcome, New Members!

Northern Bobwhite Members
John Kricher and Martha Vaughan  Pocasset, MA

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members
Steve and Kim Covington  Sandy Springs, GA
Von Hill  Lawrenceville, GA
Dan Howington  Watkinsville, GA
Hugh Kennedy  Midland, GA
Catharine Brockman Kuchar  Roswell, GA
Tom Purucker  Athens, GA
Billi Wagner  Vero Beach, FL

Bachman’s Sparrow Members
Georgianna Ferrero  Atlanta, GA
Diane Frank  Macon, GA
Alice Grisham  Clermont, GA
Joyce Hall  Young Harris, GA
Franklin J. Hogue  Macon, GA
Paul Johnson  Macon, GA
Doris and Patrick Leary  Fernandina Beach, FL
Edward Rigel, Sr.  Gainesville, GA
Bill and Tish Talton  Newnan, GA

Fledgling Members
Hayden Martin  Athens, GA

The 2008 GOS membership list is available electronically via e-mail or as a hard copy. Please send your request to membership@gos.org (Allison Reid) for an e-mail copy or to GOS, 198 Ponce de Leon Ave, Unit 7C, Atlanta, GA 30308 for a paper copy. Available to members only.

GOShawk—2  June 2008

Georgia Ornithological Society

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Text by e-mail is appreciated.

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 speaking of Pete’s books, he plans to do a book signing on Saturday afternoon.

So what do you say? Does it seem like a worthwhile way to spend an October weekend (9th through the 13th)? I thought you might see it that way. At this time, we’re planning to start accepting registrations for the festival on 23 August. The registration booklet is approaching final draft status and will be mailed to previous festival attendees later this summer, and, of course, you can register for everything online. For more information, including lodging details and driving directions, be sure to visit the festival website at http://www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org/

Don’t you miss the best Georgia festival ever.

Application Deadlines for Graduate Student Grants

If you’re a graduate student and are planning to apply for one of the grants GOS offers for students, please note that the deadline for applying for this year’s Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants is 1 December. The new deadline for applying for the H. Branch Howe Graduate Student Research Grants is 31 December. Be sure to study thoroughly the application criteria for each grant and choose the one that is better for you, as a student cannot apply for both grants in the same year. Only GOS members can apply for grants offered by the society. For more information, visit http://www.gos.org/grants/

Publications by GOS Grantees

Recent recipients of H. Branch Howe Graduate Student Research Grants from GOS are making an impact on the ornithological literature. Libby Mojica, John Sabine and Brady Mattesson, all of whom conducted their research at the University of Georgia with Dr. Joe Meyers, have published the journal articles listed below.


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.
**In Memoriam: Donald G. Cohrs**  
*By John Swiderski*

Donald G. Cohrs, 81, passed away on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at his home, “Midge Manor,” near Darien, Georgia, with his wife, Doris, at his side. His death came just short of their 37th wedding anniversary. Don was a soft spoken, gentle man who had a love for people and the gift to be able to relate to them.

Don was born in Chicago on June 7, 1926, but lost his father Irvin, who had been subjected to poisonous gas during World War I, in 1928. An aunt and uncle helped raise the family as their own. Don saw military service himself in World War II with the Army in the Philippines and Japan from 1944 to 1946. After the war he attended the University of Illinois. Don worked as a traveling salesman in the Midwest and then the South when he came to Atlanta in 1969. Living in East, Point he decided to get off of the road and started his own remodeling and repair business, The House Menders, in the 1970s in the Atlanta area and later in Darien.

Don is best known to most of us through his involvement with the Jekyll Island Banding Station. One cannot really talk just about Don and JIBS, though, because he and Doris were very much a team (along with Terry Moore in the early years) when it came to JIBS. Doris and Terry received their master banding permits in the 1970s. After doing some banding around the Atlanta area, they hit on the idea of undertaking a pilot banding project on Jekyll Island over Thanksgiving weekend of 1977. That weekend blossomed into a labor of love for Don and Doris over the ensuing 20 years.

Although Don did not become a master bander, he did become proficient at all the necessary banding skills as a sub-permittee. While Doris looked after the technical side of JIBS, Don was interacting with all the hundreds of birders and young people who visited the station over the years to experience the wonder of birds close-up and personal. A number of those folks over the years became master banders in their own right and made it possible to operate JIBS for longer periods of time each fall. Don and Doris received the 1990 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award from GOS in recognition of their contribution to the knowledge of birdlife in coastal Georgia.

Was JIBS all work and no play? Definitely not! The banders and “band-aides” typically shared a house (Tabby Cottage) close to the JIBS site each year, and the evenings were filled with good food, some wine, and lots of fellowship.

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Donald Cohrs (continued from page 4)

Not as well known is that Don regularly mentored McIntosh County school system students for many years. He also found time to volunteer with the McIntosh County Habitat for Humanity affiliate. He and Doris had somewhat of a second “home” on Sapelo Island, where they were regular volunteers and Don served as the first president of Friends of Sapelo. He used his carpentry and building skills to carry out and advise on projects on the island. A live oak tree has been planted in his memory near the education building that he helped construct.

Don is survived by his wife Doris, son Larry and daughter Amy Vassey, three grandchildren, and a legion of friends. Don preferred that he have no memorial service and suggested that “I would really prefer that you take a long walk in the woods, keeping your ears and eyes open. The wonders of nature are awesome.”

(Doris Cohrs and Amy Vassey contributed to this memorial.)

GOS 2008 Spring Meeting Summary
By Phil Hardy

The quaint town of Clayton, in the mountains of north Georgia, hosted the 2008 GOS Spring meeting from May 16-18. Apparently the mountains agreed with many, as 97 GOS members registered for this event. Birding in the higher elevations gave “flat-land” birders the opportunity to see species not found elsewhere. The weather cooperated nicely as we searched for mountain species.

The historic Old Clayton Inn served as our meeting headquarters, with registration held Friday afternoon. Nearby shops within walking distance offered unique shopping opportunities for non-birding spouses or any others who were so inclined. The speaker for Friday evening was Kirk Stodola, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia and recipient of the H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Award. Kirk’s presentation was entitled “A Bird’s Eye View of Climate Change,” and included a delightful PowerPoint presentation on his research into the ecology of Black-throated Blue Warblers in the Georgia mountains.

After a delicious complimentary hot breakfast for those staying at the Old Clayton Inn, birders were off to their field trips beginning at 6:20 AM Saturday. The temperature was a cool 41°F as birders departed the hotel, making a jacket feel wonderful. Saturday’s field trips included Brasstown Bald, Sosebee Cove and Cooper’s Creek WMA, led by Ken Blankenship; Burrell’s Ford Road and Ellicott Rock Wilderness, led by Darlene Moore; Black Rock Mountain State Park and Warwoman Dell Recreation Area, led by Georgann Schmalz; the Blairsville Ingles and Ivy Log Gap Road (west to east), led by Dan Vickers; Ivy Log Gap Road and the Blairsville Ingles (east to west), led by Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell; Rabun Bald and the Dillard Loop, led by Louis Schweizer; and Tallulah Gorge State Park, led by Bill Lotz.

A poster session at 5:00 PM, a social hour at 6:00 PM, and a delicious banquet meal featuring prime rib preceded the main speaker Saturday night. GOS members were entertained that evening by author and adventurer Alan Tennant, whose book, On the Wing: To the End of the Earth with the Peregrine Falcon, documents his travels in a small airplane as he and the pilot followed a Peregrine Falcon on its migration journey from the Texas coast into Canada, and then later as they followed

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GOS Spring Meeting Summary (continued from page 5)

falcons into Central America. Alan’s use of a slide show and excerpts from his book kept the audience on the edge of their seats as he took us from one country to another, eloquently describing the successes and failures of the mission.

After Alan’s presentation a species countdown was performed with the delightful assistance of Dot Freeman. One hundred seventeen bird species were observed during this weekend of birding.

Sunday’s field trips also left at 6:20 AM from the hotel. Those field trips included “moveable feast” to Brasstown Bald and other sites, led by Dan Vickers; Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area, led by Patty McLean; Black-Throated Blue Warbler banding, led by Kirk Stodola; Popcorn Overlook, Brasstown Bald and Sosebee Cove, led by Carol Lambert and Jeff Sewell; Ivy Log Gap Road, Gumlog Road and the Blairsville Ingles, led by Ken Blankenship; and Rabun Bald and Overflow Creek Road, led by Louis Schweizer.

It was an honor and a privilege to be on a field trip Sunday that included Dick Parks, one of the original founding members of GOS. That’s one of the special reasons I personally enjoy the GOS meetings; it’s not just about seeing the birds. Enjoying the company of other birders, getting to know familiar faces better, and seeing old friends again is just as exciting as seeing the Willow Flycatcher at the Ingles parking lot in Blairsville. So if you are new to GOS, or are a long time member who hasn’t come to the spring or winter meetings, I encourage you to do so. Informative presenters, knowledgeable field trip leaders, great scenery, strong leadership, and just down-to-earth good people are what you will encounter.

Consider making plans now to join us for the winter meeting to be held on Tybee Island, January 16-19, 2009. You can expect a good time and lots of wintering birds.
GOS Spring Meeting Bird List
Clayton, Georgia, May 16-18, 2008

List compiled by Bill Lotz

Canada Goose          Purple Martin          American Redstart
Mallard               Tree Swallow           Worm-eating Warbler
Ruffed Grouse         Northern Rough-winged Swallow          Swainson’s Warbler
Wild Turkey           Swallow              Ovenbird
Black Vulture         Cliff Swallow          Northern Waterthrush
Turkey Vulture        Barn Swallow          Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Harrier      Carolina Chickadee     Kentucky Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk    Tufted Titmouse        Mourning Warbler
Cooper’s Hawk         Red-breasted Nuthatch    Common Yellowthroat
Red-shouldered Hawk   White-breasted Nuthatch   Hooded Warbler
Broad-winged Hawk     Brown-headed Nuthatch    Wilson’s Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk       Brown Creeper          Canada Warbler
American Kestrel       Carolina Wren           Yellow-breasted Chat
Killdeer              House Wren             Summer Tanager
Rock Pigeon           Golden-crowned Kinglet   Scarlet Tanager
Eurasian Collared-Dove Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  Eastern Towhee
Mourning Dove         Eastern Bluebird        Field Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  Veery                 Song Sparrow
Barred Owl            Swainson’s Thrush         Swamp Sparrow
Common Nighthawk      Wood Thrush            Dark-eyed Junco
Chimney Swift         American Robin         Northern Cardinal
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  Gray Catbird    Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Belted Kingfisher     Northern Mockingbird    Blue Grosbeak
Red-bellied Woodpecker Brown Thrasher        Indigo Bunting
Downy Woodpecker      European Starling      Red-winged Blackbird
Hairy Woodpecker      Cedar Waxwing          Eastern Meadowlark
Northern Flicker      Blue-winged Warbler     Common Grackle
Pileated Woodpecker   Golden-winged Warbler    Brown-headed Cowbird
Olive-sided Flycatcher Northern Parula         Orchard Oriole
Eastern Wood-Pewee    Yellow Warbler          House Finch
Acadian Flycatcher    Chestnut-sided Warbler  American Goldfinch
Willow Flycatcher     Magnolia Warbler         House Sparrow
Least Flycatcher      Black-throated Blue Warbler
Eastern Phoebe        Black-throated Green Warbler 117 species
Great Crested Flycatcher Blackburnian Warbler
Eastern Kingbird      Yellow-throated Warbler
White-eyed Vireo      Pine Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo  Prairie Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo     Palm Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo        Bay-breasted Warbler
Blue Jay              Blackpoll Warbler
American Crow          Cerulean Warbler
Common Raven           Black-and-white Warbler
Want to Receive GOS Documents Electronically?

By Bob Sargent

I have to laugh whenever someone tells me that computers are kind to the environment because they reduce paper waste. You couldn’t prove this assertion by me, as I slip on the printouts that overflow my recycle bin under my desk, or shove aside the printed e-mails (no kidding!) that someone has stacked on my keyboard. I realize that some of you live far from Georgia and may never attend one of our meetings, so maybe you don’t want to receive meeting announcements. Additionally, those of you who are handcuffed to the computer universe have probably noticed that we post each new issue of GOShawk on the home page of our website, www.gos.org. We try to include meeting announcements in the newsletter whenever possible, rather than send separate mailings, but the timing of the two productions doesn’t always merge. So if you’re concerned about wasted paper and trees, or even if you’re not, please feel free to answer the following questions by e-mailing me at kywarbler@cox.net:

1) Do you want to continue to receive GOS meeting announcements?
2) If you answered yes to question one, would you prefer to receive the announcements via e-mail?
3) Do you prefer to receive GOShawk in paper form or electronic form?

If you elect to receive GOShawk and/or meeting announcements electronically, what we’ll do is e-mail to you the link where these documents can be found, rather than send them as e-mail attachments to dozens of people. It may interest you to know that we are currently working on storing the entire collection of The Oriole on DVD. Reviewing more than 70 years’ worth of scanned journals is a slow process, but eventually we’ll be able to provide the collection in electronic form to interested members and non-members.

Announcement of GOS Bylaws Modifications

Our bylaws is a living document and, as such, requires modifications from time to time to reflect new needs and 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 winter meeting in January:

Article III. Membership. Section 4. Receive a discounted rate on registration fees for Society meetings. Be afforded the opportunity to participate in members-only field trips. Have the exclusive opportunity to apply for GOS grant funds, if qualified (i.e., only graduate students can apply for some grants). Get discounts on the cost of some Society merchandise and publications.

Article V. Duties of Officers. Section 4. The secretary shall serve on the Education Committee, assisting with the evaluation of applications submitted for the Parks’ scholarship, as well as the development and implementation of programs designed to teach the public about birds and conservation.

Article V. Duties of Officers. Section 7. Note: This is a newly created section, as no duties were previously defined in the bylaws for past presidents. The past president shall serve one two-year term and shall act in an advisory capacity to the president. The past president shall provide assistance at Society meetings, entertaining guest speakers if the first vice-president is otherwise engaged, providing assistance at the registration desk and greeting meeting attendees. The past president shall serve on the membership committee, assisting the chair of that body with efforts to recruit new members and shall assist other chairs with special projects, at the request of the president.
In Memoriam: Dr. Joseph Greenberg
By John Swiderski

Dr. Joseph Greenberg, 89, passed away on February 24, 2008, in Oakland, California, where he had lived since 2006. He was a life member of GOS for 24 years.

Joe was born and raised in Massachusetts and received all of his education there. He entered Harvard graduate school in 1940 to study biology, but his progress toward his doctoral degree (1947) was interrupted by the war. Joe served in the Public Health Service and was deployed to the Pacific theater, where he was primarily involved in malaria control. He had vivid memories of coming under Japanese fire in a landing craft during the battle for Tarawa.

After completing his doctorate Joe embarked on quite a distinguished 33-year career conducting and directing medical and genetic research. In 1974 he came to Atlanta to cap his research career as chief of research for the Mycobacteriology Branch at the Centers for Disease Control. In 1980 Joe retired and remained in Atlanta.

Joe devoted much of his active retirement years to birds and birding. For more than twenty years he taught birding classes at Emory University and conducted countless field trips and expeditions. While birding was his main passion in life, he also loved good food and drink, music, and conversation. His Georgia life list, last published in this newsletter in 2000, totaled 339 species, still a very respectable total. He was concerned about songbird habitat destruction in the tropics and was a strong advocate for the use of shade-grown coffee. For nearly a decade Joe was state coordinator for the Breeding Bird Surveys and also served as a regional coordinator for the Breeding Bird Atlas block surveys.

Joe was recognized for his many accomplishments by GOS, which presented him with the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award in 1989. The Georgia General Assembly passed a resolution in 1997 commending him for his contributions to environmental awareness and protection of birds.

During his last few years of life Joe still managed to enjoy the birdlife coming to his feeders at Sunrise of Oakland Hills. He suffered numerous declines and then rallies during that time and his many friends began to lovingly call him “the Energizer Bunny.” He is survived by five children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Joseph Greenberg. Photo courtesy of Doug Greenberg.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the form and mail with your payment to: Georgia Ornithological Society, 198 Ponce de Leon Ave, Unit 7C, Atlanta, GA 30308

NAME(S): ________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________

CITY: _________________________________      STATE: ___________     ZIP CODE: ___________

PHONE: _____________________________  E-MAIL: ______________________________________

Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

☐ Bachman’s Sparrow (Regular) $20
☐ Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Sustaining) $30
☐ Northern Bobwhite (Patron) $50
☐ Fledgling (Students only) $10

Life Membership Rates for individuals or couples:

☐ Northern Goshawk $400

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