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GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Larry Carlile

Dear GOS members,

WHEW! It's summertime. It's hot and muggy! We've had loads of afternoon thundershowers here in southeastern Georgia that have saturated the pine flatwoods and filled up the ditches. The summer crop of mosquitoes should be a fantastic benefit for insect-eating birds, bats, and dragonflies, but horrific for the rest of us.

I'm very much looking forward to our fall gathering on Jekyll Island, October 6-9, 2017. By then, we should be experiencing some cooler weather and lower humidity. As usual, we'll have some great birding trips scheduled on the mainland and on the barrier islands. Fall migrants, confusing and otherwise, should be streaming through the maritime forests toward points south, providing us with an opportunity to observe their beauty and to revel in nature. And, just as important, we'll be in fellowship with each other as we discuss all of the great birds we've seen.



Larry Carlile with the Camp TALON class of 2017.
Photo by Angus Pritchard.

As I mentioned in my initial *GOShawk* message, my goal as President (if I'm elected at the October meeting, of course!) will be to continue the fine work GOS has done to promote bird conservation through the scientific study of birds and the conservation of vital bird habitat. I'd like to flesh out that overall goal by encouraging all of us to do the following:

Increase GOS' membership base. Shannon Fair, our diligent Membership Committee

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Georgia Ornithological Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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<i>1st Vice President</i>	Ellen Miller
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Ed Maioriello
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For a list of grant, scholarship, and award committees (and their contact information) visit gos.org/executive-committee

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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!

Fledgling (Student)

John Deitsch

Duluth, GA

Bachman's Sparrow (Individual)

Johnny Webb

Acworth, GA

Mark Your Calendars Now! GOS FALL MEETING

October 6-9, 2017

Villas by the Sea on Jekyll Island

We'll host field trips to premier birding destinations on barrier islands and inland sites. Ryan Chitwood, a M.S. student at UGA and a recipient of GOS' Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grant, will be our Friday night speaker. He will talk about Black-throated Blue Warblers at the southern end of their range and how a warming climate apparently is inducing northward range shifts. Our Saturday evening keynote speaker will be Noah Strycker, who famously set a worldwide Big Year record in 2015 (6,042 species!). Join us as he recounts his Big Year.

**Look for meeting registration details on
gos.org**

GOS Grant Application Deadlines

Norene Boring Undergraduate Student Research Grants (September 15)

GOS Opportunity Grants (No Deadline)

Bill Terrell (December 1) and H. Branch Howe (December 31) Grad Student Research Grants

Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants (December 31)

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

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Chairperson, has been doing a wonderful job of tracking GOS memberships, address changes, new members, etc. But she would welcome a lot more work in the form of new memberships. If you know family members, friends, acquaintances, co-workers, or next-door neighbors who enjoy birding and the outdoors as much as you do, encourage them to join GOS.

Encourage youngsters to participate. Any society will languish without an influx of young, enthusiastic participants. Take the time to pique the interest of young folks by helping them learn about birds and nature. Encourage them to join GOS and to attend our meetings. Let



Gene Keferl, Julie Duncan, Bob Sargent and the Camp TALON gang at Altama Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Sarah Tharpe.

them know about GOS' sponsored educational opportunities like the Parks Scholarship and Camp TALON, both of which are managed by our Education Committee Chairperson, Dr. Bob Sargent.

Foster the growth of GOS' endowment funds. Our solid financial footing comes from careful decisions made by the Executive Committee that were based on sound advice by our Treasurer, Jeannie Wright. You can help us maintain a solvent institution by making donations, or even including GOS as a beneficiary in your will. We've been able to promote meaningful conservation through habitat preservation, but that costs money! When we join together, we accomplish more for the birds and habitats we love.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, stay cool, and I'll see you in the fall.

Nomination Committee Report

The Nomination Committee is pleased to report the following slate of nominees for the 2017–2019 term:

Larry Carlile has agreed to serve as President for the next two years. He has been acting President since the departure of Steve Holzman, now living in Oregon.

Ellen Miller, former Secretary and now acting 1st Vice President, would continue in the latter role.

Ed Maioriello will continue his excellent work as 2nd Vice President.

Mike Weaver has offered to serve as Secretary, replacing Ellen.

And last, but not least, Jeanne Wright will extend her many years of service as our Treasurer.

I thank my fellow committee members, Bob Sargent and Dan Vickers, for their help in compiling this fine slate of officers, which will be voted on during banquet night at our Fall Meeting on Jekyll Island in October.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Lotz, Chair.

Past President Steve Holzman Receives the 2017 Earle R. Greene Award

By Larry Carlile

Note: What follows are Larry's remarks presented at the May meeting at Unicoi State Park.

I'm honored, and it is with great pleasure, that my first act as President of this Society is to confer GOS' Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for 2017. Recipients of this award must have demonstrated achievements in any or all of the following categories:

1. Achievement in ornithology by a professional or citizen scientist
2. Achievement in promoting birding
3. Service to the GOS.

Our award winner began working in 1985 as a temporary biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge observing Common Yellowthroats that had been outfitted with dummy transmitters. Paul Sykes was the principle researcher for that project, and he was trying out tracking methods that would be suitable for the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. On a November weekend, Paul asked our conferee to work by himself for the rest of the weekend because there was a Gray Silky-flycatcher in south Texas that Paul wanted to chase. Our winner asked, "What? You're going to drive where?" And that was his first exposure to the listing world. Although he didn't get to go Gray Silky-flycatcher chasing with Paul, it left a mark on him. His next job was in New Jersey in the winter of 1985-86. He was sharing a house with eight other biologists, and they were radio-tracking American Black Ducks up and down the New Jersey and Virginia shores. One of his co-workers was Joan Walsh, who invited her boyfriend, David Sibley, to visit for New Year's Eve. On New Year's Day, Joan suggested that our winner should start his birding life list, so he, Joan, and David Sibley spent the day birding from Ocean City to Cape May. The three became great friends over the years, and that weekend marked the beginning of his life-long birding adventure.



New GOS President Larry Carlile presents the Earle R. Greene Award to Past President Steve Holzman on May 20, 2017. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

In the spring of 1986, he moved to Georgia and started grad school at the University of Georgia. He didn't get to study birds, but instead worked on a coyote telemetry project. He was able to

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Steve Holzman Receives 2017 E.R. Greene Award *(continued from page 4)*

bird watch while he followed the beeps of the radio receiver. After grad school, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Atlanta and then landed a permanent position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994, with whom he's been working for ever since. While living in Oregon, he was exposed to an e-mail Listserv[®] called Oregon Birders Online, or OBOL. He then returned to Georgia and lived near Brunswick. While there, he was frustrated by all of the hot-shot Atlanta birders who would come to the coast and see good birds, but he wouldn't hear about it until months later, if at all. So he created the e-mail Listserv[®] GABO-L in September 1998 to make sure he didn't miss any good birds. Another impetus for creating GABO was to bring Georgia birders together regardless of how far apart they lived, and to provide Georgia birders with a means to interact with one another in community, just as he'd experienced in Oregon. Sightings of both rare birds and common feeder birds are shared and enjoyed by many Georgia birders because of the existence of GABO. He and a few different co-administrators have been able to run a congenial virtual space, and after almost 20 years there's no doubt that GABO has been a great resource for linking Georgia birders together.

In early 2004, Steve was asked by Dr. Bob Sargent to become the GOS Business Manager. John Swiderski thought he was going to be the Business Manager for life and was grateful when Steve accepted this "highly lucrative" position. As part of his duties, he would set up the GOS table at fall birding festivals and sell T-shirts, books, raffle tickets, and other GOS swag. He filled mail orders and suggested new items to sell, like mugs and tote bags. In 2007, he read an article by Paul Baicich about the Federal Duck Stamp. Paul was suggesting that birders needed to step up and support conservation as much as duck hunters did, and suggested buying a stamp in a handy keychain and displaying the duck stamp while birding to show support of the refuge



system. GOS decided to start selling duck stamps, and it fell to the new business manager to buy the stamps, cut them out, add a backing image, put them in the keychain, and send them out. Over the 10 years that GOS has sold the stamps, thousands of dollars have been raised to provide funds for the purchase or lease of lands for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In late fall of 2009, Ashley Harrington took over the reins as business manager and Steve moved on to a short stint as Conservation Committee Chairperson. It was during this time that he began organizing the spring and fall migration counts at St. Catherines Island and compiling the St. Catherines and Lake Oconee Christmas Bird Counts.

In 2009, Steve created the GOS Facebook page, which allowed for even more interaction among Georgia birders and for the sharing of bird photos and videos. More than 1,300 people are now GOS Facebook members. He's proud that neither GABO, nor the FB page, have had any civil wars, and that both continue strong today. His tenure as Conservation Chairperson was marked by tirades against free-roaming cats, and during this time GOS prepared a policy statement on free-roaming cats and Trap-Neuter-"Reabandon" programs, and convinced Georgia's Audubon Societies and the ornithological societies of adjacent states to sign on. The

Steve Holzman Receives 2017 E.R. Greene Award *(continued from page 5)*

GOS feral cat policy is provided to communities to give them important information when they are considering new ordinances that could make communities dangerous places for migrant and resident birds.

In 2013, Dr. Bob called our winner again, this time asking him if he would be willing to serve as President of GOS. Bob had to convince him that he could do the job, but he finally agreed to accept the position.

Unfortunately, during his first term as President, there WAS CLEAR evidence of scandal and abuse of power – I’m sorry, I read that incorrectly. Fortunately, there was NO clear evidence of scandal and abuse of power during his first term, the Executive Committee did not initiate a vote of no confidence, and therefore, no impeachment hearings were commenced. Consequently, he was asked to stay on as President for a second term and, thankfully for us, he graciously accepted. During his tenure as President, he and 2nd Vice-President Ed Maioriello initiated a new informal committee that I call the Beer Snob Committee, and they have ensured that our Membership “Flockings” are as hoppy as they possibly can be.



Photo copyright Julochka, Flickr cc

Now, he and his partner, who is our GOShawk editor Rachel Holzman, have decided to embark on new professional adventures and will soon be moving to Oregon, where I’m sure they will continue to be active in birding, avian conservation, and cat control.

My friends, it is with great personal pleasure that I present to you this year’s Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Winner, Mr. Steve Holzman.



A sampling of Steve Holzman’s merchandising brainstorming on behalf of GOS and birding.



In Memoriam: Daniel F. Forster

By John Swiderski

Daniel F. Forster, 90, died on April 25, 2017, in Pensacola, Florida, after a battle with cancer. Dan, as he was known to most, and his wife of 56 years, Ann, had been members of GOS since 1973. He was also a board member of Atlanta Audubon Society and Pensacola Audubon Society, always being generous with his time and financial support.

Dan was born and raised in Pensacola. Following graduation from Pensacola High School in 1944, he enlisted in the Navy and served for the duration of the war on the heavy cruiser *USS Chicago*, which at that point in the conflict was executing naval bombardment of Japanese-held territory and for a short time the mainland itself. Following the war he completed a four-year machinist apprenticeship at Pensacola Naval Air Station and then went on to earn two degrees at Auburn University. He came to the Atlanta area to work as an engineer with Lockheed in Marietta, during the time that the C-5 Galaxy and Hercules C-130 transport programs were underway. Upon his retirement as a senior manufacturing engineer in 1985, he and Ann moved to the Pensacola area, where their home was on property formerly owned by his grandfather years ago.

He and Ann loved birding, travel, and photography, and they had a large personal ornithological library. Both were blessed with a lively sense of humor and genuine hospitality to all.

The Oriole Goes Worldwide

By Renee Carleton

Volumes 70-71 (2005-2006) through 76 (2011) of *The Oriole* are now available to the worldwide ornithological community via SORA, the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive database hosted by the University of New Mexico. Older issues will be added over the next year, and more recent issues will be added two years after publication. To see these volumes, or those of journals such as *Auk* and *Condor*, visit <https://sora.unm.edu/>

Do you have an interesting observation of bird behavior or unusual sighting to share with GOS members and other ornithologists? Please consider submitting a "General Note" for publication in *The Oriole*. You do not have to have a lot of writing experience to have your note featured in our journal.

We're here to help you but need your help in getting the word out through your "General Notes."



Crested Caracara near Camilla, Georgia, August 2017. Photo by Dan Vickers.

Camp TALON Soars Again

By Bob Sargent

The lunch hour was at hand on the last day (June 8th) of Camp TALON (Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature) number eight, and everyone knew that pizza and cold drinks were just 20 minutes away. The 12 campers had cheese, crust, and Coke on their minds, but they were a bit reluctant to go knowing that these were the last in-the-field minutes of this six-day adventure. We were standing on a bridge spanning a willow-framed creek at Ft. Stewart, and Larry Carlile, our host that morning, turned to me and said, “Let’s wait five more minutes. This is a good spot to see Swallow-tailed Kites.” Three minutes later the legend of Larry “the Kite Whisperer” was born as we cheered and exchanged high-fives while a kite circled less than 75 feet over our sweaty faces. That was species number 125 for the camp, and what an exclamation point to attach to the end of another fabulous camp!

If you are not familiar with this camp, its foremost goal is to teach students how to identify bird species. But that goal hardly nicks the surface of what is an ecology-rich adventure. Each day’s itinerary consisted of at least two field trips as well as indoor and outdoor classes. Trip destinations featured Little St. Simons, Andrews, Jekyll, and Sapelo Islands, as well as Harris Neck NWR, Ft. Stewart, Altama WMA, and Gould’s Inlet. We started early each day and ended at sundown, but we called frequent time-outs for jumping in Epworth by the Sea’s (our rental cabin location) pool and tossing a glow-in-the-dark Frisbee, savoring ice cream, journaling, and picking up shells on beaches, and the campers soaked it up. Interestingly, there were two variations on the usual camper demographic: there were more girls than boys, and there were more first-time campers than there were veterans. Six-time TALON camper Angus Pritchard was clearly the “senior” participant; he and three-time camper Sarah Tharpe were rock stars in their role as interns, assisting the instructors and helping to teach and guide the other campers.

The instructors this year, in order of appearance, were Bob Sattlemeyer, John Kricher, Stacia Hendricks, Lauren Gingerella, Gene Keferl, Tim Keyes, Kimberly Hayes, Malcolm Hodges, and the aforementioned Larry Carlile. Bob showed the campers a small colony of nesting Least Terns at Gould’s Inlet, a Gray Kingbird at the King and Prince Hotel, and a Least Bittern on a nest at Harris Neck NWR’s Goose Pond. Stacia and the rest of the Little St. Simons Island staff miraculously (thanks again!) found a way to put the camp on their schedule at the last minute when our original Sunday plan, Okefenokee NWR, fell through due to the wildfire. Lauren was the consummate role model for the kids as she explained her graduate research study on Wilson’s Plovers. John Kricher taught ornithology, led a conversation with the campers about how he should write his next book, and graciously donated to the camp a signed copy of his new book *A New Neotropical Companion*. Gene went far beyond the call of duty, leading three field trips, including a hike in the swamp at Altama WMA, and he taught the birders about beach “construction” and invertebrates. Tim and Gene put the campers on top-notch views of usually-scarce White-rumped Sandpipers, as well as American Avocets



Stacia Hendricks and the campers on Little St. Simons Island. Photo by Julie Duncan.

Camp TALON Soars Again *(continued from page 8)*

and nesting Black-necked Stilts at Andrews Island, not to mention the Mississippi Kite that dropped by to get a close-up view of the kids and the bus. Larry gave the campers an up-close-and-personal view of Red-cockaded Woodpecker nestlings with the aid of a peeper camera, explained the natural history of the longleaf pine ecosystem, and described the mechanics of fire and timber management.



Kimberly Hayes, Bob Sattlemeyer, and birders at Harris Neck NWR. Photo by Julie Duncan.

Traditionally, we visit Harris Neck NWR on the last day of the camp before getting on I-16 for the tedious ride home, and so our visit to the refuge is always abbreviated. What a treat it was this time to spend most of the day at the refuge with Kimberly Hayes as she treated the group to close-up visits of both ends of the rookery at Woody Pond. At the rookery the campers stared in stunned astonishment as a careless nestling became a meal for an alligator, and a clearly confused deer fawn ran directly toward the birders, only to veer off at the last possible moment when the ludicrous extent of the animal's mistake coalesced in

its mind. Goose Pond and the old runway leading to it often provide unique experiences, and this year that trend held true as we spotted a five-foot-long Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake about 10 feet from the trail.

The last full day of the camp each year is a double treat for the birders because they get to spend it on Sapelo Island with Malcolm. Everything that can be seen and many things that are not seen are teaching fodder for Malcolm; his lessons roam from explaining island biogeography to taste-testing toothache tree and other plants. The weather forecast for that day predicted a flood that never materialized—that is, until we were on the ferry on the way back to Meridian. Then the wind howled and the rain fell sideways.

As usual, the last night of camp included quizzes on bird songs, bird trivia, and lessons learned that week, along with a review of the journals all of them kept. The campers sometimes groan about the quizzes, but several come out of the “trauma” with bragging rights, and everyone takes home multiple prizes. This year three new and especially dedicated (to birding) campers received brand new binoculars.

I can't begin to explain how gratifying it is to witness the “this is so cool” glow on the faces of these young birders each year, nor can I adequately express my thanks for the army of great birders who volunteer to co-teach the camp. The long-running success of this camp would also not be possible without the teamwork and funding from GOS, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, TERN, Atlanta Audubon Society, and the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation. Yes, this camp has a factory's proportion of moving parts! Most importantly, my gratitude goes to my longtime partner in this annual feathered marathon: Julie Duncan. Teacher, administrator, nurse, counselor, and coach, Julie does all of it and more and makes it look easy. By the way, next year's camp is tentatively scheduled for June 2-7. Write it down now!

EarthShare of Georgia

By Mark Beebe

EarthShare of Georgia (ESGA) is a nonprofit corporation representing member organizations, like GOS, in employee giving campaigns. It is part of a network representing more than 400 environmental groups working locally, nationally, and internationally.

Employees participating in a workplace giving program can either give to ESGA at large or give to specific organizations within ESGA. To participate, you can:

1. GIVE AT THE OFFICE

If you already have the opportunity to support ESGA at your worksite, please consider pledging a payroll deduction gift. Contributions can be shared among the members or designated to one or more organizations, such as GOS. Pick up a pledge form from your company's campaign coordinator. If you are not sure whether your employer has an environmental option, check ESGA's list of participating businesses. If you are a federal employee, find out more about the Combined Federal Campaign.

2. SET UP A WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM

If your workplace is not a current ESGA partner, visit the ESGA website to learn how to participate. ESGA offers citizens one smart and simple way to care for our air, land, and water. For a complete list of partnering businesses and member charities, visit www.earthsharega.org



Gull-billed Tern. Photo by Dan Vickers.

John Deitsch Receives GOS Parks Scholarship To Go To Costa Rica

By Bob Sargent

Duluth, Georgia's, 18-year-old John Deitsch will be going to Hog Island Audubon's Costa Rica Camp this December, courtesy of a scholarship from GOS. This has been quite a year for John, as his team finished first at the Youth Birding Competition in April, his high school team finished 8th in the North American Envirothon in July, he advanced to the state level in Georgia's 4-H competition in Forestry and Wildlife, and he attended Camp TALON (third time) and Camp Colorado (also on a GOS scholarship) and the Cornell Young Birders Event in New York. Please congratulate John the next time you run into him on a birding outing, and help GOS with efforts to recruit and financially support the education of young birders.



John is second from the right in this photo from Camp TALON 2017. Photo by Bob Sargent.

Youth Christmas Bird Count

Traditional Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) feature 8-hour days and lots of driving. This Youth CBC is specifically for kids. There is no driving and the count lasts just 2.5 hours. Teams of kids ages 8-16 will be led by experienced birders as they search the fields and forests of the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center for birds. After lunch, kids can present their findings and we will have a birds of prey presentation.



Kids do not have to be experienced birders to participate. This is an opportunity to learn how to identify birds, or to improve birding skills in preparation for the Youth Birding Competition in April. Binoculars and field guides will be provided to the kids, and parents are welcome to join the teams.



When: December 9, 2017
8:30am-3:00 pm

Where: Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center
Cost: Free for kids (including lunch).
Adults (17+) \$9 for lunch

Maximum 40 kids. Adults bring own binoculars

Call us at 770-784-3059 and register today.
If you have questions, please contact Bob Sargent at
bob.sargent@dnr.ga.gov or at 478-994-1438

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