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# GOShaw

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society  
www.gos.org

## President's Message

By Steve Holzman

Hello, GOS members. This is my first President's Message. Here's hoping I'll get better with time. When I was asked to be the Business Manager by Bob Sargent back in 2003, I thought, *I'm a biologist, Jim, not a business manager.* (I promise this is the last *Star Trek* reference...in this article, anyway). He convinced me I could do it, and I actually enjoyed thinking up new ideas for merchandise, selling it at meetings, and interacting with so many of you over those years. After a brief stint (we need some stints in Georgia) as Conservation Chair, Bob convinced me I should be President. Trust me, this took a lot more convincing, but in the end he wore me down. I don't have any grand new vision for the organization, as I believe we are already doing great. The Executive Committee members are doing a fine job. Ashley took over for me as Business Manager a number of years ago and is doing an awesome job. His friendliness and willingness to do what it takes are a boon both to GOS and to the many bird conservation projects he has his hands in around the state. As Treasurer, Jeannie does more than write the

checks; she has steered this organization through some tough economic times and has made great decisions that will enable us to contribute to bird education, conservation, and science for many, many years to come. In future articles I'd like to feature some of the other fine folks who make this organization tick. Ed Maiorello is the consummate party planner, and Larry Carlile will have a tough time stepping into Dan Vickers shoes as First VP. I have immense faith in our Executive Committee and chair people. We will do our best to keep your organization sound. Thank you for your faith in us.

The fall meeting on Jekyll Island is many members' favorite. The weather is usually pretty decent, the birds plentiful, and the people a joy to bird with. This year was no exception. On Friday night Sara Morris from Canisius College in New York talked about the mysteries of nocturnal migrant flight calls. Advances in acoustic monitoring of birds might enable us to identify and protect important stopover sites. Field trips on Saturday included the Altamaha WMA, Sapelo Island, and Andrew's Island, among others. Rachel and I had a great time on the

(continued on page 3)

## CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Member News
- 4 Earle Green Memorial Award
- 5 Bird Friendly Coffee

- 6 In Memoriam: Dr. George Sciple
- 7 Fall Meeting Species List
- 8 In Memoriam: Dot Freeman
- 9 Best Bird Books Review
- 10 Whooper Note
- 11 In Memoriam: Dr. Russell Greenberg
- 12 Dot Freeman Remembrances

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

**Welcome, New Members!**

**Bachman's Sparrow**

Patricia McMillan

Woodbine, GA

**Quail Covey**

Heather, Dusty, Zoe, and Brock Albury Duluth, GA

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**GOS WINTER MEETING**

*January 17-20, 2014  
Tallahassee, Florida*



American Avocet seen during Andrew's Island trip. Photo courtesy Dan Vickers.

**President's Message** *(continued from page 1)*

Altamaha Sound boat trip. Seeing the abundance of shorebirds, gulls, terns, and pelicans (both species) on Little Egg Island Bar was breathtaking. You can't argue with 25 Wilson's Plovers and three Long-billed Curlews. Well, you could argue with them, but it would probably be one-sided. Not only were there about 60 American White Pelicans on the Andrew's Island trip, but the group also got decent views of two Wilson's Phalaropes.

Saturday evening featured a poster session and "flocking"—aka drinking. It's always great fun chatting with old friends we haven't seen since the last meeting. George Fenwick gave the keynote address. The American Bird Conservancy is active in their protection of birds from breeding grounds to wintering grounds. From working on ways to mitigate and prevent loss from poisoning, collisions with glass, and predation from free-roaming cats, to protecting land in the tropics, the ABC plays a crucial role. Eco-tourism is another tool ABC uses to protect land, offering both employment for local communities and opportunities for visiting birders to find and enjoy rare tropical species (and our own neotropical migrants). Visit [www.conservationbirding.org](http://www.conservationbirding.org) to learn more about ABC's efforts in this realm. Evan Barnard, a very talented and active young birder, led the species countdown (186 species). Sunday also featured field trips to coastal hotspots, and a small "flocking" at the gazebo ended a great fall meeting. We hope to see you all in Tallahassee on the weekend of January 17-20, 2014. We can work on your Florida list. Good birding!



New GOS President Steve Holzman (left) wrestles the gavel from Past President Jim Ferrari at the Fall Meeting in Jekyll Island. Photo courtesy Dan Vickers.

## Earle R. Greene Memorial Award, 2013

By John Swiderski

Professor and ornithologist Dr. Sara R. Morris was recognized for outstanding achievement in ornithology when she received the 2013 Earle R. Greene Memorial Award during the Fall 2013 GOS Meeting on Jekyll Island. She has been conducting ornithological research on various aspects of bird migration for some 20 years and counting.

She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed high school there. At a very early age she discovered birds. Both her mother, Betsy Phillips, and step-father, Doug Phillips, were interested in birds and active with Atlanta Audubon Society. As Sara tells it, she was about 7 years old and saw a field guide on the reading table, immediately devoured it and soon had memorized most of the birds. A bit later she announced to her mother that she was going to be an ornithologist.

During high school and her undergraduate years at Presbyterian College, she became a regular each fall at the Jekyll Island Banding Station (JIBS) where she was mentored by banders Doris Cohrs and Terry Moore along with the late Don Cohrs and others. With the experience gained at JIBS she qualified for her banding permit, which she put to good use while a graduate student at Cornell University and in her ornithological research.

After graduating summa cum laude in 1989 from Presbyterian College (B.S. in Biology and B.A. in French and Fine Arts), Morris chose Cornell University to pursue her desire to become an ornithologist. She earned her M.S., Zoology, in 1993 and completed her Ph.D., Zoology, in 1996. Her research focus was on migratory stopover ecology conducted on Appledore Island, Maine, where she continues to do research each summer. Now Dr. Morris, she accepted a professorship at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York. During her career there, she advanced to full professor and currently serves as co-chair of the Biology Department. As stated emphatically on her website home page, "In my courses and in my research, I hope to inspire others to love (or at least respect) nature, especially birds."



Dr. Sara Morris accepting Earl Greene Award from John Swiderski (left) and Jim Ferrari right. Photo courtesy Dan Vickers.

Dr. Morris is an American Ornithologist Union Fellow and currently serves AOU as Secretary. She is First Vice-President of Wilson Ornithological Society and a Research Associate for the Buffalo (NY) Museum of Natural Science, primarily for birds. She joined GOS as a youngster in 1980 and later became a life member. She received the second H. Branch Howe, Jr., graduate student research grant in 1992 while working on her master's degree.

She, her husband, Bob, and their daughter, Beth, live in Grand Island, New York, which is an island city in the Niagara River not far above Niagara Falls. JIBS played a part in bringing Sara and Bob together while they were students at Presbyterian College, as they first met on a shared ride to Brunswick, Georgia.

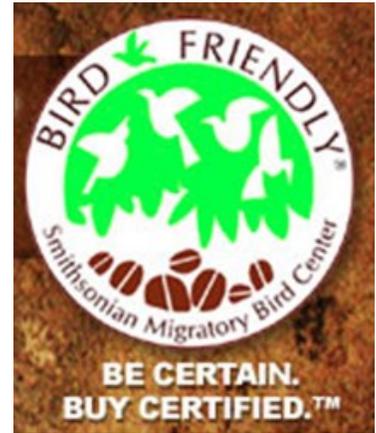
For more about Dr. Morris visit her website: [www3.canisius.edu/~morriss/](http://www3.canisius.edu/~morriss/)

## Buying Shade-Grown Coffee Is Not Always the Same As Buying Bird Friendly Coffee

By Patti Wohner

It is almost winter, and now that our summer and fall migrants have left for points south we are seeking out wintering birds here in Georgia. Long gone are the North American warblers; perhaps they will overwinter in heavily-shaded coffee plantations in Central or South America. But let's not forget about our summer favorites.

Shaded coffee farms beneath forest canopy can provide critical quality habitat for neotropical migrants. Birders could be using their coffee money to support important coffee habitat, because tropical forests continue to be cut down. By paying a little extra and insisting on coffee grown on forested farms, you can help coffee farmers hold out against economic pressures and continue preserving these valuable forests.



However, buying shade-grown coffee may not be enough to conserve bird habitat. Some coffee on the market claims to be shade-grown, but it's grown among sparse trees. Some shade-grown coffee is even grown under the flimsy cover of banana trees fed artificial fertilizers and pesticides. The Bird Friendly certification from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center is the gold standard, a super certification that combines organic and fair-trade standards with eco-requirements for forest shade cover, multi-layered canopy, and the presence of epiphytes (havens for insects, and thereby feeding stations for birds).



The problem is, Bird Friendly coffee is hard to find in stores. It currently constitutes less than one percent of the American coffee market. But it is readily available from online coffee sellers. The good news is that there's more Bird Friendly coffee out there than many people realize—we just need to let retailers know we want it. The only way you can be certain that the coffee in your cup is Bird Friendly is if the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center seal is on the bag (see above photo). Please go that one step further and put your money where your mouth is to help conserve our songbirds.

Birdsandbeans.com is currently offering a Christmas Special or find more options at [nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/online.cfm](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/online.cfm).

Content for this story came from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Read more at <http://bit.ly/WfkXWO>.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo courtesy Nathan Banfield.

## In Memoriam—Dr. George W. Sciple IV, GOS Charter Member

By John Swiderski and Bob Sargent

Dr. George Washington Sciple IV, one of the 111 charter members of GOS, died on April 21, 2013, at his home in Brunswick, Georgia. He was 92. Dr. Sciple was born in Atlanta on March 1, 1921, and his family's roots sink deeply into the history of this country. The first Sciple ancestors came to the colony of Virginia in 1611, and the family tradition of naming a son for our first president started with the birth of George Washington Sciple in 1825. It appears that one of Dr. Sciple's ancestors served under General Washington during the Revolutionary War and was an admirer of the general, and this is how the "naming tradition" started.

Interestingly, the lives of Dr. Sciple and GOS's remaining living charter member, Richard A. (Dick) Parks, featured many similarities. Sciple was just three months younger than Parks, and both were Atlanta natives and children of the Great Depression. As boys, Sciple and Parks were active in the Boy Scouts, and this involvement likely stoked their common interest in birds. As teens, they were active in the Atlanta Bird Club, the precursor to the Atlanta Audubon Society, and joined GOS as charter members in 1937. During World War II both men served in the Pacific Theater. A graduate of Emory University, Dr. Sciple enlisted as a private in the Marines shortly after Pearl Harbor and rose to the rank of major. Parks, after graduating with a degree in architecture from Georgia Tech, joined the Navy and served as an officer aboard ship.

Following the war, both returned to Atlanta to pursue further education, careers, and their substantial interest in birds and ornithology. Sciple was accepted into medical school at Emory University and graduated in 1957. During the 1950s, it appears that Parks and Sciple were frequently in the field together. An article authored by Sciple in *The Oriole*, Vol. 17, pp. 5-6, described how he and Parks documented and collected type specimens of the Newfoundland Crossbill (now Red Crossbill) at Stone Mountain in 1951. Dr. Sciple soon accepted a research position with the U.S. Public Health Service and spent many years studying encephalitis and botulism throughout the western U.S. and in many of the island chains in the Pacific Ocean.



Red Crossbill. Photo courtesy Ganesh Jayaraman.

Following a brief residency at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Sciple returned to Atlanta, where he practiced at the Atlanta Psychiatric Clinic for some 10 years. He then moved to Brunswick, where he established a private psychiatric practice. He and his late wife, Marjorie, had a second home or retreat on Little Cumberland Island. Although Dr. Sciple did not maintain his GOS membership throughout his lifetime, he did publish a series of field notes in *The Oriole* about bird life on Cumberland Island and other Georgia barrier islands, the last appearing in 1994.

## Species List from Fall 2013 Meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia

Compiled by Dan Vickers, GOS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Piping Plover	Loggerhead Shrike	Clay-colored Sparrow
Canada Goose	Killdeer	White-eyed Vireo	Savannah Sparrow
Wood Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Vireo	Seaside Sparrow
Gadwall	Solitary Sandpiper	Blue-headed Vireo	Song Sparrow
American Wigeon	Greater Yellowlegs	Red-eyed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Mottled Duck	Willet	Blue Jay	White-crowned Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Lesser Yellowlegs	American Crow	Summer Tanager
Cinnamon Teal	Whimbrel	Fish Crow	Scarlet Tanager
Northern Shoveler	Long-billed Curlew	Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal
Green-winged Teal	Marbled Godwit	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Ruddy Duck	Ruddy Turnstone	Cliff Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Pied-billed Grebe	Red Knot	Barn Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Wood Stork	Sanderling	Carolina Chickadee	Painted Bunting
Double-crested Cormorant	Dunlin	Tufted Titmouse	Bobolink
Anhinga	Least Sandpiper	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Red-winged Blackbird
American White Pelican	Pectoral Sandpiper	House Wren	Eastern Meadowlark
Brown Pelican	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Winter Wren	Common Grackle
American Bittern	Western Sandpiper	Sedge Wren	Boat-tailed Grackle
Least Bittern	Short-billed Dowitcher	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Blue Heron	Wilson's Snipe	Carolina Wren	House Finch
Great Egret	Wilson's Phalarope	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	American Goldfinch
Snowy Egret	Laughing Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Ring-billed Gull	Eastern Bluebird	
Tricolored Heron	Herring Gull	Veery	<b>186 Species Total</b>
Reddish Egret	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Gray-cheeked Thrush	
Cattle Egret	Great Black-backed Gull	Swainson's Thrush	
Green Heron	Gull-billed Tern	Gray Catbird	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Caspian Tern	Northern Mockingbird	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Common Tern	Brown Thrasher	
White Ibis	Forster's Tern	European Starling	
Glossy Ibis	Royal Tern	Ovenbird	
Roseate Spoonbill	Sandwich Tern	Northern Waterthrush	
Black Vulture	Black Skimmer	Black-and-white Warbler	
Turkey Vulture	Rock Pigeon	Tennessee Warbler	
Osprey	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Bald Eagle	Mourning Dove	Common Yellowthroat	
Northern Harrier	Common Ground-Dove	Hooded Warbler	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Eastern Screech-Owl	American Redstart	
Cooper's Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Cape May Warbler	
Red-shouldered Hawk	Common Nighthawk	Northern Parula	
Red-tailed Hawk	Chimney Swift	Magnolia Warbler	
Clapper Rail	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Blackburnian Warbler	
King Rail	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow Warbler	
Virginia Rail	Red-headed Woodpecker	Chestnut-sided Warbler	
Sora	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Black-throated Blue Warbler	
Purple Gallinule	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Palm Warbler	
Common Gallinule	Downy Woodpecker	Pine Warbler	
American Coot	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Black-necked Stilt	Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-throated Warbler	
American Avocet	American Kestrel	Prairie Warbler	
American Oystercatcher	Merlin	Black-throated Green Warbler	
Black-bellied Plover	Peregrine Falcon	Yellow-breasted Chat	
Wilson's Plover	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Eastern Towhee	
Semi-palmated Plover	Eastern Phoebe	Chipping Sparrow	
	Great Crested Flycatcher		
	Eastern Kingbird		

## Dorothy (Dot) Freeman Memoriam

By Anne Mursch

Those who had the privilege of birding with Dot Freeman have witnessed her intensity, enthusiasm, and sheer joy of birding, not to mention her unique personality. She was raised in the Buckhead area of Atlanta, Georgia, moved to Orlando in 1960, and became a part-time resident of Georgia in 1983 when she and her husband built a “cabin” in Blairsville.

Dot was in the first graduating class of Florida Technological University (now the University of Central Florida), graduating with a degree in molecular and micro-biology. Upon applying for the master’s program in biology, she was told that advanced biology degrees were not awarded to women. She said, “You will award one to this woman.” End of story! This brand of determination served Dot well throughout her life.

An avid birder much of her life, Dot was an active member of the Georgia Ornithological Society and Florida Ornithological Society. She participated in Christmas Bird Counts throughout Georgia and Florida and was a contributor to the Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas and the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas. She led many field trips in both states and shared her vast knowledge of birding and habitats in north Georgia by teaching “Spring Birds” at Young Harris College as part of the Institute for Learning. The annual AWBB (All Women’s Birding Bust) was also a highlight of her mountain birding, and many hours of research were always in order before the big day. A long-time participant of CLAGing (County Lists Across Georgia), Dot found just one more way to be in the field and experience that joy of birding.



Dorothy “Dot” Wilson Freeman. Photo courtesy Dot’s family and the *North Georgia News*, Blairsville, Georgia.

## Best Bird Books of 2013

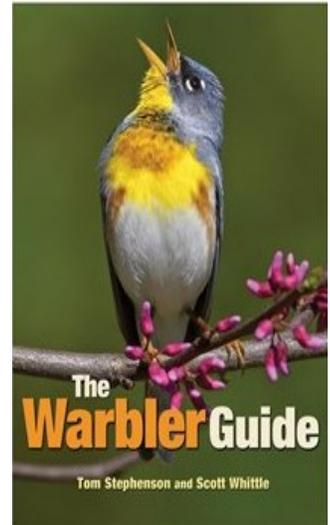
By Grant McCreary

There are many kinds of bird books, from field guides to big year narratives, but at some point you'd think that every possible book about birds will have been written. I don't know when, or if, that will happen, but one thing is certain: it wasn't true this year. 2013 saw the publication of some books that have brought something new to a familiar category, and others the likes of which have never been seen before. Here are the four that I consider the best.

### *The Warbler Guide*

by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle  
Princeton University Press, 560 pages, \$29.95

Let me get this out of the way: *The Warbler Guide* is the best identification guide available to these brilliant birds. Each of North America's warblers is shown in a photo from just about every possible angle, including the all-important butt shot (the undertail and coverts). Vocalizations are given as much attention as the visual aspects, with annotated sonograms included for every type of song and call. An audio companion pack is available from Cornell (\$5.99) with every single sound included in the book. If you want to learn warbler vocalizations, this is the best way to do it. What really makes this book so great is that it has something for birders of all skill levels, whether you're just starting to learn warblers or want to not just identify, but age and sex, every one you see.



### *Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight*

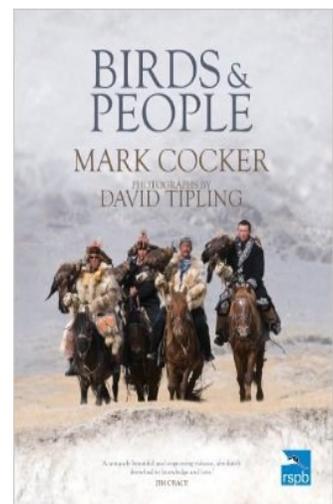
by Ken Behrens and Cameron Cox  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 614 pages, \$35.00

You're standing on a Tybee Island beach looking out over the Atlantic. The birder next to you announces "Black Scoters" and then "Red-throated Loon." What?! All you've seen are some distant birds fly by, way too far out to even see color patterns. But this isn't magic; it's just a different type of birding—seawatching. And this new Peterson Reference Guide will let you in on its secrets. Covering 111 species from 15 families, it includes most of the birds that you can see migrating along major bodies of water (not just the ocean) in this half of the continent. This attractive, well-designed guide will serve any Georgia birder well.

### *Birds & People*

by Mark Cocker and David Tipling  
Random House, 704 pages, \$65.00

There have been books before that investigate the cultural significance of birds, but nothing like *Birds and People*. This book looks at each bird family and details our interaction with them and their influence on us. These accounts are utterly fascinating, dealing with everything from bird-inspired art to birds as food to conservation. You'll learn about birds, of course, but also discover things about ourselves and why birds are so important to us. And as a nice bonus, this book is also packed with awesome photographs.



## Best Bird Books of 2013 *(continued from page 9)*

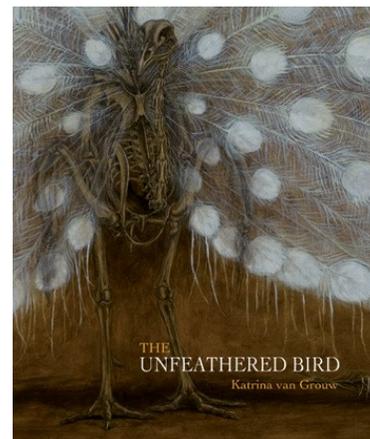
### *The Unfeathered Bird*

by Katrina van Grouw

Princeton University Press, 300 pages, \$49.95

Unique. That is the best word to describe *The Unfeathered Bird*.

This large, coffee table style book is filled with exquisite drawings of birds. But birds without feathers! Most are of just the skeleton, while others illustrate the bird with its skin or musculature visible. And yet they still look alive, as they are posed engaging in natural behavior (i.e., loons swimming as if underwater). Rather than macabre, I find the art beautiful and instructive. And the accompanying text may be even better, as it explains how the bird's appearance and behavior are determined by what you see in the drawings. This book is fun to both look at and read, and will deepen your appreciation for these amazing creatures.



2013 was a good year for bird books, but next year is shaping up to be even better (two words: new Sibley).

For more reviews and news about bird books, see my website: [www.birderslibrary.com](http://www.birderslibrary.com)

## Whooper Note

By Steve Holzman

I think it was back in 2003 when I first became aware of Operation Migration's plan to restore a flock of Whooping Cranes that were nesting in Wisconsin and wintering in Florida. The birds would be imprinted on an ultralight and shown the way south, traveling right through Georgia. The cool factor was off the charts. Can you imagine flying south from Wisconsin to Florida with ten Whoopers off your wing?



The cool factor increased a couple of years ago when they added live streaming of the flight. "Craniacs" across the world tune in to watch these majestic birds wing their way south. GOS became involved in 2005, making a significant donation to their efforts. This has continued in various ways over the years, and just this fall GOS pledged \$2,000 in matching funds for those donating to Operation Migration and indicating the donation was from a GOS member. It only took a few weeks for our awesome members to donate, and this month GOS will once again write a check to the good folks over at OM. Please consider making your own contribution.

Details are available at [www.operationmigration.org/involved.html](http://www.operationmigration.org/involved.html)

## In Memoriam: Dr. Russell Greenberg

By Patti Wohner

Russ Greenberg, who developed the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and served as its director since 1991, passed away on October 24, 2013, he was 60. The concept of Bird Friendly certification (see page 5) began with the innovative work of Russ. He was among the first scientists to recognize that some crops could be grown to minimize the negative effect of agriculture on forests. Russ invented the idea of promoting shade-grown coffee as a bird-friendly product, and took his research on birds in tropical ecosystems and applied it to the marketplace. He changed the coffee industry by developing a science-based criteria, now considered the gold standard, for how shade coffee benefits both birds and broader biodiversity: the “Bird Friendly Coffee” certification program.

Russ was born in Washington, DC, and moved with his parents to California at an early age. In addition to conducting influential and innovative bird research, Russ was also an avid birder and began his “life list” at age eight by identifying a California Towhee. He maintained a passion for ornithology throughout his youth, hitchhiking around the Golden State in search of birds and earning a bachelor’s degree and a PhD in zoology from the University of California at Berkeley. Later in life, he returned to DC with his wife and early scientific collaborator Judy Gradwohl, whom he is survived by, and his two children, Natalie and Jeremy.

Russ was passionate about graduate and post graduate training, taking on many graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. Russ served as adjunct at the University of Georgia, among other universities in the South, mentoring and advising students in many areas of bird conservation. Russ’s spirit will live on in the people who continue the projects he began and the inspiration he has given to bird research and conservation. Being a student of Russ’s, I have decided to celebrate his legacy by buying only Bird Friendly Coffee and educating others about its importance for wintering songbird habitat. In memory of Russ, please make sure to buy only shade-grown coffee.



Song Sparrow. Photo courtesy Nathan Banfield.

If you would like to help ensure Russ’s important ornithology work continues, please contribute to the “Russ Greenberg Fellowship Fund” at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

Please contact Lesli Creedon at 202-633-3022 or [creedonl@si.edu](mailto:creedonl@si.edu).

Content for this Memoriam came from the migratory connectivity project. Read more at [www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/in-memoriam-of-russ-greenberg/](http://www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/in-memoriam-of-russ-greenberg/)

## Remembrances of Dot Freeman

Noted Georgia birder Dot Freeman passed away on October 20, 2013, at the age of 83. Reprinted here, with permissions, are remembrances posted in the GABO listserv.

Dot Freeman passed away this morning [October 20, 2013] after a courageous fight with cancer, and she will be missed.

A longtime Georgia birder, member of GOS and various other Georgia birding organizations, she was a real pistol and skilled birder, and found many good birds in the mountains and throughout Georgia. She had a home near Blairsville and was also a longtime participant in the AWBB, and I believe she was the most recent person to see a Kirtland's Warbler in Georgia (in October 1990).

Her family, knowing of her many Georgia and GABO birding friends, asked that this sad news be posted to GABO. Many of us enjoyed fun days in the field with Dot. They don't make them like her anymore!

Giff Beaton, Marietta, GA (Cobb County)

It is thoughtful of Dot's family to notify GOS of her death, and of Giff to pass the news via GABO-L. I'll just add to Giff's and Sandy's comments my own appreciation for her involvement as a contributor to the 1992 and 1996 editions of GOS's *Birder's Guide to Georgia*. She was always a pleasure to work with, as well as to see in the field.

Joel Hitt, Clayton, GA (Rabun County)

The last time I saw Dot Freeman was on June 16, 2012, in Rydal, Georgia. We were both there with friends to photograph the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. I remember that Dot was wearing her cap, glasses and a big smile that she never seemed to take off. We saw the flycatchers and got our photos, and then we talked for a short while. Dot and I always mixed our bird conversations with politics, and we had a great talk that day. She took an active role in her community in Florida, especially around election time. One thing that I will remember about Dot was her enthusiastic pursuit of life. She seemed to always be in motion, having a great time doing it.

I remember once being on a birding walk with her and some others when a bird suddenly started singing from a nearby tangle. Someone said, "Ovenbird!" Dot waited a minute and said in a sweet voice, "That Ovenbird sounds just like a Kentucky!" She had a way of teaching without offending. Dot also loved pelagic trips, and I remember how excited she would get when a good bird would fly down the wake. All of us who knew her are deeply sad to lose her, and we will miss her smile.

Pierre Howard, Atlanta, GA (Fulton County)

I met Dot (no relation) purely by chance many years ago (1998?) at the Clay Pit trail at Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens. It was the weekend of the GOS meeting, held in Athens that year. Our paths crossed only intermittently over the years, a couple times up in north Georgia, and on a couple other GOS meetings, local birdwalks. She chased a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher here in Oconee County in 2002 when Carole Ludwig found one while I was at work one day, and Carole remembers that day fondly. Just a wonderful, kind, friendly person who brightened your day whenever you happened upon her. I'm glad I got to meet her. She will be missed.

Mark Freeman, Watkinsville, GA (Oconee County)

I met Dot at Providence Canyon many, many years ago. We both had been attending the GOS meeting (I think it had been in Eufaula?) and happened to both visit Providence Canyon after leaving the meeting. She saw me in the parking lot and asked if I had been at GOS. We became friends immediately. I learned she was from Orlando and had driven up by herself and that she also had a cabin in Blairsville, which she would visit often. Being in law enforcement and so cautious about crime and criminals and "little old ladies travelling alone," I lectured her on what to do and what not to do while traveling alone, etc. She thought I was so sweet to be so concerned about her safety. We became instant friends, and a couple years later she called and invited me to be a part of her AWBB group in North Georgia.

Dot Freeman, Betty Belanger, Anne Mursche and I became "Women with Altitude" for the annual AWBB each year. We participated for over 10 years as a group. We would all stay at Dot's cabin for the long weekend and bird and bird and bird. It was the most wonderful weekends I can ever remember. Dot was such a lovely, kind, gentle person. She always amazed me by her continued interest in learning new things about everything. When she would go to the cabin for several months at a time she would enroll in the local college and take courses pertaining to various subjects—whether it was gardening, wildflowers, native trees and shrubs, etc., etc.—anything you can imagine. She even would go to a local pool and SWIM!!!

Even though she was getting up in years, she stayed in touch with new technology—she had her computer and her iPhone. She was always up to date on new things. She loved to travel, and several years ago her son Wilson carried her to Iceland—of all places! She loved it and wanted to go back for a second visit. She had an incredible memory

(continued on page 13)

## Remembrances of Dot Freeman *(continued from page 12)*

about places she had visited, what she had seen, and the names of the people who were on the trips with her. I could barely remember what I had done the day before! In June my husband and I went to Michigan and the Upper Peninsula and stopped in Grayling to see the Kirtland's Warblers. When I returned I called Dot, and she asked me if we ate at a certain little restaurant in the town of Paradise in the Upper Peninsula. How could she remember that after many, many years?

One thing that always comes to mind about Dot: She always remained calm —never got excited—and had the most wonderful attitude to life. Even toward the end, when she knew she had only 6-9 months left, she still had that positive attitude and great outlook on life. She was at peace and had led an incredible and full life. She was such an inspiration and outstanding example of a true "southern lady." I always told her, "Dot, when I grow up I want to be just like you"!!! She would laugh and smile.

One of the best memories of a AWBB weekend was when we had a late-night visitor. Dot would have to take in all the bird feeders, etc., every night because of bears. Even staying at the cabin for months by herself, she was not afraid of the bears and took it all in stride. She knew what she had to do. One night we all had gone to bed (three of us slept downstairs), and about an hour later we heard a sweet little lady's voice very calmly call out, "LADIES, I THINK YOU HAD BETTER COME UP HERE I THINK WE HAVE A BEAR!" We all rushed upstairs and started looking out the windows, and there on her wrap-around porch was a giant black bear. We all gathered at the kitchen door and looked out the window, and the large black bear was on the other side of the door about six inches away—his nose up in the air—probably smelling our "fright"! We all quietly watched till the bear strolled off into the woods. Miss Dot was calm as could be, as if this was an everyday event. There will be no more AWBB weekends at Dot's cabin but the memories and wonderful times with this great, great lady will never be forgotten. What a wonderful addition to HEAVEN!

Ann Stewart Rome, GA (Floyd Co.)

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The first time I met Dot, she was teaching a continuing education course at Young Harris College on birding. We all had lunch after the class, and Dot said she wanted to finish hiking the Appalachian Trail in Georgia if she could find someone to hike with her. I volunteered to go with her, and we found a couple of others who wanted go, and off we went. We never stopped until Dot couldn't hike anymore and then went on short walks around her cabin. Dot never stopped birding.

Dot taught me a lot about birds and the good places to bird around Union and surrounding counties. She introduced me to county listing, pelagic trips, the AWBB and GABO. We traveled all over Georgia trying to get all our counties red and then started on the next colors. Dot was always ready to bird anywhere and anytime.

Dot was a wonderful friend, and she will be greatly missed.

Betty Belanger

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(May be X-rated)

There was a moment of complete silence amongst the three of us. But then I caught Dot's red face in my rear view mirror, and we all fell out with peals of laughter at her frankness. I reminded her of this conversation a few weeks ago. We laughed again.

Miss you, Dot.

Georgann Schmalz, Dawson County, GA

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I'll always remember the last time I was with Dot. We did a pelagic trip off Tybee right on the heels of Hurricane Charlie. I had never been seasick in my life...until then!!! I honestly felt like I would die, and Dot kept offering me ginger snap cookies. The LAST thing I wanted was a cookie at that time, but she was insistent, and I finally succumbed to her constant offerings. I remember chewing on that cookie and thinking that when I swallowed it, this would be the end of my retaining my stomach contents. She kept staring at me until I swallowed the now liquefied cookie. Amazingly, my stomach almost immediately calmed down and I got to enjoy my life Brown Booby and Audubon's Shearwater.

I had never tried a ginger snap before then, and while I still don't consider them as a fantastic delicacy, they will accompany me on every ship trip I will ever take again, along with the memory of a great birder and a wonderful friend, Dot Freeman. You'll be missed.

Sandy Pangle

# GOShawk

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