



March 2013
Vol. 40, No. 1

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Jim Ferrari

Tybee Island, with its lovely beaches, wealth of shorebirds, and proximity to numerous outstanding birding locations, has been the favored location for winter meetings of the Georgia Ornithological Society for the past seven years. One hundred and seven participants continued the tradition in 2013 by gathering at the Ocean Plaza Beach Resort from January 18 to 21 to enjoy the beaches, make pilgrimages to the Crab Shack and other local seafood restaurants, and, of course, revel in the fantastic coastal birding.

Friday is often a day for dipping your toe into the waters of a GOS meeting—maybe you go on an abbreviated field trip, hear the evening speaker, and call it a day. Not so this January: We cannonballed right into the weekend with a fully stocked program of field trips, a workshop on feeding birds, and an evening program by a GOS research grant recipient. “Enjoy Bird Feeding More,” the workshop by writer and artist Julie Zickefoose, was more than a “how-to” session; it was a memorable

blend of science and story, art and anecdote. Recipe for a bug omelet? Check. Cautionary tales about Mr. Troyer, the gouty bluebird, and the perils of too much suet? You bet. Lessons in bird nutrition, from calcium in eggshells to phosphorous in mealworms? Done. A veteran bird rehabilitator and a generous landlord to legions of birds in her home state of Ohio, Julie lent us her artist's eye and a veterinarian's sensibilities to give us a fresh perspective on the joys and responsibilities of feeding wild birds.

Later on Friday evening, graduate student Abby Sterling described her studies on the nesting success of American Oystercatchers and Wilson's Plovers on Little St. Simons and Cumberland Islands. It turns out to be a very challenging business for a bird, raising chicks in the dynamic environment of the seashore. Many nests are destroyed by storms or tides, and the threat of predation by raccoons, grackles, mink, and even crabs is nearly constant. The goal of Abby's master's research at the University of Georgia is to develop predictive models of where birds

(continued on page 3)

CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | President's Message | 8 | Camp TALON Announcement |
| 2 | Member News | 9 | EarthShare Anniversary |
| 4 | 2013 Photo Contest | 10 | Request for Youth Scholarship Donations |
| 5 | Major Scholarship Announcement | 11 | Broxton Rocks Partnership |
| 6 | Please Meet John Swiderski | 12 | Winter Meeting Species List |
| | | 13 | 2013 Grant Award Winners |

**Georgia
Ornithological
Society**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Jim Ferrari
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Dan Vickers
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Ed Maioriello
<i>Secretary</i>	Ellen Miller
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeannie Wright
<i>Business Manager</i>	Ashley Harrington
<i>Historian</i>	Phil Hardy
<i>Past President</i>	Bob Sargent
<i>The Oriole, Co-Editors</i>	Bob Sargent Renee Carleton
<i>GOShawk, Editor</i>	Patti Newell
<i>GOShawk, Asst. Editor</i>	Mim Eisenberg
<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

Committee Chairs:

<i>Checklist & Records:</i>	
Giff Beaton	770-509-1482
<i>Conservation:</i>	
Nathan Farnau	404-849-3843
<i>Earle Greene Award:</i>	
John Swiderski	229-242-8382
<i>Earth Share of Georgia:</i>	
Mark Beebe	770-435-6586
<i>Editorial:</i>	
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
<i>Opportunity Grants:</i>	
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

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

Patti Newell Nickerson, Editor
180 East Green Street
Athens GA 30602
225-939-8112
pattjean.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

Andrew Dreelin	Columbus, GA
Shannon Curry	Athens, GA
Sam Brunson	Savannah, GA
Ben Williams	Watkinsville, GA

Bachman's Sparrow

Sandra Allen	Richmond Hill, GA
Thomas Painter	Atlanta, GA
Shannon Fair	Atlanta, GA
Susan Bezdek	Marietta, GA
Nicole Janke	Hinesville, GA
Abby Sterling	Athens, GA

Quail Covey

Mary and Charra Sweeney-Reeves	Savannah, GA
Vicky and Michael Stedman	Roswell, GA
Buddy and Mary Campbell	Beaufort, SC
Jason Shellenberger	Savannah, GA

GOS SPRING MEETING PREVIEW

When: May 3-5, 2013

Where: The Ridges Resort and Club,
Hiawassee, Georgia

Who: Keynote speaker Larry Carlile (Fort
Stewart): "Boxes, Burning, and Birds"

What: Plenty of great field trips in the
Mountains

How: Go to www.gos.org/meetings for
details and registration materials

GOS FALL MEETING

October 11-14, 2013, Jekyll Island

President's Message (continued from page 1)

nest, which will permit conservationists to focus their efforts on key sections of beachfront. With the intuition that can only come from living at the beach, hunting for nests, and observing birds day in and day out, Abby described the significance of subtle beach features for birds that lay their eggs directly on the sand; for example, nesting shorebirds are responsive to variation in the wrack line, sand texture and moisture, and vegetation. In addition to the engaging and informative science, Abby shared her enchanting photographs of baby plovers and oystercatchers.

Naturally, field trips were a big part of the weekend, and GOS members beat the bushes, muddied their boots in the saltmarshes, and braved near-shore pelagics to score some good birds. Some of the places we explored included Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Little Tybee Island, Fort Stewart, Savannah NWR, the Savannah spoils site, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, and, of course, Tybee Island and nearby Fort Pulaski. The highlights of my trip to Tybee's north beach included a Loggerhead Shrike near the lighthouse, rock-hopping Purple Sandpipers, and Buffleheads bobbing and diving in the waves off the end of the jetty. Some of the more notable bird sightings of the weekend included a Barn Owl flushed during a daytime field trip, American Black Duck at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, and a Western Kingbird that showed up at Fort Pulaski. The total species count for the weekend was 179, the same number as at last year's Tybee meeting. (See page 12 for the complete species list.)

The highlight of the Saturday evening banquet was the keynote address by Julie Zickefoose, "Lifestyles of the Small and Colorful: The Eastern Wood Warblers." The theme of the talk was the behavioral ecology of warblers on their tropical wintering grounds, with an emphasis on the differences between the fruit-eating warblers and the more insectivorous species. Julie's career of painting and drawing birds might be more accurately described as a lifetime of "seeing" birds first and foremost: paying scrupulous attention to proportion and subtle gradations of color from feather to feather, considering negative space, and trying to translate the dynamism of behavior to a static image on paper. As a result, we were treated to a consideration of the details that would enthrall an artist, but all in a larger ecological context. What is the significance of tail spots on a Hooded Warbler? Why does a Black-and-White Warbler have a particularly long hind toe? In what way is the "war paint" of the Chestnut-sided Warbler adaptive in the competitive environment of the tropics? Julie ended her talk with a plea to "get mad" about the habitat loss and environmental degradation that threatens many warbler species.

If you were at the banquet, I hope you had a chance to see the research posters presented by half a dozen graduate students: Camille Beasley, Mason Cline, Shannon Curry, Joanna Hatt, Clark Jones, and Gabrielle Robinson. All of these students have had their work funded by GOS. Their research shows that society grant money is a great investment in the careers of young scientists and in the scientific study of birds in Georgia and elsewhere in the Southeast.



Abby Sterling after her presentation at the winter meeting. Photo courtesy Phil Hardy.

(continued on page 4)

President's Message (continued from page 3)

Thanks to all the field trip leaders: Ken Blankenship, Rebecca Byrd, Steve Calver, Larry Carlile, Rachel Cass, Diana Churchill, Ellie Covington, Nathan Farnau, Capt. Rene Heidt, Malcolm Hodges, Steve Holzman, Nathan and Joyce Klaus, Ed Maioriello, Patty McLean, Joel McNeal, Ellen Miller, Kathy Miller, Dan Vickers, Russ Wigh, and Gene Wilkinson. We appreciate that you shared your time and expertise with us. Thank you also to Dan Vickers and Ed Maioriello for making arrangements with the hotel, speakers, and field trip leaders, and to Ashley Harrington, our tireless and cheerful business manager, who hauls colossal boxes of GOS merchandise from meeting to meeting. Finally, many thanks to Ellen Miller for organizing the photo contest, and congratulations to the winners. (See below for details.)

The glossy male Purple Martin I recently saw swooping over a lake in Macon foreshadows the many beautiful birds destined to arrive back in Georgia soon. The spring rush of birds will parallel a similar increase in GOS activities this spring and early summer. GOS sponsors the Georgia DNR's annual Youth Birding Competition in April, we offer Camp TALON for teens in June, and we award scholarships for young birders to attend Audubon's Hog Island and the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado. And, of course, we have another GOS meeting coming up in the north Georgia mountains. I hope to see you in Hiawassee in the first weekend of May for our annual spring meeting. Until then, good birding!

GOS 2013 Photo Contest

By Ellen Miller

The photo contest was held both before and during the Tybee Island 2013 winter meeting, with initial voting on the GOS Facebook page and final voting at the meeting. This year there was a new fun category, **Real-Life Angry Birds**. Mary Ann Teal won this category with her photo of a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron. The other categories and winners were:

East of the Mississippi:	Sharon Lindsay	Great Blue Heron in silhouette
Birds Outside the U.S.:	Brad Bergstrom	Heuglin's Courser
West of the Mississippi:	David Cree	Red-faced Warbler
Best in Show:	David Cree	Red-faced Warbler

And to give everyone plenty of time to plan and take photos, the categories for the January 2014 contest are:

Birds Photographed while on a GOS Field Trip

Birds Photographed at an Important Bird Area Site (can be anywhere in the U.S.)

Real-Life Angry Birds

For the 2014 contest, entrants must be GOS members and will be asked to verify that they adhered to the ABA rules of ethical behavior in taking the photos. Additional details and information will be provided later in the year.

CALLING YOUNG BIRDERS AGED 13 to 18
THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Is Now Accepting Applications for Our

**2013 MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG
BIRDERS**

To Attend the American Birding Association's
Camp Colorado
Application deadline is April 30, 2013

The Georgia Ornithological Society will send two teens to Colorado to take part in a special camp session July 21-27, 2013. Explore Colorado from grasslands to glaciers. From the shortgrass prairie of northeastern Colorado to the aspen groves and alpine tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park, 2013 Camp Colorado has it all. The GOS will cover registration fees and up to \$500 reimbursement for travel expenses (scholarship recipients arrange their own travel). Food, lodging, entrance fees, and transport to and from the airport in Colorado are included in the camp registration.

<http://events.aba.org/camp-colorado/>

How to apply: Each applicant must be a Georgia resident, complete the application form and write an essay (minimum 300 words) 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 *GOShawk* newsletter.

The winner will be selected on May 1, 2013.

Mail your application materials to
Reneé Carleton / 2013 Camp Colorado Scholarship
PO Box 225
Taylorsville, GA 30178

Applications may be submitted electronically (subject: Camp Colorado) to:
rcarleton@berry.edu

Must be in high-quality .pdf format. Unreadable applications will be returned.



Juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron. Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Teal, winner of the Real-Life Angry Birds category of the 2013 Photo Contest.

Please Meet John Swiderski

By Phil Hardy

A southern California native, John was born near the Los Angeles area in 1939. When he was about three or four years old, he moved to Costa Mesa in Orange County. As a young boy, John spent the summers at the beach almost daily: playing, swimming and body surfing. This was before the days of the Beach Boys and the surfing scene. The area he frequented as a youngster is now known as the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve, one of the most pristine remaining estuaries in Southern California. John, in retrospect, regrets not knowing about birds as a youth because, he said, he could have enjoyed birding for many more years. In fact, it would take some ten years for him to discover the world of birds and a work career.

In 1957 John graduated high school and attended Orange Coast Junior College. He graduated with an associate degree in electronics. Then, as happens to many people, John decided on the first of several career changes and pursued a journalism degree, aspiring to become a sports writer. Fortunately for GOS and Georgia birders, a career as a sports journalist didn't materialize. John enlisted into the United States Air Force, attended basic training at Lackland AFB, then went on to a nine-month school in Wichita Falls, Texas, for technical training. As soon as his training was about to end, John said the Air Force changed its mind, so it was back to Lackland AFB in 1961 and more training, this time in encryption. He ended up in London, England, for three years, where he worked in electronics and toured England extensively.

In 1965 John's military time came to an end, and he found himself in Kansas City, Missouri, working for SCM in electronics. Late in 1965 he was promoted to service manager in the Atlanta SCM sales office. Later he moved to Minnesota for a teaching job with Control Data Corporation. His move was during the warmer months of 1969, and he loved the view and his accommodations adjacent to one of the larger lakes in the area. Then came October and the first snow fall of the season. The southern California native thought the snow was pretty cool (pun intended). Then a week later a second snowfall arrived, followed by a third and so forth. He asked, "When does snow season end?" A local responded, "About May!" John moved back to Atlanta, Georgia, the following year. John had married while in Minnesota, and he and his wife adopted two sons, Justin and Jeff. He pursued an accounting degree from Georgia State University in 1972. The company he then worked for downsized, and once again it was career change time. Another door opened when John went to work for the Georgia Department of Transportation, where he stayed for 27 years in accounting and administrative support. Retirement came in 1998 following three years as an executive in the treasurer's office.



John and Kate Swiderski on an electric train while birding in Panama. The bird painting behind them is the Harpy Eagle (Panama's national bird).

(continued on page 7)

Please Meet John Swiderski (continued from page 6)

Back to birds: After John returned to Atlanta in 1970, he lived in an apartment unit on Roswell Road. Outside of his unit was an electric power line with hundreds of birds lined up shoulder to shoulder one morning. He wondered what kind of birds they were. You and I might go ahead and dismiss the Atlanta sighting as “probably European Starlings or Rock Pigeons,” but John purchased a field guide and identified the birds. They were Cedar Waxwings. John then learned about Atlanta Audubon and joined that fine organization. Later he discovered GOS, joined and became more deeply involved in both organizations and in birding. Within a year, John went from knowing absolutely nothing more about birds than that they have feathers to being on fire for birds. He describes three kinds of birders. The most casual is the back yard birder who may have a feeder and is content to look at yard birds when convenient. The second type is the person who joins birding organizations, subscribes to periodicals, is able to identify many species, and possibly owns a field guide. Then there is the ultimate, most aggressive birder John describes as the **combat birder**. Combat birders live to bird; they eat, sleep, and dream about birds and aren't afraid to center vacations around birds. They are also known as “chasers.” John's rise to a birder in the third degree took only a year from seeing the lovely Cedar Waxwings from his apartment window. He birded often with GOS member Terry Moore. As a team, they hold three Georgia records: a Florida Scrub Jay on Jekyll Island (1973), a Smooth-billed Ani on Jekyll Island (1974), and a Ruff near Lake Walter F. George (1976). One of John's most memorable birding trips led to wedding vows. Let me elucidate:

The year was 1986, and GOS held its 50th anniversary meeting in Macon. One of GOS's founding members, Roger Tory Peterson, attended the meeting. John explains: “Kate and I were unmarried at the time and lived at opposite ends of the state. We had known each other casually for some time, but a romance had not developed. Kate had come to the meeting with five or six lady friends from Valdosta. They asked me Friday evening if I would go with them on Saturday and take photos, as they were bound and determined to get a chance to talk with Dr. Peterson. I said I would be glad to do so. On Saturday morning I was standing in the parking lot of the motel as the field trips were leaving when one of Kate's friends came up and said, ‘If you are going with us, you better come on as we are leaving right now!’ Upon entering the Suburban they were riding in, I found that the only vacant seat was next to Kate.” The rest is history. John ponders if anyone else can claim that RTP was indirectly responsible for their marriage.

John and Kate were married in 1988 and live in Valdosta, where they enjoy gardening and a very birdy backyard. How birdy? How about an overwintering Virginia's Warbler in 2010? Some 130 birders from all over came to see the rarity. John's yard list is currently at 108. Not bad at all.

I asked John if he remembered any special birding highlight over the years he has birded. He recalled a time during a trip to Yellowstone National Park. He was driving along the beautiful Yellowstone River and witnessed a Golden Eagle and a Bald Eagle squaring off in a territorial dispute. The Bald Eagle won the skirmish, he remembered. John has birded in southeast Arizona, the Texas Hill Country, Panama and Rancho Naturalista in Costa Rica. When asked if he had a favorite bird, John recalled immediately the “spark” bird that started it all: the Cedar Waxwing.

(continued on page 8)

Please Meet John Swiderski (continued from page 7)

John was brought into the GOS Executive Committee in 1976 as treasurer when he was appointed during tenuous financial times for GOS. He served in that position from 1976 to 1989. During that time, he was also business manager from 1987 to 2003. He served as president from 1999 to 2001. Currently John serves as chair for the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Committee. In 1998 he was the recipient, himself, of the Earle Greene Award. Today John still enjoys bird watching and attending GOS meetings. His North America list is at a respectable 535 birds (only twenty added in the past ten years), and his Georgia list is currently at 306. His diversified interests include trains and railroad history, music, propeller-driven airplanes, and singing. He has participated in five choral works with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and one at Lincoln Center in New York City. He sings annually in a production of Handel's *Messiah* in Valdosta, his home town.

And now you know who John Swiderski is.

Camp **TALON**

(Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature)

What?

- ▶ A five-day camp for teens interested in birds and nature
- ▶ Tons of birding and a little classroom instruction
- ▶ 2:1 student to teacher ratio. Instructors are professional biologists and teachers, each with 20+ years of experience
- ▶ Sponsors: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Ornithological Society, and Atlanta Audubon Society

When? June 2-6, 2013

Where? The camp will be based at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island. We'll be birding on Little St. Simons Island, Blackbeard Island, Sapelo Island, Harris Neck NWR, Jekyll Island, Altamaha WMA, and St. Simons Island.



Who? Will host 15 students, ages 12-15

How much? \$300 early registration (by May 1), which includes meals, lodging, and bus from Macon. **Scholarships available.**

How can I register? Look for the registration form at www.georgiawildlife.com or www.gos.org.

For more info, contact Julie Duncan (julie.duncan@dnr.state.ga.us) or at 770-784-3059

EarthShare of Georgia Marks 20th Anniversary

By Mark Beebe

EarthShare of Georgia (ESGA, <http://www.earthsharega.org/>) celebrates two decades of local environmental funding with Earth Day 2013 events. Twenty years ago, EarthShare of Georgia, a nonprofit organization based in Atlanta, opened its doors to raise funds to benefit local environmental organizations. In December of 1992, local environmental groups, including The Sierra Club Foundation, Georgia Chapter, and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy founded the Environmental Fund for Georgia, now EarthShare of Georgia. In January of 1993, ESGA was a full-fledged operation dedicated to raising funds through employee giving for local environmental groups such as the Georgia Wildlife Federation, Trees Atlanta, and the GOS. Today the organization funds more than 70 leading environmental groups that benefit Georgia, having raised more than \$5,000,000 in campaign dollars on their behalf.

In celebration of the organization's anniversary, ESGA will be involved in three Earth Day events scheduled in April and presented by Kaiser Permanente. This year's theme is "Get Down To Earth: Earth Day 2013," and includes the following events:

- **The Corporate Green Day Challenge**

Saturday, April 6, 2013 corporate volunteers exchange their suits for work boots and garden gloves to clean up parks, pull privet and clean streams at various locations around the state.

- **The 11th Annual Earth Day 2013 Leadership Breakfast**

Friday April 19, 2013 at the Georgia Aquarium featuring keynote speaker Bea Perez, corporate sustainability officer for the Coca-Cola Company.

- **The 17th Annual Earth Day Party**

Thursday, April 25, 2013 at King Plow Arts Center, where guests will enjoy live music, food by Bold American Catering and an Eco-Silent Auction stocked with eco-friendly products.

"These events allow us to celebrate the important work of our environmental member groups, thank those who have donated their time, money, and resources to these groups and strengthen the network of those who are passionate about the sustainability of Georgia's environment," says ESGA Executive Director Madeline Reamy.



A group of birders brave the elements while birding on Tybee Island beach at the winter meeting. Photo courtesy Phil Hardy.

Request for Youth Scholarship Donations

By Renee Carleton, GOS Education and Outreach



Julie Zickefoose signing books at the winter meeting. Photo courtesy Phil Hardy.

This year the GOS received eleven terrific applications for the Richard A. Parks Scholarship to attend Maine Audubon's Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens camp at Hog Island. Two great young people were selected, and two others will be chosen to receive the Dr. James C. Major Scholarship, which provides partial funding (supplemented by GOS), to attend the American Birding Association's (ABA) Camp Colorado in July. The ABA is holding a third slot open for us in case we want to send another Georgia teen to Camp Colorado, but in order to do so we will need YOUR help to raise the \$1,600 cost.

I am asking you to please make a contribution toward this special cause. Bob Sargent, our past GOS president, is pledging \$100 to get things started and has challenged us to match that amount. If you can help make this happen, please send your check to Jeannie Wright, GOS Treasurer, 3851 Ashford Trail, Atlanta, GA 30319-1894. Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated—by the GOS leadership and especially by the lucky teen who gets selected to go to the camp. Past recipients of GOS scholarships have often referred to these camps as “the experience of a lifetime.” Let’s give another teen an extraordinary experience.



Julie Zickefoose at the winter meeting. Photo courtesy Phil Hardy.

GOS Partners with The Nature Conservancy to Expand Broxton Rocks Preserve

By Jim Ferrari

The GOS Executive Committee has approved a \$150,000 pledge to the Georgia chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to help purchase a 174-acre parcel adjacent to the Broxton Rocks Preserve in Coffee County, Georgia. The pledge, which GOS will pay over a four-year period, will ensure that the Beasley tract is protected from development and managed for biodiversity; furthermore, the purchase will connect formerly separate units of the preserve, allowing for their management as a single unit. The total purchase price of the land is \$300,000, making GOS a significant contributor to the purchase of this ecologically valuable property.

The Conservancy's 1,200-acre Broxton Rocks Preserve in southeast Georgia is known for its unique sandstone outcrops, rocky fissures and cliffs, and a waterfall along Rocky Creek. The site is botanically rich, with green-fly orchids (*Epidendrum magnoliae*), grit portulaca (*Portulaca biloba*), native azaleas, and the threatened Georgia plume (*Elliottia racemosa*), among hundreds of other species. The Nature Conservancy has been planting wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*) and conducting prescribed burns at the site to restore the native longleaf pine ecosystem in areas that were pine plantations. Bachman's Sparrow headlines the suite of pinewoods specialists that nest at the site.

This is not the first time that GOS has considered purchasing the Beasley Tract. GOS offered \$400,000 for the land in May of 2007, with the intention of selling it to TNC, but the owner declined to part with the land at that price. Now that the land is for sale at a lower asking price, GOS has helped provide TNC with financial leverage to secure the remainder of the funds for purchasing the Beasley Tract.

While the pledge to help purchase the Beasley Tract is a big financial commitment for GOS, partnering with TNC to preserve this property is a significant way that GOS can fulfill part of our mission: "to ensure conservation of birds and their habitats." The

Executive Committee is confident that, even after pledging \$150,000 to TNC,

GOS will still have the financial resources to devote to education, graduate research grants, avian conservation grants, and the other regular activities of the Society. The GOS leadership is very mindful of the importance of ensuring the long-term, sustainable use of GOS funds so that our society can continue to promote interest in and appreciation for birds, disseminate scientific knowledge of birds, and provide opportunities for fellowship among Georgia birders for many years to come.



Falls at Broxton Rocks. Photo courtesy Dan Vickers.

"Populations of pinewoods birds are in decline, and connecting fragmented conservation lands is a great way to restore local populations. Without the support of GOS, The Nature Conservancy would not have been able to piece together funding to protect this key tract. And birds are only one part of the rich complexity at Broxton Rocks." —Malcolm Hodges, Director of Stewardship for TNC in Georgia

Species Seen During the GOS Winter Meeting on Tybee Island, January 18-21

List compiled by Dan Vickers

Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Cooper's Hawk	Northern Flicker	Swamp Sparrow
Canada Goose	Red-shouldered Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Tundra Swan	Red-tailed Hawk	American Kestrel	White-crowned Sparrow
Wood Duck	Clapper Rail	Merlin	Dark-eyed Junco
Gadwall	King Rail	Peregrine Falcon	Northern Cardinal
American Wigeon	Virginia Rail	Eastern Phoebe	Painted Bunting
American Black Duck	Sora	Western Kingbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Mallard	Common Gallinule	Loggerhead Shrike	Eastern Meadowlark
Mottled Duck	American Coot	White-eyed Vireo	Rusty Blackbird
Blue-winged Teal	Black-bellied Plover	Blue-headed Vireo	Common Grackle
Northern Shoveler	Semipalmated Plover	Blue Jay	Boat-tailed Grackle
Northern Pintail	Piping Plover	American Crow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Green-winged Teal	Killdeer	Fish Crow	Baltimore Oriole
Canvasback	American Oystercatcher	Purple Martin	House Finch
Redhead	American Avocet	Tree Swallow	Pine Siskin
Ring-necked Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Carolina Chickadee	American Goldfinch
Lesser Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs	Tufted Titmouse	House Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Willet	Red-breasted Nuthatch	
Black Scoter	Lesser Yellowlegs	White-breasted Nuthatch	179 species total
Long-tailed Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Brown-headed Nuthatch	
Bufflehead	Red Knot	Brown Creeper	
Hooded Merganser	Sanderling	House Wren	
Red-breasted Merganser	Western Sandpiper	Sedge Wren	
Ruddy Duck	Least Sandpiper	Marsh Wren	
Wild Turkey	Purple Sandpiper	Carolina Wren	
Red-throated Loon	Dunlin	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	
Common Loon	Stilt Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-billed Dowitcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Horned Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Bluebird	
Eared Grebe	Wilson's Snipe	Hermit Thrush	
Manx Shearwater	Red Phalarope	American Robin	
Wood Stork	Bonaparte's Gull	Gray Catbird	
Northern Gannet	Laughing Gull	Northern Mockingbird	
Double-crested Cormorant	Ring-billed Gull	Brown Thrasher	
Anhinga	Herring Gull	European Starling	
American White Pelican	Lesser Black-backed Gull	American Pipit	
Brown Pelican	Great Black-backed Gull	Cedar Waxwing	
American Bittern	Forster's Tern	Northern Waterthrush	
Great Blue Heron	Royal Tern	Black-and-white Warbler	
Great Egret	Black Skimmer	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Snowy Egret	Parasitic Jaeger	Common Yellowthroat	
Little Blue Heron	Razorbill	Palm Warbler	
Tricolored Heron	Rock Pigeon	Pine Warbler	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Mourning Dove	Yellow-throated Warbler	
White Ibis	Common Ground-Dove	Eastern Towhee	
Glossy Ibis	Barn Owl	Bachman's Sparrow	
Black Vulture	Great Horned Owl	Chipping Sparrow	
Turkey Vulture	Belted Kingfisher	Field Sparrow	
Osprey	Red-headed Woodpecker	Savannah Sparrow	
Bald Eagle	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Henslow's Sparrow	
Northern Harrier	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Le Conte's Sparrow	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Seaside Sparrow	
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Fox Sparrow	
	Woodpecker	Song Sparrow	



Eastern Indigo Snake at Broxton Rocks. Photo courtesy Dan Vickers.

2013 GOS Research Award Winners and Grant Recipients

Congratulations to this year's recipients

1) H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Awards

Shannon Curry, M.S. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Urban foraging impacts on fecal corticosterone metabolites in White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) in Palm Beach County, Florida."

Lauren M. Deaner, M.S. candidate, Georgia Southern University. "Incubation roles of breeding Wilson's Plovers and their implications for foraging success, diet, and predation risk."

Brigette N. Haram, M.S. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Survey of avian species richness and abundance in a southeastern reservoir dominated by *Hydrilla verticillata* to investigate possible impacts of avian vacuolar myelinopathy."

Anna Joy Lehmicke, Ph.D. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Annual survival and winter movements of the Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*) in northern Gulf of Mexico tidal salt marsh."

Katie LeAnn Reames, M.S. candidate, Georgia Southern University. "Use of 14 wastewater wetland facilities by five species of wading birds to determine whether foraging success varies with several design characteristics."

Abby Sterling, M.S. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Predicting and managing nest success of two species of shorebirds: American Oystercatchers (*Haematopus palliatus*) and Wilson's Plovers (*Charadrius wilsonia*)."

2) Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Awards

Mason Cline, Ph.D. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Investigating survival and reproduction of a southern breeding population of Black-throated Blue Warblers with an aim at conservation."

Elizabeth Hunter, Ph.D. candidate, The University of Georgia. "Clapper Rail vulnerability to climate change: Shifting trade-offs between predation and inundation pressures on nesting success."

3) Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Conservation Section, Habitat restoration at Joe Kurz Wildlife Management Area and Sprewell Bluff Natural Area/State Park.

The Nature Conservancy, "Lower Chattahoochee River Basin Bird Habitat Restoration Project."

Please be sure to check the GOS website at <http://www.gos.org/grants/grant.html> for criteria and deadlines concerning the availability of awards, grants, and scholarships.

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.