



December 2019
Vol. 46, No. 4

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Larry Carlile

Dear GOS,

The fall meeting on Jekyll Island over the Columbus Day holiday weekend was a great success. It was hot, muggy, and buggy, but conditions didn't deter ~135 attendees from getting to the field for a great weekend of birding. We hosted trips all along the southern Georgia coast, and I want to thank Adam Betuel, Kris Bisgard, Diana Churchill, Nathan Farnau, Malcolm Hodges, Gene Keferl, Tim Keyes, Ed Maioriello, Evan Pittman, Bob Sattelmeyer, Dan Vickers, and Gene Wilkinson for serving as field trip leaders. Thanks also to 1st Vice President Ellen Miller for coordinating the field trips and recruiting speakers and to 2nd Vice President Ed Maioriello for securing our venue and coordinating the "Flockings" and banquet. A checklist of species seen/heard can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

The Friday night presentation was delivered by Diana Churchill, a Low Country-birding



Diana Churchill, Ellen Miller, and Kenn Kaufman at the fall meeting on Jekyll Island. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

celebrity. Diana has been publishing birding articles in the *Savannah Morning News* for years and subsequently published two books, *Birder's Eye View* and *Birder's Eye View II*, which are a compilation of her articles, organized by season. Diana's talk focused on common habitats found in the Low Country and the birds associated with them. Her presentation included "Who am I?" quizzes

CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Spring Meeting Announcement
- 4 Congratulations, Isaiah Scott

- 5 Fall Meeting Species Tally
- 7 New Members
- 7 Camp TALON 2020



Georgia Ornithological Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<i>President</i>	Larry Carlile
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Steve Wagner
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Ed Maioriello
<i>Secretary</i>	Mike Weaver
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeannie Wright
<i>Business Manager</i>	Ashley Harrington
<i>Past President</i>	Vacant
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Shannon Fair
<i>Editorial Chair</i>	Reneé Carleton
<i>Education Chair</i>	Bob Sargent
<i>Conservation Chair</i>	Nathan Farnau
<i>Earth Share of Georgia</i>	Mark Beebe
<i>Checklist/ Records</i>	Jim Flynn
<i>GOShawk Editor</i>	Bob Sargent
<i>GOShawk Asst. Editor</i>	Mim Eisenberg
<i>Historian</i>	Sue Peters-Ferree
<i>Webmaster</i>	Jim Flynn

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

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

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

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

Mark Your Calendars Now! GOS SPRING MEETING

May 15-17, 2020
Hiawassee, Georgia

The society's first meeting of 2020 will gather at the popular Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee. The meeting will offer an enticing array of field trips to mountain destinations and a bird trivia contest. The Friday evening speaker will be Atlanta Audubon Society's Director of Conservation, Adam Betuel. He will present "Conservation in the Built Environment," a look at how human-altered landscapes can be improved to benefit birds. Saturday night's speaker will be Tom Stephenson, tour guide, photographer, bird song recorder, and co-author of *The Warbler Guide*,



Adam Betuel (left) and Tom Stephenson (right). Photos provided by the speakers.

which won the National Outdoors Book Award. The title of his program will be "How to Study and Learn Bird Songs (and Memorize Anything!)." Tom will explain how to understand song structure, how to identify unknown songs, and the science of memory and learning.

Registration details and more information about the speakers will be provided in the next newsletter, via GABO-L, and at www.gos.org

Go Paperless!

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

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

with audio and images to help the audience associate the sounds with the species.

We had business to conduct before the Saturday night keynote presentation. Bill Lotz, chair of the nominating committee, submitted the following slate of officers to the membership, who unanimously approved it. Thank you, Dan Vickers, for presenting the slate in Bill's absence. The officers for the next two years are:

Larry Carlile – president
Steve Wagner – 1st vice president
Ed Maioriello – 2nd vice president
Jeannie Wright – treasurer
Mike Weaver – secretary

Steve Wagner replaces Ellen Miller as 1st vice president. He is a professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design and lives in Savannah. Thank you, Steve, for volunteering to serve and thank you, Ellen, for your years of service as both secretary and 1st vice president. The executive committee will miss you, but we look forward to seeing you at future gatherings of the GOS membership. In other executive committee news, past president Jim Ferrari will assume the role of co-editor of *The Oriole* along with current editor Renée Carleton. Also, Phil Hardy is stepping down as GOS historian and will be replaced by Sue Peters-Ferree of Blairsville. Welcome to the team, Sue. The membership also voted to approve some minor changes to the GOS bylaws. You can find those proposed changes in the previous issue of the *GOShawk*.

Kenn Kaufman was the Saturday keynote speaker. Kenn's topic was the wondrous spectacle of spring migration, most of which goes undetected by humans unless geographical features concentrate migrants. Kenn used the Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Ohio as an example of an



Snowy Plover observed during the fall meeting.
Photo by Ed Maioriello.

area that concentrates migrants in great numbers. Northward-bound nocturnal migrants must make a decision in the near-dawn hours as they approach the southern shore of Lake Erie: do they continue across the lake on an empty belly and risk getting caught in inclement weather, or do they descend to rest and forage in preparation for the next leg of their journey, simultaneously making Magee Marsh the "Warbler Capital of the World"? Kenn also read some lovely passages from his latest book, *A Season on the Wind; Inside the World of Spring Migration*. Kenn's passion for his subject, wry wit, and beautiful photographs of warblers, waterfowl, shorebirds, and flycatchers completely enthralled me and the rest of the audience.

For future reference, the GOS will conduct spring and fall meetings in even years, and winter and fall meetings in odd years. In 2020 we'll have a spring meeting May 15-17 at the Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee, Georgia, and a fall meeting October 9-12 (Columbus Day

President's Message *(continued from page 3)*

weekend) on Jekyll Island. The executive committee will meet in February 2020 to make a decision regarding the location of the January 15-18, 2021 (MLK, Jr. weekend) winter meeting. Regarding the 2020 spring meeting, Adam Betuel (Atlanta Audubon Society) will speak on Friday, and Tom Stephenson (co-author of *The Warbler Guide*) will be the keynote speaker on Saturday. Also, the 2019 selectee for the prestigious Earle R. Greene Memorial Award (<https://www.gos.org/ergreene>) will be revealed, so please mark your calendar for this event in the Georgia mountains.

Here's hoping your holiday season was rife with good birding trips, Christmas Bird Counts, and good tidings.

In Conservation,
Larry Carlile

Isaiah Scott's "Big Year" Continues

By Bob Sargent

No, this has nothing to do with birding, but for young GOS member Isaiah Scott, 2019 was most certainly a big year of another kind. Last summer he attended the National Audubon Society's famed Hog Island Camp in Maine, courtesy of a scholarship jointly funded by GOS and Ogeechee Audubon Society (OAS). A couple of months later, Juanita Roushdy, executive director of Friends of Hog Island (FOHI), contacted me to say that, because Isaiah made such a wonderful impression on her and the other folks who organize and support that camp, FOHI had voted to donate a lightly-used Swarovski spotting scope to him. She asked me if I thought that GOS would be willing to buy a tripod and head for the scope. As it turned out, GOS and OAS partnered again on behalf of Isaiah, buying the additional equipment. Juanita mailed the scope to me, and at an OAS meeting on December 10th we presented the rig to Isaiah in front of about 30 people, including his parents, Sonja and Roger.



Larry Carlile shakes Isaiah Scott's hand as Bob Sargent and Leslie Weichsel look on. Note the new scope and tripod on the left. Photo by Mary Lou Dickson.

Isaiah had no idea that he was going to receive it and in fact held the door open for me as I walked into the meeting room with the scope and tripod balanced on my right shoulder. Leslie led the presentation by praising Isaiah, his devotion to birding and teaching, and the special young man that he has become. Then I talked about meeting Isaiah for the first time last January at GOS' Tybee Island meeting, and described the scholarship he received. I read a portion of the article Isaiah wrote about his Hog Island experience, explained how the scope donation happened, and read a congratulatory letter from Juanita. Larry Carlile finished the presentation by also proclaiming how impressed he was with Isaiah's character and his accomplishments. As for Isaiah's response, well, it's no exaggeration to say that his smile lit up the room and he appeared to levitate to the podium. Congratulations, Isaiah. You make us proud.

Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 11-13, 2019

Compiled by Ellen Miller

180 species

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Wilson's Plover
Canada Goose	Semipalmated Plover
Wood Duck	Piping Plover
Mallard	Snowy Plover
Mottled Duck	Killdeer
Blue-winged Teal	Spotted Sandpiper
Northern Shoveler	Greater Yellowlegs
Plain Chachalaca	Willet
Wild Turkey	Lesser Yellowlegs
Pied-billed Grebe	Whimbrel
Wood Stork	Long-billed Curlew
Double-crested Cormorant	Marbled Godwit
Anhinga	Ruddy Turnstone
American White Pelican	Red Knot
Brown Pelican	Sanderling
American Bittern	Dunlin
Least Bittern	Least Sandpiper
Great Blue Heron	Western Sandpiper
Great Egret	Short-billed Dowitcher
Snowy Egret	Long-billed Dowitcher
Little Blue Heron	Wilson's Snipe
Tricolored Heron	Bonaparte's Gull
Reddish Egret	Laughing Gull
Cattle Egret	Ring-billed Gull
Green Heron	Herring Gull
Black-crowned Night-heron	Lesser Black-backed Gull
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	Great Black-backed Gull
White Ibis	Caspian Tern
Glossy Ibis	Forster's Tern
Roseate Spoonbill	Royal Tern
Black Vulture	Sandwich Tern
Turkey Vulture	Black Skimmer
Osprey	Rock Pigeon
Bald Eagle	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove
Cooper's Hawk	Common Ground-Dove
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Oystercatcher
Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Clapper Rail	Great Horned Owl
King Rail	Barred Owl
Virginia Rail	Nightjar sp.
Sora	Chimney Swift
Common Gallinule	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Coot	Belted Kingfisher
Black-necked Stilt	Red-headed Woodpecker
American Avocet	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Black-bellied Plover	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia *(continued from page 5)*

Downy Woodpecker	Northern Parula
Northern Flicker	Magnolia Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Bay-breasted Warbler
American Kestrel	Yellow Warbler
Merlin	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Blackpoll Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Black-throated Warbler
Acadian Flycatcher	Palm Warbler
Eastern Phoebe	Pine Warbler
Great Crested Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Loggerhead Shrike	Yellow-throated Warbler
White-eyed Vireo	Prairie Warbler
Yellow-throated Vireo	Black-throated Green Warbler
Red-eyed Vireo	Prothonotary Warbler
Warbling Vireo	Wilson's Warbler
Blue Jay	Yellow-breasted Chat
American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Fish Crow	Chipping Sparrow
Tree Swallow	Clay-colored Sparrow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Barn Swallow	Nelson's Sparrow
Carolina Chickadee	Seaside Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse	Song Sparrow
Brown-head Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
House Wren	Summer Tanager
Sedge Wren	Scarlet Tanager
Marsh Wren	Northern Cardinal
Carolina Wren	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Indigo Bunting
Eastern Bluebird	Painted Bunting
Veery	Bobolink
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Swainson's Thrush	Eastern Meadowlark
Wood Thrush	Common Grackle
American Robin	Boat-tailed Grackle
Gray Catbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Brown Thrasher	House Finch
Northern Mockingbird	
European Starling	
Ovenbird	
Northern Waterthrush	
Black-and-white Warbler	
Tennessee Warbler	
Common Yellowthroat	
Hooded Warbler	
American Redstart	
Cape May Warbler	

Welcome, New Members!

Fledgling (Student)

Dizzy Baker	Richmond Hill, GA
Lily Martin	Athens, GA
Patrick Maurice	Atlanta, GA
John Simmons	Watkinsville, GA

Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family)

Kevin and Jan Ballard	Danielsville, GA
Bob Beard	Savannah, GA
Paul Beerman	Lewisville, GA
Pattie Booker	Augusta, GA
Kelly Burke	Canton, GA
Christa Byrd	Byron, GA
Lane Castagnacci	
Richard Chandler	Arnoldsville, GA
David DesRochers	Dalton, GA
Sarah Draper	Decatur, GA
Alexis Hayser	Tybee Island, GA
Megan Heberle	Savannah, GA
Rene Heidt	Tybee Island, GA
Irene Hofstetter	Evans, GA
Anne Jacobs	Americus, GA
Bruce Langston	Milton, GA
Gay and Pete McCommons	Athens, GA
Ann H. Miller	Atlanta, GA
Yve Morrell	Atlanta, GA
Robin Peterson	Demorest, GA
Scott Royle	Mt. Zion, GA
Steve Rushing	Decatur, GA
Tom Simpson	Alpharetta, GA
Susan Talburt	Atlanta, GA
Jared Teutsch	Canton, GA
Eliot VanOtteren	Brunswick, GA
Jamie Vidich	Atlanta, GA
Alexandra Wickson	Decatur, GA
Moniqua Williams	Atlanta, GA
Joseph Wunderle	Athens, GA



Do you ever wonder what long-time GOS Business Manager Ashley Harrington does when he's not trying to hawk society merchandise to us at our meetings? Here he is on the job, banding kestrels in central Georgia. Photo provided by Nathan Klaus.

Camp TALON 2020 is scheduled for June 6-11. This will be the 11th addition of this field ornithology class and adventure for teenagers. Field trip destinations will include Cannon's Point Preserve, Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Little St. Simons Island, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, Andrews Island Causeway, Sapelo Island, and Ft. Stewart. For more details, visit <https://georgiawildlife.com/CampTALON>

GOShawk



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Athens, Georgia
Permit No. 11

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
PO Box 122
Culloden, GA 31016



Printed on Recycled Paper

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

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