



July 2016
Vol. 43, No. 2

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Steve Holzman

Summer is upon us. Many of our backyard birds have already fledged young, and we can see them hopping around the lawns and shrubs begging for food from their parents. It'll soon be time to watch the ponds for shorebirds heading south. It's also been a good year for rarity chasing if that's your thing. We started the year with the Varied Thrush at Stone Mountain, then it was the Cave Swallows nesting in Columbus, followed by the Ruff in Cumming (although the Ruff at Savannah NWR in November 2015 was seen by more folks, the Ruff found by Jim Flynn was more significant because Rachel and I got to see it...insert winking emoticon here), and the early June sighting of a Shiny Cowbird on Tybee Island. Nothing gets birders out of their air-conditioned homes like a rare bird sticking around for a few days.

Earlier in the summer, we took a trip to Asheville to celebrate Rachel's birthday. Of course, we were compelled to take a small detour on the way north to try for the Brown Booby on an inland reservoir near Hickory, North Carolina. When we arrived, people had

the bird in their scopes, and it was clearly a brown booby, but kind of far for anything besides blurry digiscoped shots. Luckily enough, a local fisherman in his jon boat offered to take folks, one at a time, to a closer



Ruff on Onslow Island, Savannah NWR.
Photo by Dan Vickers.

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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

Welcome, New Members!

Quail Covey (Family)

Deb Carter and Becky Poulson	Athens, GA
Sheran Taylor	Ball Ground, GA
Sarah Lemmons	Richmond Hill, GA
	Trenton, GA

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)

Vince Howard	Athens, GA
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Bachman's Sparrow (Individual)

Paul Campbell	Atlanta, GA
Robert Emond	Hahira, GA
Mitzi Gaynor	Columbus, GA
Melvin Geer	St. Simons Island, GA

Fledgling (Student)

Rich Hull	Woodstock, GA
Gary Monetta	Loganville, GA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GOS FALL MEETING
October 7-10, 2016, Jekyll Island

GOS Grant Application Deadlines

Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grants, December 1, 2016

Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants, December 31, 2016

H. Branch Howe, Jr., Graduate Student Research Grants, December 31, 2016

Norene Boring, Undergraduate Student Research Grants, September 15, 2016

GOS Opportunity Grants, No Deadline

More information about these grants is available on the GOS website, gos.org.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

viewpoint to the roosting bird. Rachel was able to get a great photo, and those of us that he took out tipped him, even though he tried to refuse the money. I think he might become a good advocate for this bird and maybe others after learning that people value these experiences. Creating bird advocates is something we should always try to do when we chase down these rarities. This may be the first time a person gets to experience “crazy bird watchers”, and it’s up to us to make a good first impression. Above all, be polite. But also, try to convey your excitement and help folks understand why this bird is significant to you. If homeowners ever go above and beyond as a rare bird host, let me know. GOS likes to send them a letter and small token of our appreciation.

If you’re not one to chase rarities, maybe you enjoy checking out the birds using a yard that you specifically designed to benefit wildlife. It’s not that hard to do. Plant native trees and shrubs, provide fresh water, and keep your yard free of hazards. We are still putting together our website for gardening for birds, <http://www.gos.org/gardening-for-birds>, but there are many other great resources out there. If you are just moving into a place, plant trees now. They take a long time to grow, but trust me, when they get to be tall and host their first feeding warbler, you’ll be glad you did.



Georgia’s first potential nesting Cave Swallow found by John Cole in Columbus, GA. Photo by John Cole.



Shiny Cowbird on Tybee Island, GA. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

Another Camp TALON has concluded, and we have an insider’s perspective of the camp from intern Patrick Maurice later in this newsletter. Maybe some of the campers can write up some notes and share them in the next issue.

A final note. GOS is happy to welcome Dr. Peter Marra, Director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, as our fall keynote speaker. I hope you can make it to the meeting. I can’t guarantee any rarities, but I know there will be birds, and I know there will be birders gathering together to share our passion. See you there.

Duck Stamps

By Steve Holzman

GOS has the new 2016-2017 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (aka Duck Stamp) available for sale now. This year's image is a pair of Trumpeter Swans painted by Joseph Hautman of Plymouth, Minnesota, and represents his fifth winning entry. This year, his two brothers took 2nd and 3rd place. According to the USFWS, the three brothers have won the Duck Stamp contest 11 times. Your annual purchase of a \$25 stamp conserves habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In fact, 98% of the cost of the stamp goes directly for the purchase of land or conservation easements for the refuge system. Refuges in Georgia that have been funded in part by Federal Duck Stamps are Okefenokee, Piedmont, Savannah, and Wolf Island. Since 1934, more than \$671 million has been raised nation wide for habitat conservation. GOS sells the duck stamp either in a handy keychain for you to display proudly, or on its card, for collectible purposes. For prices and details, visit the merchandise page at gos.org. If you only want the stamp itself and don't want to order online, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check to GOS for \$25 to Georgia Ornithological Society, 349 Jefferson Rd., Bishop, GA 30621.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

2016-2017 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp

In 1916, the U.S. and Canada signed the first international treaty to protect migratory birds. Overharvest and loss of habitat affected many migratory bird species, prompting important agreements and new laws to conserve shared wildlife resources and leading to cooperative habitat and population management. As we prepare for the next century of conservation, we still face many challenges to migratory bird conservation. But together, we can all do our part to create a bright future for our feathered friends.

\$25 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TRUMPETER SWANS
 VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 2017
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP

If applicable, sign your stamp. Support habitat conservation... buy Duck Stamps!

Artist: Joseph Hautman, Trumpeter Swans ©

2016-2017 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, courtesy of the USFWS website.



First Duck Stamp, designed by Ding Darling in 1934.

Go Paperless!

Want to save trees and reduce printing costs by receiving the *GOShawk* electronically? Contact Shannon Fair, the GOS membership chairperson, at gosmembership@gmail.com, and let her know that you would like to receive the *GOShawk* by e-mail. Shannon will make sure that you go electronic starting with the September 2016 issue.

The Georgia Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting



When: October 7–10, 2016

Where: Villas By The Sea
1175 Beachview Dr. N
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
Phone: (912) 635-2521
Mention you are attending the GOS Conference to receive a discounted rate.

What: We've planned lots of field trips to fun birding destinations along with a couple of great speakers.

How: Check out gos.org for more details and to register.

GOS meeting attendees on a Sapelo Island field trip. Photo by Steve Holzman.

The keynote speaker on Saturday evening at the GOS Fall Meeting will be Dr. Peter Marra. Dr. Marra earned an M.S. degree from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from Dartmouth College, and has been at the Smithsonian Institution since 1999, where he is the director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. He has authored more than 180 peer-reviewed papers published in journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, and *Conservation Biology*. He co-edited the frequently cited book *Birds of Two Worlds*. Pete's upcoming book, entitled *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of Cuddly Killer* (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10809.html>), is due to hit bookstands in the fall of 2016. Pete started Neighborhood Nestwatch and The Migratory Connectivity Project and is co-founder of Tree House Concerts. A father of two, he is an avid fisherman and a passionate cook.



Dr. Peter Marra, the keynote speaker for the GOS Fall Meeting. Photo courtesy of Dr. Peter Marra.

The Friday night speaker will be Stephen Ferguson, Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grant recipient from the University of Memphis. His talk is entitled "Fightin' females: Sex and hormones in the Florida Scrub-jay."

Looking at Camp TALON from a different perspective

By Patrick Maurice

For the past five years that I have attended Camp TALON, I have attended as a camper and have become more and more familiar with the camp schedule, the other campers, and the leaders. Each year is a mini reunion as we all meet together at the K-Mart in Macon before starting our journey to Epworth by the Sea on Saint Simon's Island, where we stay for the camp, but this year was different for me for a couple of reasons. Not only did we all meet at the K-Mart parking lot a day early (on Saturday) because an extra day was added to the camp, but this year I wasn't going to attend the camp as another camper; instead, Rebecca Mello and I were the camp's interns.

But some things never change. For the past six years that I have gone to Camp TALON, Cliff Howard has driven us around the coast in his bus, which is not an easy task with so many young birders on board all looking every which way for a new species to add to the camp list. Each year we have been provided housing and meals at Epworth by the Sea on the marshes of Saint Simon's Island. Our leaders, Bob Sargent and Julie Duncan, have worked really hard to make sure that each year the camp runs as smoothly as possible.

After we had arrived at Epworth by the Sea and had eaten dinner, it was time to do some local birding with Bob Sattelmeyer as he took our excited group around Saint Simon's Island. After seeing the pair of Gray Kingbirds at the Saint Simon's Pier and visiting Bloody Marsh, we made our way to Gould's Inlet, where we watched an active Least Tern colony. Bob explained that this tern colony was brand new and was being monitored and protected by the Operation Plover Patrol.

On Sunday, everyone was excited for the first full day of birding in the "Land of the Trembling Earth," otherwise known as the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. We met and birded with John Kricher, who had previously guided us around the Okefenokee in 2014. There were many singing Prothonotary Warblers in the wetlands, and we stopped at a Red-cockaded Woodpecker cluster, where the only evidence we could find of these woodpeckers was one cavity. We then had a picnic lunch while listening to singing Bachman's Sparrows, which was very cool. After climbing the 50-foot observation tower and hearing two King Rails call, we hurried out as the sky became increasingly dark from an approaching storm. We made it to the bus just in the nick of time as the thunderstorm hit. The rain pounded down, the wind



Campers at Camp TALON observing and documenting birds at Gould's Inlet on Saint Simons Island, GA. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

Camp TALON *(continued from page 6)*

howled, and a few campers saw trees get blown over and fall. Later that evening we were able to meet Gene Keferl on Jekyll Island, where we birded the South Beach until sunset. We were all entertained by Wilson's Plovers energetically running around on the dunes, including a tiny chick!

Normally Monday is the reserved day for Camp TALON to visit Little Saint Simon's Island, where we spend a day birding and exploring the island, but this year Tropical Storm Colin had other plans for us. Because of the strong winds and heavy rain, we had to cancel our trip to Little Saint Simon's Island, but Mr. Bob always has a backup plan, and we returned to Jekyll Island to visit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. Everyone had fun looking at the exhibits and learning about the Loggerhead Sea Turtles that nest each year on the Georgia coast. After we left the Sea Turtle Center we got to take a fact-filled tram tour through the Jekyll Island Historic District. Even though I had visited Jekyll Island for more than a decade, I never knew that the island's history was so rich and that in 1904 the Jekyll Island Club Hotel was described as "the richest, the most exclusive, and the most inaccessible club in the world." That afternoon, as the rain continued, we decided to watch a movie, and what better movie to play during a birding camp than *Birders: The Central Park Effect*?

On Tuesday, both John Kricher and Gene Keferl returned to lead us around Andrews Island. Thanks to all of Colin's rain, there were many shorebirds in the mud puddles, and we saw 10 different shorebird species, including Black-necked Stilts, American Oystercatchers, Greater Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plovers, and a Dunlin. Some of the biggest surprises from Andrews Island were hearing a Northern Bobwhite calling, seeing a flock of American White Pelicans and Roseate Spoonbills on the mud, and two over-summering Red-breasted Mergansers. We then headed to Altamaha WMA, where many Least Bitterns flew around us as we walked the dikes and the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks put on a show. John Kricher gave us an informative talk about the ecology and natural history of the Red-winged Blackbird. After lunch we were treated to a very interesting presentation by John Kricher about bird migration, evolution, and natural history. Everyone's notebooks got a little heavier after filling pages with interesting facts and drawings from the presentation. That evening we birded with Lydia Thompson on Jekyll Island and explored Driftwood Beach on the North End before visiting the campground feeders. A



Camp TALON campers out on the Georgia beaches. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

Camp TALON *(continued from page 7)*

Great-horned Owl was spotted, and we were able to watch it perched on the top of a snag in the golden evening light before continuing on to the feeders. After getting many point-blank views of the Painted Buntings, we went to the Jekyll Island Pier, where we were able to watch the sunset and listen to a presentation from Lydia about creating Operation Plover Patrol. For our last full day of Camp TALON, our group met Malcolm Hodges at the Meridian Dock to depart for Sapelo Island. Everyone was excited, as this was our first time during the camp that we would ride a boat to another island. After we all boarded the ferry (the top deck, naturally), we set out and on the way saw four American White Pelicans! Once we arrived, our first course of action was to try to locate the Plain Chachalacas that live on the island. After faintly hearing one near Hog Hammock, we drove to the dump, and after using some playback we were able to get a male chachalaca to loudly respond! Unfortunately, he stayed hidden in the middle of the tree, but we all returned to the truck with smiles on our faces. We ate lunch while Malcolm taught the group about fire and its vital role in creating habitat for species like Bachman's Sparrows, Northern Bobwhite, and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. We then birded both Cabretta and Nannygoat Beaches and saw five species of terns, including Common and a late Lesser Black-backed Gull, and in the dunes we saw two Common Ground-Doves. By the day's end we had seen more than 70 species, and on the way back to the Meridian Dock we saw a Seaside Sparrow perched up on the edge of the river, which was very unusual. On the bus ride back, campers nervously prepared for the exam, and I have to admit that it felt weird to not need to work on my journal or prepare to take the exam this year. That evening, Rebecca and I helped Mrs. Julie grade journals while the other campers took their tests. After the awards were handed out, everyone returned to the cabins to pack and get some sleep.

As a tradition, on our final day of Camp TALON, we woke up very early to depart Epworth by the Sea and made our way to Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, stopping to eat at Waffle House on the way. When we arrived at Harris Neck, we met Chris Thornton, who told us about the problem Harris Neck and other coastal sites were having with pine beetles. He took us to Bluebill Pond, where we saw how many trees had to be removed. After leaving Bluebill, the excitement level rose once we arrived at Woody Pond and began to hear the sounds of hundreds of begging Wood Storks. Chris led us behind the wading bird rookery, and the air around us was filled with the sounds of camera shutters clicking (including mine). After watching the rookery for almost an hour, it was time to leave and head to our last stop, Goose Pond, where we heard a Northern Bobwhite calling. Since many of the campers hadn't seen a bobwhite, we thought that we should try to call it in. Because playback isn't allowed in National Wildlife Refuges, Angus Pritchard was able to step in and do his own whistled imitations. His imitations worked, and after everyone sat on the ground, the young male bobwhite walked out and crossed the road in front of us, not once, not twice, but three times! The views were just incredible. We could have reached out and touched him. It really was a great way to end this year's camp.



Bobwhite Quail seen at Harris Neck NWR during Camp TALON. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

11th Youth Birding Event Raises Bar, Breaks Record Again

By Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Another Georgia Youth Birding Competition, another birding record.

The 11th annual competition held April 22–23 set a new high for bird species seen or heard by a team, while also adding to the event's legacy of spurring an appreciation of birds among youth ages 4 to 18.

About 100 searched the state for birds during the 24-hour contest held Friday through Saturday by the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, part of the Department of Natural Resources. Two 16-year-olds from Gwinnett County, the Eagle Maniacs, were the overall winners with 170 species, three more than the top count last year, the previous record.

"The bar just keeps rising," said competition coordinator Tim Keyes, a wildlife biologist with DNR's Nongame Conservation Section.

John Deitsch of Duluth and Jon Robbins of Alpharetta, the Eagle Maniacs team, raised the bar this year by weathering a Friday evening storm on Jekyll Island and a late-night drive that allowed them to bird north Georgia hotspots such as Kennesaw Mountain early the next morning. Both are longtime participants in the competition. Robbins said he enjoys birding for the variety of species, colors, and calls. Deitsch agreed. "Every time you go out, you see something different."

The event included participants of different skill levels and as many as 10 first-time teams. There was also a T-shirt art contest that drew 163 entries. Birders turning in their species checklists Saturday were given shirts featuring an Anna's Hummingbird drawn and painted by Anna Zhu, 14, of Alpharetta, who is an eighth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design in Duluth. Zhu's artwork was the grand-prize winner.

In another part of the competition, teams raised \$1,679 for conservation, a voluntary part of the event that pushed the 11-year total past \$20,000. The Chaotic Kestrels, a high school team, led with \$1,162. With the money raised, teams chose to sponsor the Race4Birds Foundation, Nongame Conservation Section, The Environmental Resources Network (or TERN), and the Jekyll Island bird banding station.

The Youth Birding Competition is aimed at cultivating an interest in birds and conservation. Sponsors include TERN, a friends group of DNR's Nongame Conservation Section; Georgia Ornithological Society; and the Atlanta and Albany Audubon societies. The event's reach is being multiplied by Race4Birds (www.race4birds.org), a foundation that is helping spread the Youth Birding Competition concept.

Running from 5 p.m. Friday to 5 p.m. Saturday, this year's event ended with a wildlife program



11th Youth Birding Event *(continued from page 9)*

and awards banquet at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield. Teams, divided by age group, used as much of the 24-hour period as members wanted to counting bird species in the state.

Four division winners in the T-shirt art contest were chosen beforehand, and the art of native Georgia birds displayed at the banquet. Zhu's entry led the middle school category. Winning entries are posted in the "2016 YBC T-shirt Art Contest Winners" album at www.flickr.com/photos/wildliferesourcesdivision.

The Youth Birding Competition and T-shirt Art Contest are free. The 2017 event is set for April 29–30, 2017.

DNR's Nongame Conservation Section works to conserve Georgia's rare and endangered wildlife, as well as other animals not legally hunted or fished, plus native plants and natural habitats. The agency depends largely on grants, direct contributions, and fundraisers such as sales and renewals of the bald eagle and hummingbird license plates.

Visit www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation for more information, or call Nongame Conservation offices in Social Circle (770-761-3035), Forsyth (478-994-1438) or Brunswick (912-264-7218).

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**High school division**

1. Eagle Maniacs (170 species), and overall competition winner
2. (tie) Chaotic Kestrels and Florida Scrub Jays (168 species)

Middle school division

1. Wood Thrushes (155 species)
2. Beautiful Bluebirds (69 species)
3. BBQ Chickens (68 species)

Elementary school division

1. Amazing Anhingas (65 species)
2. Kingsley Cardinals (60 species)
3. Audubon Adventures (54 species)

Primary school division

1. Bufford Bluebirds (33 species)
2. Wild Redbirds (23 species)
3. Rock Star Red-tailed Hawks (16 species)

FUNDRAISING (division leaders)

1. Chaotic Kestrels, high school division and overall top fundraiser, raising \$1,162.
2. Wood Thrushes, \$367 – middle school division
3. Bufford Bluebirds, \$130 – primary division

Fundraising for conservation is voluntary.

11th Youth Birding Event (continued from page 10)

TOP ROOKIE TEAMS (first-year teams)

Primary: Buford Bluebirds (33 species)

Elementary: Audubon Adventures (54 species)

Middle school: Ugly Ducklings (56)

T-SHIRT ART CONTEST

Primary division: Blue Jay by Karla Frankova of Duluth, 8, second-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design in Duluth.

Elementary: Yellow-rumped Warbler by Sophia Cheng of Duluth, 10, fifth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design.

Middle school and grand prize: Anna's Hummingbird by Anna Zhu of Alpharetta, 14, eighth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design.

High school: Eastern Bluebird by Mya Odum of Conyers, 16, 11th-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design.

Art contest division winners received \$50 gift cards to Michael's. The grand-prize winner received a \$100 gift card to Michael's, and the artwork was featured on the 2016 Youth Birding Competition T-shirt.



Grand prize winning T-shirt design, "Anna's Hummingbird," by Anna Zhu of Alpharetta, Georgia.

Cedar Waxwing Mortality Event

By Steve Holzman

On April 9, 2016, Charles Reid of Decatur, Georgia, came upon a dozen dead Cedar Waxwings in front of Decatur High School. He posted this sighting on Georgia Birders Online, and I contacted him and asked him to collect an intact specimen and place it in his freezer. He did so, and I picked it up a few days later for delivery to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at UGA. This group investigates wildlife mortality events, and I knew they could get to the bottom of this. A few years back I had read an article (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3005831/>) that showed Cedar Waxwings can be poisoned when eating the berries of *Nandina domestica* (also known as Heavenly Bamboo). *Nandina domestica* berries contain cyanide and other alkaloids and when eaten in sufficient quantities will kill a bird. This was demonstrated in Thomas County, Georgia, in the study above, and I suspected it in this case. *Nandina* shrubs and fruit were found in front of the high school when I went to investigate. Waxwings are voracious feeders of berries and can easily ingest a sufficient amount to cause death. I received the necropsy report from SCWDS on June 20th, and they confirmed the cause of death to be cyanide toxicosis.

Do we really need this plant in our landscapes? Should a plant that has been shown to be toxic to birds be allowed to continue to proliferate through the state? Birds transport the seeds, and we can find *Nandina* spreading from established sites. There are many native alternatives from the following genera to explore: *Juniperus*, *Ilex*, *Vaccinium*, and *Viburnum*, just to name a few. If you have *Nandina* in your yard, please consider removing it and replacing it with something non-toxic to birds. If you see *Nandina* at a school or place of business ask the land owner to consider removing this deadly shrub. If we don't take the initiative, who will? Do it for those winter visitors with the high-pitched call and drops of "wax" on their wings.



Cedar Waxwing. Photo by Rachel Holzman.



Nandina berries, public domain.



Nandina shrub. Photo by Charles Reid.

Krista Gridley

By Steve Holzman

It is with deep sorrow that GOS reports the passing of Krista Gridley on June 28, 2016. Many of us first met Krista during her big year in 2010. She was always a positive presence while waiting around hoping for a stake-out rare bird to show itself, or while cruising the coastline for pelagic birds. Many of us in the Athens area were always glad to see her at a birder beers event or at an Audubon meeting. She got such joy out of all birds, common or rare.

A proper "In Memoriam" in honor of Krista will appear in the fall issue of this newsletter.



Just two of the great birds that chose to drop in and visit Krista.
 Long-eared Owl April 2013
 Rufous Hummingbird December 2013
 Photo by Krista Gridley



Krista Gridley (far left) on a GOS trip to the Altamaha Sound. "Any day on the water is a good day."-- Krista Gridley. Photo courtesy of Steve Holzman.

**GOShawks (and Oriole Chirps)
Online**
By Steve Holzman
<http://www.gos.org/GOSHawkarchive>



Our website features older newsletters in PDF form. They can be fun to peruse when you are tired of Facebook or Pokemon GO.



Spotted Towhee, Marietta, GA
Photo by Pierre Howard, April 2000

A new species for Georgia!
by Jeff Sewell

The highlight of a great spring for western strays was this Spotted Towhee discovered by Richard and Nancy Cole in their yard in Marietta on April 18. Until recently this species and our Eastern Towhee were considered one species, the Rufous-sided Towhee, but based on new evidence the two were split into separate species. During the four days that the bird was there, many birders were able to get good looks and photographs. Many thanks to Richard and Nancy for alerting us to this great bird and their hospitality to birds and birders alike.

From June 2000. There's no eBird record for that bird. Pierre, you have a photo and the location and date, eBird that record!

From June 1983. Kudos to Terry Johnson. Habitat is everything!

Terry Johnson, Wildlife Biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, was awarded the Georgia Wildlife Federations' Wildlife Conservationist of the Year award for his work in initiating the Acres for Wildlife Program. 466 tracts of private land, totaling 176,172 acres have been put into this program since its inception.

Here's a gem from June 1976. Did you know there is an Omaha, Georgia?
It's in Stewart County, near Columbus.

Editorial Comment--Ruff! That's the big news in the state--and it doesn't mean Spring birding was rough. A Ruff--the *Third* one seen in Georgia to my knowledge--was again put on the Georgia sight list in Omaha.

Let's go back farther. How about June 1964?

We're still trying to get rid of undesirable plants in Atlanta, and I'm sure we'll be trying again in June of 2068.

LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT - At G. O. S. - a pair of binoculars was lost by Ivan Tomkins. If located, please forward them to him at [redacted] Savannah. A binocular case was left behind by someone and may be claimed by contacting Mr. E. O. Mellinger, [redacted] Tiger, Georgia 30576.

NEWS OF THE ATLANTA BIRD CLUB - includes a report on the Fernbank Project - removal of undesirable plants and later on, the compilation of a list of birds of Fernbank.

Audubon Chapters Around the State

By Steve Holzman

GOS only has two to three meetings a year, and sometimes you need to interact with fellow birders a little more often. There are eight Audubon chapters around the state.

Check out their websites below and see if there is an interesting program or field trip to attend.



- | | |
|---|---|
| Albany Audubon Society | http://www.albanyaudubonsociety.synthasite.com/ |
| Atlanta Audubon Society | http://www.atlantaudubon.org/ |
| Augusta-Aiken Audubon Society | http://augustaikenaudubon.org/ |
| Coastal Georgia Audubon Society (Brunswick and the Golden Isles) | http://coastalgeorgiabirding.org/ |
| Columbus Audubon Society | http://www.columbus-georgia-audubon.org/ |
| Ocmulgee Audubon Society (Macon) | http://ocmulgeeaudubonsociety.blogspot.com/ |
| Oconee Rivers Audubon Society (Athens) | http://www.oconeeriversaudubon.org/ |
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GOShawk



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete this form and mail with your payment to Georgia Ornithological Society Membership, P.O. Box 11926, Atlanta, GA 30355. You can now join online at:
<http://www.gos.org/join-us>

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.