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# GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society  
[www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

## President's Message

By Jim Ferrari

If you were there for the spring GOS meeting in Augusta from April 20 to 22, you know that the stars were aligned for a weekend of nice weather, thought-provoking talks about bird conservation, and fantastic spring birding. Fifty-eight people registered for the meeting, located at the Augusta Marriott, the first time since 2003 that GOS has met in Augusta. Given that we had a nice diversity of field trip locations as well as really outstanding numbers of birds, I hope that we return to Augusta before another nine years have passed.

Friday night's speaker was Paige Barlow, a Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia, whose topic was the relationship between development and bird conservation in the southern Appalachians. Paige has received funding from GOS for her research at the Coweeta LTER (long-term ecological research) site in the mountains of western North Carolina. She began her talk by describing the physical geography of the Appalachians, then delved into the human history of the region,

leading up to the current trend toward parcelizing land for residential development. Next, Paige addressed the question of whether development and bird populations can be managed sustainably. To measure how urbanization is affecting birds, she conducted point counts at 275 sites scattered in Macon county, then used "occupancy models" to study the effects of various environmental factors, especially development, on the probability that a given bird species will be present or absent. In an interdisciplinary twist to her work, she is also holding focus groups with landowners to understand how they weigh monetary and ecological considerations when they make decisions about land use. Judging from the number of questions after Paige's presentation, there was considerable interest in her work. I admired how she remained cool-headed despite an apparent technical glitch that caused the lights to go on and off in our room. (Unbeknownst to us, we were battling for control of the lights with another group in an adjoining room; every time we dimmed the lights, they turned them back on!)

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Ornithological  
Society**

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**Committee Chairs:**

<i>Checklist &amp; Records:</i>	
Giff Beaton	770-509-1482
<i>Conservation:</i>	
Unfilled	
<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	
John Swiderski	229-242-8382
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Mark Beebe	770-435-6586
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Bob Sargent	478-397-7962
<i>Howe Research Grant:</i>	
Les Davenport	678-684-3889
<i>Terrell Research Grant:</i>	
Joe Meyers	706-542-1882
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Dan Vickers	770-235-7301
<i>Avian Conservation Grants:</i>	
Bob Sargent	478-397-7962
<i>Membership:</i>	
Cathy Ricketts	404-406-9348
<i>Education:</i>	
Renee Carleton	706-238-5892

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

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Patti Newell, Editor  
180 East Green St.  
Athens GA 30602  
225-939-8112  
pattijean.newell@gmail.com

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

**Welcome, New Members!**

**Fledgling**

Jamie Lee Brown East Dublin, GA

**Bachman's Sparrow**

Sally Davis Atlanta, GA  
Emory Moore Glennville, GA

**Quail Covey**

Ronald and Camilla Wagner Woodstock, GA  
Gary Smith and Helen Belencan Aiken, SC

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker**

Tom Nall Johns Creek, GA

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**GOS FALL MEETING**

*October 11-14, 2012, Jekyll Island*

**GOS WINTER MEETING**

*January 18-21, 2013, Tybee Island*

**GOS GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES**

**Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants**  
December 1, 2012

**Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants**  
December 31, 2012

**H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Grants**  
December 31, 2012

For information about the society's grants, visit <http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html>

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Nathan Klaus, senior wildlife biologist with the Georgia DNR, nongame endangered wildlife program, was the keynote speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. Nathan spoke on “Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warbler Conservation Efforts in Georgia.” He started by considering the importance of disturbance—both natural and artificial—in shaping bird habitat. Many Georgia species (not just birds, but plants, butterflies, etc.) depend on natural disturbances to generate the habitat structure that they require. The Cerulean Warbler is a good example, as it



From left: Dr. Jim Ferrari, GOS president, with 2012 spring meeting speakers, Ph.D. candidate Paige Barlow and Nathan Klaus. Photo courtesy Jim Ferrari.

prefers uneven-aged forest canopies rather than structurally uniform, even-aged canopies. Nathan and his colleagues found that creating a checkerboard of open patches within forests in the Chattahoochee National Forest attracted breeding Cerulean Warblers. Georgia has the southern-most breeding populations of Golden-winged Warblers (GWWA), a species that has experienced steep population declines since the 1960s. The GWWA is a species that requires early successional habitat such as old pastures or recently logged areas, which are scarce at the elevations that the birds prefer (2800 to 4200 feet). Nathan then described various management projects that are underway in north Georgia to create suitable habitat for GWWAs via prescribed burns and selective cutting of the forest canopy.

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While it will take years to determine the effectiveness of the habitat management for both Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers, Nathan suggested that GOS members can help in the meantime by reporting sightings of both species, donating to the GA-DNR nongame program, and being active in conservation groups.

In addition to the evening presentations, there were of course field trips on Saturday and Sunday to storied birding hotspots in the Augusta area: Audubon Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Horse Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lover's Lane and the Augusta Levee, Merry Brothers Brickyards, Phinizy Swamp, and Yuchi Wildlife Management Area. At Merry Brothers Brickyards, my group, led by Anne Waters, experienced a warbler fallout on Saturday morning. At one point, in a pair of somewhat decrepit oak trees, festooned in Spanish moss, we saw Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, Palm, Blackpoll, Redstart, and Black-and-White warblers. From where we stood, transfixed, we could also hear singing Northern Waterthrush and Yellow-breasted Chat. Outstanding birds of the morning included Horned Grebe in breeding plumage, a swarming Cliff Swallow colony, Painted Buntings, and White-crowned Sparrows. Folks at Silver Bluff Sanctuary saw Mississippi Kites and Bald Eagles as well as a flying squirrel, fox squirrel, and alligators. Phinizy Swamp on Sunday morning was magical— from the boardwalk area with swamp and bald cypress draped in Spanish moss to the seemingly endless artificial ponds with a wide variety of habitat, from mud flats to cattails to floating aquatics. My group was treated to a great look at a King Rail that boldly marched out onto a levee right in front of us. The final species count for the weekend was 155, a record for a spring inland meeting of GOS.

So many people help out to make our meetings a success, but special thanks go out to all of the field trip leaders: Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd, Paul Koehler, Willie Malpass, Lois Stacey, Peter Stangel, Anne Waters, and Gene Zielinski. Thank you also to Ken Blankenship for leading the species countdown on Saturday evening after the banquet. Thanks also to both of our speakers, Paige Barlow and Nathan Klaus, for taking the time to share their work with us. Finally, let's not forget the GOS officers who arranged for field trips and speakers and made the banquet and hotel arrangements: first vice president Dan Vickers and second vice president Ed Maioriello.

On a note unrelated to the Augusta meeting, I would like to extend a warm thank you to Steve Holzman, who stepped down as chair of the Conservation Committee this May after serving in that position since 2009. As chair, Steve drafted many letters on behalf of bird conservation, kept the membership informed of newsworthy issues, cajoled us into buying duck stamps, and organized a number of very successful raffles at GOS meetings. He was also our business manager for five years before heading up Conservation. Steve, thank you for your energy, your sense of humor, and your commitment to GOS. I would say, "We will miss you," which would be true, but I know that the birding community in Georgia will continue to hear from you as co-moderator of GABO-L, the state's birding listserv, and that you will continue to campaign tirelessly on behalf of the duck stamp program.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fall GOS meeting from October 11 to 14 on Jekyll Island. Be sure to mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

## Harris Neck NWR Land Issue Brewing

by Patricia E. Metz; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ranger, retired

Two decades before Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1962, controversy began over ownership of its original 2,687 acres. At the onset of World War II, the land was divided into 171 privately-owned tracts. An African-American community occupied less than half the acreage, and the Civil Aeronautics Authority maintained an emergency airfield on one tract. As the war escalated, the Department of War determined that the Harris Neck site in McIntosh County would be ideal for a fighter pilot training base. By July 1942, condemnation proceedings were completed and construction of Harris Neck Army Airfield progressed rapidly.

Some of the landowners whose property was purchased by the government at that time were descendants of slaves who acquired land in the Harris Neck area after the Civil War. These African-American landowners claimed oral assurance was given that their land would be returned to them after the airfield was no longer needed by the federal government. They further contended that they were paid less for their land than were their white counterparts.

These beliefs generated a series of attempts to reclaim Harris Neck land. The most recent action was launched by the Harris Neck Land Trust, LLC; a group of African-American descendants of the Harris Neck community. In response to their appeal for congressional review of their claims, U.S. Representative Jack Kingston facilitated a hearing with the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs on December 15, 2011. While review continues, the Trust has pursued new avenues of support. In April 2012, Atlanta attorney Robert Highsmith, executive partner of Holland & Knight, announced that his law firm will lobby Congress *pro bono* on behalf of the Trust.

Countering the Trust's efforts to secure legislation for the return of Harris Neck land, refuge supporters are uniting to oppose congressional action. Friends of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges (Friends) have teamed with the Blue Goose Alliance, the Ogeechee Audubon Society, the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society, and the Georgia Ornithological Society to develop a briefing document that will be delivered to appropriate federal officials. Opposition to the Trust's plans—which have morphed into acceptance of “inholdings” within the refuge—is based largely on facts provided by the General Accounting Office's 1984 Report, “The Federal Government's 1943 Acquisition of Land at Harris Neck, Georgia.” This thorough investigation of the Harris Neck land purchases refutes claims that any irregularities in acquisition occurred or that any repurchase commitments were made. Interestingly, the report reveals that African-Americans owned only 41% of the condemned land (yet Trust plans overlay all refuge lands, which now number 2,824 acres; additional acreage was acquired through The Nature Conservancy).

The briefing document can be accessed at the Friends' website ([www.coastalrefuges.org](http://www.coastalrefuges.org)), along with detailed information about the history of this controversy. The site's “Friends' Resources” sidebar links to “Harris Neck Land Issue,” which includes the GAO (General Accounting Office) report. The Friends encourage Harris Neck NWR supporters to write their representatives in Washington and urge them to oppose any attempts to reclaim land which now supports the most successful Wood Stork colony in Georgia. Anyone who has visited this jewel of a refuge can attest to its value as a haven for wildlife and wildlife watchers.

## Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend Georgia Ornithological Society's

### Fall 2012 Meeting

October 11-14, 2012  
Villas by the Sea  
Jekyll Island, Georgia

#### Keynote Speaker: Kevin Karlson

Kevin is an accomplished birder, professional tour leader and wildlife photographer who has published numerous articles on bird identification and natural history for an assortment of magazines, books, and journals. A former photo editor for *North American Birds*, he currently writes the "Birder's ID" column for *WildBird* magazine. Kevin is co-author of *The Shorebird Guide* and is currently completing a new book for the Roger Tory Peterson Reference series called *Birding by Impression*.

#### "Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration"

Bird migration is truly one of the most amazing natural wonders in our world today. From the unbelievable 7,000-mile, nonstop journeys of Bar-tailed Godwits to spectacular raptor concentrations during migration, there are still many unanswered questions about the movements of migratory birds. The program begins with a review of different types of bird migration before highlighting various bird families and select species that perform amazing feats of physical endurance during their bi-annual journeys. Breathtaking photos and several musical interludes add to the interesting nature of this presentation. This light-hearted program appeals to birders and non-birders alike.

#### Other Conference Highlights:

##### Workshop: Shorebirds by Impression, by Kevin Karlson

This short indoor workshop presents an alternate approach to shorebird identification. It encourages an initial evaluation of physical impressions to form a surprisingly accurate foundation for your ID conclusion before analyzing feather details or plumage patterns. By concentrating on the size, body shape and structural features of each bird, a reliable set of non-changeable impressions is formed for each species, unaffected by the many plumage conditions found throughout the year for most shorebirds.

#### Field Trips

Led by some of Georgia's top birders to outstanding locales such as Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Glennville Water Treatment Facility, Harris Neck NWR, Raccoon Key, Fort Stewart, and Cumberland, Jekyll and Sapelo Islands.

## Try BirdTape to Reduce Bird Collisions

By Jim Ferrari

According to the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), hundreds of millions of birds die every year in the United States from collisions with window glass. Now ABC has introduced a product, "ABC BirdTape," that, when applied to the windows of your home, will reduce the number of bird collisions. See the ABC website ([www.abcbirdtape.org/faq.html](http://www.abcbirdtape.org/faq.html)) for further details and to order a roll or two for your home. ABC also has produced an informative flyer, "You Can Save Birds from Flying into Windows!" (available on the ABC website) which describes strategies for reducing bird collisions. Let's all make an effort to make our homes more bird-friendly in time for spring migration.

<http://abcbirdtape.org/index.html>

## A Tale of Two Buntings

By Steve Holzman

A Painted Bunting living on a small tract of land adjacent to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge heads south after successfully raising three chicks. She's on her way to wintering grounds in Belize. Another Painted Bunting down the road from her nested on some private land at the intersection of Alligator Alley and Speedway Blvd. She is heading south to Costa Rica. They both find a shade coffee plantation on which to spend the winter. The owners of the coffee plantation decided to plant shade-grown coffee because of the increasing demand for it in the States by people like you. Surprisingly enough, their wintering grounds are pretty secure at this point.

There are, however, changes afoot on the coast of Georgia. Land for development is in demand as the economy ramps back up. The land on Speedway Blvd. is being cleared for a new convenience store. The opening itself takes away habitat and also has an effect several meters into the adjacent forest, allowing cowbirds increased access to Painted Bunting nests.

The small tract of land adjacent to the Savannah NWR has been owned by the same family for generations. The heirs have finally decided it's time to let it go. They love the land and have offered to sell it to the refuge. It's in the approved acquisition boundary, and the property has some nice wetlands still intact. The money to purchase it exists because people just like you have stepped up to the plate. They realize that the simple purchase of a duck stamp increases funds for purchase or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.



The 2012-2013 duck stamp. Photo courtesy of Steve Holzman.

The above story is fiction (for the most part). But birders ARE beginning to understand the importance of duck stamps to preserve habitat.

Many habitat protection programs have high overhead. The duck stamp does not; \$14.70 of every \$15 duck stamp purchase goes directly to the purchase or lease of land for the refuge system. Some 1,550 acres have been added to the Savannah NWR as a result of duck stamp purchases. Isn't this something you want to be a part of?

The 2012-2013 duck stamp goes on sale July 1st. GOS sells the duck stamp two ways:

- 1) In a small holder to attach to your binoculars, strap, bag, jacket, etc., to show people you support the habitat ALL birds need to continue to survive—\$18
- 2) On the card it comes with, as something to display or to put away as a collectible—\$16

This year, why not buy two? Remember to keep one in your car; it will get you in free to any refuge that charges admission fees. Visit <http://www.gos.org/duckstamp/duckstamp.htm> for details on the program. Remember, you can also purchase a duck stamp at your local post office if that is more convenient. Whatever you do, just pick one up somewhere and protect habitat for Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Wood Ducks, Least Bitterns, and, yes, Painted Buntings.

## Interview with Bird Researchers: Mason Cline and Joanna Hatt on Black-throated Blue Warblers

By Patti Newell

Mason Cline and Joanna Hatt are graduate students at the University of Georgia's Warnell School, researching declines in the southern population of Black-throated Blue Warblers. They are currently conducting fieldwork at the Coweeta Experimental Forest in southwestern North Carolina, finding nests and banding birds. They discuss their graduate research and experiences here. Mason and Joanna are expected to graduate in 2013.



Black-throated Blue Warbler in the hand. Photo courtesy Joanna Hatt.

**What state are you from?** *Mason:* I was born in Maine. My formative years were spent in both Maine and New Hampshire. Go, Black-capped Chickadee and Purple Finch! *Joanna:* I grew up in Maine and spent most of my childhood exploring the coastline. I fell in love with the mountains while going to school in Vermont and haven't looked back since. I also love telling people (especially in the Southeast) that I am from Maine. Most folks wonder how I ever survived the cold winter!

**How did you meet?** *Joanna:* We met at the long-term Black-throated Blue Warbler research site of Hubbard Brook. I was counting caterpillars for my fieldwork; Mason was looking for warbler nests. A match made in heaven...I could find the food, and Mason could feed the birds.

**What were the circumstances that brought you to the Cooper Lab?** *Mason:* I have a strong desire to spend my working life researching birds. Pursuing a PhD in the Cooper Lab both allows me to do this and will (hopefully) allow me to continue avian research afterward. That's the short answer to how I ended up a member of the Cooper Lab. Also, the Cooper Lab rocks! It's a large lab full of sharp, birdy people with a plethora of ideas and willingness to help you with your research.



Mason Cline with a Golden-winged Warbler. Photo courtesy Mason Cline.

**Did you choose this Black-throated Blue Warbler research project or did it choose you?** *Joanna:* It was a combination of both. I definitely sought out Dr. Cooper based on similar research interests, but the opportunity to work with Black-throated Blue Warblers more or less fell into my lap. Since I had previously worked with this species in New Hampshire, I was more than pleased to get to work with them at the southern end of their breeding range.

**How did you get into working with birds?** *Mason:* I spent my entire childhood outdoors and was obsessed with dinosaurs, so I think I was destined to fall in love with birds. How can you argue with flying dinosaurs? They're so cool. Also, I had a really inspiring ornithology lab instructor during my undergraduate education, Bill Lee. He had a way of sharing his extensive bird knowledge that was just fascinating. I think that sealed the deal. *Joanna:* Much like Mason, as a child I was really into dinosaurs. And what kid isn't? I thought for sure I would be a paleontologist

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until I decided studying extant wildlife would be more interesting. I also had an excellent ornithology professor at the University of Vermont who made it impossible to like anything other than birds.

**Do you think having previous experience with this bird has helped with your graduate work?**

*Mason:* I've spent about seven years researching the Black-throated Blue Warbler. I think that my experience with this species is indispensable for my graduate work. The BTBW is a finicky bird—delicate during the breeding season, with an uncanny ability to effectively hide nests in rhododendron. *Joanna:* I think my previous experience was absolutely critical to pursuing my research in the Cooper Lab. Our graduate studies are currently supported by the Georgia Ornithological Society and a NASA-funded instructional grant. This instructional grant gives undergraduate students the opportunity to learn how to conduct fieldwork and run their own research project, and Mason and I are the primary supervisors of these students. Without previous exposure to BTBWs, I'm not sure we could maintain the data integrity and contribute as significantly to the NASA program as we do. From getting to work with it in multiple locations, I think that we have a rare perspective on this bird. It's really cool to see how variable one species can be in behavior, song, and habitat preference.



Joanna Hatt with a Yellow-throated Warbler. Photo courtesy Joanna Hatt.

**What is the best part about working on a field crew?**

*Mason:* For me, the best part of working on field crews is seeing many amazing natural places (birds included, of course!) and meeting many people with interest in birds.

**What is the most difficult thing about graduate school and doing your own research?**

*Mason:* Enduring many, many hours in front of the computer. But in the end it will pay off. *Joanna:* Learning to find a balance. I frequently try to juggle too many things, and all of the responsibilities of my program can become overwhelming. Finding nests can be pretty tricky, too...

**What do you plan to do when you graduate?** *Mason:* Continue bird research and build guitars.

*Joanna:* Ideally I would like to continue avian research and teach in some capacity. My preferred position would include a combination of fieldwork and outreach education.

**How is your research going to help these birds?** *Mason:* My research will, in part, help to figure out why the BTBW is declining in its southernmost breeding range. The BTBWs breeding in the southern Appalachians are unique. Different songs and plumages are two examples. They were even considered a separate subspecies for a while, the Cairn's Warbler. I want to know what causes and maintains these differences and why the southern population is in decline. *Joanna:* I am studying fledgling survival during the dependency period (right after the young fledge the nest). Survival of BTBW young has yet to be documented, and I hope that my research will contribute to a better understanding of actual productivity during the breeding season. If the fledglings aren't able to survive the first month, I might have a reasonable hypothesis for why this species continues to decline in the South.

**Do you consider yourself a birder?** *Mason:* Sure, but not a super-serious lister. I do love seeing a new species. *Joanna:* Definitely, but I wouldn't say that I'm a twitcher. We keep a yard list at the house and I keep track of my lifers.

*The Georgia Ornithological Society Announces  
Wally Dreyfoos Scholarships  
Provided to Assist Young Adult Birders  
with GOS Meeting Expenses*

*What is it?*

Named in honor of former society president Wallace D. Dreyfoos, this scholarship was established for the purpose of paying the expenses for two high school or college students to attend a GOS meeting each fall. It's often financially difficult for young adults to attend GOS meetings. The Dreyfoos family and GOS want to encourage serious young adult birders and future ornithologists to get involved in the society. After all, you are the future of bird conservation in Georgia.

*How will this scholarship help you?*

The scholarship will provide up to \$500 per student for lodging (two nights maximum), gas, and meals. GOS will waive the cost of the meeting registration, banquet meal, and selected field trips for each scholarship recipient. The recipient will need to make his/her own travel and lodging arrangements, and will need to provide expense receipts to GOS to receive reimbursement, which you can get at the meeting itself.



*What do you have to do to apply?*

The applicant must be a Georgia resident, a high school senior or college student, and must be able to arrange transportation to the society's fall meeting, which is usually held in October on the coast. The interested applicant must submit a typed letter explaining why he/she is interested in birds and interested in attending the meeting. Be sure to describe any birding groups you are involved with and your career interests. We ask that recipients of this scholarship write an article describing the meeting experience for the GOS newsletter (*GOShawk*) when he/she returns home. As an alternative, the recipients could post their photos and details about the meeting weekend on the GOS Facebook page.

*When should you apply?*

The deadline for submitting your application form and letter is August 15, 2012. The winners of this scholarship will be selected by August 30th. For the application form and to learn more about GOS and its meetings, visit the society's website at [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

*Where do you apply?*

E-mail your application and letter of interest to [jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu](mailto:jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu) Call Dr. Ferrari at 478-757-5227 if you have questions.

**Go Paperless!**

Want to save trees and reduce printing costs by receiving the *GOShawk* electronically? Contact Cathy Ricketts, the GOS membership chairperson, at [gosmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gosmembership@gmail.com), and let her know that you would like to receive the *GOShawk* by e-mail. Cathy will make sure that you go electronic starting with the September 2012 issue.

## Young Birders and Birds Win in 2012 Youth Birding Competition

*From a Georgia Department of Natural Resources press release, May 1, 2012*

*Reprinted with permission*

The seventh annual Youth Birding Competition benefited conservation, birds and about 95 young Georgia birders. The 24-hour birding event held by the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, April 27-28, drew 25 teams. Contestants from preschool ages to teens spotted a total of 209 bird species and raised \$1,178 for conservation organizations. A wildlife program and awards banquet rich in applause, photographs and laughter (team names varied from Vomiting Vultures to the Flutter Brothers) capped the fun bird-a-thon at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield Saturday night.



The Mockingjays, four teens from Watkinsville and Savannah, saw or heard 143 species to win the overall competition and the high school division.

The team started birding Friday at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and other Athens-area

hotspots, drove to the coast that night and began birding again by dawn, then made it back to Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center—the finish line—by 5 p.m. Saturday. The strategy worked, member John Mark Simmons said. “We got a lot of inland birds that [Friday] evening.” Simmons, 15, of Watkinsville, also earned the mentor award for helping a primary division team, The Sparrows. Sister and brother Naomi and Nathan Bailey tied for first in their age group and were named the division’s top rookie team. In addition to the number and enthusiasm of participants, competition coordinator Tim Keyes said having an event regular like Simmons help younger birders was a highlight. “Having birded with John Mark since he was a beginner, it is incredibly rewarding to see him become such a skilled birder as well as a willing teacher of younger aspiring birders,” said Keyes, a wildlife biologist with the Wildlife Resources Division’s Nongame Conservation Section.

Qianci Ma, 12, of Duluth, GA, drew a Bluejay in flight to win the T-shirt art contest in the seventh annual Youth Birding Contest.

Photo courtesy GA-DNR.

The Youth Birding Competition is aimed at cultivating an interest in birds and wildlife conservation. Sponsors include The Environmental Resources Network Inc., the Audubon Society, the Georgia Ornithological Society and others. T-shirts worn by birders and team leaders at the banquet and awards ceremony Saturday featured a Blue Jay in flight drawn by Qianci Ma, 12, of Duluth. The stunning artwork by the sixth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design proved the grand-prize winner in the T-shirt contest. Judges chose four division winners from among a record 264 drawings and paintings of native Georgia birds. Ma’s entry led the middle school category. Noting the number and quality of entries, art contest coordinator Linda May of the Nongame Conservation Section said, “Picking winners was very tough!”

The 2013 Youth Birding Competition is being planned. The competition and art contest are free. Groups use as much of the 24-hour period as they want to count bird species throughout the state. The Nongame Conservation Section works to conserve Georgia’s rare and endangered

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wildlife, as well as other animals not legally hunted, fished for or trapped, native plants and natural habitats. The agency receives no state appropriations, depending instead on grants, direct contributions and fundraisers such as sales and renewals of the Bald Eagle and Ruby-throated Hummingbird license plates. Visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation) for more information. The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, is a nonprofit advocacy group that supports nongame conservation in Georgia. Details at <http://tern.homestead.com/>.

## Youth Birding Competition Results

**Overall**—The Mockingjays (143 species)

**High School Division**—The Mockingjays; second, Chaotic Kestrels (125 species); third, G’Nats (98 species)

**Middle**—The Lady Birders (120 species); second, Eagle Maniacs (117 species); third, Sharp-eyed Shrikes (110 species)

**Elementary**—Wood Thrushes (100 species); second, Wacky Warblers (79 species); third, Amazing Ospreys (34 species)

**Primary (tie)**—Beautiful Bluebirds and The Sparrows, (40 species); second, Night Owls 1 (34 species)

## Fundraising

1. Birds of a Feather, raising \$625
2. Eagle Maniacs, raising \$288
3. Chaotic Kestrels, raising \$265

*Fundraising for conservation groups is a voluntary component of the event. Participating teams this year supported American Bird Conservancy and Georgia’s Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund.*

## Top Rookie Teams (first-year teams):

**High School**—G’Nats 2 (96 species)

**Middle**—Chipettes (32 species)

**Primary**—The Sparrows (40 species)

## Birding Journal:

**Middle**—Madeline Studebaker

**Primary**—Kate Shilling

## Mentor Award:

John Mark Simmons

## T-shirt Art Contest:

**Primary Division** (out of 67 entries): Daniel Ng, 7, of Duluth, second-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design (Red-tailed Hawk)

**Elementary Division** (out of 83 entries): Catherine Shih, 10, of Alpharetta, fourth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design (Ruby-throated Hummingbird)

**Middle School Division** (out of 87 entries): Qianci Ma, 12, of Duluth, sixth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design (Blue Jay). Ma also was the grand-prize winner.

**High School Division** (out of 27 entries): Gabriela Delacruz, 15, of Atlanta, ninth-grade home-schooler (Eastern Screech Owl). *Art contest division winners received \$50 gift cards to Michael’s. The grand-prize winner received a \$100 gift card to Michael’s.*



Black-throated Blue Warbler fledgling.  
Photo courtesy Joanna Hatt.

## Birds Tallied During the GOS Spring Meeting in Augusta, April 20-22 , 2012

List Compiled by Dan Vickers

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Wilson's Snipe	Cedar Waxwing
Canada Goose	American Woodcock	Ovenbird
Wood Duck	Bonaparte's Gull	Louisiana Waterthrush
Gadwall	Caspian Tern	Northern Waterthrush
American Wigeon	Rock Pigeon	Black-and-white Warbler
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Prothonotary Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Common Ground-Dove	Swainson's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Kentucky Warbler
Lesser Scaup	Eastern Screech-Owl	Common Yellowthroat
Bufflehead	Barred Owl	Hooded Warbler
Hooded Merganser	Common Nighthawk	American Redstart
Ruddy Duck	Chuck-will's-widow	Cape May Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Chimney Swift	Northern Parula
Wild Turkey	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Bay-breasted Warbler
Common Loon	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Red-headed Woodpecker	Blackpoll Warbler
Horned Grebe	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Wood Stork	Downy Woodpecker	Palm Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Northern Flicker	Pine Warbler
Anhinga	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Bittern	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Yellow-throated Warbler
Least Bittern	Acadian Flycatcher	Prairie Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-breasted Chat
Great Egret	Great Crested Flycatcher	Eastern Towhee
Snowy Egret	Eastern Kingbird	Bachman's Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Loggerhead Shrike	Chipping Sparrow
Tricolored Heron	White-eyed Vireo	Savannah Sparrow
Cattle Egret	Yellow-throated Vireo	Grasshopper Sparrow
Green Heron	Blue-headed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Red-eyed Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Blue Jay	White-crowned Sparrow
White Ibis	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Black Vulture	Fish Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Turkey Vulture	Purple Martin	Northern Cardinal
Osprey	Tree Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Mississippi Kite	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Bald Eagle	Cliff Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Northern Harrier	Barn Swallow	Painted Bunting
Cooper's Hawk	Carolina Chickadee	Bobolink
Red-shouldered Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Red-winged Blackbird
Broad-winged Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Common Grackle
King Rail	Carolina Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Sora	House Wren	Orchard Oriole
Common Gallinule	Marsh Wren	House Finch
American Coot	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch
Semipalmated Plover	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow
Killdeer	Eastern Bluebird	
Spotted Sandpiper	Wood Thrush	
Solitary Sandpiper	American Robin	
Greater Yellowlegs	Gray Catbird	
Lesser Yellowlegs	Northern Mockingbird	
Least Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher	
Dunlin	European Starling	
		155 Species Total

# GOShawk



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### Annual membership rates for individuals and families:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bachman's Sparrow (Individual Membership) | \$25 |
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### Life Membership Rates for individuals:

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