



July 2018  
Vol. 45, No. 2

# GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society  
[www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

## President's Message

By Larry Carlile

If you weren't able to join us in Hiawassee for the spring meeting, we missed you. Although the weather was threatening, all of the scheduled field trips departed (and returned!) on schedule. However, we occasionally had to take shelter from some heavy downpours. The trip I led to Hale Ridge had to take cover under the porch of a country store during a sudden deluge, but we had a good time watching Barn Swallows as they foraged over the pasture behind the store and occasionally rested on perches under the porch. By the end of the trip, we'd managed to have great looks at both Least Flycatchers and Willow Flycatchers. For a flatlander like me, that was quite a treat. Many thanks to all of the intrepid field trip leaders (Ed Maioriello, Patty McLean, J.P. Moss, Angus Pritchard, and Bob Sargent) who led trips for the spring meeting. We visited great destinations, such as Brasstown Bald, Burrell's Ford Road, Hale Ridge, Ivy Log Gap, Gumlog Road, and Sosebee Cove, and tallied 107 species (see the complete list on pages 14-15).



Bald Eagles at their nest. Photo courtesy of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

On Friday evening, Second Vice President Ed Maioriello emceed a trivia quiz that was great fun and very tough! Our Saturday night keynote address was presented by GOS Past President Dr. Bob Sargent. Bob summarized the history of Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon conservation in the state and presented the results of his work with Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons since he was hired as one of Georgia DNR's nongame program managers in 2015. The good news is

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

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



Camp TALON 2018 optics set up and waiting for birders. Photo by Julie Duncan.

## Mark Your Calendars Now! GOS FALL MEETING

October 5-8, 2018

Join GOS for the fall 2018 meeting on Jekyll Island, October 5-8, Columbus Day weekend. The subject of the Saturday keynote presentation will be owl adaptations, presented by Denver Holt of the Owl Research Institute (ORI). Denver is the founder and president of the ORI, a nonprofit he started 30 years ago. Today, it is one of the premier owl research centers in the world, just as Mr. Holt is one of the leading experts.

Denver is a widely published author who has been featured in countless articles, from *National Geographic* to *The New York Times*, as well as in many television programs. He has educated and entertained people from all walks of life and enjoys guiding and meeting new people while expanding his knowledge of wildlife and the natural world.

The Friday evening program will feature Georgia biologists Tim Keyes (DNR) and Dr. Abby Sterling (Manomet Observatory) speaking about shorebird conservation and research, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), and the designation of the Georgia barrier islands as a Landscape of Hemispheric Importance (the 100th WHSRN site).



Denver Holt and friend. Photo provided by Mr. Holt.



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

that Bald Eagles have made a tremendous recovery in the state, from no successful nests found in Georgia during most of the 1970s to a state record 218 occupied nest territories in 2017. However, the species still faces very real threats from collisions with cars, loss of nesting habitat, lead poisoning, and avian vacuolar myelinopathy, a neurological disease. Peregrine Falcons were probably never abundant in Georgia. Prior to the appearance of the nest in Tallulah Gorge State Park in 2015, there was only one documented record of a wild-type Peregrine Falcon nest in Georgia, which was found in 1942 in Cloudland Canyon State Park. Of course, the species is often seen in the state during migration, especially on the coast, and it has been nesting on high-rise buildings in the Atlanta area since 1996. Bob noted that there appear to be at least four falcon territories in and around the big city. In April 2018, Bob, Jim Ozier, and Georgia DNR helicopter pilot Major Doc Watson conducted the first intensive falcon eyrie search in the state since 1995. Although some of the cliff faces they inspected appeared suitable for nesting, no peregrines or nests were found. To conclude his presentation—as an added bonus—Dr. Bob gave us an enjoyable quiz, just to make sure we'd been paying attention. Correct answers were rewarded with lovely Peregrine Falcon prints.

Results from the membership survey are in, and Membership Chair Shannon Fair will present them at our fall meeting. Also at the upcoming fall meeting, the executive committee intends to present to the membership some minor revisions to the GOS by-laws, which have not been updated since 2009. For the most part, the revisions will deal with outdated content of numerous by-laws appendices, but they will also include a proposal to streamline the membership fee structure. Look for our proposed changes in the September 2018 edition of the *GOShawk*.

Finally, don't forget to mark your calendars for the fall meeting on Jekyll Island (October 5-8, 2018) and the winter meeting on Tybee Island (January 18-21, 2019). More details for both meetings will be available in the September *GOShawk*. I hope to see you on Jekyll Island.



Great Blue Heron meets Banded Watersnake, Sapelo Island, June 6, 2018. The heron won.  
Photo by John Deitsch.

## One Morning (and More) in Maine

By Josiah Lavender

As the plane banked over Maine's rocky coastline, the Portland airport runways materializing out of the green expanse of the mainland, my excitement built. "I'll soon be down there," I thought as I watched a tern fly below.

In the weeks leading up to the camp, my expectations had grown, but they were still tempered compared to what they were for Camp Colorado, which I attended the year before (thanks to GOS). My reasoning was that Maine was in the East, where I lived, so the difference in landscapes and birds would be much less. Little did I know that I would soon be having one of the greatest times of my life.

This camp's pleasures were not in the stunning beauty of incredible landscapes, such as rocky, snow-covered mountains, or a seemingly endless sky stretched over an expanse of prairie, or even a massive amount of life birds. They were in the friendships that were made and the few beautiful new bird species seen, such as Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Arctic Terns and—the most iconic—Atlantic Puffins. And they were in the early morning walks through spruce forests, where the soft moss felt like a mini-trampoline underfoot, and at the dinners where we sat family-style and laughed over delicious food as the setting sun streamed through west-facing windows draped in white curtains that danced in the breeze.

Upon arrival at noon on Sunday, I was struck by the genuine kindness of the counselors, as well as the campers. The *Snow Goose III*, a small boat operated by our boat chauffeur for the week, Captain Bill, a man with a short white beard and a twinkle in his eye, carried us from the mainland to Hog Island in a few minutes. We arrived at the only dock on the island, the Queen Mary, a beautiful old building in which several Maine bird species stood mounted and a water tank held some of the fascinating marine life found in the surrounding waters.

Our group spent the afternoon organizing and getting to know each other and some of the older campers who were attending an adult camp held at the same time. We played some ice-breaker games, which I was inclined to write off as unnecessary, but in retrospect I don't think I would have gotten to know as many people without them.

As I fell asleep, the sound of Heather, one of the counselors, playing her guitar and singing softly, drifted through the cabin. I began to realize just how special this camp was.



Hog Island, Maine. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

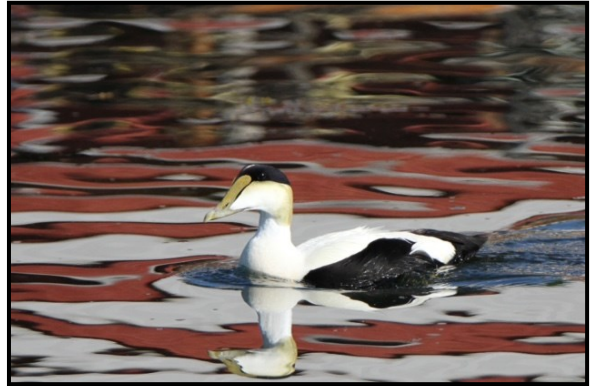
The next morning, we got a 4:00 am wake-up call from the counselors. As I lay in bed, rubbing the sleep from my eyes, I heard a different sort of call. This one came from somewhere off in the bay: the haunting wail of a Common Loon, an iconic sound in the northern United States.

## One Morning (and More) in Maine *(continued from page 4)*

After a walk and a delicious breakfast, we boarded the *Snow Goose III* and headed for a boat trip around the nearby islands. Not long after we departed, a couple of Common Eiders let us approach very close, allowing us to take wonderful photos.

These birds were soon followed by a flock of Surf Scoters that gave our group great looks at their unusual bill structure and coloration. Shortly after, someone on the boat found a male Black Scoter in the group, a nice bonus and a lifer for me.

A few hours later, as we headed back to camp after seeing some of the usual summer coastal species, such as Great Black-backed, Herring, Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls, Common Terns, and great views of seals resting on the rocks, someone yelled, "Long-tailed Duck!" Sure enough, up against the bank of a nearby island, a male Long-tailed Duck floated on the calm water. We watched as it repeatedly



Common Eider. Photo by Josiah Lavender.



Common Tern. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

dove and surfaced, often in very different places. This species is somewhat unusual in the area during the summer, so we were even more surprised when the bird was joined by three more of its kind. Captain Bill turned the boat around, and we came back for closer looks at my fifth lifer of the trip, and a really cool species to study through binoculars.

By far the most anticipated trip occurred on our last day: a visit to Eastern Egg Rock, a seven-acre island inhabited by hundreds of pairs terns, puffins and guillemots. The campers looked forward to this day with great anticipation, in no small part because it was the best opportunity to see Maine's most popular bird species, the legendary Atlantic Puffin.

As we approached the island, we were not disappointed. An Atlantic Puffin, sporting its wedge-shaped bill and sleek black-and-white body, rode the surf next to the island. Many more puffin sightings followed as we circled the island to reach our landing place.

Soon after, the interns (for whom I have much respect; their job on this small island cannot be easy) welcomed us ashore. They led us to the center of the rocky island on a path cut in the low grass and through a deafening cacophony of dive-bombing Arctic and Common Terns. At the interns' camp area, we were safe from the mobbing birds.

After a brief introduction, some in our group were led out to the blinds. Positioned on the rocks near the ocean,



Black Guillemot. Photo by Josiah Lavender.



## One Morning (and More) in Maine *(continued from page 5)*

these blinds are used by researchers to observe the nesting birds up close, without causing disturbance. For the campers, it was also a wonderful opportunity to watch the birds and take great photographs.



Atlantic Puffin. Photo by Josiah Lavender.



Arctic Tern. Photo by Josiah Lavender.



Campers on Egypt Road in Lincoln County, Maine. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

My blind was surrounded by Arctic, Roseate and Common Terns, as well as Black Guillemots. There were no puffins nearby (many of the other campers had them quite close), but there also was no room for complaint. Being among so many nesting birds, most being species I'd never seen before, hearing their wild cries and smelling the musty scent that comes from so many birds nesting so close together, all out on a little island in the Atlantic Ocean, was an incredible experience.

The next day, we set out for the mainland at 8:00 am. The camp was over. I strongly disliked leaving; I felt as though I could stay forever, that it would never get old to watch the sun go down over the mainland, to fall asleep to the sound of Heather playing her guitar and singing, and to wake up early to sunshine streaming through the windows, the haunting cries of a loon drifting in with it. I day-dream of spending my days on the island, looking for birds and laughing with new-found friends over some ridiculous joke. Even as I write this, I feel strongly nostalgic. But, alas, all good times must end, and, as much as we wish it didn't have to, life must return to normal. Yet that doesn't mean we have to: The things we experience can change us for the better if we let them. I've come away from this camp with incredible memories that I will cherish for years, wonderful friendships, and a greater knowledge and deeper appreciation of Maine and its wonderful wildlife, particularly its birds.

I'm thankful for the Hog Island Camp counselors, for their kindness and care, the responsibility they showed with all of us, and their heartfelt desire to share the knowledge they have with those younger than them. Most of all, though, I would like to thank GOS for the scholarship, without which I would not have been able to experience this wonderful camp. And that possibility is not something I like to think about!

I strongly recommend this camp to any young birder, no matter their skill level. It is a truly rich experience, and there is much to be gained from it.

**Camp TALON 2018: A Daily Journal***By Bob Sargent*

*(Note: Instead of writing my usual essay summarizing the camp, I elected to provide the daily journal I wrote. Perhaps this will help the reader to form a more vivid mental image of what it is like to attend this camp. The last page features quotes from the campers.)*

June 2nd:

Half of the campers met Julie Duncan, me, and the rental bus in Macon, and then settled in for the long interstate haul while watching *The Big Year* and *The Life of Birds* on the DVD screens. The other campers met the group at Epworth by the Sea, our base camp on St. Simons Island. Once everyone was unpacked and had staked out their bunks in the cabins, the group gathered in a classroom to hear about the week's itinerary, to learn the rules of the camp, and to get an introduction in how to keep a journal and how to use binoculars. The evening's plan involved a birding trip with retired professor and master birder Bob Sattelmeyer to Cannon's Point Preserve on St. Simons Island, where we would meet Stephanie Knox, the property manager. But Mother Nature had other plans. The skies opened up minutes before the scheduled departure, so back to the classroom everyone went, where I gave a presentation about the ecology and management of Bald Eagles.

June 3rd:

Camp TALON's 15 student birders spent much of Sunday visiting Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in the company of a refuge ranger and volunteer. We talked about fire, longleaf pine ecosystems, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, wetlands, and alligators. We hiked the boardwalk trail and climbed the 50-foot observation tower, where we were treated to an up-close view of a Northern Parula. The campers heard singing Bachman's Sparrows and were entertained by the territorial antics of Great Crested Flycatchers and two adult Red-shouldered Hawks feeding a fledgling.

Sunday night we headed to Altamaha WMA, where we observed a Gull-billed Tern flying seemingly endless foraging loops around the marsh south of the observation tower in the Champney River Unit. The diversity of wading birds and shorebirds on the east side of the Butler Unit was exciting. We saw Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, Glossy Ibis, and egrets crowded around a small pool. Two Black Skimmers flew over a stream 20 feet in front of us, lower bills breaking the surface every few seconds. Black-necked Stilts with their long, flimsy pink legs fluttered by, chattering all the while, and White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Sandpipers engaged in a soil probing contest. The circling, squealing Black-bellied Whistling-ducks served up endless entertainment.



Gull-billed Tern. Photo by John Deitsch.

**Camp TALON** *(continued from page 7)*

June 4th:

On Monday, the staff of Little St. Simons Island, especially naturalists Theresa and Nate, and ecologist Kate, showed the campers a day of birding they likely will never forget. Highlights included up-close views of a male Painted Bunting and Common Ground-dove, Wilson's Plovers guarding newly-hatched chicks and doing their broken wing displays, Ospreys catching fish a stone's throw in front of us, and Least Tern males offering fish gifts to their mates. Oh yeah, let's not forget Norm, the 12-foot-long alligator, circling a raucous rookery of egrets and Anhinga. The latter seemed to defy maiming as they allowed their chicks to reach deep into their throats with their sword-like bills for a meal of fish mush. It was a hot day and the deer flies were relentless at times, but everyone was smiling when we got on the bus to head to Epworth by the Sea. The smiles got even bigger when we did an impromptu stop for ice cream.

Later that day, Dr. Abby Sterling, UGA graduate and now shorebird biologist for Manomet Observatory, stopped in to talk to the campers about how a passion for birds can take a person to extraordinary places, meet remarkably committed people, and lead to deeply gratifying careers. I then presented a college semester's worth of ornithology in 60 minutes. The campers were engaged and loaded with questions as they took turns trying to stump me.

June 5th:

The third full day of camp saw our flock of birders witnessing an "in-your-face" encounter at the famed rookery at Harris Neck NWR's Woody Pond. Refuge Manager Kimberly Hayes allowed the campers access to a normally closed-to-the-public trail, where they found themselves within 50 feet of the din of begging chicks, the smells of countless pounds of bird-processed fish, and the often hilarious "hairdos" of recently hatched egrets, herons, storks, and ibis.



Rookery action at Harris Neck NWR: Wood Stork (left) and Tricolored Heron (right). Photos by John Deitsch.



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

By mid-afternoon, retired professors Gene Keferl and Bob Sattelmeyer were leading the TALON flock around the perimeter of Andrews Island. The numbers were few, but the species quality was brag-worthy. American Avocets, Least Terns, American White Pelicans, Wilson's Plovers, Black-necked Stilts, and Painted Buntings all put in an appearance. After dinner we dropped by the parking lot of the King and Prince Hotel to find a Gray Kingbird, a rarity in Georgia, and ended the day at Gould's Inlet, where we hit a birding home run: A Reddish Egret was performing its best dance routine—just for the campers.

June 6th:

The birders enjoyed a full day of feathered adventure with Malcolm Hodges (The Nature Conservancy) on Sapelo Island today. Thanks to help from the DNR's Fred Hay, the teens visited and scoured the island's habitats from the vantage point of a hunting trailer towed behind a truck. Per tradition, our first stop was the dumpster collection, which is where Plain Chachalacas are often found. The exotic chicken-like birds didn't put in an appearance, but any hint of disappointment in the birders evaporated when, moments after leaving the dump, we discovered a Great Blue Heron in a pasture subduing and swallowing a three-foot-long snake. Our lunch break, taken in the shade of live oaks at the marine research center, provided an unexpected educational moment, when a Yellow-throated Warbler, foraging in Spanish Moss four feet above us, delivered its insect feast to a nearby Brown-headed Cowbird fledgling. The begging and wing-fluttering cowbird was about twice the size of the adult warbler. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the sight of a normally elusive Clapper Rail standing in full view on a mudflat 35 feet from the birders as it cut loose with its signature "Kek, kek, kek" vocalization.



The campers are ready to go birding on Sapelo Island. Photo by Julie Duncan.



On Wednesday night the birders had a chance to show off what they had learned as they took an exam that featured section titles such as "What bird am I?" and "What do I eat"? They also had to label the parts of a sketched bird and identity the real names of funny colloquial bird labels such as "thunder pumper" (American Bittern), "the preacher" (Red-eyed Vireo), "mud hen" (Clapper Rail), and "flinthead" (Wood Stork). Julie Duncan

Vocalizing Clapper Rail, Sapelo Island. Photo by John Deitsch.

**Camp TALON** *(continued from page 9)*

and the camp interns Sarah Tharpe, Rebecca Mello, and Marshall Weber evaluated the birding journals turned in by the campers, and they gave the “best journal” recognition to 14-year-old Ella Gaddis, a rookie TALON camper. The newest birders competed to see who could identify the most bird species by song alone. Top honors and prizes for the written exam went to veteran TALON participant John Deitsch (age 18) and brand-new participant and beginning birder Amanda Janusz (age 15). John will be attending Cornell University this fall to major in ornithology, and Amanda hopes to work in the feather research lab at the Smithsonian Museum. The best scores on the bird song challenge for rookies were turned in by Laura Sprinkle, age 16 and an avid photographer, and Olivia Usey, age 17 and interested in studying ethnobotany in college. All of the campers were winners, as each took home at least two prizes, ranging from bird song CDs to binocular harnesses to falcon paintings. Three of the new campers who were deemed to be most enthusiastic about birds were awarded brand-new pairs of binoculars. The end of a full day concluded with my final presentation of the camp, “How do I learn bird songs?”



Larry Carlile demonstrates how to use a peep camera at Ft. Stewart, June 7, 2018. Photo by Julie Duncan.

June 7th:

The alarm clocks went off at 5:30 am on the final day of TALON 2018, but the sleepy eyes of the campers brightened considerably when we treated them to breakfast at a Waffle House an hour later. By 8:30 am they were under the tutelage of Ft. Stewart wildlife biologist and GOS President Larry Carlile. Standing beneath a canopy of towering longleaf pines, wiregrass wrapped around their ankles, they listened as Larry explained ecological forestry and endangered species management. In the background, the songs of Bachman’s Sparrows and the chattering of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers provided the theme music. Larry then used a peep camera and telescoping pole to show them the world inside pine tree cavities, as the campers chortled over views of Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Great Crested Flycatcher nestlings. As we got back on the bus from what was just our first stop of the morning, somebody spotted a pair of Bachman’s Sparrows feeding two nestlings, and up went binoculars to 15 pairs of eager young eyes. Before that last morning of camp ended, the birders were entertained by close-up looks

at Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, and a soaring Red-tailed Hawk. Prior to pulling onto I-16 and heading back to Macon, our starting point, we treated the young birders to the last of the camp’s traditions: a pizza feast in Richmond Hill. Our final count was 120 species of birds, a well-trained cohort of 15 young birders and budding ornithologists, and a few dozen deerfly bites.

***Thank you to all of the biologists, teachers, and naturalists, and to GOS, TERN, the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, and the Atlanta Audubon Society for making this camp possible.***



**TALON 2018: Camper Quotes About Favorite Memories**

Samantha (Sammi) Jones: “My favorite memory would have to be Sapelo Island. On the way there by ferry a dolphin decided to give us a proper welcome by greeting us at the side of our boat. While walking, not only did I learn about the island’s rich history, the wildlife proved to be just as impressive. Alligators, insects, and, of course, a diverse number of birds set it apart from other refuges.”

Sasha Key: “This week I devoted myself to watch interesting birds. We went to amazing sites, we saw rare birds, we went to places that people pay a fortune to see. I remember on Little St. Simons Island we saw a very colorful Painted Bunting we took so long to find. I learned a ton. I learned that a Northern Parula’s song sounds like a zipper. I learned to distinguish the differences between a Bald Eagle and a Golden Eagle. My most favorite memory was getting the opportunity to see rare birds and cool positions. For example, to see a rare American Oystercatcher, or to see a Wood Stork with its wings in a cool position. I will never forget the time I got to go to Little St. Simons Island and see a Painted Bunting.”

Emily Trainer: “My favorite bird was the Summer Tanager. I think they’re funny because they sound like they’re saying ‘peek-a-boo.’ They are very brightly colored, and I think they’re really pretty.”

Dakota Sims: “Seeing cute birds. I learned more than I thought I would. Cute birds are the best to see.”

Amanda Janusz: “Learning that so many species could be found so close to home, such exotic birds as spoonbills and storks, was incredibly exciting. Camp TALON has motivated me to search out the birds I can find everywhere I go, and the way I approach birding has changed for the better.”

Olivia (Livvie) Usey: “Listening to and talking with all of the different speakers has truly helped me grow as a birder! Each of them holds such a vast array of knowledge, and they inspire me to continue studying environmental topics.”



The campers at Harris Neck NWR, June 5, 2018. Photo by Julie Duncan.



**TALON 2018: Camper Quotes** *(continued from page 11)*

Allan Muise: “Going to Andrews Island was very cool. It was the first time after waiting all of my life. I even got a life bird (American Avocet)!”

Laura Sprinkle: “My favorite memory from this week was being a few feet from various warbler species. After climbing the observation tower at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, we had many charming birds right at our eye level! We were able to see their amazing colors and hear their songs up close.”

Sarah Brown: “The favorite bird I saw this week was seeing the Red-shouldered Hawk’s nest. The juvenile hawk was out of the nest on a branch and was calling to its parents for food.”

John Deitsch: On the north end of Little St. Simons Island, the Altamaha River empties into the ocean. This, where dunes and saltmarsh come together, is a magical spot. American Oystercatchers fly by, Marl Pennant Dragonflies drift in the wind, and Ospreys plunge into the waves.”

Ella Gaddy: “My favorite memory is being able to go to Little St. Simons Island to see my first male Painted Bunting. I’ve only seen females, and to see it on an island made it so much more special!”

Elizabeth Lemmons: “My favorite event was when we heard a Blue Grosbeak. Mr. Bob, an intern, Rebecca, and I had fallen behind to listen to a Painted Bunting and were trying to find it; it turned out to be a Blue Grosbeak. I favored it on account that the professional made a mistake for a moment. I did not see the Blue Grosbeak, but as Mr. Bob continued to describe it, it did seem interesting. We had been discussing structural and chemical colorings of birds, and I found it interesting on how structural coloring is made to also hide the host as well as make it stand out; the Blue Grosbeak had structural coloring, and that was why it was hard to spot on a cloudy day.”



Camp TALON at Little St. Simons Island. Photo by Julie Duncan.

**Birders and Birds Win in the 13th Annual Youth Birding Competition**

*By the Georgia Department of Natural Resources*

The Georgia Youth Birding Competition again showed its value last April, drawing a diverse crowd of young birders who enjoyed the outdoors as they ranged from barrier islands to metro Atlanta looking and listening for birds. About 80 youth ages 4-18 took part in the 13th annual Georgia DNR birdathon, held from 5:00 pm Friday to 5:00 pm Saturday. Teams used as much of the 24-hour period as members wanted to count native bird species. The Wood Thrushes were the overall winner, with 161 species.

Team members Allan Muise of Lamar County, Nick Christian and Ewan Pritchard of Decatur, Philip Black of Atlanta, and Knox Evert of LaGrange scoured coastal-area sites such as Gould's Inlet on St. Simons Island and Paulks Pasture Wildlife Management Area Friday, even searching late for owls and nightjars. After a short night at the home of a Brunswick couple who offered to host the team, the crew was up before dawn Saturday. They checked hotspots such as Altamaha Wildlife Management Area and Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge before checking in at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield by 5:00 pm.

Black, 15, said the team enjoyed "a really good first day, (counting) about 98 species." Much of the credit goes to the well-honed bird identifying skills of these teens. Thirteen-year-old Muise said with a grin that the team had "practiced for like a year."

And while each member has a story about how they became interested in birds, for Pritchard, 15, it involved family trips outdoors and following in the footsteps of his older brother, Angus, also a Youth Birding Competition participant. "Angus was always into it," he said. "Everything he learned, I learned."

Competition coordinator Tim Keyes sees the event as hitting its mark—to encourage youth to learn about and enjoy birds, conservation, and the outdoors. This was the first Youth Birding Competition for eight of the 27 teams. Added Keyes, "I like that we had participants mentoring new, younger teams."

Case in point: Knox Evert received the 2018 mentor award. The high school senior not only competed with the champion Wood Thrushes, he helped the AAJ Eagles and The Cardinals prepare for the competition. Both were first-year teams. Each earned top rookie team honors in their divisions.

Sponsors included The Environmental Resources Network, or TERN, Georgia Ornithological Society, Atlanta Audubon Society, Eagle Optics, and Partners in Flight.

The event also featured a T-shirt art contest that drew 123 entries. Birders turning in their checklists Saturday were given shirts featuring a Great Horned Owl painted by Alston Li, 11, a sixth-grader at SKA Academy of Art and Design in Duluth. As grand-prize winner, Li received a \$100 Michaels gift card.

In another part of the competition, teams raised more than \$2,000 for conservation, a voluntary part of the event that pushed the 13-year total past \$22,000. The "Pi-ed"-billed Grebes led with \$1,149.

The 2019 Youth Birding Competition is set for April 26-27. Registration will open this winter.

**Species Tally, Spring Meeting, Hiawassee, Georgia, May 18-21, 2018***Compiled by Larry Carlile**107 species*

Birds observed during field trips to Brasstown Bald, Burrell's Ford Road, Hale Ridge Road, Ivy Log Gap, Gumlog Road, Ridges Resort and Marina, and Sosebee Cove.

Canada Goose	Cliff Swallow
Wood Duck	Barn Swallow
Mallard	Carolina Chickadee
Northern Bobwhite	Tufted Titmouse
Ruffed Grouse	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Wild Turkey	White-breasted Nuthatch
Great Blue Heron	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Black Vulture	House Wren
Turkey Vulture	Carolina Wren
Cooper's Hawk	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Bluebird
Broad-winged Hawk	Veery
Red-tailed Hawk	Wood Thrush
American Coot	American Robin
Killdeer	Gray Catbird
Mourning Dove	Brown Thrasher
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Northern Mockingbird
Barred Owl	European Starling
Common Nighthawk	Cedar Waxwing
Chimney Swift	Ovenbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Worm-eating Warbler
Belted Kingfisher	Blue-winged Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Swainson's Warbler
Downy Woodpecker	Kentucky Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	Common Yellowthroat
Northern Flicker	Hooded Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	American Redstart
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Cape May Warbler
Acadian Flycatcher	Northern Parula
Willow Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Least Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Eastern Phoebe	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler
Eastern Kingbird	Black-throated Blue Warbler
White-eyed Vireo	Pine Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Yellow-throated Warbler
Blue-headed Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Black-throated Green Warbler
Blue Jay	Canada Warbler
American Crow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Common Raven	Eastern Towhee
Purple Martin	Chipping Sparrow
Tree Swallow	Field Sparrow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Savannah Sparrow



**Spring 2018 Meeting Species List** *(continued from page 14)*

Song Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Summer Tanager  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Blue Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Eastern Meadowlark  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Orchard Oriole  
House Finch  
Pine Siskin  
American Goldfinch  
House Sparrow



Last sunset at Camp TALON 2018. Photo by Julie Duncan.



Camp TALON 2018 birders on the ferry and ready to visit Sapelo Island. Photo by Julie Duncan.

# 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 (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