



March 2022
Vol. 49, No. 1

GOShaw

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Ed Maioriello

Dear Birders,

I am delighted to be able to inform you that the GOS will be having a spring meeting this year, at the Ridges Resort in Hiawassee, Georgia, May 20–22, so please save the date. We will be announcing the opening of registration for the meeting soon.

And spring is definitely on the way. I've been watching Eastern Bluebirds staking out a bird house that I had intended for the House Wrens that have nested in that location for years. I guess I'm not going to complain about that. Another sign that spring is coming is the Northern Rough-winged Swallow that I first heard, then saw this week when I was leaving from a doctor appointment. In addition, I noted a Carolina Chickadee repeatedly emerging from a cavity in a dogwood tree off our front porch. Another sure sign is that the Great Blue Herons are nesting out at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia here in Athens. We found a small rookery across the Middle Oconee River about a decade ago. At the time there were only four nests. Since then, we have seen as many as 14 nests, and I counted 12 nests with birds on them this week.



"Ed TV": Baltimore Oriole at a feeder in his Athens neighborhood. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

Nonetheless, we are not completely done with winter yet. We are still seeing Baltimore Orioles at the feeder, and a new-to-birding neighbor just sent me a picture of an adult oriole at her feeder. The White-throated Sparrows are still around and singing their song, and the Ruby-crowned Kinglets are still chattering from the understory.

Winter brings wonderful birding opportunities in Georgia, and one of my favorites is participating in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) mid-winter shorebird count. For those not familiar with the count, it is a truly remarkable logistical exercise in which

CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message. Ed Maioriello.
- 2 Welcome, New Members.
- 2 *The Oriole* submissions. Jim Ferrari.

- 4 Spring meeting announcement.
- 5 Blogging on Maqui. Patrick Maurice.
- 6 Artist's corner. Natalie Bailey.



Georgia Ornithological Society

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Ed Maioriello |
| <i>1st Vice President</i> | Steve Wagner |
| <i>2nd Vice President</i> | Adam Betuel |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Mike Weaver |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Jeannie Wright |
| <i>Business Manager</i> | Bob Sargent |
| <i>Past President</i> | Larry Carlile |
| <i>Membership Chair</i> | Shannon Fair |
| <i>Editorial Chair</i> | Jim Ferrari |
| <i>Education Chair</i> | Bob Sargent |
| <i>Conservation Chair</i> | Lauren Gingerella |
| <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
bobsargent.ncs@gmail.com

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



Dare to fly. Photo by Bob Sargent.

Welcome, New Members!

Fledgling (Student)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Nancy Raginski | Athens, GA |
| Christopher Horacek | Milledgeville, GA |

Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family)

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Robin Diaz | Athens, GA |
| Jennifer Farrell | St. Simons Island, GA |
| Jerry Hadder | Gainesville, GA |
| Liz Horsey | |
| Andrew Ruhs | Columbus, GA |
| Katy Sammons | Mt. Vernon, GA |

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.



Orchard Oriole. Photo by Dan Vickers.

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)*

birders are posted on every island beach in Georgia for the same high tide. High tide is chosen so that the shorebirds will be forced onto the beaches, where they can be counted more accurately than they could be when out on a sandbar. For the last few years, I have been fortunate to assist DNR wildlife biologist Todd Schneider with the count on Sapelo Island. We were joined by Todd's son Evan; however, I was disappointed to hear from my regular partner in covering Cabretta Beach, GOS Past President Larry Carlile, that he could not participate this year. Larry, you were missed! Numbers were down this year, but still, more than 52,000 shorebirds were counted during that four-hour window.

I look forward to seeing many of you out in the field as spring migration arrives, and especially look forward to seeing you at our Spring Meeting in Hiawassee. I hope this spring brings you all good luck and good birding!

In conservation,
Ed Maioriello
President, GOS

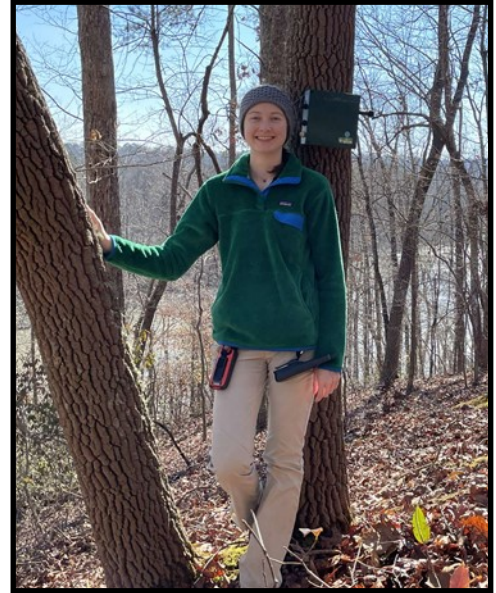


Great Blue Heron rookery at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

Mark Your Calendars Now!
GOS SPRING MEETING: May 20-22, 2022

We hope that you will join us for birding in the high country as GOS returns to Hiawassee for the society's first spring meeting since May 2018. Our meeting base will be The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge, 3499 US-76 Highway, Hiawassee, GA. The cutoff date for the GOS rate of \$145 is April 20th. Lakeview rooms are an additional \$10.00. Call (706) 896-2262 to make reservations.

On Friday night our speaker will be Lily Martin, a graduate research assistant at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. Her presentation, "Using acoustic spatial capture-recapture to estimate owl population density in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA," will outline aspects of her master's work. Lily is a master's student and expects to complete her thesis research this spring. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!), receiving a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources degree in 2017. She has conducted avian field research in several national parks throughout Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas over the past few years and plans to work primarily in endangered species conservation. She has a particular passion for raptors.



Lily Martin of the University of Georgia. Photo provided by Lily.



On Saturday, we will hear from Rob Meyer, a woodpecker conservation specialist at Tall Timbers Research Station. Rob works on preserving the Red Hills region and its native birds and other imperiled wildlife species. His research has revolved around the Red-cockaded Woodpecker for the past seven years, mainly investigating aspects of their life history, including their diets, space-use, cavity creation, and the kleptoparasites of their cavities. He will talk about this imperiled species during his presentation, "A private lands success story: Conserving the Red-cockaded Woodpecker."

In addition to these compelling presentations, the meeting will offer a weekend full of exciting field trips to top mountain destinations, such as Brasstown Bald, Burrell's Ford, Ivy log Gap and Gumlog Roads, Hale Ridge, Sosebee Cove, Popcorn Overlook, Brawley Mountain, and Tray Mountain Wilderness.

Registration details and more information about the speakers will be provided via GABO-L and at www.gos.org. We hope to see you in Hiawassee in May.

Rob Meyer of Tall Timbers Research Station. Photo provided by Rob.

Blogging on Maqui

By Patrick Maurice

Greetings from Ecuador! I'm currently spending three months in this beautiful, birdy country volunteering at Maquipucuna Lodge. The lodge is only a couple of hours northwest of Quito, the Ecuadorian capital. I chose Maquipucuna (Maqui) because my professor and advisor at UGA, Dr. Bob Cooper, is friends with the lodge owners, Rebeca and Rodrigo, and they graciously said they could host me.

Maqui has an incredible diversity of species that have been recorded on the property. More than 350 species of birds have been reported on eBird, and Rebeca thinks that there could be as many as 400 species in the reserve. This would be almost a quarter of the number of species that have been recorded in all of Ecuador, which is pretty incredible. Maqui is also known for the Spectacled Bears that migrate down from the mountains in the fall to feast on the wild avocados that are found in the reserve. Unfortunately, I came during the wrong season to see the bears, but the birding here has been great. Some of the cool bird species I've found around the lodge include Torrent Ducks in the river that runs next to the lodge, a female Andean Cock-of-the-rock feeding on fig berries, 11 species of hummingbirds at the feeders, with showstoppers such as the Common Crowned Woodnymph and rarer Long-billed Starthroat, and a pair of Tiny Hawks with a nest in a tree that's only about a five-minute walk from the lodge.



Torrent Duck. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

Because Tiny Hawks are locally uncommon throughout their range, having that nearby nest provides an opportunity to study them and contribute what we learn from observing them to the science on this species. As a volunteer at Maqui, one of my jobs is to monitor the nest for an



Tiny Hawk. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

hour every day and take notes on what I observe, which I've been doing for a little over a month now. I have watched the hawks go from adding branches to the nest to now (as of this writing) observing the female on the nest (presumably on eggs) while the male hunts and brings back food. While I've seen the hawks with prey a couple of times, I haven't identified what they have caught, other than identifying that they are small birds. Tiny Hawks have actually been recorded catching hummingbirds, but I haven't observed that. It's been really interesting to watch this process unfold, and I can't wait to see the young when they hatch and fledge.

Blogging on the Maqui *(continued from page 5)*

Raptor-wise, I've found a decent number of species flying and perched around the lodge. Some of the highlights are Broad-winged Hawk (perhaps it migrated over Hawk Mountain to get here), a Bat Falcon I saw on one of my first days here, Gray-headed, Hook-billed, and Swallow-tailed Kites, a nesting pair of Tiny Hawks, and an immature Black-and-chestnut Eagle. I saw the eagle on a particularly good raptor morning, with six species of raptors seen from one spot near the lodge.

If you want to learn more about the lodge, here's their website:

<https://www.maquipucuna.org>.

You can also email me with questions at patrickmaurice1@gmail.com and follow my Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/accounts/login/?next=/patrickmaurice_birding/) for more bird and nature photos from Ecuador.



Black-and-chestnut Eagle. Photo by Patrick Maurice.

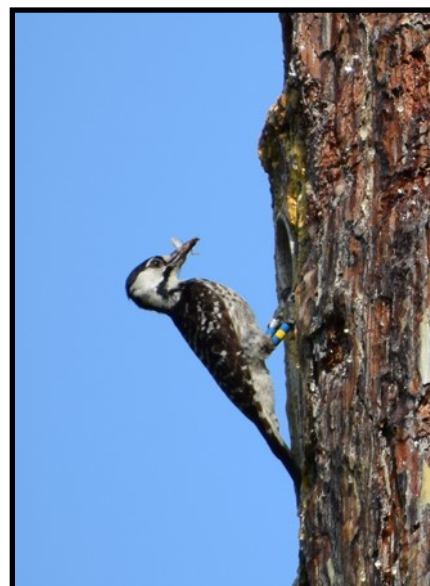


Artist's corner: Cape May Warbler. By Atlanta artist and former Youth Birding Competition participant Natalie Bailey.

Report from the Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant Committee**Chair: Larry Carlile****Committee Members: Renee Carleton, Jim Ferrari,
Meg Hedeem, and Ellen Miller**

The Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant Committee received two applications in December 2021 for conservation projects that will begin in 2022. The first is entitled “Habitat restoration in the Atlantic Coastal Plain: Managing lands for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Henslow’s Sparrows” and was submitted by The Nature Conservancy of Georgia (TNCG). Georgia Ornithological Society (GOS) funding will be used to further restoration efforts of longleaf pine habitats at Moody Forest Wildlife Management Area, Broxton Rocks Conservation Area, and a newly acquired tract adjacent to Broxton Rocks known as the Carter Tract. This project will result in a continuation of the application of prescribed fire at Moody Forest and Broxton Rocks and first-entry prescribed burns at the Carter Tract, with the goal of burning ~5,000 acres during the life of the grant. Funding will also be used to plant ~100 acres of longleaf pine seedlings, control exotic grasses within the powerline at Moody Forest, and restore native warm-season grasses that provide additional habitat for wintering Henslow’s Sparrows, and breeding and wintering Bachman’s Sparrows. Additionally, TNCG will develop a restoration plan for the Carter Tract that will set a course for the conversion of short-rotation pine plantations to open and diverse longleaf pine woodlands that will support a suite of bird species that depend on longleaf pine ecosystems. This project comes with excellent partner match. GOS’s donation of \$50,000 will be matched with \$407,068 from other sources—an 8:1 match.

The second application is entitled “Closing the Red Hills Red-cockaded Woodpecker gap” and was submitted by Tall Timbers Research Station. GOS funding will be used to increase the number of Red-cockaded Woodpecker groups in the eastern Red Hills region of Georgia. Currently, there are 217 groups of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Red Hills (the largest population of red-cockaded woodpeckers on private lands), which is a bit shy of the 250 groups that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers to be a resilient population in the event of stochastic events like major wildfires or catastrophic storms. There is room for growth in the eastern Red Hills, and to that end, TTRS will install 20-25 additional Red-cockaded Woodpecker recruitment clusters consisting of four artificial cavities each, provide artificial cavity maintenance across the Red Hills such that each cluster of cavity trees has at least four suitable roosting cavities, band up to 50 Red-cockaded Woodpecker nestlings, and translocate up to 16 juvenile woodpeckers to unoccupied territories in the eastern range of the Red Hills. This project also comes with a respectable partner match. GOS’s donation of \$16,480 will be matched with \$42,000 from other sources—a 2½:1 match.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
Photo by Joe Burnam.

Both TTRS and TNCG have great track records regarding conservation efforts that benefit the birds of Georgia and both entities have received Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grants from GOS in the past. You can learn more about those avian conservation successes on GOS’s website https://www.gos.org/bt_conservationgrants

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Carlile

GOShaw



Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Athens, Georgia
Permit No. 11

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
PO Box 7642
Macon, GA 31209



Printed on Recycled Paper

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>



Winter has not quite departed. Henslow's Sparrow. Photo by Larry Carlile.