

# 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)

## A Tradition is Revived

By Bob Sargent

It was like riding a bicycle, albeit the chain sported a rusty glaze and got snagged on some of the gears. The society's first fall meeting since 2002 attracted 135 of the binocular-toting, field-guide packing faithful to Jekyll Island for the biggest GOS event since at least the mid 1990s. We devoted the past seven Octobers to arranging field trips and hosting guest speakers for the coastal festival, so when GOS proposed to resurrect the former fall meeting tradition earlier this year, it was no surprise when some questioned whether a society solo event in fall would succeed. Our files tell us that the first GOS fall meeting occurred in Savannah in 1937, so fall gatherings are as old as the society. The group's enduring affair with Jekyll Island began with a spring meeting there in 1948, a year after the state purchased the island from the Jekyll Island Club and six years before the causeway was built linking the island to the mainland like an umbilical cord. We now take

## SAVE THE DATES:

**GOS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**  
January 14-17, 2011, Tybee Island

**GOS SPRING MEETING**  
May 13-15, 2011, Hiwassee

that linear Boat-tailed Grackle magnet for granted, impatiently hurdling along its six-mile length in our eagerness to get to the south beach and the amphitheatre pond. But if you wanted to see the shorebird flock on the island's south beach 60 years ago, or the Wood Stork nestlings bellowing for food from the peak of the now dead pine at the pond, you would have had to rent a boat.

A few scattered society meetings cropped up on the island in the mid 1960s and early 1970s, but GOS didn't embrace this charming state park as an annual roosting destination until the 1980s. For the next 22 years, the membership could generally count on migrating to Jekyll Island each October, though the declining state of the island's hotels some times created more amusement than the meeting attendees bargained for. With this historical detour in mind, you'll understand when I say that our meeting on Jekyll Island this past October was a homecoming for the society. And what a homecoming it was.

## CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Member News	2
MEntoring begins with ME	4
Disease in Wild Turkeys	6
GOS' Founders and First Steps	8
2011 Richard Parks Scholarship	10
GOS 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting	11

(continued on page 3)

## **Georgia Ornithological Society**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<i>President</i>	Bob Sargent
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Bill Lotz
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Dan Vickers
<i>Secretary</i>	Darlene Moore
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeannie Wright
<i>Business Manager</i>	Ashley Harrington
<i>Historian</i>	Phil Hardy
<i>Past President</i>	(Vacant)
<i>The Oriole, Co-Editors</i>	Renee Carleton Bob Sargent
<i>GOShawk, Editor</i>	Jim Ferrari
<i>GOShawk, Asst. Editor</i>	Mim Eisenberg
<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

### **Committee Chairs:**

<i>Checklist &amp; Records:</i>	
Giff Beaton	770-509-1482
<i>Conservation:</i>	
Steve Holzman	706-769-2819
<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	
John Swiderski	229-242-8382
<i>Earth Share of Georgia:</i>	
Mark Beebe	770-435-6586
<i>Editorial:</i>	
Malcolm Hodges	770-997-1968
<i>Howe Research Grant:</i>	
Les Davenport	678-684-3889
<i>Terrell Research Grant:</i>	
Joe Meyers	706-542-1882
<i>Opportunity Grants:</i>	
Dan Vickers	770-235-7301
<i>Avian Conservation Grants:</i>	
Bob Sargent	478-397-7962
<i>Membership:</i>	
Patti Newell	225-939-8112
Cathy Ricketts	404-406-9348
<i>Education:</i>	
Renee Carleton	706-238-5892

*Georgia Rare Bird Alert* 770-493-8862  
Jeff Sewell, Compiler

GOShawk is published quarterly  
(March, June, September, December)

Jim Ferrari, Editor  
444 Ashley Place  
Macon, GA 31204  
478-757-0293  
jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu

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

## **Welcome, New Members!**

### **Fledgling Members**

Lisa Dlugolecki	Statesboro, GA
Evan Barnard	Alpharetta, GA

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

Lydia Kieft	Bowman, GA
Dr. Karen Henman	Gainesville, GA
Kay G. Baxter	Townsend, GA
Herb Wollner	Marietta, GA
Catherine Kimball	Warner Robins, GA

### **Quail Covey Members**

Joel Hitt	Lawrenceville, GA
-----------	-------------------

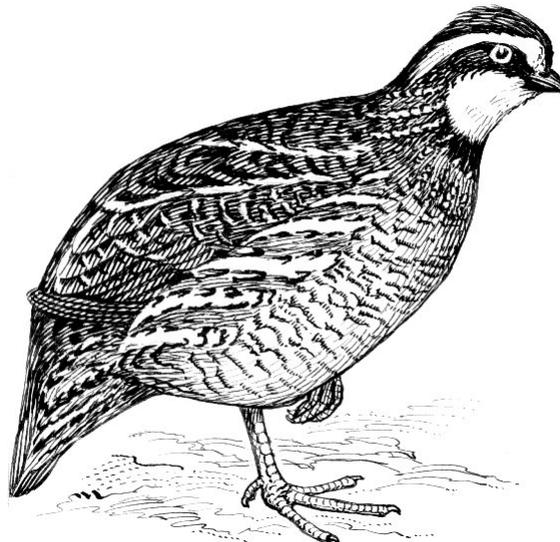
### **Red-cockaded Woodpecker Members**

Pehr J. Komstadius	Savannah, GA
--------------------	--------------

### **Northern Goshawk Members**

Roy Brown	Albany, GA
-----------	------------

*The 2010 GOS membership list is available electronically via e-mail or as a hard copy. Please send your request to membership@gos.org (Cathy Ricketts) for an e-mail copy or to GOS, 108 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434 for a paper copy. Available to members only.*



Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)

## A Tradition is Revived *(continued from page 1)*

The Cornell Lab folks had reserved Little St. Simons Island for some form of feathered ritual for the weekend, so we lost the most popular destination right at the start of field trip planning. But the trips schedule was bulging with other tantalizing destinations that spanned the entire Georgia coast, from Little Tybee Island to Cumberland Island. As usual, the St. Catherines Island trip “sold out” instantly, much like tickets to see a favorite rock ‘n’ roll act. Other favorites were also quickly booked, including Raccoon Key – the new hit coastal birding destination. And speaking of “rock stars,” members clamored to go birding with Jon Dunn, the meeting’s featured speaker, and the word quickly spread around the meeting hotel (Villas by the Sea) that Jon is truly the real deal – a gifted teacher, as well as a field guide guru. If you were there and still doubted this rumored assertion, all doubts evaporated when Jon gave his “Gull Identification 101” course at the banquet. Birders are notorious for the use of jargon, so I know that more than a few of us gleefully left the banquet hall that night, because Jon had armed our mental dictionaries with at least two new pages’ worth of ornithological tongue twisters.

In addition to meeting Jon, who arrived on the island chauffeured by Bruce Hallett, Jeannie Wright, and some of our other Atlanta-area members (I did compare him to a rock star...), another highlight for me that weekend was meeting GOS grant recipient Dallas Ingram, who presented the Friday night program describing her research on the relationship between poultry farms and disease transmission in Wild Turkeys (see the article in this newsletter). I spent the final day of the meeting co-leading a field trip to Sapelo Island with Mal Hodges, one of my favorite birding buddies and a guy who certainly doesn’t need my help. That trip was particularly special for me because, after being thwarted on several previous trips to Sapelo, I finally saw a chachalaca in Georgia.

In fact, I saw three of them, including one bird that stood on the edge of the road 30 feet away and stared at us, as if we were the creatures who didn’t belong on the island. I have seen the species before – in Tobago – where on the third consecutive day of being jolted awake by a flock (seriously) of them bellowing outside my hotel window at o’dark thirty, I was nearly moved to commit a violent act, but that’s another story. What a thrill it was this time to see them one by one launching themselves from tree to tree, sort of like winged monkeys.

As always, I thank the many gracious and skilled members who led the field trips. Thank you, too, to the executive committee members – Bill Lotz, Jeannie Wright, Steve Holzman, Ashley Harrington, and Darlene Moore – who jumped into the trenches to organize the meeting and to handle the last-minute crush of folks registering before the evening programs. A special thank you goes to Dan Vickers for not only arranging the hotel contract and banquet, but also for being daring enough to voluntarily manage all of the meeting and trip registrations. I’ll never question your devotion to the society, Dan, but we need to talk about your sanity.

Thank you to all of the members who showed up to support GOS’ return to its former fall meeting tradition. Because your enthusiasm was convincing, we have made reservations to meet again at Villas by the Sea during October 7-9, 2011. Come be with us again at the society’s fall home.

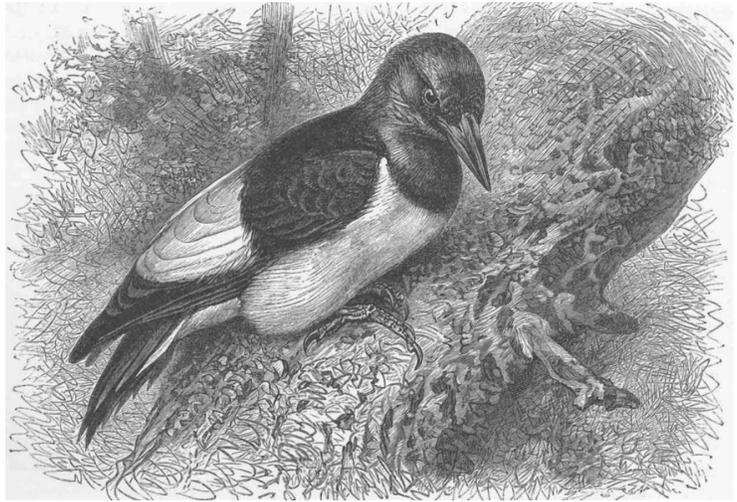


Plain Chachalaca, from *The Century Dictionary: An Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language*, by William D. Whitney (1911, The Century Co., NY).

## MEntoring Begins with ME

By Phil Hardy

My passion for birds and birding was born and took flight due to the influence of two remarkable men. Neither one was my father, but as I look back on my memories of their patient mentoring, I see how much like father figures they were to me. The first of these men was my paternal grandfather. He introduced me to birds when I was a young boy. From his breakfast room window we could easily see his feeder. Not only did I learn about fractions and long division from that breakfast room table, but he taught me about the different feeder birds that came to his seed feeder. He often smeared a big dollop of peanut butter on the side of the feeder just for kicks. From my grandfather I learned about the “two Blues”: Bluebirds and Blue Jays. Bluebirds were good; Blue Jays were bad. Eastern Bluebird numbers had declined due to factors such as pesticide use and secondary cavity nest competition from starlings. Blue Jays were generally considered to be renegade bandits, terrorizing other songbird nests and generally seeming to be more of a nuisance than the beautiful, intelligent creatures they are.



Red-headed Woodpecker, from *Royal Natural History*, Volume 3, edited by Richard Lydekker (1894).

Growing up in the Buckhead section of Atlanta in the 1950s, I became aware of the Red-headed Woodpeckers in our Peachtree Hills neighborhood. The striking red head against a black and white back turned my head every time. Drumming on our gutters and downspouts caused me to consider if the bird knew the difference between wood and metal. Watching the Belted Kingfisher dive for fish in Peachtree Creek was a favorite past time. The kingfisher's loud chatter announced its presence long before I could see it flying down the creek. Since our house had no air-conditioning, I slept with the window open during warm weather. Mr. Mockingbird kept me awake during many spring nights with his seemingly never-ending repertoire. It was in that neighborhood that I discovered yellow birds. “It's an American Goldfinch, not an escaped canary,” I was told.

My grandfather's mailbox more than once served as a nest spot for birds like the Carolina Wren. Their bulky, side-entrance nest completely blocked the mailbox, causing Grandfather to erect a temporary mail receptacle below the “nest box.” On the back porch he nailed a board, thus making a cavity from the roof and wall alignment for the House Wren to nest, with regularity, I might add. Whenever we saw an Eastern Bluebird on the nest box, it seemed everything ground to a screeching halt while we gazed in reverence at such a beautiful sight. When I was about the age of ten, Grandfather took me in silence on tiptoes to a terrace planted heavily with ferns. He peeled back the long fronds to show me the ground nest of the Eastern Towhee. That moment marked my first revelation that some birds nested on the ground. This “field trip” was only a prelude to an unexpected trip years later.

To this day, the flute-like sounds of the Wood Thrush and the trilling Pine Warbler remind me of that property and the wonderful birding knowledge Grandfather instilled in me. As a Boy Scout, it was fairly easy for me to earn the Bird Watching merit badge due to Grandfather's lessons. Fast forward about fifty years and to the southwest part of Georgia, to the city of Americus. My wife and I had just bought a house in a small subdivision. It wasn't long after we had moved in that a bearded and shoeless gentleman walked into the yard and said he wanted to introduce himself since we were going to be neighbors. Little did I know that this introduction would catapult me from casual bird observer to serious birder. My neighbor was Robert Allen (Bob) Norris and, unbeknownst to me at that time, was a noted ornithologist in his day.

How does a birdwatcher become a birder? There are as many stories as there are observers of the avian realm. This is how it happened to me.

While sitting in a stand of mixed hardwoods and pines one beautiful April morning, I observed a Hooded Warbler pair land very close to me. Their beauty captivated me as I watched them gathering nest material. I almost forgot about

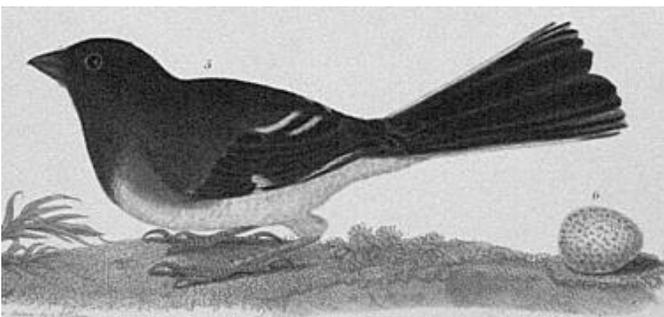
the wild turkeys I was hunting. I couldn't wait to get home and inform Dr. Norris, who told me that he had been an ornithologist—a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. And I remember he told me something about a TV antenna tower near Tallahassee and studying birds there with a man by the name of Stoddard. The name Stoddard meant nothing to me at that time, and I certainly didn't know anything about birds dying when they flew into communication towers. Dr. Norris assisted Herbert Stoddard for four years in his study of avian tower mortality; together, their published works provided new insights into bird species migration patterns and extreme dates.

Needing a larger house, my wife, daughter, and I moved across town to a neighborhood with a twenty-five-acre lake and a bird-friendly yard. In my workshop I built a simple hopper-type feeder and attracted Northern Cardinals, Brown-Headed Nuthatches, Red-Winged Blackbirds and House Finches. Later that fall, I observed my first White Ibis. The decurved bill really caught my attention, and again I was eager to tell Dr. Norris of the ibis observation. Norris often added little bits of information I knew nothing about, such as nesting habits and whether the bird was migratory or resident. It seemed my new birding friend knew everything I longed to know about birds. He even offered to take me on a short field trip! I was like a sponge wanting to catch the drippings of his avian knowledge.

The “field trip” consisted of his driving to my new house, from which we simply walked the neighborhood and the area behind the dam. In a ditch grown up with weeds, he pished up a Common Yellowthroat. (Pishing is man's attempt to imitate an alarm call of a bird, thus arousing the interest and curiosity of sometimes hard-to-see species.) At the edge of planted pines he pointed out the iridescent Indigo Bunting and the skulking Yellow-Breasted Chat. In the woods behind the lake dam, he showed me Acadian Flycatcher, Kentucky Warbler and White-Eyed Vireo. I was such a neophyte, I really didn't grasp the great importance of the Kentucky Warbler sighting and why he became so very excited. Later, I learned that Kentucky Warblers are a secretive species fond of dense, sometimes brushy vegetation and are thus difficult to see. It would be four years until I would see another.

In spite of the simplicity of that first field trip on April 6, 2002, with Dr. Norris, who was 79 years old at the time, I was completely hooked. I can still recall the beauty of the Cedar Waxwing's bathing and eating privet berries only twenty feet away from us and was amazed at Bob's ability to pish and squeak birds into showing themselves. Later, I discovered Dr. Norris had other talents. Having grown up in South Georgia, Dr. Norris told me he put his “fowling piece” in a vise and bent the barrels so that the shotgun could never again claim another bird specimen. He contributed to *The Life Histories of North American Birds* by Arthur Cleveland Bent by writing the Green-tailed Towhee section. He was also an accomplished illustrator and artist. According to Giff Beaton, senior editor of the *Georgia Ornithological Society Annotated Checklist* and author of *Birding Georgia*, “Dr. Norris may have published more on Georgia bird life than anyone else.” In addition to his tenure at Tall Timbers Research Station, Dr. Norris taught at the college level. His self-taught interest in botany led to a donation of his personal herbarium to Georgia Southwestern University in Americus. Norris was curator of the herbarium until his death on September 6, 2010, at 87 years of age. He will be greatly missed.

Now that I think about it, bird watching has a lot to do with firsts. We note in our journals when we see our first of the season Ruby-throated Hummingbird. When the first Purple Martin arrives in my back yard, we record the date. We note the dates of when we saw our first this or that. And we remember where we were, what the weather was like, and who we were with when we saw our first “what-ever-it-was-bird.”



“Towhee Bunting” by Alexander Wilson. Detail from print, *American Ornithology* (1808-1814).

It's been said that every life casts a shadow. My grandfather's shadow was an exceedingly loving one. Dr. Norris' shadow was an inspiring and knowledgeable one. Nowadays it seems that many young people are so engrossed in the Internet or the latest electronic gadget that they suffer from NDD: Nature Deficit Disorder. The future of many bird species in this country is dependent on training today's youth to become tomorrow's nature advocates.

I will always remember the Eastern Towhee nest tucked neatly away in the ferns at Grandfather's house, as well as my first field trip with my wonderful mentor, Dr. Norris. I am exceedingly fortunate to have passed through the shadow of both men and to have had Dr. Norris lead the field trip that led to my avid interest in bird watching.

## Do Commercial Poultry Operations Transmit Diseases to Wild Turkeys?

By Dallas R. Ingram

Wild turkeys are susceptible to most of the same diseases that affect domestic poultry. In 2004, a commercial poultry company announced that it would be building a chicken processing plant and hatchery in Cook and Colquitt Counties in southwest Georgia. This presented a unique opportunity for research to determine if chicken farming operations pose hazards to local populations of related wild birds such as turkeys, through the transmission of diseases and parasites. The study area included counties that surrounding the new chicken operation: Turner, Ben Hill, Irwin, Worth, Tift, Berrien, Lanier, Brooks, Colquitt, Thomas, and Mitchell. From 2005 to 2008, hunter-killed and sick or dead wild turkeys were submitted to the Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia, for examination. The tissues of 64 turkeys were examined for lesions and were tested for parasites, bacteria, and viruses. The turkeys were also tested for antibodies to pathogens such as Hemorrhagic virus, Newcastle disease virus, West Nile, Eastern equine encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis viruses, and avian influenza.

Seventy-two species of bacteria were detected in the tissues of wild turkeys, including *E. coli*, *Pasteurella* sp., and *Streptococcus* sp. Most of the bacteria identified in these birds are considered normal flora, but some can cause diseases. One turkey tested positive for *Salmonella*,

while all birds were negative for Chlamydia.

Fungi such as *Penicillium* were found in the lungs and tracheal tissues of 24 turkeys, including several species which can cause disease, especially in stressed or sick birds.



Wild Turkey, from *Beauties and Wonders of Land and Sea*, by Hazlitt Alva Cuppy (1895, Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick).

A lesion in the brain of a hunter-killed turkey in 2008 was a type that is most often associated with West Nile virus (WNV). We also found nematodes or tapeworms in both the large and small intestines of many of the turkeys. In fact, intestinal parasites were found in 34% of the birds. Additionally, large parasitic cysts consistent with blood parasites were seen in the vessels of both the kidney and spleen of six turkeys.

Using electron microscopy, we found that skin lesions from one turkey were positive for pox virus. This turkey also had a severe fungal infection that invaded multiple organs and an eye. Mixed infections, especially secondary fungal infections, are common with pox viruses.

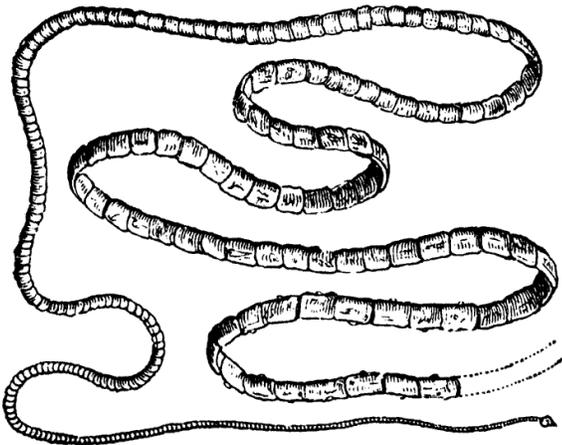
Examination of intestinal contents revealed an unknown parvo or parvo-like virus in five turkeys. These samples, along with 12 others, were sent to Dr. Zsak at the Southeast Poultry Research Lab in Athens to test for parvovirus. One positive sample was found to be similar to a parvovirus

that had recently been described from intestinal samples of domestic chickens and turkeys. This is the first documented case of a parvovirus in wild turkey.

Turkeys also were tested for various viruses that cause encephalitis. Testing multiple organs revealed 41 turkeys positive for WNV, including 33% of the testes. Eleven turkeys tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE), and 10 of these birds were also positive for WNV. None of the birds were positive for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), but nine of 15 were positive for antibodies to EEE. One turkey tested positive for antibodies to avian encephalomyelitis virus (AE). This is the first documented case of antibodies to AE in a wild turkey. A turkey found dead in a peanut field in 2005 was found to have Phorate in its intestine. Phorate is marketed as Thimet and Rampart, and is used to kill leaf-eating and soil insects and mites. This is the second case of mortality in turkeys due to Phorate poisoning documented in Georgia.



Wild Turkey trap, from *Florida and the Game Water-Birds*, by Robert Barnwell Roosevelt (1884, Orange Judd Company, New York).



Tapeworm, from *Drittes Lesebuch*, by Joseph Schäk (1874, Fr. Pustet, New York).

Over the course of the study we did notice some significant changes in the prevalence of some of the diseases and parasites, but we were not able to directly link them to the introduction of commercial poultry operations. It is possible that our findings are natural and that, with increased disease surveillance and increased use of vaccines and medicated feeds within the industry, the poultry operations will not cause significant changes in disease prevalence or variety in the wild turkey population. It is also possible that medicated feed present in the chicken litter could eventually cause a reduction in the parasite load in the wild. We realize that enough time may not have lapsed during the course of our study to see a change in the disease structure and that over time more significant changes could occur. This study was

especially beneficial because it is the first known health survey for wild turkeys in south Georgia, and it is the most extensive disease research effort in the southeastern United States. As such it provides an invaluable data baseline for future research, and the results can be of use for future management of the species.

## Recalling GOS' Founders and First Steps

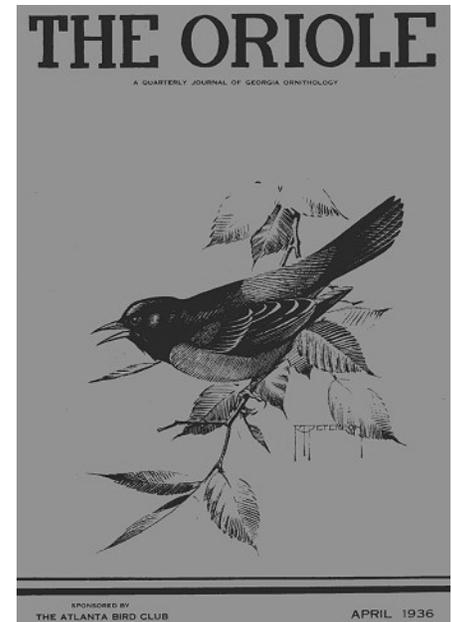
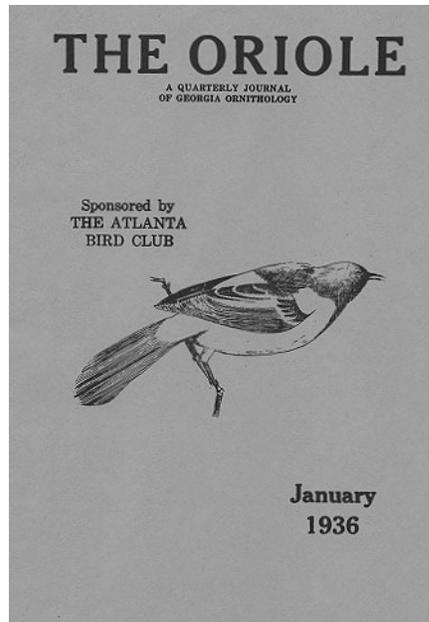
By Bob Sargent

Last April I gave a presentation at an Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS) meeting about the evolution of GOS. I figured that it was a timely subject given the society's pending 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, and it was a great excuse for me to sift through GOS' dusty archives. Okay, so I'm a history junkie. Have you ever wondered what GOS meetings were like in "the beginning"? Who were the highly-educated, over-achieving people who created the society we now take for granted? Most serious Georgia birders can parrot the names of the twentieth century's founding fathers of professional ornithology in the state such as Eugene Murphey, Ivan Tompkins, Herb Stoddard, Earle Greene, Eugene Odum, Fred Denton, Robert Norris, and Thomas Burleigh. The contributions of these remarkable men (and others) have been well-documented, but let's not overlook the instrumental works of women to the formation of GOS and to the science of ornithology in Georgia.

Have you ever heard of Ethel Purcell Harris? Maybe you haven't because the minutes from GOS meetings during the 1930s through the 1960s usually didn't list the first names of married women. In 1936, Ethel was the vice president of the Atlanta Bird Club, predecessor to the Atlanta Audubon Society, and she apparently was the instigator and organizer of GOS' charter meeting at an Atlanta restaurant (Peacock Alley) in December of that year. The society meeting minutes from that period often include a "Mrs. Hugh Harris." I had to do some digging to figure out her first name. Ethel would become the first secretary of GOS and would later serve as editor of *The Oriole*. I suppose you could argue that she deserves the moniker, "Founding Mother of GOS." Another influential woman, Mabel Rogers, attended GOS' charter meeting and would become the society's first female president in 1946. In fact, nearly one-third of the society's presidents have been women. Mabel taught natural sciences, including ornithology, at what was then called the Georgia State College for Women – now Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. Mabel's passion for education is apparent in the many articles she contributed to *The Oriole* in the 1940s.

The society's archives show that attendees of the first GOS meetings dressed in what we would consider to be formal attire, even when they were birding. Annual dues were \$1, and you could buy a life membership for \$25. The membership consisted of a combination of professional scientists and many highly-skilled, self-trained amateurs, much like today, though there was a greater percentage of scientists (especially state and federal agency employees) involved in the 1930s and 1940s than there is now. The amateur ornithologists in the early society often held professional titles in their places of work; i.e., many were engineers (Tompkins), medical doctors (Murphey and Giles), and ministers (Hugh Harris). They were prolific writers of letters (gasp), and much of their correspondence pertained to the most troubling conservation issues of the day: widespread shooting of raptors, the demise of wood duck numbers caused by overhunting, lack of proper habitat management, and finding support to protect and conduct studies on wild life sanctuaries. (Note: In those days "wildlife" was two words.) Efforts to distribute conservation news and recruit new society members were augmented through the appointment of eight or more regional vice presidents who represented GOS in all corners of the state, and members were often appointed as delegates to represent GOS at professional ornithological meetings across the country. Much like today, the society stressed the importance of educating young people, only in those days they did so through programs in partnership with what were called Junior Audubon Clubs.

What was it like to attend a GOS meeting in the 1930s and 1940s? Forty to 60 people attended a typical meeting, and it wasn't unusual for people who couldn't attend to send letters of regret, which were read aloud to all the attendees. Consider this: the registration cost for the meeting at Vogel State Park in October 1939 was \$3, and that covered the cost of meals and lodging. Meetings started on Saturday afternoons, opening with reports given by the regional vice presidents. A short business meeting was held, which would then be followed by scientific presentations by agency professionals. The Saturday night program often featured a toastmaster who began the evening with some witty remarks, and the featured program usually included Kodak pictures or movie reels. You're probably wondering to yourself, "Where's the birding?" Well, the meetings usually concluded with one or two field trips on Sunday morning, but that was the sum total of the field activities. In GOS' early days, the meetings emphasized ornithology and conservation, not birding.



Covers from the first two issues of *The Oriole*, 1936.

Reading the minutes of those meetings is a reminder of the old adage that some things never change. The leaders often pleaded with the membership to write letters to politicians and to become more involved in the society, members complained about the lack of youngsters in GOS, and the editor of *The Oriole* frequently begged for the submission of articles. The society scaled back its meeting schedule during World War II, so Eugene Odum kept the members interested and informed by writing and mailing newsletters to them. One of his letters especially resonated with me in that he argued for keeping GOS ornithological, rather than allowing it to become a bird club. Sounds like a debate we could be having today, doesn't it? In contrast, one indication of how much things have changed was that of an article by Robert Norris in 1940 in which he argued that collecting birds (by shotgun) was the best means of identifying them.

If you'd like to learn more about GOS and the early days of professional ornithology in Georgia, a great place to start is the historical summary written by Eulalie Gibbs and Dick Parks for GOS' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting in 1986. Dick, Branch Howe Jr., and Ken Clark updated the society's history summary in 1996 for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting on Jekyll Island, and we'll update it once again for next month's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting on Tybee Island. You can also buy the complete set of *The Oriole* – a treasure trove of GOS history – on DVD via the society's business manager. Come join us on Tybee Island in January as we celebrate not just birds, but also the extraordinary accomplishments of the society's founding fathers and mothers.





## CALLING ALL BIRDERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 17

THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Now Accepting Applications for the  
2011 RICHARD PARKS SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

You can attend the Maine Audubon Society's  
"Field Ornithology and Maine Coastal Birding for Teens" Camp  
on spectacular Hog Island, on us!

***Application deadline is February 18, 2011***

The Georgia Ornithological Society will send two teens to Maine to take part in a special camp session June 19-24, 2011. Don't miss this chance to bird and explore this legendary island located in Maine's famous Muscongus Bay. Learn about seabird conservation from top ornithologists, and add puffins, murrelets, and other coastal birds to your life list. The GOS will cover registration fees and up to \$500 reimbursement for travel expenses (scholarship recipients arrange their own travel). Food and lodging is included in the camp registration. For more information about Hog Island and the camp, visit

[http://www.maineaudubon.org/explore/camp/hi\\_overview.shtml](http://www.maineaudubon.org/explore/camp/hi_overview.shtml)

*How to apply:* The applicant must be between the ages of **14** and **17** during the camp session and **must be a Georgia resident**. Complete the application form and write an essay (300-word minimum) about your interest in birds and birding, what you will do with the knowledge you will gain, and how you will spread your interest in birds to friends. Include three letters of recommendation with the application. Scholarship recipients are expected to write an article describing their experiences at camp for the *GOS-hawk* newsletter.

*The application form, essay, and letters of recommendation must be received by February 18, 2011 to be considered. The winners will be selected on March 1, 2011.*

### **Mail your application to:**

Reneé Carleton / 2011 Parks Scholarship  
PO Box 225  
Taylorsville, GA 30178

*Application form available on the GOS website*  
<http://www.gos.org/grants/parks.html>

## ***GOS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting: The Essentials***

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of GOS promises to be a gala affair. Be sure to set aside the weekend of January 14-17, 2011, to attend the meeting on Tybee Island. The meeting highlights will include:

Great field trips led by expert birders

Coastal Big Day competition on Friday the 14th

Two Friday evening speakers: Giff Beaton on the history of birding in Georgia, and Todd Schneider on the status and future of bird conservation in Georgia

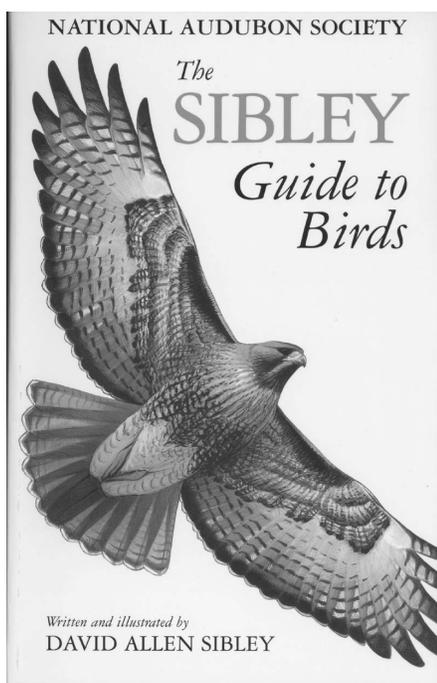
Scientific poster session on Saturday

Saturday evening banquet with guest speaker David Sibley, the acclaimed artist and author

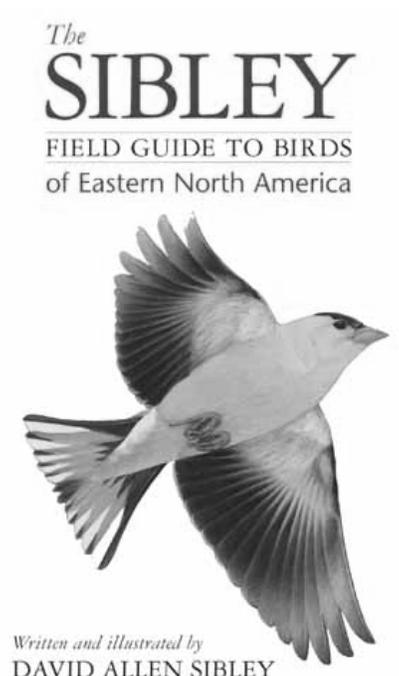
Sunday evening: “open mike” night for poetry or essay readings, bird call imitations, or other ornithology-inspired performances

Exhibits of art, photos, and the history of GOS

Recognition of past winners of the Earle Greene Award and past GOS presidents (Meeting registration and banquet fees will be waived for these distinguished guests.)



David Allen Sibley. Photo by  
*Erinn Hartman.*



# GOShawk



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CULLODEN, GA  
PERMIT NO. 7

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society  
PO Box 122  
Culloden, GA 31016

Return Service Requested



Printed on Recycled Paper

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete the form and mail with your payment to: Georgia Ornithological Society Membership, 108 W. 8th St., Louisville, GA 30434

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

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

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

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

### Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

- |                          |   |      |
|--------------------------|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bachman's Sparrow (Individual Membership) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quail Covey (Family Membership)           | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)          | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fledgling (Students only)                 | \$15 |

### Life Membership Rates for individuals:

- |                          |                  |       |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Northern Goshawk | \$450 |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------|

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