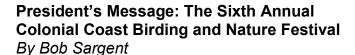
Vol. 35 No. 2 June 2008

# **GOShawk**

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society





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 silhou-

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival October 9-13, 2008, Jekyll Island, GA

GOS Winter Meeting January 16-19, 2009, Tybee Island, GA

> GOS Spring Meeting April 24-26, 2009, Rome, GA

ettes; 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.

(continued on page 3)

GOShawk—2 June 2008

# Georgia Ornithological Society

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President **Bob Sargent** 478-397-7962 1st Vice President Bill Lotz 2nd Vice President Dan Vickers Secretary DeeAnne Meliopoulos Treasurer Jeannie Wright Business Manager Steve Holzman Historian Phil Hardy (Vacant) Past President The Oriole, Co-Editors Sara Schweitzer **Bob Sargent** 

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Webmaster Jim Flynn

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Conservation:

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Earle Greene Award:

John Swiderski 229-242-8382

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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**

John Kricher and Martha Vaughan Pocasset, MA

## **Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

Steve and Kim Covington
Van Hill
Dan Howington
Hugh Kennedy
Catharine Brockman Kuchar
Tom Purucker
Billi Wagner
Sandy Springs, GA
Lawrenceville, GA
Watkinsville, GA
Midland, GA
Roswell, GA
Athens, GA
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 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** 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

GOShawk—3 June 2008

### **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.

Mojica, E.K., J.M. Meyers, B.A. Millsap, and K.L. Haley. 2008. Migration of Florida subadult Bald Eagles. Wilson Journal of Ornithology 120: 304-310.

Sabine, J.B., J.M. Meyers, C.T. Moore, and S.H. Schweitzer. 2008. Effects of human activity on breeding American Oystercatchers, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Georgia, USA. Waterbirds 31: 70-82.

Mattesson, B.J., J.M. Meyers, and R.J. Cooper. 2006. Detrimental impacts of radio transmitters on juvenile Louisiana Water-thrushes. Journal of Field Ornithology 76: 173-177.

Sabine, J.B., S.H. Schweitzer, and J.M. Meyers. 2006. Nest fate and productivity of American Oystercatchers, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Georgia. Waterbirds 29: 308-314.

Sabine, J.B., J.M. Meyers, and S.H. Schweitzer. 2005. A simple, inexpensive video camera setup for the study of avian nest activity. Journal of Field Ornithology 76: 294-298.

# 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.

GOShawk—4 June 2008

## 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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



Doris and Don Cohrs with George Cheeseman (R) waiting to embark for Churchill, Manitoba, 1986. Courtesy of Doris Cohrs.

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 Cohrs with a Kestrel netted at the Jekyll Island Banding Station in the mid 1990s. Courtesy Chris and Jan Pitman.

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.

GOShawk—5 June 2008

### **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 Power-Point presentation on his research into the ecol-

ogy 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

(continued on page 6)



Dick Parks and Bob Sargent at the spring GOS meeting in Clayton, Georgia. Photo by Darlene Moore.

GOShawk—6 June 2008

### 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.



Black-throated Blue Warbler, Clayton, Georgia. Photo by Dan Vickers.

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

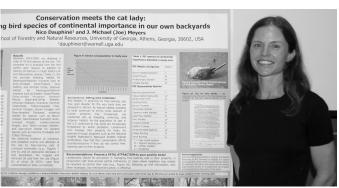
tering birds.



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 win-

winter meetings, I encourage you to do so. Informative presenters, knowledgeable field trip leaders, great scenery, strong leadership, and just down-to-





*Top left*: Kirk Stodola (second from left), Friday evening's speaker, pictured with Bob Cooper, Bill Lotz, and Bob Sargent. Photo by Darlene Moore.

Bottom left: Nico Dauphiné displays her research poster on cat-killed birds. Photo by Darlene Moore. Right: Willow Flycatcher seen on a field trip during the spring GOS meeting. Photo by Dan Vickers.

GOShawk—7 June 2008

# GOS Spring Meeting Bird List Clayton, Georgia, May 16-18, 2008

### List compiled by Bill Lotz

Canada Goose

Mallard

Ruffed Grouse

Wild Turkey
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk

Cooper's Hawk

Red-shouldered Hawk Broad-winged Hawk Red-tailed Hawk American Kestrel

Killdeer Rock Pigeon

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Barred Owl

Common Nighthawk

Chimney Swift

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Belted Kingfisher

Red-bellied Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker

Olive-sided Flycatcher Eastern Wood-Pewee

Acadian Flycatcher Willow Flycatcher

Least Flycatcher Eastern Phoebe

Great Crested Flycatcher

Eastern Kingbird
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo

Red-eyed Vireo

Blue Jay

American Crow

Common Raven

Purple Martin Tree Swallow

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse

Red-breasted Nuthatch White-breasted Nuthatch Brown-headed Nuthatch

Brown Creeper Carolina Wren House Wren

Golden-crowned Kinglet Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Eastern Bluebird

Veerv

Swainson's Thrush Wood Thrush American Robin Gray Catbird

Northern Mockingbird Brown Thrasher European Starling Cedar Waxwing Blue-winged Warbler Golden-winged Warbler

Northern Parula Yellow Warbler

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Magnolia Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler Black-throated Green Warbler

Blackburnian Warbler Yellow-throated Warbler

Pine Warbler Prairie Warbler Palm Warbler

Bay-breasted Warbler Blackpoll Warbler Cerulean Warbler

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart Worm-eating Warbler Swainson's Warbler

Ovenbird

Northern Waterthrush Louisiana Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler Mourning Warbler Common Yellowthroat

Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Blue Grosbeak Indigo Bunting

Red-winged Blackbird Eastern Meadowlark Common Grackle

**Brown-headed Cowbird** 

Orchard Oriole House Finch

American Goldfinch House Sparrow

117 species

GOShawk—8 June 2008

# 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 hand-cuffed 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. <u>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.</u>

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.

GOShawk—9 June 2008

# In Memoriam: Dr. Joseph Greenberg By John Swiderski

Dy John Swiderski

Dr. Joseph Greenberg, 89, passed away on February 24, 2008, in Oakland, California, where 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.

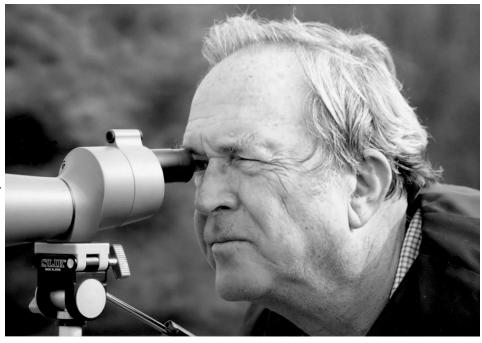
After completing his doctorate Joe embarked on quite a distinguished 33-year career conducting and directing medical and genetic research. In 1974 he came to Atlanta to cap his research career as chief of research for the Mycobacteriology Branch at the Centers for Disease Control. In 1980 Joe retired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

# **GOShawk**



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