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GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Ed Maioriello

Dear Birders,

This is my first time writing the President's Message in the *GOShawk*. I hope that I will not ramble too much, but that could happen. First let me say that I am honored and excited to serve you as the president of the Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS). I am also more than a little bit daunted, as I am following in some big footsteps. I am relieved to know that I can draw on Larry Carlile's experience in his new role as past president. Further, I am delighted to continue working with Steve Wagner as our 1st vice president. I hope you all will give a big welcome to Adam Betuel as my replacement as 2nd vice president.

It is a little embarrassing that I missed the 2021 meeting, at which the slate of officers was formally elected. That was the first meeting I missed in 10 years as your 2nd vice president. Perhaps knowing that I was in Hawaii on a birding trip that was scheduled long before I knew what the slate of officers was will help. Perhaps not.

Hawaii was lovely. The remarkably diverse



Nene (Hawaiian Goose), the state bird of Hawaii.
Photo by Ed Maioriello.

environments all offered their own kind of beauty. Diamond Head, Waikiki, and the North Shore were special places on Oahu. The Waimea Canyon of Kauai was truly awe inspiring. The desolate lava flows from the past coming down from Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on the big island, Hawaii, as well as the remarkable black sand beach were a different and special type of beauty. We even were offered a look at an erupting Kilauea in the Volcanos National Park.

But there is a dark side to Hawaii as well.

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Georgia Ornithological Society

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

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



Orchard Oriole. Photo by Dan Vickers.

Welcome, New Members!

Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family)

Laura and Sam Breyfogle	LaGrange, GA
William Hooker	Cherryville, NC
Royia Hope	Flowery Branch, GA
Lisa Irwin	St. Simons Island, GA
Erin Joyce	Alpharetta, GA
Diane M Lahaise	Decatur, GA
Josiah Lavender	Watkinsville, GA
Angie Lewis	Atlanta, GA
Eugene Long	Augusta, GA
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Meghann McLeroy	Augusta, GA
Taylor Miller	Winterville, GA
Stephen Ramsden	Atlanta, GA
Celeste Ray	Augusta, GA
Michelle Ross	Kennesaw, GA
Clark Rushing	Bogart, GA
Tom Stephenson	
Nancy Whitford	Augusta, GA

Mark Your Calendars

GOS Spring Meeting: May 20-22, 2022

Our first spring meeting since 2018 will be held at the Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee, GA. Field trip destinations will include Brasstown Bald, Burrell's Ford Rd., Ivy Log Gap, and Gumlog Rd. Speakers are still to be determined. Registration details and other information will be provided in the next newsletter, via GABO-L, and at www.gos.org

The Oriole Welcomes Book Review Submissions

The Oriole, the scientific journal of GOS, invites authors to submit general notes or research articles about Georgia bird life. But we also publish book reviews, so this is a special invitation to all you avid readers out there to write up a review of a recent publication that would be of interest to our membership. You can see examples in previous issues of *The Oriole*, which are available at the GOS website under Publications/Periodicals. Contact Jim Ferrari at jferrari@wesleyancollege.edu if you would like to discuss your ideas about a potential manuscript.

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)*

Ecologically, the islands are in trouble. Avian malaria-carrying mosquitos, rats, and habitat loss are wreaking havoc among the Hawaiian endemic bird species. Populations of these endemics are plummeting, and many have gone extinct. Very few endemics can be found below 4,000 feet elevation, the height at which it is too cool for the mosquitos. Climate change offers a pessimistic future for even those birds at elevation. In fact, there are almost no endemic plants at the lower elevations as well, due to introduced exotics and habitat alteration.

This is not to say that no one in Hawaii cares. Our local guide jealously guards the location of a family of 'Elepaio. We were introduced to an ornithologist who was climbing around on the cliffs on the south of Oahu setting rat traps to give nesting Red-tailed Tropicbirds a chance. We saw technicians setting rat traps in the Koke'e State Park on Kauai to give the endemics there a chance. Many national wildlife refuges are closed to the public in order to avoid habitat destruction. Sadly, it does not seem to be enough.

Experiencing all this made me even more aware of what a wonderful thing it is that we have a GOS. The GOS directly helps conservation in Georgia through our Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant and the GOS Opportunity Grants. The GOS routinely partners with entities such as the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy in order to directly preserve habitat and those species found within.

The H. Branch Howe Grant and the Bill Terrell Graduate Research Grant help support research done by graduate students, many of whom have gone on to do significant work supporting ecology and conservation in Georgia and across the nation. The relatively new Norene Boring Undergraduate Grant offers grants for undergraduate ornithological research. Finally, our Parks Scholarship for Young Birders has helped send many young birders to such places as the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine and the ABA's Camp Colorado. A quick perusal of the recipients of this scholarship will reveal many familiar names of people, now adults, who have gone on to contribute to conservation in Georgia and around the country.

The meetings of our Society have provided opportunities for our members to learn from prominent ornithologists as well as up-and-coming graduate students reporting on the research that we helped them to be able to conduct. No less important, the field trips offered at our meetings offer opportunities for our members to learn, hone their birding skills, and enjoy fellowship in some amazingly beautiful environs in Georgia and surrounding states.

The Georgia Ornithological Society directly helps ecology, conservation, and research in Georgia, as well as indirectly helping by promoting education and awareness among our members. We can truly be proud of our Society.

In conclusion, I would like to bring your attention and appreciation to the other members of the GOS Executive Committee. Rather than name them all here, you will find them listed in this issue of the *GOShawk*, probably quite near this message. I cannot express my gratitude sufficiently to these members for continuing in their existing roles or accepting new roles on the



The Kaua'i 'Elepaio. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

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

Executive Committee of our Society. I never cease to be amazed at how hard these individuals work on behalf of us all.

Ed Maioriello
President, GOS

Earle R. Greene Memorial Award Recipient 2021

By Georgann Schmalz

Larry Carlile was chosen as the recipient of the 2021 Earle R. Greene Award. This award is given in recognition of achievement in ornithology by a professional or a citizen scientist, achievement in promoting birding, and service to GOS.

Larry is a graduate of the University of Georgia's Daniel B. Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources (M.S.). After a short stint as a technician at Tall Timbers Research Station, he has worked for the Department of Defense on Fort Stewart for the past 27 years as a wildlife biologist. Larry supervises a staff of 24 wildlife biologists, wildlife technicians, equipment operators, pesticide managers, and administrative staff who are responsible for the monitoring and management of Eastern Indigo Snakes, Frosted Flatwoods Salamanders, Wood Storks, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and Smooth Coneflowers in an active and dynamic military landscape.

Larry served as 1st vice president of the GOS from 2014 to 2017 and as president from 2017 to 2021.



Larry Carlile receives the award from Georgann Schmalz on October 9, 2021. Photo by Pam Smith.

Sky High in Colorado

By Phillip Salzinger

"Say's Phoebe flying right above the bridge!" I looked down to be greeted with a beautiful, dark flycatcher with a salmon-colored belly. This Say's Phoebe was an incredibly lucky find in the parking lot of Denver International Airport, and it was the first of many lifers to come. After a bit more birding off of the parking deck (including Prairie Dogs, a Swainson's Hawk being mobbed by Western Kingbirds, a far-off Bald Eagle, and plentiful Rock Pigeons) and a much needed lunch stop at a Subway, we piled into vans and headed off to our home base at the YMCA of the Rockies. I spent the entire drive talking about both birds and butterflies with two young birders from Minnesota and Texas. It was amazing. Camp Colorado already felt like something out of a dream.



The view from Phillip's dormitory room. Photo by Phillip Salzinger.

Before I went to Colorado my expectations for camp were already sky high. I studied every western bird we could see in detail and grew more and more excited to see them with every passing day. Camp Colorado still somehow exceeded my expectations. Not only did we see almost everything on our list of target birds, we also got some incredibly unusual birds, including a Camp Colorado first Sharp-tailed Grouse and some Flammulated Owls.

I loved every minute of camp, but my favorite day had to be our trip to Pawnee National Grasslands in northeast Colorado. We woke up at 4:15 a.m. to drive there from Estes Park and birded our way back throughout the day, trying to rack up as many species as possible. The first highlight of the day was a flock of Mountain Plovers in a field by the side of the road, and the birds just kept getting better from there. By the end of the day we had seen 100 species, a new record for Camp Colorado's Pawnee day.

The birds were not the only interesting wildlife in Colorado. Most campers were interested in every part of nature, and that led to sightings of some amazing butterflies, mammals, plants, fungi, flies, and pretty much anything else living.



"A Steller's Jay that was trying to steal our lunch at Wild Basin." Photo by Phillip Salzinger.

All of the instructors at Camp Colorado were naturalists and were amazing people. They would regularly find incredibly distant birds that no camper had any chance of seeing by themselves. I learned so much from both instructors and campers and believe that I came back from Colorado with more interest in general wildlife, better birding skills, and more ambition to learn even more about birds. Camp Colorado was truly amazing, and I would recommend it in a heartbeat to any young birders.

Inspired by Camp Colorado*By Nithya Guthikonda*

Subway. When remembering the start of my Camp Colorado experience, the first thing that comes to mind is the Subway restaurant situated right outside of the baggage claim in the Denver International Airport. It was 3:00 p.m., and I was ravenous. As I stood in the line to hear a group of kids whispering ahead of me, I heard one exclaim, “Pygmy Nuthatch” before resuming the discussion with a baffling intensity. “Excuse me! Excuse me,” the Subway server said with impatience. The group took no notice, so I stepped forward and tapped one of the kids on his shoulder, gesturing with my hand to the upset server. The group went through their orders, took their sandwiches, paid, and without a moment’s waste, went back to their discussion about Pygmy Nuthatches. They fascinated me, and I realized these were the individuals I would be spending the next week with. After getting my sandwich, I went to join the group and soon found myself fully involved in a heated debate over the superiority of Pygmy Nuthatches versus Brown-headed Nuthatches.

On the first full day of camp, I was put into a van with five people whom I had just met, and by the end of the day, after conversations about our favorite field guides and an overabundance of bad bird puns, they became the group of friends that I stuck with through the rest of the week. It was a group I felt comfortable with even after just one day of meeting them. I didn’t have to explain myself too much, but I didn’t have to worry about talking too much either. It was liberating to talk about what I was interested in without any inhibition. Despite the varying levels of knowledge and experience, everyone matched each other’s desire and passion for birding. This shared interest brought our group of campers closer together than I could have imagined.



Clark's Nutcracker. Photo by Nithya Guthikonda.

Halfway through camp, we made a trip to the alpine region of the Rockies. We saw White-tailed Ptarmigans, the elusive Brown-capped Rosy Finches, and my personal favorite of the trip, Clark's Nutcracker. Following our excursion to the tundra, we stopped for lunch near a ranger station in the park and went on a short hike. But after one hour, we had barely moved, still being able to make out the ranger cabin from between the pines. Every other step, the entire group would get distracted by something: a type of lichen, an orb spider crawling on its web, even the sap from the Ponderosa Pines. This was new to me, as I had never taken the time before to look that closely at plants and insects when I was out hiking or birding. But watching my friends, I was overwhelmed by how passionate they were about every aspect of nature, not just birds. I realized how special my group of friends were. I had never met more zealous individuals before, and I doubt I will.

This camp not only taught me important birding skills but also the extent one's passion can reach. It made me admire and appreciate the people I met, and I found myself inspired by every one of them. I have become more proactive in participating in my local birding community, leading walks for Georgia Audubon and creating a certified wildlife sanctuary on my school's campus. Now when I am birding or simply on a walk, I constantly keep an eye out for insects and try to identify every plant or fungus I encounter. It has been six months since Camp Colorado ended, but I still catch my camp friends up on something interesting that I've found, or when I simply want someone to talk to, I call them. I am so grateful to have been able to attend Camp Colorado. I thank GOS and my camp counselors for this special and life-changing opportunity.

Youth Birding Competition 2021

By Tim Keyes

The Covid pandemic over the last two years presented significant challenges for us as we planned on hosting the Youth Birding Competition (YBC). Given that kids from multiple families often carpool as they bird all day and converge in a large banquet with 150 or more people, we were concerned that the event may not be safe for participants. We decided to entirely cancel the 2020 YBC and postponed the 2021 YBC to a fall event. As the Delta variant surged in the fall of 2021, we decided to dramatically change the YBC to minimize the risk that the event could lead to disease spread. Rather than have teams birding all together on the same day, we opened a two-week window to allow teams to select the 24-hour period that worked best for them. We provided safety guidelines for teams and hosted the awards ceremony virtually rather than hosting an in-person banquet. We ended up shipping all the awards and shirts to teams after the awards ceremony, as we could not distribute these in person.

While we missed seeing all the teams converge on the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, we think the event was still a real success. We had 70 kids participate from 21 teams. Team counts ranged from 13 species to 148 species for the one-day count, despite the challenges of counting birds in autumn. Combined, the teams raised \$1,460 for conservation. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the event, despite people missing the awards banquet.

We received 155 art entries for the T-shirt art contest, with a beautiful Loggerhead Shrike winning the grand prize (see below). We greatly appreciate the continued support from TERN and GOS to offer this event for free each year.



Primary Team birding at Altamaha WMA during the 2021 YBC. Photo provided by Tim Keyes.



Owen Li's award-winning Loggerhead Shrike drawing made it onto the 2021 YBC shirts.

High School Division

- Wood Thrushes (126 species)
- Orioles (95 species)
- The White Hawks (84 species)

Middle School Division

- Awesome Osprey! (148 species; overall competition winner)
- The Awesome Anhingas (72 species)
- Bufford Buffleheads and Double A Falcons (tied at 58 species each)

Youth Birding Competition 2021 *(continued from page 7)*

Elementary School Division

- Birding with Baby Yoda (72 species)
- King of the Rails (38 species)
- The Falcons (25 species)

Primary School Division (only two teams competed)

- Eagle Eyes (39 species)
- Sister Business (11 species)

Fundraising (division leaders)

- Birding with Baby Yoda (Elementary Division; overall top fundraiser, raising \$1,209)
- Kangafox, \$145; Middle Division
- Bufford Buffleheads, \$100; Middle Division

Note: Fundraising for conservation is voluntary.

Top Rookie teams (first-year teams)

- Primary: Eagle Eyes (39 species)
- Elementary: Birding with Baby Yoda (72 species)
- Middle: The Awesome Anhingas (72 species)
- High: The White Hawks (84 species)

Mentor Award

- Seema Sheth, mentoring Birding with Baby Yoda (Elementary Division)

GOS Fall 2021 Meeting Summary

By Larry Carlile

Attendees of the presentations on Friday and Saturday night enjoyed great talks by engaging speakers. On Friday, Adam Betuel, our new 2nd vice president, described work he's been involved with while serving as the director of conservation for Georgia Audubon. In his talk, "Conservation in the Built Environment," Adam described bird-friendly conservation projects such as restoring critical bird habitats, educating the public about the value of using native plants in landscaping projects, and techniques that might be used to reduce fatal bird strikes with buildings.

On Saturday, Tom Stephenson explained how to categorize bird songs and commit them to memory. Tom is a co-author of the popular *The Warbler Guide*, which won the National Outdoor Book Award. He also demonstrated how to use the guide's companion smartphone app, which features 3-D models that can be rotated to view warblers from any angle.

Also on Saturday, the membership voted in a new slate of officers: Ed Maioriello (president), Steve Wagner (1st vice president), Adam Betuel (2nd vice president), Mike Weaver (secretary), and Jeannie Wright (treasurer). Thank you, GOS officers, for your willingness to serve and your commitment to the society.

Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 8-11, 2021*Compiled by Steve Wagner**152 species*

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

Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia *(continued from page 9)*

Eastern Phoebe
 Vermilion Flycatcher
 White-eyed Vireo
 Blue-headed Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Loggerhead Shrike
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Fish Crow
 Carolina Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Tree Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Brown-headed Nuthatch
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 House Wren
 Marsh Wren
 Carolina Wren
 Gray Catbird
 Brown Thrasher
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Eastern Bluebird
 Swainson's Thrush
 House Finch
 Clay-colored Sparrow
 Seaside Sparrow
 Savannah Sparrow
 Eastern Towhee
 Bobolink
 Eastern Meadowlark
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Common Grackle
 Boat-tailed Grackle
 Northern Waterthrush
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Tennessee Warbler
 Common Yellowthroat
 American Redstart
 Cape May Warbler
 Northern Parula
 Magnolia Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Yellow-throated Warbler

Prairie Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Blue Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Painted Bunting



Guest speakers Tom Stephenson (top) and Adam Betuel (bottom) at the fall meeting at Jekyll Island. Photos by Pam Smith.

CAMP TALON*

Teen **A**dventures **L**earning **O**rnithology and **N**ature

June 4-9, 2022 – 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!

Small Camp ~ Exceptional Experience

Length of camp: 6 days, 5 nights



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, TERN, Georgia Ornithological Society, and Georgia Audubon.

Birding Itineraries

Base camp: Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA.

Trips: Little St. Simons Island, Ft. Stewart, Altamaha WMA, St. Simons Island, Jekyll Island, Sapelo Island, Cumberland Island, and Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

Registration

Until April 15: \$400 (paid in full).

April 16-May 6: \$450 (paid in full).

Cancellations after May 6, 2022, will not receive \$100 of the paid registration fee.

Look for registration details in January at <https://georgiawildlife.com/CampTALON>

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Annual Rates for GOS Membership

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

Please visit <http://www.gos.org/join-us>



Phillip Salzinger (on left in third row), Nithya Guthikonda (on left in front row), and friends at Camp Colorado in 2021. Photo by Phillip Salzinger.