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# GOShawk

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

## President's Message

By Larry Carlile

Dear GOS,

As required by our by-laws, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) held our second meeting of the year on August 10, 2019, at the Georgia Department of Natural Resource's Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area office. Here are the highlights:

- Ellen Miller (1st vice president) and Ed Maioriello (2nd vice president) reported that registrations for the fall 2019 meeting on Jekyll Island are looking great. We also discussed preparations for our next spring meeting (May 15-17, 2020, in Hiawassee, GA) and our next winter meeting, January 15-18, 2021 (location as yet undetermined). For the winter 2021 meeting, we are considering going to southwestern Georgia or perhaps conducting a joint meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society in Alabama.

- Next on the agenda was the budget. Our finances are in great shape, and Jeannie Wright is doing a fantastic job of managing our funds. So far in 2019, we've dispensed nearly \$70,000 in conservation grants, almost



Common Tern at Hog Island Camp, Maine. Photo by Isaiah Scott.

\$30,000 in graduate student research grants, and not quite \$3,000 for youth birding scholarships. These grants and scholarships support our mission of promoting bird conservation and education.

- GOS has well and truly moved into the 21st century by making membership renewal, meeting registration, and member account management available online. This makes it

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## Georgia Ornithological Society

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

For a list of grant, scholarship, and award committees (and their contact information) visit [gos.org/executive-committee](http://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.

## Mark Your Calendars Now!

### GOS FALL MEETING

October 11-14, 2019

*Villas by the Sea Resort on Jekyll Island*

Don't miss GOS' fall meeting at our long-time roost on Jekyll Island. In addition to the usual four days of fabulous birding led by some of Georgia's very best, we will have two captivating and remarkably accomplished speakers on the agenda. The Friday evening program will feature gifted writer, photographer, birder, and longtime GOS and Ogeechee Audubon Society member and supporter Diana Churchill. She will present "Birding the Georgia Coast: One Habitat at a Time." Saturday evening's program will feature noted author, artist, and legendary birder Kenn Kaufman speaking about "Inside the World of Bird Migration."



Diana Churchill (left) and Kenn Kaufman (right).  
Photos provided by speakers.

### Meeting Hotel Details

Villas by the Sea Resort, 1175 N. Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, GA. Call 912-635-2521, 800-841-6262, or visit [www.villasbythesearesort.com](http://www.villasbythesearesort.com). The cut-off date for the GOS room rate is September 11, 2019, and "GOS Conference" is the group code.

For more information, visit [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org)

### Go Paperless!

Want to save trees and reduce costs by receiving the *GOShawk* electronically? Contact Shannon Fair at [gosmembership@gmail.com](mailto:gosmembership@gmail.com) and tell her that you would like to receive it by e-mail.

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

much easier to maintain membership rosters and manage meeting and field trip attendance. Kudos to Membership Chair Shannon Fair for guiding us through this sometimes uncomfortable process! With this technological advancement, Shannon needs help maintaining this system. If you are computer savvy, please volunteer your services and become a part of the Membership Committee.

- You all know the hardest working man in the GOS, Ashley Harrington. Ashley provided the Business Manager's report. We are well stocked with the most popular items of GOS merchandise.
- Reneé Carleton, the Editorial Committee Chair, was unable to attend the meeting but provided information for the EXCOM's consideration. The next issue of *The Oriole* is not ready to go to press because she has received no papers to review. I'm encouraging university professors, graduate students, and citizen scientists to submit articles for review so we can continue to publish our beloved journal. Unfortunately, Reneé must step down as chair at the end of 2020. Please contact me if you are interested in filling her shoes.
- Bob Sargent, Educational Committee Chair, gave his report regarding Camp TALON, scholarships, the Youth Birding Competition, and the Youth Christmas Bird Count. Camp TALON has become so popular that Bob is receiving applications from many out-of-state young birders. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Camp TALON is scheduled for June 6-11, 2020. Registration will begin in November at [www.georgiawildlife.com/camptalon](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/camptalon).

Allan Muise and Sarah Brown attended ABA's Camp Colorado this summer courtesy of GOS scholarships, and Isaiah Scott attended Maine Audubon's Hog Island Camp thanks to a scholarship jointly funded by Ogeechee Audubon Society and GOS. The Youth Christmas Bird Count will be on December 14, 2019, at the Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center in Mansfield, GA. Contact Bob for details.

- Jim Flynn, Records and Checklist Committee Chair (and GOS Webmaster extraordinaire) described an opportunity to upload searchable electronic copies of all past and future issues of *The Oriole* on the Searchable Ornithological Research Archive website (SORA; <https://sora.unm.edu/>). Additionally, the Records Committee has updated their information with the most recent American Ornithological Society Checklist of North American and Middle American Birds.

We've not yet set a date for the next GOS EXCOM meeting, but it will be in February 2020. At that meeting we'll finalize plans for the spring meeting of 2020 and make plans for the fall 2020 and winter 2021 meetings. The officer nomination slate to be voted upon at the fall meeting is:

Larry Carlile – President  
Steve Wagner – 1st Vice President  
Ed Maioriello – 2nd Vice President  
Mike Weaver – Secretary  
Jeannie Wright – Treasurer

In conservation,  
Larry Carlile  
President, GOS

**Camp TALON: Birding Barrier Islands***By Josiah Lavender*

On a humid June day in Macon, Georgia, 15 other campers and I boarded a tour bus bound for St. Simons Island, Georgia. We were attending Camp TALON, a six-day birding camp packed with visits to the best birding locations on the Georgia coast. This region is quite special to me, partly because my family has vacationed on either of two barrier islands along the coast, Jekyll and St. Simons, nearly every year since my birth. Every time I return, I revisit wonderful memories from past years, both of vacationing and of birding. This camp was the perfect opportunity to learn more about the coast and its wonderful birds, which include wondrous species like Roseate Spoonbills, Swallow-tailed Kites, Wood Storks, American Oystercatchers, and myriad others.

We had our first glimpse of one of these species, the magnificent Roseate Spoonbill, on the bus ride to St. Simons, where we would stay during camp. The spoonbills were gathered in a small pond near a side road, allowing us to stop and get great views. For some campers, these were



Roseate Spoonbill. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

their first Roseate Spoonbills. Others had seen them many times, including myself, and yet this sighting was not devoid of delight or wonder, such is the beauty of these birds. Great, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, the abundance of which reminded us of our proximity to the coast, were also present near the spoonbills. These sightings were a fantastic way to start camp.

After dinner that evening, we visited Cannon's Point Preserve, a protected area on St. Simons, encompassing maritime forest and salt marsh. After parking and unloading from the bus, we spotted one of our target birds: the Painted Bunting. This male's varied and vibrant colors made it seem as though a rainbow had shrunk and descended on the bird feeder in the form of a bird. The awe shown by the campers who were

seeing this species for the first time was evident in their exclamations and excitement, and, as I did many times during the trip, I experienced the joy of seeing others marvel at the novelty of a beautiful bird I had seen many times. The sweetness, wonder, and appreciation for the bird was renewed in me. Fortunately, two friends from California were also attending the camp, which gave me the privilege of pointing out plenty of new bird species to them throughout, and thus enjoying this renewed excitement. Other highlights of our visit to Cannon's Point included watching two Gull-billed Terns foraging over the marsh and observing a Clapper Rail that flushed from the reeds, landed in the water, and then began to swim—a behavior I had heard of but never before seen this species exhibit.

My favorite place that we visited during the trip was Little St. Simons Island. I had heard plenty about the island and its excellence as a birding location, but I had never visited it. The abundance of birds and my never having been there are both partly due to the island being

**Camp TALON: Birding Barrier Islands** *(continued from page 4)*

privately owned, which protects the habitats by keeping development (and tourism) to a minimum. As we learned while on the island, Little St. Simons was formed by silt deposited at the mouth of Altamaha River over centuries. Today, the island is rich with unique habitats and birds, the latter including American White Pelicans, nesting American Oystercatchers and Black-necked Stilts, Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, and Mottled Ducks, to name a few.

As our boat neared the island, which began to materialize out of the endless expanse of reeds, cord grass, and saltwater that comprise the eastern salt marsh, my excitement grew. Shortly after landing, we loaded onto the beds of pick-up trucks and headed into the island's maritime forest, joined by naturalist Cohen Carpenter, who explored the island with us and taught us about its ecosystems and biodiversity. As we rode along the dusty road, winding beneath the curving branches of the moss-draped live oaks, we listened intently to the sounds of the forest. It was alive with birdsong: Northern Parulas buzzed from the oaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers gave their nasal call notes as they flitted through the Spanish moss, a Great Crested Flycatcher cried "reep, reep!" from a snag, an Orchard Oriole belted out its jumbled song from a nearby open area, and White-eyed Vireos demanded "Quick! Pass the beer, chick!" from the understory. We stopped here and there to study these birds, watching them go about their lives in the forest. Although I had seen many of these species quite often before, I was forced to slow down, to once again appreciate them anew through the eyes of beginning birders and birders from areas far away, where these birds do not reside. I think every birder ought to learn how to do this. Otherwise, we may tend to lose our footing, to "move beyond" the common birds and to look at only the new ones, and in doing so miss out on a wealth of pleasures and discoveries.



Least Terns. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

On Little St. Simons, the sections of habitat and their respective resident bird species were fascinatingly obvious. In the drier soil toward the middle and salt marsh side of the island stands the mixed maritime forest that we were in, primarily comprised of mature live oaks and pines. Shortly, however, as we rode east on the island's single-lane dirt roads, the forest gave way to brackish marsh, which stretched out on either side of the road, shimmering in the late morning heat. Black-necked Stilts announced their presence with high-pitched cries, and we quickly located them in the marsh due to their striking black-and-white plumage pattern. Many of the campers also spotted a Black-necked Stilt chick near the road in the marsh, which I never managed to find. I suppose staying hidden is a goal of any hatchling bird, after all! Cohen explained that water levels at Myrtle Pond, the brackish pond where we saw the stilts, are controlled using a device similar to that used in growing rice. During summer, the water levels are lowered to encourage wading birds and shorebirds, such as Black-necked Stilts, to breed and forage. In the winter, the water is raised to attract overwintering waterfowl.

**Birding Barrier Islands** *(continued from page 5)*

Our group crowded into a wooden blind nestled among the juniper trees bordering Myrtle Pond. Whispers of “Oh, look there!”, clicking camera shutters, and the sound of campers scrambling to get better views soon filled the air as we observed a plethora of avian species. Roseate Spoonbills were resting in dead trees only 40 feet away, a female Painted Bunting bathed at the pond’s shallow edge, Mottled Ducks swam in a tight group farther out on the pond, Boat-tailed Grackles foraged and vocalized a few feet away, and Common Moorhens stalked through the brown marsh grass. Campers excitedly showed one another the photographs they had taken, and quickly returned to snapping more. Here in this blind, we were getting a glimpse into the lives of a whole new set of birds, as unsuited to the forest habitat as many of the forest birds are to the marsh. Why? Partly because of morphological and behavioral traits, such as long legs and bills, feeding styles, etc. These differences were very obvious on Little St. Simons, as the habitats seemed quite regimented, each section home to a mostly different host of bird species.

Eventually we arrived at the beach. On other Georgia barrier islands, such as St. Simons and Jekyll, when the beaches aren’t filled with humans, they at least bear their obvious mark. I had become accustomed to this, which added an element of relief to my wonder at seeing the beautifully pristine, tranquil beach on Little St. Simons. It was devoid of anything save the wildlife that inhabited it, which was abundant. Least Terns flew back and forth overhead, their long, thin wings and thin bodies somehow reminiscent of a flying spider. Some of the terns landed, and we crouched, slowly approaching them to photograph their beautiful white bodies, black caps, black eye line, and yellow bills. We scanned the beach with our spotting scopes, again observing a different array of species consisting of Laughing Gulls, Forster’s Terns, American Oystercatchers, and Wilson’s Plovers. Fortunately, Little St. Simons provides wonderful nesting habitat for the latter three, which are declining. As evidence of this nesting, we saw young Wilson’s Plovers scurrying across the sand, their sand-colored plumage providing the perfect camouflage.

While one of the trucks headed back to the beach to retrieve a camper’s water bottle, the campers on our truck occupied themselves with chewing the leaves of the toothache tree, which grew in abundance in scrubby habitat behind the dunes. Just a few minutes had passed when one of



Yellow-throated Warbler feeding a cowbird fledgling. Photo by Josiah Lavender.

the campers wondered aloud, “What is that?” I looked over and saw him peering into a myrtle tree alongside the road. Seconds later, one of the other campers apparently obtained a slightly better view of the bird, and called out, “Blackburnian Warbler!” The rest of us rushed over and found a female-type Blackburnian Warbler working its way through the low-growing trees some 12 feet away. “A Blackburnian Warbler, in early June, on a Georgia barrier island?!” I found myself thinking. But here it was, showing off its orange throat and gray cheek patch. Soon the other truck arrived with the rest of the campers, and we yelled the bird’s name to them. They too rushed over,

and everyone got nice views as the bird continued to forage about eye-level.

**Birding Barrier Islands** *(continued from page 6)*

Unfortunately, its bill was wide open, a sign of heat-induced stress. Having been in the northernmost part of Georgia, the bird at this time was clearly unused to the simmering heat of the coastal Georgia summer. This tiny straggler offered campers a glimpse into the peril of avian migration, as well as into the marvel of it. The fact that this bird was an oddity—since the majority of its kind successfully fly 3,000 miles from South America to their breeding grounds—is mind-blowing.

We spent the other days of camp exploring and birding Sapelo and Cumberland islands, Fort Stewart, Okefenokee NWR, and a few other birding locations along the coast. On the last evening of camp, leader Bob Sargent gave us an ornithology quiz on what he had taught in the classroom and in the field during the week. The test was divided into three parts: Bird song ID, visual bird ID, and bird life history. It was a fun challenge for everyone, from beginner to experienced, and all went home with a prize. This exam was a great example of our leaders' desire to share their knowledge in as interesting and fun a manner as possible. Birding is not just an intellectual or scientific pursuit, it can be a competitive and social one, too. Bob Sargent and Julie Duncan did a wonderful job of making birding all these things for the campers, meanwhile keeping them safe and healthy. My sincere thanks goes to each of them for all that they did. It was a wonderful camp, and I highly recommend it to any young person interested in nature and the outdoors. I look forward to it again next year!



Camp TALON's class of 2019 on Cumberland Island. Photo by Julie Duncan. Josiah Lavender is second from the right.

## EarthShare of Georgia at Your Workplace

By Mark Beebe

The GOS is a partner of EarthShare of Georgia (ESG), which is the One-Stop Shop for Environmental Giving. One of the best ways to learn about environmental causes and explore volunteer opportunities is for employee engagement with ESG, which will work with your organization or company to identify the interests and needs that best support your corporate social responsibility program.

Workplace giving offers a simple way for individuals to donate through their paychecks and make a difference. Volunteer and learning opportunities can be a great way to get involved and can complement your company's workplace giving campaign.

### EarthShare of Georgia at work helps its employer partners to:

1. Strengthen their business through increased engagement: 86% of workplace donors polled feel better about their employer because they offer environmental giving options. Employee engagement is a leading indicator of financial performance. Engaged organizations have 3.9 times the earnings growth compared to organizations with lower engagement in the same industry.
2. Inspire their employees to make personal changes that can improve the health and well-being of their families and communities, and improve efficiencies at the workplace.
3. Foster team-building by uniting employees for a common purpose and to achieve corporate sustainability goals.
4. Increase the company's visibility as a socially responsible member of the community.
5. Actively demonstrate commitment to improving their employees' health and the health of the planet.
6. Support respected nonprofits that care for community health and welfare; protect our air, land and water; seek sustainable energy solutions; preserve wildlife and habitat; and so much more.

Please consider donating to EarthShare of Georgia this fall. Visit ESG at [info@earthsharega.org](mailto:info@earthsharega.org) or call them at 404.873.3173.

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## Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants

By Jim Ferrari

The deadline to apply for a Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant is December 31, 2019. These are not research grants, but instead are aimed at "on the ground" conservation efforts to aid Georgia birds. Over the past five years, GOS has funded more than \$280,000 of these grants.

Terrell Avian Conservation Grants are available only to non-profits and government agencies. See the website [GOS.org/bt\\_conservationgrants](http://GOS.org/bt_conservationgrants) for further details and for instructions.

### Other GOS Grants and Their Application Deadlines (visit [gos.org](http://gos.org))

GOS Opportunity Grants (No Deadline)

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

## Where Are They Now?

By Rebecca Homem de Mello

*(Editor's note: I contacted several past participants of GOS's Camp TALON, asking them to write articles describing what they have done with their careers since their camp experience.)*

My name is Rebecca Homem de Mello, and I'm a senior at Georgia Tech. I attended Camp TALON so many times that the memories have blurred into each other, but they're all fantastic ones. I participated as a camper in 2014 and 2015, and then as an intern in 2016 and 2018. At Georgia Tech I'm studying International Affairs and French with a minor in Environmental Science. Though my major does not incorporate birds and ecology, which I love so much, during my time at Tech so far I've gotten to take some very interesting classes in the field of ecology and environmental science, and have gotten to participate in projects that incorporated my love for birds and the environment.

As a junior I took an oceanography class and learned about the complexity of the ocean and ocean currents, which affect Earth's climate and thus help determine where birds live and migrate. I also got to do research with the professor who taught the class, and spent my time examining the tiny shells of microorganisms called foraminifera under a microscope. Using chemical ratios from their dissolved shells, I calculated the absolute oxygen utilization and the dissolved oxygen content in the ocean over time to determine whether the ocean thousands of years ago had higher or lower oxygen saturation. I truly enjoyed doing this research, which I felt was meaningful and taught me many useful skills and which also fueled my passion for ecology and the environment even more.

That same year I got to learn a lot how to create a species range map and test ecological hypotheses in another class which I very much enjoyed and which impacted me greatly, called Ecosystem Dynamics. Using a mapping software program called ArcGIS, I got to use map layers to calculate the most feasible spot for a wildlife refuge and do many other cool things. For my final project, I decided to explore whether or not human impact on the landscape affects the distribution of Blackburnian Warblers within their summer range. Using Blackburnian Warbler occurrence data, a human impact layer, and percent tree cover layer as my control variable, I concluded that human impact on the environment does impact Blackburnian Warbler populations in their summer range.

This spring I did an internship with the U.S. Embassy in Paris. I worked in the Economic-Environment, Science, Technology and Health section, where I got a window into the processes that form multilateral environmental policies and agreements and got to do several environmental projects that I really enjoyed. During my first week at the embassy, I was fortunate to attend a "marine plastics" conference hosted by the French oceanographic organization Cedre, where



Rebecca Homem de Mello. Photo provided by Rebecca.

**Where Are They Now?** *(continued from page 9)*

I got to learn about France's most recent laws and initiatives to combat the serious threat of plastic pollution. I also—using French news articles—wrote a report about a pollution issue in the Calanques National Park involving an aluminum manufacturing company that was discarding toxic waste into the park's waters. In addition, I helped organize a breakfast for working-level staff of other embassies on the theme of this year's G7 environmental goals.

Participating in Camp TALON so many times has certainly impacted my interests and ambitions, giving me a deep appreciation not only for coastal Georgia's birds and ecosystems, but also for species everywhere I go. I hope one day soon to be able to fuse my passion for birds and ecology with the things I have been learning in my major in order to contribute meaningfully to conservation. I'm eagerly hoping that the next step in my life will allow me to work more directly with environmental projects.

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**Camp Colorado**

*By Sarah Brown*

I have always had a passion for animals and the outdoors. Two years ago I was introduced to birding, and I fell in love with birds. This summer I was granted the opportunity to attend Camp Colorado, and I had an amazing time! I didn't know what to expect on the plane ride there, and I was very nervous, but I quickly got over my nervousness after meeting up with the group at the airport. On the way to the YMCA I got my first glimpse of a Swainson's Hawk, which was a bird I had wanted to see for a while. I was amazed on the Pawnee day [when the group went to Pawnee National Grassland] because we saw so many Swainson's Hawks and some of the morphs. The third day, on the way back to the YMCA, we stopped on the side of the road to watch a juvenile Golden Eagle soar above the road, and not even an hour later we saw an adult Bald Eagle perched on a power line near a lake. I got to see many amazing birds, such as a White-tailed Ptarmigan and a Canada Jay.

Birds weren't the only cool things we saw, though. I got to see hail for the first time, and the mountains were absolutely beautiful. I got to see a bunch of cool mammals that I've never seen before, like pika, elk, Pronghorns, a mink, and a Black Bear. We even saw three species of snakes! Everyone enjoyed seeing all of the other animals Colorado had to offer.

Every afternoon, one of the instructors would talk about some of the things he or she had done. For two of the afternoons, we got to pick a class to take. There was field journaling, birding by ear, photography, and writing about birds. I picked field journaling and photography. For field journaling, we learned how to quickly sketch birds and what else to put in each journal entry. We were advised to put things in each entry other than just birds, such as habitat, time of day, and weather. The instructor said to put in the behavior of the birds, what you're feeling, and other things that would help you remember the experience. In photography, we learned different ways to take pictures of birds and how to make your pictures more interesting. The instructor said that action shots, not having the bird as your subject, or having lines lead to the bird would make your pictures more interesting.

My birthday was in the middle of the week we spent at camp. That day, we went to a banding station that was on the grounds of the YMCA, where I got to hold and release a hummingbird! It

**Sarah Brown's Camp Colorado** *(continued from page 10)*

was so small and light that I couldn't believe it was actually in my hand. Later that day the instructors set up a little birthday party for me, where we had cupcakes and they gave me gifts and a card that everyone had signed. I know I'll cherish that card for a long time, and I'm very grateful for the gifts.

The week went by quickly, and before I knew it, I had to fly home. I met many people and made friends that will last me a lifetime. I learned a lot that week, and not all of it was from the instructors. Everyone was nice and helpful toward those who haven't been birding long, or it was their first time birding, or those who weren't familiar with the birds of Colorado. Although I didn't get to see every bird that I wanted to see, I did get to see about a hundred different species.

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**Camp Colorado**

*By Allan Muise*

It was July of 2019, and it was hard to imagine that what I had been wanting to do for years was happening. I had been anticipating the trip, which would take me the farthest west I had ever been, making it a whole entirely new experience. I looked forward to not only the birds, but also the other wildlife and scenery I would see and the people I would meet. As a birder who had rarely birded west of the Mississippi River, the possibilities were numerous. As I landed in Denver International Airport, it hit me. I was here. I was at Camp Colorado! On our way to the YMCA of the Rockies, where we were based, as the mountains grew larger in front of the van, the other campers and I kept our eyes on the farmland, fence posts, and sky for birds. The first lifer we had was a Swainson's Hawk, one of many that we would see. But we saw a few other great species such as Yellow-headed Blackbird and Western Meadowlark. Once at the YMCA, we spent the rest of our afternoon going through orientation, getting to know one another, and digging in for the week.



Black-billed Magpie. Photo by Allan Muise.

It was interesting not only to see all of the different major ecosystems in Colorado, but also their diversity. The habitats we visited varied from the shortgrass prairie of the Pawnee National Grassland to the Alpine tundra. The Rockies were amazing: short trees, thin air, snow, and massive rocky outcrops. One of the most amazing days was the Alpine. It was awesome to see the snowfields in July. However, these snowfields were made even better by the Brown-capped Rosy Finches we spotted on them and the White-tailed Ptarmigan and chicks. Birds weren't the only wildlife at 11,700 feet, though. We saw hundreds of elk, American Pika,

many Yellow-bellied Marmots, a Bighorn Sheep ram, and even coyotes. Riding in a van at the edge of a-couple-of-hundred-foot drops, with no guard rails between us and the drops, we were amazed at the views.

**Allan Muise's Camp Colorado** *(continued from page 11)*

At Pawnee, a wide expanse of shortgrass prairie stretched out on either side of the road. The prairie was dotted with Pronghorn and Black-tailed Prairie Dogs, and here and there Burrowing Owls perched on fence posts or stood on the ground beside their burrows with chicks. The prairie dogs dig the burrows, and once they abandon them, the Burrowing Owls move in. We also saw Mountain Plovers and their chicks, both longspurs and tons of Lark Buntings.

We also had the Montane. This was where I got some of my first lifers, such as Violet-green Swallows. We saw American Dippers majestically swimming through the water. And I had my 500th life bird ever, a Williamson's Sapsucker.

One of my favorite trips was to Paris Mountain, a beautiful mountain covered in grasses and wildlife. We got some cool animals other than birds, such as a Bullsna~~k~~e and a Prairie rattlesnake. The tanagers and kingbirds were ruthlessly attacking each other, and Spotted Towhees were singing their melodious song as Lazuli Buntings took to the tops of bushes and Black-billed Magpies chased each other playfully. Dragonflies were everywhere. We even saw some Brown Thrashers, which was amazing since they are the state bird of Georgia and they are rare in Colorado.

I saw many new bird species and came away with a lot of new knowledge. Camp Colorado provided a wonderful opportunity for me to make new friends, which will be mutually helpful as I pursue a hobby in birding and photography, and possibly even a career in avian research. I want to sincerely thank GOS for the opportunity to have this amazing experience. I would highly recommend it to any young birder.



Young birders at Pawnee National Grassland, Colorado. Photo by Allan Muise.

## Hog Island Camp

By Isaiah Scott

The brisk, cold water swirled with bits of tangling algae, shell fragments, and rare sea glass. The cobalt waves beat rhythmically against the aged, dark boulders, which stubbornly cling to the coniferous islands. Dense, moist woodlands, overgrown with bright-green moss, concealed delicate lady's slippers waiting to be discovered. The vast, serene grasslands with golden reeds and wildflowers swayed in unison with the coastal breeze. Glittering lakes and picturesque ponds are home to an array of chattering aerialists. Growing up in south Georgia, I never knew that I would venture to a place like this, a place called Hog Island.

On June 8th, my mom and I arrived in Portland, Maine. As soon as we spotted lighthouses in the distance from the foggy airplane window, I knew it was different from anywhere that I have ever been. We drove to Rockland and did some exploring along the way, including stuffing my mouth with a savory lobster sandwich and guzzling down a blueberry soda. We explored Owl Head Sanctuary just to get a feel for the Maine outdoors. After chasing a Red Fox down a steep wooded trail, exploring the tide pools, and seeing new bird species, I was exhilarated about what tomorrow would bring on Hog Island.

On June 9th, I arrived at the Hog Island Camp Center. It was time to head to the island, to which we rode on a small boat. Hog Island had a small dock with several wooden buildings. In the center was a neat bird garden, where I was greeted by Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, American Goldfinches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. I soon met other campers as well as the staff. We



Isaiah Scott relishing his Maine adventure. Photo provided by Isaiah.

socialized and birdwatched until we were summoned by a large bell for our first meet and greet. We played games and activities to get to know each other until it was time for dinner. The food was already set on the table, but we had to wait to be seated until the inspirational quote was said. The food was delicious, from chicken raised exclusively for Hog Island campers to wild-caught lobster. We were then assigned napkins, which we reused throughout the week. After dinner, the person seated at the end cleaned the table. When the day was over, I knew that the rest of the week would be life changing.

June 10th was the first day at camp. Every morning, we took a short hike. The cool, moist air and fog surrounded us as we listened to Pileated Woodpeckers and Northern Parulas. Later that day, we went on an inshore boat excursion, seeing Common Eiders, loons, guillemots, and Harbor Seals, which I'd never seen before. After the trip, there was a presentation about seabird conservation and the Puffin Project. We then returned to the mainland and drove to the Great Salt Bay Farm wildlife reserve, seeing Bobolinks, Marsh Wrens, Red-winged Blackbirds, turkeys, and a muskrat. After experiencing the pristine fields and marshes, we returned to the island, waiting for the next adventure.

## Hog Island Camp *(continued from page 13)*

On June 11th, we drove to a forest habitat in the mountains. Since it was humid and foggy, we were violently attacked by mosquitos. We came upon a bog habitat and found pitcher plants snuggled in the dense red peat. Many species of warblers were found, including Nashville Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

June 12th was our big day on Eastern Egg Rock. Because this was an important site for nesting seabirds, we practiced stepping over eggs prior to our trip. Furious Arctic Terns dove at our heads as we calmly passed through the nesting sites. We sat in blinds, getting an astonishing view of the birds on the gigantic rocks. We saw Razorbills, puffins, Roseate Terns, Common Terns, Spotted Sandpipers, storm petrels, and a Peregrine Falcon. This was truly the highlight of the whole trip.



Atlantic Puffin. Photo by Isaiah Scott.

On June 13th, the last day, we explored Hog Island even more, hiking its mossy paths through the prehistoric ferns and enormous trees. We were assigned to walk a distance from each other, drawing what we heard on the trail. Calls of nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets rang in my ears. We then visited a cabin in the midst of the forest, where an artist takes residence, painting the scenery or creating other works of art. Later that day, we set up large nets for bird banding, catching a Blue Jay and a Downy Woodpecker.

On June 14th, I had to say farewell to my new friends and family and depart on our separate ways. I am forever changed.

## Proposed Changes to GOS' Bylaws

*By Larry Carlile*

The following bylaws revisions are proposed for approval at the fall meeting. Excerpts from the existing bylaws are shown in plain font. Deletions are shown as ~~strike through~~ text. Additions are shown in ***bold italics***. Revisions are followed by a short justification. To see the current bylaws, visit [www.gos.org/bylaws](http://www.gos.org/bylaws).

### Article III. Membership.

Section 1. Annual membership in the Society is available by payment of dues.... ~~Classes of annual membership and dues amounts shall be set from time to time by the Executive Committee.~~

Justification: Moves the struck line to Section 2 for the sake of continuity.

**Bylaws Changes** *(continued from page 14)*

Section 2. ~~Life membership in the Society, for individuals or couples, is available by payment of life membership dues as set from time to time by the Executive Committee.~~ ***Classes of annual membership and dues amounts shall be set from time to time by the Executive Committee.***

Justification: GOS no longer offers a lifetime membership category.

**Article VI. Meetings.**

Section 1. General meetings of the Society shall be held at least semiannually...~~but normally spring and fall.~~ ***In odd-numbered years, the Society shall hold a winter meeting and a fall meeting. In even-numbered years, the Society shall hold a spring meeting and a fall meeting.***

Justification: These changes resulted from the 2018 survey (see the December 2018 GOShawk).

**Article VIII. Committees.**

Section 9. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three persons.... This committee shall be appointed by the president ~~prior to~~ ***in the spring*** ~~general meeting of the Society in of odd-numbered years.~~

Justification: There will be no spring meetings in odd-numbered years.

**Appendix 6. Meeting Planning Handbook for 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents****IV. SPEAKERS, PROGRAMS, AND FIELD TRIPS**

~~The Executive Committee has authorized a \$250 honorarium for the Friday and Saturday night speakers.~~ ***The Executive Committee will determine honoraria amounts for Friday and Saturday night speakers.***

Justification: Honoraria vary broadly depending on the prominence of speakers.

***The Oriole***

*The Oriole* needs your submissions! Please consider writing up your observations of unusual occurrences, nesting, or unexpected behaviors as a General Note. The short reports (1-3 pages) provide valuable and interesting information for GOS members and the ornithological community. Photos add greatly to the impact of General Notes. See previous issues for examples. Feel free to contact the editor, Renee' Carleton [rcarleton@berry.edu](mailto:rcarleton@berry.edu), if you have questions or need assistance. And attention STEM educators! If you have incorporated an ornithologically-based project into your curriculum, please consider the results as a Young Scientist paper. Having their work published greatly increases student enthusiasm for science. Submissions are needed by October 15th for the next issue.

# GOShawk



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## WANT TO JOIN GOS?

### Annual membership rates for individuals and families

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

### Life membership rate for individuals\*\*

Northern Goshawk	\$750
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\*\* The proposed elimination of the life membership option will be voted upon at the fall 2019 meeting.

If you would like to become a member, please visit <http://www.gos.org/join-us>