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GOShaw

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Larry Carlile

At the time of this writing, it's February 24th and still officially winter. When I went outside early this morning, I saw the small flock of Baltimore Orioles that frequent the backyard for repasts of grape jelly and mealworms, and I could hear Cedar Waxwings overhead as they searched the neighborhood for any remaining fruit. Yep, it's still winter. But it sure felt like a spring day with a warm southerly breeze blowing and the temperature hovering at 80°F in Savannah. Unfortunately for me, it was time to pull out the lawn mower that has sat idle since late October. As I mowed noxious weeds like Florida betony, Asiatic hawkbeard, henbit, vetch, Oxalis, and nutgrass, clouds of yellow pollen from loblolly pines colored the sky. When I turned off the mower and took out my earplugs, I was delighted to hear the weak, garbled, and whiny song of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the slurred "teeew-teeew-teeew-teeew-tew-tew-twee" of a Yellow-throated Warbler singing from high atop a pine tree—sure signs of spring. As I put away the mower, I noticed another sign of the coming spring: Carolina



Dr. Peter Marra on banquet night at the winter meeting on Tybee Island. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

Wrens had begun building a nest on top of some ladders in the carport. These birds may build several nests before the pair decides on a final location, so who knows if they will use this particular nest site? I'll keep watching it for activity, but I suspect this nest is "for practice only."

This past January, over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, the GOS held its winter meeting on Tybee Island. Cody Cox, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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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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Bob Sargent, Editor
478-397-7962
bobsargent.ncs@gmail.com

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



Whooping Cranes in Miller County. Photo by Dan Vickers.

Mark Your Calendars Now! GOS SPRING MEETING May 18-20, 2018

The Ridges Resort and Marina, U.S. Highway 76, Hiawassee, GA. The cutoff date for the GOS rate of \$129 is April 18th. Lakeview rooms are an additional \$20.00.

The Saturday keynote speaker is Dr. Bob Sargent, program manager, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, who will give us an in-depth update on DNR's work regarding Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. On Friday evening we will have, back by popular demand, a bird trivia contest, and of course there will be lots of great field trips for the mountain specialties. So put on your thinking caps for the trivia contest and come to the mountains!

Look for meeting registration details on gos.org



Bob Sargent with Adam Hein's dog "Doc," Peregrine Falcon, and pheasant quarry at Broadfield Plantation, January 27, 2018. Photo by Steve Hein.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

and a GOS Bill Terrell Graduate Research Grant recipient, spoke to us about his research in Costa Rica. Cody has been mist-netting, banding birds, and measuring habit variables across a range of geographic gradients, while considering the potential impact forest fragmentation might have on breeding and migratory birds in his study area. He hopes to understand how birds are responding to fragmentation in order to inform future conservation planning so that the Costa Rican government can create preserves with scarce conservation colonies (Costa Rican currency) that will keep rare birds on the landscape and keep common birds common. We wish Cody the best of luck as he continues his research.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, who spoke to us about his latest book, *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*. A myriad of studies have documented the shocking number of birds and other native wildlife that feral cats kill every day, and Peter's summary drove that point home. As an organization



Graduate student Cody Cox speaks about his research in Costa Rica during the winter meeting. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

that “actively promotes bird conservation by encouraging the preservation of habitats that are vital to the survival of resident and migratory birds,” the GOS has a “Position Statement on Feral and Free-roaming Cats” that you can read here: http://www.gos.org/conservation_cats. I encourage you to read it and learn more about this conservation crisis.

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) met on February 10th and covered a great many topics, including “Will we have a spring meeting this year?” I’m pleased to say we decided that we will have a spring meeting, May 18-20, at The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge, Hiawassee, Georgia, for some mountain birding. You can make your reservation by calling (706) 896-2262. Make sure you tell them that you are with GOS to receive the special rate of \$129/night. First vice-president Ellen Miller is finalizing details for the field trips, and we’ll let you know as soon as we can when registration will be open on the GOS website. We’ll play bird trivia on Friday night. On

Saturday night, our keynote speaker will be Dr. Bob Sargent, program manager with the Nongame Conservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Bob will speak to us about the history and current status of raptor conservation work conducted by the DNR, with a focus on Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. The EXCOM also discussed the need for a membership survey, which has been sent to all members. Membership chair Shannon Fair put the survey results together, and the EXCOM eagerly awaits answers to the questions we’ve asked. Please take a few moments to complete and submit the membership survey so we can serve you better.

As ever, the GOS depends on the active participation of the membership. Please take time to renew your membership if you haven’t already done so. Please attend the upcoming spring meeting and make plans to attend the fall meeting on Jekyll Island, October 5-8, 2018. Above all, get outside and enjoy the remaining weeks of winter and the wonderful birdlife associated with the changing of the season. I hope that you find a Carolina Wren nest, too!

Welcome, New Members!

Fledgling (Student)

Donna Molfetto	Miami, FL
Melissa Martin	Bogart, GA
Josiah Lavender	Watkinsville, GA

Bachman's Sparrow (Individual)

Donna Miller	Atlanta, GA
Chris Lambrecht	Sandy Springs, GA
James Womack	Albany, GA
James Ozier	Barnesville, GA
Pam Smith	Savannah, GA
Jacqueline Boling	Coral Gables, FL
Mary Lou Dickson	Green Cove Springs, FL
Amy Boggan	Hayesville, NC
Lynn Wrenn	Savannah, GA
Jacob Flynn	Cumming, GA
Tina Smith	Warner Robins, GA

Quail Covey (Family)

Ed and Aija Konrad	Acworth, GA
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Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)

Edward McDowell	Bonaire, GA
Lynda Jenkins	Buford, GA

Northern Goshawk (Life)

Sarah Mabry	Marietta, GA
Franklin Marchman	Sharpsburg, GA
Steve and Robyn Newman	Hampton, GA
Sharon Fisher	Sautee Nacoochee, GA



Golden-winged Warbler at the Jekyll Island Campground. Photo by Dan Vickers.



Larry Carlile's carport guests.

Go Paperless!

Want to save trees and reduce printing costs by receiving the *GOShawk* electronically? Contact Shannon Fair, the GOS membership chair, at gosmembership@gmail.com, and let her know that you would like to receive the *GOShawk* by e-mail.

Remembering Pat Metz

By Diana Churchill

John Metz called me on February 27th with the news that I had been dreading but expecting. “I’m following Pat’s instructions,” he said, “and calling the people she had on her list. ‘Miz’ Pat flew up to heaven on Sunday night. It was very peaceful, and she didn’t suffer. She didn’t want a memorial service. I have instructions on where to scatter her ashes.”

A couple of years ago, Pat had gone in for a mammogram and found that the breast cancer she had vanquished a decade previously had recurred. In spite of her indomitable spirit and legendary sense of humor, this time the disease won.

Pat did not want an obituary, but those of us who knew and loved her cannot allow her departure to go unremarked.

There is a lot I don’t know about Pat. When I was researching, I found a wonderful article that Mary Landers wrote about her for the *Savannah Morning News* on January 17, 2010: “Pat Metz, the not-so-lone ranger, retires.” From that article I learned that Pat was raised in Brazil from age six to 16 while her father, Manuel “Doc” Enos, was working there for the engineering firm Stone and Webster.

Early on she wanted to be an artist. In fact, she and I met in the summer of 1974 while we were taking a watercolor class at Armstrong State College. At that time, she was Pat Young, and according to Mary’s article, it was her then father-in-law who got her interested in birds. “She’ll always be Young,” quipped her second husband John Metz when I spoke to him recently.



Pat Metz cuts the ribbon at the new Savannah National Wildlife Refuge Complex Visitors' Center. Photo by Diana Churchill.

Pat began volunteering at the sadly no longer-in-existence Savannah Science Museum that used to be on Paulsen Street. I have fond memories of visiting it as a kid, enjoying the exhibits and live animals.

Herpetologist Jerry Williamson pushed her to teach classes, and she began taking her students on field trips to the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. There, manager John Davis noticed her enthusiasm and eventually hired her in 1977, first for a special project, then half time and finally full time. Women rangers were so scarce back then that, instead of a uniform, he sent her a bolt of cloth, and she made her own pants!

I left Savannah in the fall of 1974 to finish college and pursue a career elsewhere. When I returned at the end of 1998, Pat was divorced from her first husband, and she had plucked John Metz from the pool of refuge volunteers and married him in 1991. She was a fixture at the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge complex that she would serve for 32 action-packed years.

Remembering Pat Metz *(continued from page 5)*

I had gotten hooked on birds while living in Massachusetts. So when I came back to Savannah, I went on an Ogeechee Audubon Society field trip and was invited to join the board of the chapter that Pat had helped found in 1970. At that time, Ogeechee Audubon was active with the Audubon Refuge Keepers program, serving as the de facto friends group for the Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex. We were always in touch with Pat about something.

Pat and I always talked about going birding together, but both of us were working and most of our time together involved the projects we were embarked on. One of those was “Fish Gotta Swim,” a program created while I was working for the educational non-profit Wilderness Southeast. It was designed to help middle school students learn about harbor deepening and its impact on fish, wildlife, and the environment. Pat helped us secure the necessary permits, supported our grant proposals, and constantly encouraged us.

When avid birder and artist Lydia Thompson shared her vision in 2002 for a birding festival on the coast, Pat jumped in on the planning committee to help secure funding and provide vision and leadership. She spearheaded the refuge system’s participation in the festival for all of its seven successful seasons.

Around that time, it was announced that the Savannah Refuge would finally be getting a visitors’ center. Putting together the main exhibit room at that center became Pat’s special project, and even after she retired in January of 2010, she kept going “to work” every day as a volunteer to oversee the completion of that exhibit. As her co-workers can attest, Pat was a perfectionist and insisted that anything done on her watch be accurate and completed to the highest standards.



Peter Range and Pat Metz. Photo by Diana Churchill.

Oh, and did I mention Christmas Bird Counts? If Pat didn’t actually start the first one at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge in 1969, she was on board as compiler by 1977. She continued to participate year after year in both the Harris Neck NWR and later the Savannah Area Counts, even after she recruited expert birder Steve Calver to take over as compiler.

When I created a book based on a collection of columns I have written for the *Savannah Morning News*, I asked Pat if she would write the foreword. She said that she’d be happy to, but she thought we could find someone “better.” She approached Kenn Kaufmann, whom she had met at the first festival. Kenn told her that if there were anything he could do to help birding on the coast, she shouldn’t hesitate to ask. Pat asked Kenn if he would write the foreword for *Birder’s Eye View: Savannah and the Low Country*, and he graciously agreed. Pat, I didn’t get a chance to tell you that I’ve sold out of volume 1, and I need someone to do the forward for volume 2!

When I e-mailed Mary Landers to ask permission to reference her article, she replied “Of course,” adding, “She was a cool person wasn’t she? So warm and so fierce at the same time.” Miz Pat, we will all miss you. Wherever you are, good birding!

Note: Please send donations in memory of Pat to the Friends of the Savannah Coastal Refuges.

Jim Ozier Receives the Earle R. Greene Award for 2018

By Georgann Schmalz

Each year, the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award is given to a GOS member who has shown exemplary achievement in ornithology, achievement in promoting birding, or outstanding service to GOS.

The 2018 Award was given to Jim Ozier. Jim admitted that he was “interested in wildlife, and particularly birds, since way back. I remember drawing robins and writing a poem about birds in first grade.”

He attended West Georgia College in 1980 and later earned his master's degree at UGA, working on the "Reproductive behavior of captive Andean Condors at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center" in Maryland. His study used Andean condors as research surrogates for developing captive breeding techniques for California Condors, including cross-fostering a Turkey Vulture nestling to a pair of condors, which raised it successfully.

Jim then worked as a biologist and program manager with the Wildlife Resources Division of Georgia DNR for 28 years. This job included being responsible for Bald Eagle conservation in Georgia. Under his watch, Jim saw the nesting population increase from fewer than 10 to more than 230 pairs, and go from federally endangered to threatened to delisted.

Jim also worked on Red-cockaded Woodpecker conservation by coordinating private land efforts, serving on the federal Recovery Team, and writing a private land Habitat Conservation Plan, which included mitigated incidental take and Safe Harbor specifications.

He also worked with Peregrine Falcon restoration–release programs in north Georgia and Atlanta. Jim banded falcon young in Atlanta nests and led the wintering Golden Eagle capture and tracking program in middle Georgia.

When Jim wasn't conducting nest surveys and banding falcons, he was deeply involved with Partners in Flight, served as the Nongame Technical Section representative on the Atlantic Flyway Council, helped coordinate State Wildlife Grants for Bird Conservation, helped coordinate Important Bird Areas grants, participated in the Breeding Bird Atlas surveys and wrote species accounts, assisted with shorebird and sparrow banding projects, and served on the “bird team” for the State Wildlife Action Plan development and revision.

Jim is now retired from DNR and works with Georgia Power, coordinating the Avian Protection Program to ensure compliance with permits and minimize risk to birds. He represents the Southern Company on the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee to reduce negative impacts to birds.



Georgann Schmalz and Jim Ozier. Photo by Ed Maoriello.

A Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder

By Dan Vickers

(Note: All photos in this article are by Dan Vickers and are from his “top 10 favorites” of 2017.)



Tufted Titmouse, Bishop Road, Dade County.

Lots of birders are listers. Some are casual listers, counting the birds found in their yard or neighborhood park. Others are more extreme and attempt to see 100 or 200 birds in every county or try to see every bird found in the ABA Area, United States, or even the world. Most all birders keep a life list—all of the birds they have seen in a particular county, state, or country. I, too, am a lister, but my passion is a photographic life list; it has been my passion ever since I heard Giff Beaton talk about the Willow Flycatchers in Blairsville at an Atlanta Audubon Society meeting in 2000. I am constantly trying to add new species and perfect the photos I already have for my Georgia and ABA lists.

When eBird announced that their challenge for 2017 would be an eBird report every day for the entire year, I thought that would be a fun thing to do. I had already decided that I would again attempt to photograph all of the Georgia birds I saw during the year, so this would dovetail nicely with eBird’s challenge. I set the goal at a minimum of 300 species in Georgia. I had attempted this a couple of times in the past but fell short, mainly due to a demanding work schedule in the fall, just when migration was heating up.



Green Heron, Harris Neck NWR.



Brown Thrasher, Chattahoochee River Natural Recreation Area.

So in 2017, I did manage to submit one checklist a day for the entire year, with exactly 600 checklists submitted for birds seen in Georgia. In the state, I saw or heard 315 countable species and was able to photograph 307 species, but I missed photographing Virginia Rail, Whip-poor-will, Chuck-wills-widow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Plain Chachalaca, Bridled Tern, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Long-billed Curlew. Some Georgia birds would not show themselves and were



Ruffed Grouse, Ivy Log Gap Road.

heard only; the others were just too far away for a recognizable photograph (important criteria.)

It was a really great year to chase birds in Georgia, and I had a lot of fun with the challenge. But as with any challenge, it had to come to an end. I am left with the fond memories of the birds and birders along the way. Each photograph is a memory for me: where I was, whom I was with, how long we waited to see the species, how many times we tried, etc.

A Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder *(continued from page 8)*

I still have the photograph of one of the first birds that Bill Lotz and I chased—Georgia's first state record for a Broad-billed Hummingbird near Macon in 2001. What was memorable about the Broad-billed Hummingbird photograph was that it was the first time we met Pierre Howard. Another memorable photograph was when I photographed the Snowy Owl in 2012 atop a Tybee Island condo, with a dozen other photographers shoulder to shoulder in the early morning light on the beach. Or the time we photographed the Rufous Hummingbird in Krista Gridley's yard. Since I started photographing birds, I have taken thousands of photos with hundreds of friends and made flocks of memories.



Purple Gallinule, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area.



Dan Vickers' 300th species photographed in 2017: Burrowing Owl, Miller County.

The 2018 Recipients of the Richard Parks Young Birders Camp Scholarships

By Bob Sargent

The GOS awarded four scholarships to teen birders to attend birding camps this summer. These scholarships cover the entire cost of the camp registration fees and up to \$500 in airfare expenses. This brings to 35 the number of teens sponsored by GOS since this scholarship source was established and named for Dick Parks in 2007. The recipients:

- I. Camp Colorado: Ewan Pritchard and Knox Evert
- II. Hog Island Costa Rica (awarded in 2017; the camp was postponed): John Deitsch
- III. Hog Island Audubon Camp (Maine): Anna Zheng

To see the list of past recipients and Dick's biography, go to gos.org/youngbirdersscholarship

Species Tally, Winter Meeting, Tybee Island, Georgia, January 12-15, 2018*Compiled by Ellen Miller**158 species*

Snow Goose	Red-tailed Hawk
Canada Goose	Clapper Rail
Wood Duck	King Rail
Gadwall	Virginia Rail
American Wigeon	Sora
Mallard	Common Gallinule
Mottled Duck	American Coot
Blue-winged Teal	American Avocet
Northern Shoveler	American Oystercatcher
Northern Pintail	Black-bellied Plover
Green-winged Teal	Semipalmated Plover
Redhead	Piping Plover
Ring-necked Duck	Killdeer
Greater Scaup	Spotted Sandpiper
Lesser Scaup	Greater Yellowlegs
Black Scoter	Willet
Bufflehead	Lesser Yellowlegs
Hooded Merganser	Ruddy Turnstone
Red-breasted Merganser	Stilt Sandpiper
Ruddy Duck	Sanderling
Wild Turkey	Dunlin
Red-throated Loon	Least Sandpiper
Common Loon	Western Sandpiper
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-billed Dowitcher
Horned Grebe	Long-billed Dowitcher
Wood Stork	Wilson's Snipe
Northern Gannett	Bonaparte's Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Laughing Gull
Anhinga	Ring-billed Gull
American White Pelican	Herring Gull
Brown Pelican	Great Black-backed Gull
American Bittern	Forster's Tern
Great Blue Heron	Royal Tern
Great Egret	Black Skimmer
Snowy Egret	Rock Pigeon
Little Blue Heron	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Tricolored Heron	Mourning Dove
Black-crowned Night Heron	Eastern Whip-poor-will
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Black-chinned Hummingbird
White Ibis	Belted Kingfisher
Glossy Ibis	Red-headed Woodpecker
Black Vulture	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Osprey	Downy Woodpecker
Bald Eagle	Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Harrier	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Flicker
Cooper's Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Kestrel

Winter 2018 Meeting Species List *(continued from page 10)*

Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Eastern Phoebe
 Western Kingbird
 Loggerhead Shrike
 White-eyed Vireo
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Tree Swallow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown-headed Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren
 Winter Wren
 Sedge Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Carolina Wren
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 American Pipit
 Cedar Waxwing
 Northern Waterthrush
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Orange-crowned Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 Palm Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 Prairie Warbler
 Eastern Towhee
 Bachman's Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Henslow's Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow
 Fox Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Swamp Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Common Grackle
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Baltimore Oriole
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch



Bald Eagle, Edmondson Lake, Troup County.
Photo by Dan Vickers.



Leucistic Ruby-throated Hummingbird,
DeKalb County. Photo by Dan Vickers.

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ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Annual membership rates for individuals and families (circle your choice)

Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family Membership)	\$35
Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)	\$50
Fledgling (Students only)	\$20

Life Membership Rates for individuals

Northern Goshawk	\$750
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Yes, I would like to make an additional contribution of \$_____ in support of GOS