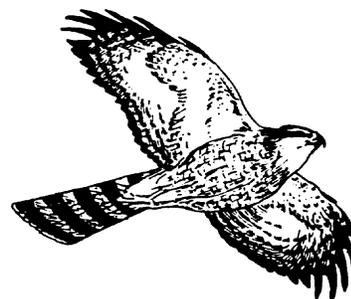


GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society



Georgia Rare Bird Alert: 770-493-8862

GOS on the web: www.gos.org

Georgia's 2008 Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival

By Dan Vickers and Bob Sargent

You could say that the Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival came of age in 2008. From its hatch year in 2003, the Festival has been growing in fits and starts in a sometimes arduous effort to leave the nest and take wing. The sixth annual festival, which was held on October 9-13, posted a record attendance -- 413 participants -- up an impressive 12 percent from the previous year. This year's festival participants had the opportunity to select from an amazing 70 field trips and events, of which more than 30 sold out, some in just minutes. Those of us who hovered over our keyboards waiting for the registration clock to begin probably felt like we were teenagers once again, trying to beat everyone else to the box office for tickets to that special rock concert. Fortunately, the technology cooperated this year, allowing almost everything from registration to field trip logistics to come off without a glaring hitch.

The weather certainly accented the weekend, al-

most like bookends on a shelf. On Thursday night, rain squalls complete with hail soaked the coast, leading some of us to wonder if we were in for a wretched weekend. Brief showers reappeared throughout the weekend as the weather front struggled to make its way to the sea, almost like a warbler that's reluctant to start the seaward leg of its migration. The occasional sprinkles failed to dampen anyone's enthusiasm, but the wind that followed the trailing edge of the weather front did its level best to ground many birders. By Sunday the 12th the wind offshore was blowing so hard we were forced to cancel the trip to Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge, and we woke up to more of the same on Monday morning. Festival organizers scrambled to arrange alternative land-based trips for the grounded birders, and the number of people participating in Jekyll Island trips blossomed considerably on Sunday and Monday.

Field Trip Highlights

This year's species count was 181 species (see page 7). This gives the festival a six-year average of 191 species, and a total species count of 251. Curiously, 132 of those species have been seen every year, but 32 have been seen only once in six years.

The increased number of field trips included four consecutive days' worth to Sapelo Island, Little St. Simons Island, and Blackbeard Island, two consecutive days to both St. Catherines Island and Cumberland Island, and double trips on most days to Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area. Nearly all of these trips were completely booked, leading the planners to ponder the possibility that it may be impossible to schedule too many trips to

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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of the month prior to publication.
Text by e-mail is appreciated.

Welcome, New Members!

Northern Goshawk Members

Carin Berolzheimer and Mark Farver	St. Simons Island, GA
Dan and Ellen Corrie	Tifton, GA
Nico Dauphine	Athens, GA

Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members

Elizabeth Brown	Jacksonville, FL
Tom Wright	Tucker, GA

Bachman's Sparrow Members

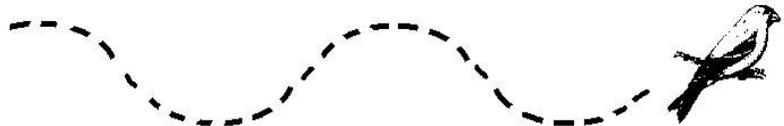
Patty McLean	Tucker, GA
Liza O'Neal	Duluth, GA

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 NE, Unit 7C, Atlanta, GA 30308 for a paper copy. Available to members only.

SAVE THE DATE!

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

GOS Spring Meeting
May 1-3, 2009, Rome, GA

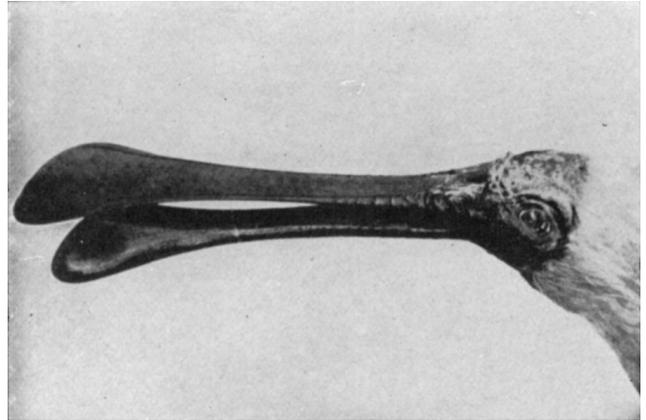


GOShawk Now Available Online

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>

2008 Birding Festival (continued from page 1)

coastal Georgia's greatest birding hits. Highlights of this year's field trips include the heron, woodpecker and thrush slams, 20 species of warblers, 22 species of shorebirds, and an impressive showing of raptors and falcons. Other highlights included the banding of a Loggerhead Shrike in front of an amused crowd at the convention center by a hobbled Charlie Muise, Dan Vickers' rescue of a Gopher Tortoise from a concrete storm drain at the Glennville Water Treatment Facility, a flock of 30 Roseate Spoonbills seen on the Jekyll Island Causeway on Monday, and the brunch of fresh, wild Georgia shrimp eaten on the *Lady Jane*.



Spoonbill's bill, from *The Outline of Science*, Vol. 1 (of 4), by J. Arthur Thomson (1922, G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY).

Workshops and Seminars

The Raptor Show was once again the big hit of the Festival, with more than 300 people attending the two shows. The 17 workshops and seminars offered covered a little bit of everything, from shorebird and sparrow identification to bird photography. Possibly the most entertaining workshop was Pete Dunne's "The Art of Pishing." Pete is an internationally renowned author, creator of the World Series of Birding, Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, and Vice President of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Try to imagine 30-plus people in a small room gamely following Pete's lead as he demonstrated the fine points of the knock-down pish, the hand smack, the squeak, and the owl whinny. It was wet (i.e., projectile pishing), we hit "musical" keys never recorded in a concert hall, and it was very funny.

Banquet and Keynote Speaker

About 200 people, still buzzing from the day's workshops and field trips, enjoyed a delightful wild Georgia shrimp and grits dinner Saturday night. Moments later they were choking with laughter (and grits) as Steve Holzman, closet comedian, once again regaled the crowd with his banter and bartered off raffle tickets for a variety of great prizes, including autographed copies of David Sibley's field guides.

Saturday evening's program featured Pete Dunne, who reflected on "The 25 Things That Changed Birding" in his lifetime, an insightful list of the people, places, products, ideas and organizations that helped make birding what it is today. Some things on the list were obvious, such as iPods, Roger Tory Peterson, and David Sibley; others were not so obvious, such as President Eisenhower's creation of the interstate highway system, which made it much easier for birders to motor all over the country compiling life lists. Pete ended his talk by challenging the audience to come up with their own examples of things that changed birding, which led to a freewheeling discussion filled with great ideas.

The evening ended, as it always does, with a species countdown, this time led by Georgia's own Giff Beaton. It's usually rather late in the evening when we get to the countdown, and banquet participants are often red-eyed, yawning, and ready to flee to their hotel rooms after such a long day. Giff kept an amused crowd in their chairs throughout the countdown, as he flitted from good-natured ribbing of his fellow birders to insights about species distribution and identification that only professional birders can know.

Next Year's Festival

Next year's Festival is already on the books for October 8-11, 2009, and our tentative featured speaker is author Scott Weidensaul. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Our festival has taken flight. Come join your friends, meet some new ones, and help to keep it soaring!

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Bolger*By John Swiderski*

Mrs. Elizabeth “Libbo” Bolger, 91, passed away September 10, 2008, in Douglas, Georgia. She and her late husband, James, joined GOS in 1987. Birds were a primary interest in her life, and she closely monitored bird life in the Coffee County area, including a Bald Eagle nest. Libbo readily shared her observations with others; for example, just a short time before her death she eagerly shared with fellow GOS members Sheila Willis and Annette Bittaker news of a Mississippi Kite nest she had heard about. Libbo was an accomplished basket weaver who specialized in Appalachian basketry and was a featured artist at the Chautauqua Art Festival in 2002. She is survived by her daughter, Georgia Vickers, son, Jim Belger, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

SEPARATING HOAGIES*By Dan Vickers*

Conversation between an observer and the Rare Hoagie Record Committee:

What kind of hoagie did you have? (Committee)

Turkey and Swiss. (Observer)

On the basis of what evidence?

That’s what it tasted like.

I didn’t taste it. What other evidence do you have?

It’s what I ordered.

You might have picked up the wrong sandwich at the counter. What other evidence do you have?

The wrapper has a #9 written on it. #9 is turkey and Swiss.

Wrapper isn’t sandwich. The counterperson might have made a mistake.

Well, I could give you a piece, but it’s all gone.

So you can’t. It’s gone. And I reject your identification of turkey and Swiss on the basis of insufficient evidence.

Silence.

How did it taste?

It tasted great!

Then it doesn’t make any difference whether I believe it or not, does it?

Not a bit.

You know, it could have been sliced chicken and not turkey.

I would have known the difference.

I know you would have.

The above was excerpted with permission from Pete Dunne, *Small-headed Flycatcher. Seen Yesterday. He Didn’t Leave His Name.* (University of Texas Press, Austin, 1998), pp. 100-102.

(continued on page 5)

Separating Hoagies (continued from page 4)

The mission of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) is to encourage the *scientific study of birds by gathering and disseminating information on Georgia bird life*. One of the most important functions of the GOS is to encourage observers to *document their sightings, and then to serve as a clearinghouse for documenting the occurrence and status of all wild birds in the State of Georgia*. Seems simple enough, right? Well, it seems that we can all post our sightings on ListServes like Georgia Birders On-line (GABO-L), eBird, or the like, but what we often don't do is follow through with the science. The GOS Checklist and Record Committee (GCRC) frequently has to beg and plead with some of us to submit Rare Bird Reports on the numerous rare birds (Review Species) seen every year. Often, they must complete the paperwork themselves from GABO posts and photos from the Internet. In other instances, a potentially important sighting is not archived in the GOS records and doesn't appear in the "From the Field" section of *The Oriole*, because the GCRC isn't able to track down the facts.

I have always thought of submitting rare bird reports as an honor and a privilege reserved for the lucky individual who first spotted an elusive species, a chance at immortality in the annals of state scientific records. Unfortunately, I have read or heard comments like: "I don't do write-ups anymore." "What's the point in writing it up? Those GCRC folks will never accept it." "I'm tired of being rejected." "I didn't get a photo." It seems that many birders just don't see the importance of submitting a Rare Bird Report.

When a rare bird is located, the only record that will stand the test of time is the submission of a Rare Bird Report to the GCRC. A post to GABO-L, eBird, or posting photos on various websites is fun and interesting, but it doesn't amount to a lasting contribution to Georgia ornithology if it doesn't pass the rigor of a scientific review. This is why science-based organizations like GOS do formal reviews of rare bird sight-

(continued on page 6)

A Current List of the Review Species in Georgia

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Great Cormorant	Smooth-billed Ani	Sage Thrasher
Ross's Goose	White-faced Ibis	Snowy Owl	Sprague's Pipit
Brant	Northern Goshawk	Burrowing Owl	Virginia's Warbler
Cackling Goose	Swainson's Hawk	Long-eared Owl	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Eurasian Wigeon	Yellow Rail	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Townsend's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Limpkin	Green Violetear	Kirtland's Warbler
King Eider	Whooping Crane	Green-breasted Mango	MacGillivray's Warbler
Common Eider	Snowy Plover	Broad-billed Hummingbird	Painted Redstart
Harlequin Duck	Mountain Plover	Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Western Tanager
Common Merganser	Hudsonian Godwit	Magnificent Hummingbird	Green-tailed Towhee
Masked Duck	Curlew Sandpiper	Anna's Hummingbird	Spotted Towhee
Pacific Loon	Ruff	Calliope Hummingbird	American Tree Sparrow
Yellow-billed Loon	Sabine's Gull	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Lark Bunting
Western Grebe	Black-headed Gull	Allen's Hummingbird	Harris's Sparrow
Northern Fulmar	Little Gull	Ivory-billed Woodpecker	Lapland Longspur
Sooty Shearwater	California Gull	Alder Flycatcher	Snow Bunting
Manx Shearwater	Thayer's Gull	Say's Phoebe	Black-headed Grosbeak
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Iceland Gull	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Western Meadowlark
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Brown Noddy	Bell's Vireo	Shiny Cowbird
White-tailed Tropicbird	White-winged Tern	Florida Scrub-Jay	Bullock's Oriole
Red-billed Tropicbird	Arctic Tern	Cave Swallow	Scott's Oriole
Masked Booby	South Polar Skua	Bewick's Wren	Common Redpoll
Brown Booby	Long-tailed Jaeger	Northern Wheatear	
	Dovekie	Bicknell's Thrush	
	Razorbill	Varied Thrush	

Separating Hoagies (continued from page 5)

ings – so that the documentation is formally approved, published, and archived. Fifty years from now, a scientist studying a rare bird species might question the accuracy of a sighting of that same species you reported via GABO in 2008; then she or he will find the approved review record in the GCRC archives and know that the sighting passed the scientific litmus test. Your contribution to ornithology will live on, even if you aren't an ornithologist. The current editorial policy of *The Oriole* states that, unless a Rare Bird Report is submitted to the GCRC, the record will not make it into the "From the Field" feature of the journal.

It is not only important to record how the bird was originally discovered and the identification made, but also any subsequent observations about the bird and its visit to Georgia. So it doesn't matter whether you are the first or twenty-first person to see or photograph a rare bird. Contact the GCRC and ask them if a Rare Bird Report has been submitted for that particular bird. If it hasn't, please take the time to download the report form from the GOS website (see the site below), and fill it out and send it in. Who knows? Maybe you'll make a lasting contribution to science.

GOS Checklist & Records Committee home page, with links to the report form and recent decisions, as well as to web sites that provide helpful information for documenting a rare bird (it's helpful for observers to familiarize themselves with these guides before going out into the field!):

<http://www.gos.org/brc.html>

GOS Checklist page: <http://www.gos.org/checklists/checklists.html>

If you have any questions, please contact: jim.flynn@mindspring.com

'Twas the Season . . . Revisiting the 1938 Christmas Bird Count

(From *The Oriole*, March 1939, Volume 4 No. 1, page 10)

"Christmas census in Georgia — Of the 1600 participants in Bird-Lore's Thirty-ninth Christmas Bird Census, 16 were members of the G. O. S. These were well distributed throughout the State. In the extreme northern region Mr. Harold C. Jones, Mt. Berry, Ga., totaled a list of 41 species. In the Atlanta area 62 species were recorded by Mrs. J. Connor Oliver, Nelson Spratt, Jr., Norman Giles, Jr., Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Bill Griffin, and Glenn W. Bell. The Savannah Club, represented by J. E. Wingo, J. R. Gain, Jr., Mary Wingo, May Cain, Anne Reddy, Marie Reddy, Nina Pape and Ida Seymour, headed the list in Georgia with 66 species. In Southwest Georgia, Herbert L. Stoddard recorded 63 species. This is the best record our state has made in this interesting activity."



"Cedar Bird" (Cedar Waxwing), from the 1901 book, *Bird Day: How to Prepare for It*, by Charles A. Babcock (Publisher: Silver, Burdett and Company, NY).

Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival Bird Species List

Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 9-13, 2008

List compiled by Steve Holzman

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Wilson's Plover	Northern Flicker	Palm Warbler
Canada Goose	Semipalmated Plover	Pileated Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Wood Duck	Piping Plover	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-and-white Warbler
Mottled Duck	Killdeer	"Trail's" Flycatcher	American Redstart
Blue-winged Teal	American Oystercatcher	Eastern Phoebe	Worm-eating Warbler
Northern Shoveler	American Avocet	Eastern Kingbird	Ovenbird
Green-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	Northern Waterthrush
Wild Turkey	Solitary Sandpiper	White-eyed Vireo	Common Yellowthroat
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs	Yellow-throated Vireo	Hooded Warbler
Northern Gannet	Willet	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-breasted Chat
American White Pelican	Lesser Yellowlegs	Blue Jay	Summer Tanager
Brown Pelican	Long-billed Curlew	American Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Double-crested Cormorant	Marbled Godwit	Fish Crow	Eastern Towhee
Anhinga	Ruddy Turnstone	Tree Swallow	Clay-colored Sparrow
American Bittern	Red Knot	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Least Bittern	Sanderling	Bank Swallow	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Seaside Sparrow
Great Egret	Least Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	Song Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Dunlin	Tufted Titmouse	Swamp Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Short-billed Dowitcher	White-breasted Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Tricolored Heron	Wilson's Snipe	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Reddish Egret	Laughing Gull	Carolina Wren	Indigo Bunting
Cattle Egret	Ring-billed Gull	House Wren	Painted Bunting
Green Heron	Herring Gull	Sedge Wren	Bobolink
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Marsh Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Great Black-backed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Meadowlark
White Ibis	Caspian Tern	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Grackle
Glossy Ibis	Royal Tern	Eastern Bluebird	Boat-tailed Grackle
Roseate Spoonbill	Sandwich Tern	Veery	Brown-headed Cowbird
Wood Stork	Common Tern	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Baltimore Oriole
Black Vulture	Forster's Tern	Swainson's Thrush	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Black Skimmer	Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Osprey	Rock Pigeon	Wood Thrush	
Bald Eagle	Eurasian Collared-Dove	American Robin	
Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove	Gray Catbird	<i>181 species total</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Common Ground-Dove	Northern Mockingbird	
Cooper's Hawk	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Brown Thrasher	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Screech-Owl	European Starling	
Red-tailed Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Cedar Waxwing	
American Kestrel	Barred Owl	Northern Parula	
Merlin	Chimney Swift	Yellow Warbler	
Peregrine Falcon	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Clapper Rail	Belted Kingfisher	Magnolia Warbler	
King Rail	Red-headed Woodpecker	Cape May Warbler	
Virginia Rail	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Sora	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Purple Gallinule	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler	
Common Moorhen	Hairy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler	
American Coot	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Prairie Warbler	
Sandhill Crane			
Black-bellied Plover			

Honoring Dick Parks

By Bob Sargent

On September 19, 2008, I attended a luncheon and ceremony dedicating the new Richard Parks Collection at the University of Georgia's main library. The university has permanently acquired Dick's collection, which includes more than 200 works of art and various papers, for the purposes of preservation, research, and public display. About 50 to 60 people attended the ceremony, including Dick's sons, university faculty, several students, and many GOS members. GOS provided a donation to the university library for the purpose of restoring the paintings. However, the credit for ensuring that this collection found a permanent home goes to Ron Rogers, an Atlanta attorney, a new friend of Dick's, and a remarkably resourceful and generous man. Ron spoke at the ceremony, describing Dick as quite a character. What a surprise, right? I was also invited to speak at the ceremony, and what follows is what I said.

Someone once said that “the business of education is not to gather facts, but to find a ruling passion, something around which you can organize your life.” Birders understand these words like their own skin. To a non-birder this may sound strange, maybe even incomprehensible; that is, the concept of organizing one's life around the pursuit and appreciation of birds. But it's accurate to say that many people I know do that very thing. Some of us are lucky enough to actually make a living through this passion for things wild and feathered. All of us became enamored with birds not just because they sing beautifully or because their ability to seemingly float on a breeze never fails to astonish us, but mainly because they are stunningly gorgeous creatures.

Sadly enough, many people have never truly looked at a bird, so they don't fully grasp their beauty. Then there are people like Dick Parks, people who see nature's splendor in ways that most of us can't. They combine an eagle's eye for detail with an artistic grace that people like me can only envy.

If you've never truly gazed at a bird before, you might find that when you look at one of Dick's paintings you'll feel as though someone has just made clear to you a poem you never previously understood. If you're like me and you've looked, I mean truly looked, at thousands of birds, then each time you look at Dick's paintings you are reminded anew why you fell in love with birds.

Dick found his ruling passion as a teenager, and he never let it go. Maybe it would be more accurate for me to say that it never let Dick go. He developed his passion for birds during the time before field guides, quality optics, and great birders were prevalent. He had no mentors in the beginning, so he taught himself. His passion led to his involvement in a Junior Audubon Club and then to the Atlanta Bird Club (ABC). He attended a meeting of the ABC on a December night in 1936 when the guest speaker was a young Roger Tory Peterson. The next day ABC formed the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS), and Peterson's painting of an oriole graced the cover of the society's new journal. Dick wasn't able to attend the meeting in which GOS was fledged, but he has missed very few meetings in the 72 years since that day, and none, so far as I know, since he was discharged from service in the U.S. Navy following World War II in 1946. In fact, it was at a GOS meeting in 1946 that Dick first began to exhibit his art.

I've always believed that we aren't defined by our gifts; instead, we are defined by what we do with those gifts. Most of us here today know what Dick chose to do with his. Just take a moment to look at the walls in this room. What you might not know is that Dick once served as regional vice president of GOS, and as co-editor and editor of the society's journal for six years. He produced the beautiful plates for Tom Imhof's book *Alabama Birds*, as well as those for several other books. He has donated prints, designed brochures, publication covers, and membership cards for GOS and for the Atlanta Audubon Society for more than 50 years. When GOS held its 50th anniversary meeting in Macon in 1986, it was Dick who chaired the planning committee for the meeting, and it was Dick who took charge of the task of writing a history of

(continued on page 9)

Honoring Dick Parks *(continued from page 8)*

the society for the event. I'm sure it only seemed fitting at the time, as he probably knew more about the society than anyone else.

He has received many well-deserved honors. His painting of a Brown Thrasher and Cherokee Rose hangs in the Georgia governor's mansion. In 1976, GOS bestowed its highest honor – the Earle Greene Award – on Dick in recognition of his then 40 years of dedication to conserving Georgia's birds, and to his service to GOS. Most fittingly, Dick's painting of an Orchard Oriole now graces the cover of the GOS journal.

In 2006, GOS was privileged to name a newly created scholarship after him – a scholarship designed to send young people to birding conferences and camps each year. When Dick learned that the scholarship had been named for him, he sent one of



Barn Owl by Dick Parks, from the cover of the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (2003).

his personally illustrated cards to me. He said he was honored to have the scholarship named for him, and was very pleased to know his name would be associated with an effort to interest young people in birds and conservation.

Dick, I'm the one who is honored. During my stint as president of GOS, I've occasionally felt like a Sanderling, one moment chasing after people like they're receding waves, trying to get them onboard and working for the society. In the next moment, I'm the Sanderling being chased by the waves, only the waves are now people's demands. During these trials I've felt Dick's constant support. His is usually a quiet, yet firm presence. He's always at the general meetings and is often at the executive committee meetings, like an admiral making sure each new captain knows how to negotiate the shoals.

Thank you for your support and wisdom, Dick, and for the amazing things you've accomplished with your passion. I am so pleased to know that your creations will remain as one flock, taking flight here, in this aviary.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the reason why we have gathered here: Mr. Dick Parks.



Dick Parks and Bob Sargent at the spring 2008 GOS meeting in Clayton, Georgia. Photo by Darlene Moore.

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.

Editor's Note: *The following article ran in the June 2008 GOShawk. Bob Sargent received about 10 responses, but then his computer crashed and he lost all of the respondents' e-mail addresses. With apologies from Bob (and a barely suppressed feeling of irony), please respond again to this article if you would like to "go paperless."*

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 will be presented to the Society for a vote of approval at the Tybee Island 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 one-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.

Announcing the Georgia Nature Photographers Association

Get ready, nature photographers, you have a photo club of your own coming on January 27, 2009. Headquartered in Roswell, Georgia, the nonprofit club will serve all of Georgia.



It is about time. Nature photography is hugely popular today, and although there are many terrific photography clubs in the Atlanta area, none focuses 100% on nature photography. That has left a lot of photographers feeling not just left out but always looking for a place where they could meet others who love their genre of photography, a club where they could participate and go on exciting trips, make friends and have speakers and photo critiques conducted by nature photography specialists.

A full two years of hard work plus terrific support by many people have finally brought the GNPA, the **Georgia Nature Photographers Association**, into being. A group of dedicated people have worked very hard to create a club with a unique focus on all aspects of nature photography: birds, flora, fauna, underwater, astro, micro, landscape... you name it, if it is nature photography related, that's what this club is about.

A huge boost to the club was having the Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) become its prime sponsor, giving the club not only a large meeting space that can hold hundreds, but a terrific venue for educational programs. In addition, the 168 acres of the CNC on the Chattahoochee River provide great photo opportunities for club members. Unique photo ops with CNC's captive raptors and other flora and fauna will give unique chances to photograph nature. In addition, there will be special access events for club members.

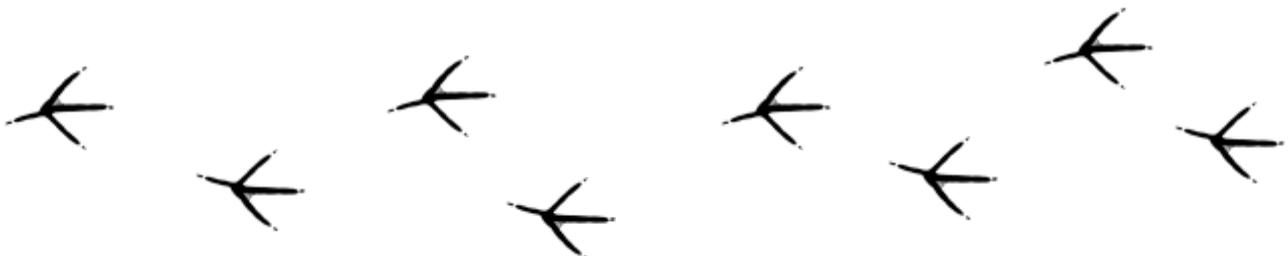
The naturalists in the CNC can provide a wealth of information on places to go photograph, some only accessible through the CNC/GNPA, so that is yet another bonus of becoming a member.

This is a two-way relationship. It is GNPA's opportunity to help the CNC with their mission and give back through helping them promote their programs and educational goals.

The GNPA invites all nature photographers, from beginner to pro, to come to the January 27th kick-off meeting in Roswell at the Chattahoochee Nature Center starting at 7:00 PM. The program will feature the acclaimed professional nature photographer, Charles (Chas) Glatzer, owner and host of Shoot the Light Instructional Photographic Workshops (www.shootthelight.com). Chas will give the keynote address and present his award-winning images while sharing his knowledge.



You won't want to miss the kick-off event. For full information and directions, please visit the club's website at www.gnpa.org.



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 |
|---|-------|

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

GOShaw



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