



April 2020  
Vol. 47, No. 1

# GOShawk

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

## President's Message

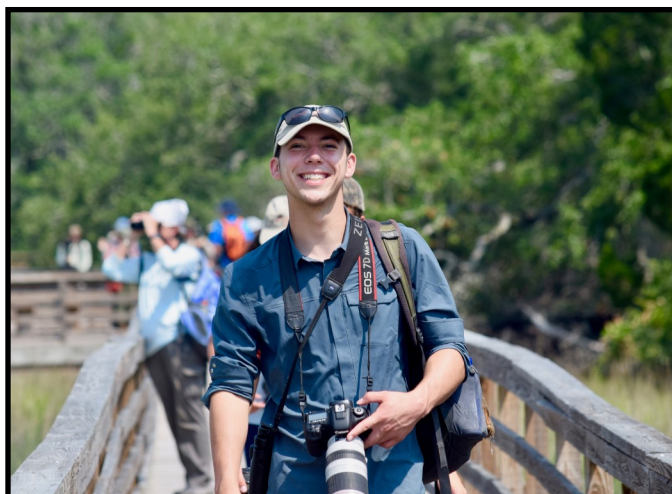
By Larry Carlile

Dear Birders,

The GOS Executive Committee had our first meeting of 2020 on February 29th at the Rum Creek Wildlife Management Area office. Our first order of business was to welcome Steve Wagner as our new 1st vice president, Past President Dr. Jim Ferrari as the new chair of the Editorial Committee, and Sue Peters-Ferree as GOS's historian. I want to thank these three new members for volunteering to fill these positions.

After Michael Weaver, secretary, submitted the minutes of our previous meeting for approval, we got down to the business of finalizing plans for future meetings. The first order of business was a discussion about the spring meeting, which was scheduled to be held in Hiawassee in May. I trust you have heard by now that we have since elected to cancel that meeting due to concerns about COVID-19.

As usual, the fall meeting will be held on Jekyll Island over the Columbus Day holiday weekend, October 9-12, so please block



John Deitsch at Camp TALON in 2019. See his story on page 4. Photo provided by John.

those dates on your calendars and plan to attend. We are working on possible locations for our next winter meeting, which will be held over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, January 15-18, 2021. The options we're considering are Tybee Island, somewhere in southwestern Georgia, or perhaps a joint meeting with the Carolina Bird Club somewhere in South Carolina. Information concerning future meetings will be published in the *GOShawk* and on the website as plans are finalized.

## CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Youth Birding Announcements
- 4 Where Are They Now? John Deitsch
- 6 GOS Grant Recipients for 2020

- 8 *The Oriole* Has a New Editor
- 9 Camp TALON 2020
- 10 New Members
- 11 Winners of the 2020 YBC T-shirt Art Contest



## 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](http://gos.org/executive-committee)

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

Bob Sargent, Editor  
478-397-7962  
[bobsargent.ncs@gmail.com](mailto:bobsargent.ncs@gmail.com)

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

## Youth Birding Announcements

### I. The youth birding camp scholarship recipients for 2020 are:

#### (a) Hog Island Camp (NAS; Maine)

Luca Antinozzi  
Amit Kamma

#### (b) Camp Colorado (ABA)

Nithya Guthikonda  
Isaiah Scott\*  
Phillip Salzinger

\*Isaiah's scholarship is co-sponsored by Ogeechee Audubon Society (OAS).

Unfortunately, both camps have been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. The GOS and OAS will sponsor these same young birders to go to the 2021 edition of these camps.

### II. The 15th edition of Georgia DNR's Youth Birding Competition has been postponed to August 29-30, 2020.

Visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/YBC) for competition updates and other details.

### III. Georgia DNR's fourth annual Youth Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for December 12, 2020, at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center near Mansfield, GA.

This event is specifically designed for young birders ages 8-16 plus their parents. It features instruction in how to identify birds, three hours of birding led by mentors along trails, lakes, fields, and forests, a hot lunch, species countdowns led by the young birders, an eBird lesson, a program about birds of prey, and prizes for everyone. Look for details in August at <https://georgiawildlife.com/christmas-bird-count>

## 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)*

Of course, our meeting plans are subject to change depending on developments associated with COVID-19.

Jeannie Wright, treasurer, reported that GOS's finances are in great shape, with funding available for all of our grant programs, including opportunities for graduate students, undergraduates, conservation grants, and opportunity grants (detailed instructions for grant applications are available on the GOS website). Jeannie also presented a 2020 budget proposal, which was unanimously approved.

Shannon Fair, membership chair, reported that membership renewals have been holding steady, and we've seen a slight uptick in the number of donations members are making when they renew. If you donated extra monies when you last renewed your membership, thanks! Business Manager Ashley Harrington reported that most items in the online store are in stock. If you are interested in some GOS swag, visit <https://www.gos.org/itemsforsale> to place an order.

Dr. Jim Ferrari has assumed the role of editor of *The Oriole*. Thanks are due to Dr. René Carleton for her years of service as editor. James reported that, unfortunately, submissions to our journal of record have continued to be sparse, which makes publishing an issue twice a year very difficult. The executive committee is working on some ideas to increase submission rates in

order to keep *The Oriole* viable in the digital age. If you have ornithological research, field notes, book reviews, or other work that might be publishable in *The Oriole*, please consider submitting them to Dr. Ferrari for consideration.

Dr. Bob Sargent, education committee chair, gave updates regarding youth activities (Camp TALON, Audubon summer camps, Youth Birding Completion, and Youth Christmas Bird Count). All of the education programs are going strong due to Bob's tireless efforts. Bob also serves as editor of the *GOShawk* and would welcome submissions from the membership.



Gull-billed Tern at Altamaha WMA June 2018. Photographed during Camp TALON by John Deitsch.

Send him an article about a recent birding trip you took, a favorite photo (birds or fellow members in the field), or conservation projects with which you are involved.

I look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting on the coast. Remember: birding is a great way to practice social distancing.

In conservation,  
Larry Carlile  
President, GOS

## Where Are They Now?

By John Deitsch

*(Editor's note: I continue to contact past recipients of GOS scholarships and past participants of Camp TALON, asking them to write articles describing what they are doing in their careers.)*

As I look back to certain events in my life, I realize that they were integral to my becoming who I am today. Camp TALON is definitely one of these events. This is a reflection on what came after my first Camp TALON and a preview of what is yet to come.

I started birding in 2008 when I was 8 years old. At first, my neighborhood was my birding world. But as my confidence grew and with the encouragement of my family, I began to venture farther afield. In 2015, my mom convinced me to attend Camp TALON. I say “convinced” because the concept of spending a week with other people my own age who were interested in birds was an exciting, but slightly daunting, concept to me. I enjoyed my time at TALON so much that I returned in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Camp TALON provided me with the opportunity to explore the beautiful ecosystems of the Georgia coastline while meeting field biologists and conservationists and while learning about careers in conservation and ornithology. Ideas for my future formed in my mind as I swatted mosquitos, flailed at deer flies, and baked in the burning Georgia sun.

\* \* \*

I have been fortunate to have had many other incredible experiences since the first time I participated in Camp TALON. In 2017, I attended the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado with a scholarship from the GOS. That same summer, I traveled to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for the Young Birders Event. Fast forward to the present time, and I am writing this reflection as a sophomore at Cornell University. I am pursuing a double major in Entomology and Biological Sciences with a concentration in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. It's 52 degrees today in Ithaca, New York, and it feels like summer, even though it is a far cry from the 95-degree heat that I enjoyed at Camp TALON.

During my time at Cornell, I have been chasing every opportunity that flies or crawls into my field of view. Those who know me from TALON know that my binoculars spend as much time pointed at insects as they do at birds. This dichotomy of interests has been well-represented in my post-TALON pursuits thus far.

I traveled to the Atlantic rainforests of Brazil in early 2019 for the inaugural Brazil Young Birders Event. This past summer, I interned for five weeks in the Pacific lowlands of Costa Rica at Lapa Rios Ecolodge on the Osa Peninsula. Combined, these two trips added 490 species to my life list.

Closer to home, I have knocked on enough doors and e-mailed enough people to become involved in a wide variety of projects at Cornell. I spent two semesters working with a postdoctoral researcher in the Bioacoustics Research Program at the Lab of Ornithology, researching the vocalizations of neotropical katydid species from Panama



John Deitsch in Costa Rica in 2019.  
Photo provided by John.

**Where Are They Now?** *(continued from page 4)*

and Costa Rica. Last semester, I began the lengthy process of curating, updating, and reorganizing the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) specimen drawers in the Cornell University Insect Collection. This semester I started a new job as a field research assistant for a Ph.D. student researching the impacts of artificial light pollution on Black-capped Chickadee behavior and physiology. Field research in a New York winter has taught me several tricks, such as getting a car out of a snowbank and the importance of wearing seven pairs of socks.

This summer I will be working as a field tech on a long-running Black-throated Blue Warbler study at Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. As a part of this program I am designing an individual research project to implement this summer. My current ideas revolve around artificial light pollution, insects, and food availability for insectivorous birds.

\* \* \*

Common Nighthawks over the dunes on Little St. Simons Island. Gull-billed Terns above the marshes of Altamaha. Dozens of mosquitos covering my backpack. These and many other moments from Camp TALON remain vividly etched into my memory. They remind me of how lucky I have been and inspire me to look to the future.



This “famous” photo by John Deitsch of a Great Blue Heron eating a snake on Sapelo Island in 2018 will live on in the annals of Camp TALON.

## GOS Grant Recipients for 2020

*(Editor's note: GOS provides up to \$30,000 in grants [i.e., Bill Terrell and H. Branch Howe, Jr.] each year for graduate students conducting ornithological research in Georgia, across the Southeast and elsewhere. The Society also provides \$50,000 or more in grants [i.e., Bill Terrell Avian Conservation] to support on-the-ground projects designed to improve habitats for birds. For more information about these grants and the GOS Opportunity Grants, go to the grants link at [www.gos.org](http://www.gos.org).)*

### Bill Terrell Graduate Student Grants

*By Joe Meyers*

Established in 2006, these grants support students enrolled in a southeastern university who are conducting avian-related research that focuses on ecosystem functions, habitat use, avian communities, listed species, or invasive species. GOS awarded \$9,012 to two applicants for the Bill Terrell Graduate Student Grants this year.

Recipient: Lily Martin.

*Using acoustic spatial capture-recapture to estimate Eastern Screech Owl density and the effects of anthropogenic noise in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Georgia.*

M.S. candidate, University of Georgia.

Recipient: Sam Merker.

*Improving nest searching efficiency through the use of VHF radio.*

Ph.D. candidate, University of Georgia.

### GOS Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants

*By Jim Ferrari*

GOS awarded \$85,037 to four applicants for Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants this year. Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants were established in order to “benefit the conservation of bird species, particularly those that reside in Georgia on a seasonal or annual basis, or those that visit stopover habitats in Georgia during migration.” Award recipients are as follows:

Atlanta Audubon Society: *Bird-friendly restoration of Alpharetta's Big Creek Greenway, Phase II.*

The Orianne Society: *Restoration of imperiled longleaf pine ecosystem in southeastern Georgia.*

Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Manomet, Inc.: *Reducing disturbance for shorebirds at public beaches in Georgia.*

The Nature Conservancy in Georgia: *Southern Blue Ridge: Habitat improvement through prescribed fire in Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest.*

**GOS Grant Recipients for 2020** (continued from page 6)**H. Branch Howe, Jr. Graduate Student Grants***By Georgann Schmalz*

This grant source was established in 1991. Total grant monies awarded for 2020: \$9,590.

Will Lewis, Ph.D. Candidate

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

*Determination of the mechanisms behind climate-change-induced population declines in a trailing-edge population of Black-throated Blue Warblers breeding in the southern Appalachians.*

Through continued monitoring of BTBW populations in the southern Appalachians during this critical time, we will be able to better understand the underlying mechanisms through which climate change is influencing these populations. We will achieve this objective by comparing trends in nest success, fledgling production, food availability, rates that adults provision nestlings, and nestling mass during periods of population decline (the historical pattern at the low-elevation plot and the current pattern at the mid-elevation plot), with trends during periods when populations were relatively stable.

Abigail Dwire, M.S. Candidate

Georgia Southern University

*Habitat use of wintering Henslow's Sparrows (*Centronyx henslowii*) in power line rights-of-way.*

The Henslow's Sparrow is a grassland bird species which has historically relied on longleaf pine savannas in the southeastern U.S. during the winter months; however, today only fragmented remnants of longleaf pine savanna remain. In Georgia, Henslow's Sparrows have been recorded using power line rights-of-way to overwinter. These power line rights-of-way share similar characteristics to historical pine savannas; however, it is still unclear how Henslow's Sparrows are using these habitats. To address this question, I propose to conduct mark-recapture surveys, perform vegetation surveys, and track Henslow's Sparrow movements via radio telemetry within three wildlife management areas in Georgia's coastal plain. By studying how Henslow's Sparrows are using power line rights-of-way, I will help inform Georgia Department of Natural Resources how to best manage this habitat for this species.

Julia Silva Seixas, M.S. Candidate

Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia

*Urbanization of the American White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*): Impacts on Reproductive Productivity and Nestling Pathogen Dynamics.*

The American White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) is an example of an increasingly urbanized wading bird in Florida that has been showing shifts in landscape use, diet, and movement patterns. We aim to investigate the productivity of an urban colony of white ibises in Florida. We hypothesize that the urban white ibises will show larger clutch sizes and higher fledgling rates than their natural conspecifics, based on evidence from other species. Additionally, shifts in wildlife ecology and behavior can increase exposure and susceptibility to pathogens. Thus, the pathogen dynamics of urban white ibis nestlings will also be evaluated to further elucidate the population-level impacts of urbanization on this species. We hypothesize that nestlings from

**GOS Grant Recipients for 2020** (continued from page 7)

urban colonies will shed AIV (Avian Influenza Virus) and *Salmonella* at higher rates compared to those from the Everglades.

Raquel Francisco, M.S.Candidate  
University of Georgia

*Frequency, diversity, and significance of antimicrobial resistance genes carried by the European White Stork (Ciconia ciconia) along an anthropogenic risk gradient in Madrid, Spain.*

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a critical global problem, and birds are among those most affected. The importance of wildlife, including birds, as reservoirs and transporters of resistance determinants is poorly understood. Thus, research of natural systems (especially interactions between birds and environmental sites that act as reservoirs of bacteria) is needed to understand the emergence and spread of resistance genes among the avian community. We propose a study to investigate the ARGs carried by European White Storks (*Ciconia ciconia*) along a gradient of anthropogenic influence.

---

### ***The Oriole* Has a New Editor**

Jim Ferrari will be joining René Carleton as co-editor of *The Oriole* this year as René transitions out of the editor position. Jim is a professor of biology at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1996. He received his B.A. in biology from Middlebury College and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. Jim's research interests include vulture ecology as well as interactions between trees and fruit-eating birds. His book, *The Ecology of Fruit-Eating Birds in Georgia*, with co-author Jerry Payne, was published by the Georgia Ornithological Society in 2009, and he wrote three species accounts for the 2010 *Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia*. Jim has 25 years of experience teaching courses in ecology, evolution, field biology, and conservation biology. He is also the director of the 104-acre Wesleyan College Arboretum, and he is past-president of both the Ocmulgee Audubon Society and the Georgia Ornithological Society.

Jim will take full reins of *The Oriole* in 2021. Please support YOUR journal by contributing a scientific article, general note, or photographs for "From the Field." Without sufficient content, each issue is subject to a delay in publication.



Juvenile Great Horned Owl. Photo by Ron Goldfarb.

# CAMP TALON

Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature

July 18-23, 2020 – St. Simons Island, Georgia

**TALON** is a one-of-a kind camp for teens with a strong interest in the outdoors, birding, and ecology. Each day the adventure begins as we travel by charter bus to barrier islands, state parks, wildlife management areas, and refuges along Georgia's coast. Evening classes challenge our campers with presentations and quizzes about bird identification, songs, behavior, flight, migration, and other "birdy" topics. At camp's end we come home with new and improved birding skills, a better understanding of coastal ecology, and great memories.



**Availability:** Space for 20 campers.

**Serious students:** For beginner to experienced birders who don't mind long, hot, sometimes "buggy" days on beaches and marshes.

**Ages:** Boys and girls ages 14-19. Older birders who have attended before may be eligible for internships.

**3:1 student/teacher ratio.** Trips, classes led by biologists, ornithologists and environmental educators, each with 20+ years of experience.

- Sponsors: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, GOS, TERN, and Atlanta Audubon Society.

## Birding Itineraries

- **Base camp:** Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island.
- **Travels:** Little St. Simons Island, Fort Stewart, Altamaha WMA, St. Simons Island, Andrews Island, Cumberland Island, Sapelo Island, Harris Neck NWR, and Jekyll Island.

## Registration

- Until May 22: \$450 (paid in full).
- Registration fee includes a \$100 non-refundable deposit.
- **Registration form** at [www.georgiawildlife.com/camptalon](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/camptalon).

**Contacts** Julie Duncan: [jdwildlife15@gmail.com](mailto:jdwildlife15@gmail.com), 770-313-5762  
Bob Sargent: [bob.sargent@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:bob.sargent@dnr.ga.gov), 404-291-8124



**Welcome, New Members!****Fledgling (Student)**

Luca Antinozzi	Chamblee, GA
Abigail Dwire	Statesboro, GA
Raquel Francisco	Athens, GA
Julia Silva Seixas	Athens, GA

**Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family)**

Matthew Anderson	Tifton, GA
Dawn Drumtra	Bogart, GA
Georgia Graves	St. Simons Island, GA
Robin Jones	Atlanta, GA
Edward Rollor	Watkinsville, GA
Matthew Tozer	Rincon, GA

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)**

Connie Coralli	Atlanta, GA
Robert Johnson	Johns Creek, GA
Brandon Rutledge	Newton, GA



Red-winged Blackbird, Cumberland Island, Camp TALON 2018. Photo by John Deitsch.

**Winners of the 2020 Youth Birding Competition T-shirt Art Contest**



Grand Prize and Middle School Division winner: Alston Li.



Primary School Division winner: Jayden Lee.



High School Division winner: Natalie Kassa.



Elementary School Division winner: Aleena Huang.

# 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>**