



December 2022
Vol. 49, No. 4

GOShawk

Newsletter of the Georgia Ornithological Society
www.gos.org

President's Message

By Ed Maioriello

Dear Birders,

I would like to take this opportunity to describe to you what the Georgia Ornithological Society has meant to me—and what it might mean to you. I attended my first meeting of the GOS in the winter of 2008. This meeting was in Bainbridge, Georgia. Friends with the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society in Athens had been telling me, “You should check out the GOS. Some nice people and really good birders.” I was still relatively new to birding and had not ventured far from Athens birding venues, so I took the plunge and signed up for the meeting. Still not sure of what I was heading for, I got in the car and drove south.

It was a blast! I got to meet and get to know birders that I had only known through their postings on the GABO-L LISTSERV. Among the places I visited were the Eufaula and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuges. I was delighted to view such places through the eyes of a birder, albeit a relatively new birder. I don't recall how many life birds I got on that trip. They were many, including American Avocet and Vermillion Flycatcher, male and female. I confess that I don't recall who our speakers were on that trip, but it was amazing



Kevin McGowan speaks about crows at the GOS fall meeting at Jekyll Island. Photo by Adam Betuel.

to top off a day of learning in the field with more education in the meeting room. I left Bainbridge determined to attend more GOS meetings.

In fact, since then I've only missed one or two GOS meetings. I'm sure I had good excuses. These meetings became something that I started looking forward to as soon as the last one was over. The opportunities to visit exciting locations with birders much better than I often included getting to bird with some of the prominent names in the birding world. I continued to learn, but now it was not just about identifying the birds. It was impossible

CONTENTS

- 1 President's Message. Ed Maioriello.
- 2 Welcome, New Members.
- 2 *The Oriole* submissions. Jim Ferrari.
- 4 Sulphur on Fire Pink. Dan Roper.

- 5 Earle Greene Award. Georgann Schmalz.
- 6 Into Birding. Bob Chitwood.
- 7 Tribute to Lydia Thompson. Diana Churchill.
- 10 Camp TALON 2023.
- 11 Into Birding. Sandy Pangle.
- 12 GOS Fall 2022 Meeting. Steve Wagner.
- 15 GOS Winter 2023 Meeting. Steve Wagner.



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>	<i>vacant</i>
<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



Anhinga at Harris Neck NWR. Photo by Bob Sargent.

Welcome, New Members!

Fledgling (Students)

Urvi Gupta	Athens, GA
Megan Linke	Greenville, NC
Wayne Ryan	Athens, GA

Brown Thrasher (Individual/Family)

Lauren Bowman Clontz	Darien, GA
Brenda Brannen	Statesboro, GA
Catherine McCrary	St. Simons Island, GA
Irena Rowe	Kennesaw, GA
Kathy Varadi	Savannah, GA
Mark Woodruff	Savannah, GA

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Patron)

Mikel Vann	Kennesaw, 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)*

to visit such places with the people I was with and not learn a little about the local ecosystems and our impact upon them.



Heather Gaya, University of Georgia Ph.D. student and the Friday night speaker at the GOS meeting at Jekyll Island, October 2022. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Then I was given the opportunity to serve the GOS in the role of 2nd vice president. As part of the executive committee, I gained visibility into things we do in addition to the meetings. I learned about the H. Branch Howe Grant, through which we offer graduate students grants of up to \$15,000 for ornithological research. We have awarded more than 80 of these grants since 1991, and the names of the recipients include names that you will recognize as people still contributing to the field.

Similarly, the Bill Terrell Graduate Student Research Grant (also \$15,000 per year) has supported graduate student members' research in the southeastern United States. This grant has been awarded to more than 50 graduate students since 2006. Again, you will recognize the names of many of the awardees of this grant.

We have the GOS Opportunity Grant, which allows us to provide support to individuals, clubs, and organizations such as non-profit groups doing citizen science research or public education/awareness about birds and bird conservation. With the Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant, we provide support to government agencies and nonprofit organizations for their "on-the-ground" projects

designed to benefit the conservation of bird species that may be found in Georgia. Georgia DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Atlanta Audubon (now Georgia Audubon), Manomet, Inc., and the Tall Timbers Research Station are among those organizations that we have assisted. We recently added the Norene Boring Undergraduate Grant, which can provide up to \$1,000 for undergraduate ornithological research.

We offer young birders the Parks Scholarship to allow youths to attend the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado or the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. I know this is getting redundant, but you will almost certainly recognize past recipients of these scholarships. In addition to the Parks Scholarships, the GOS supports efforts by the Georgia DNR and Georgia Audubon to provide Camp TALON, a one-of-a-kind camp for teens with a strong interest in the outdoors, birding, and ecology, and the Youth Christmas Bird Count, an event designed to expose kids to birding and help them hone their skills for the Youth Birding Competition in the spring. We recently added the Young Birder Optics Award to provide either binoculars valued at up to \$999 or a spotting scope and tripod to up to two young birders, one each from the 15-19 and 20-25 age ranges.

In addition, we recently awarded a Land-Conservation Easement grant of \$150,000 to preserve and restore the Beard's Bluff Preserve. In fact, it is normal and consistent with our nonprofit status for GOS to provide more than \$130,000 annually for research, education, and conservation via the grants mentioned above as well as other efforts that may present themselves to us.

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

The GOS offers members two issues annually of *The Oriole*, our journal, and four issues of the *GOShawk*, our newsletter. We encourage observers to document their sightings, and our Checklist and Records Committee helps to validate those sightings and document these records permanently.

I was amazed to learn of all that the GOS does for bird conservation and birders, and perhaps you might be too. You can read about all of these activities and more at www.gos.org. I encourage you to take a look, and maybe consider registering for an upcoming meeting. It may draw you in like it did me.

Yours in conservation,
Ed Maioriello
President, GOS

Sulphur on Fire Pink

By Dan Roper

When I walk the ridge above Mill Creek
And April south winds blow
It isn't wild phlox I seek
But where the fire pinks grow.

Enraptured by every calling bird
In thicket, wood, and sky
Their song as sweet as any words
There's one as soft as any sigh.

Whispering "weesie, weesie" in an oak
A warbler, black and white
My step, its meditations broke
Away! It flew from sight.

I'll snap a photo, if I can
Point camera, focus, zoom
On cloudless sulphur when it lands
Away! It soars too soon.



Right: Black-and-white Warbler photos by Dan Vickers (above) and Bob Sargent (below).

Jim Ferrari Receives the 2022 Earle Greene Award

Remarks by Georgann Schmalz

I would like to thank the Earle Greene Committee of E.J. Williams and Jeannie Wright in helping me select our recipient this year. As you may recall, the Earle Greene Award is given to GOS members who have shown professional or amateur devotion to and experience in bird education and research.

I usually try to keep our award recipient a surprise to you all, but I'm doing a reverse presentation here tonight. I've known our recipient for many years and have had the pleasure of working with him in the Taking Wing and Flying Together Program, a Georgia Audubon professional development workshop for teachers.

I always thought of him as quiet and reserved, a super nice guy. But what I didn't know about is his overwhelming dedication to both his professional and personal activities, and also sharing his birding knowledge. He is still a super nice guy, but not as quiet and laid back as I thought.

Jim Ferrari, would you please join me up here? So, Jim, is this correct when you said, "I first got into birds when I spent the summer after my junior year of college working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, doing bird and plant surveys in a remote field camp on the Alaska Peninsula NWR, which is home to all five species of salmon, along with brown bears, wolves, caribou and 200 species of birds, including breeding Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, and Willow Ptarmigan. A favorite birding memory is from when I was a graduate student in the Sylvania Wilderness Area of Upper Michigan. I spent long days in the forest, often alone, collecting soil samples and measuring trees, but at the same time absorbing the songs of Winter Wrens, Black-throated Green Warblers, and Hermit Thrushes. It was the time in my life when I first really opened my ears to bird song. Even though I was studying the vegetation, not the birds, those memories will always be dear to me. My favorite bird is the Gray Catbird because of its beatnik black beret and purple poop."

In 1993, Jim graduated with a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Minnesota and went on to teach at Earlham College and the University of Minnesota. Since 1996, he has taught at Wesleyan College in Macon, and since 2008 had been the Chair of the Department of Biology.

Jim joined GOS in 2001 and has served as editor of *The Oriole* and the *GOShawk*, along with being on the committees of the H. Branch Howe Graduate Student Research Grant and the Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant. Jim is also on the GOS Executive Committee and was president from 2011 to 2013. He was also vice president and president of the Ocmulgee Audubon Society and is currently the education chair.

My favorite book in 2009 was *The Ecology of Fruit-Eating Birds in Georgia*, which Jim co-authored with Jerry A. Payne. Jim's professional activities include 14 research articles, 11 presentations to professional societies, and many presentations to other organizations, such as



Jim Ferrari receives the Earle Greene Award from Georgann Schmalz. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Earle Greene Award *(continued from page 5)*

Georgia Audubon, the Native Plant Society, Ocmulgee Audubon, Southern Wings Bird Club, Master Gardeners, Rotary and Lions clubs and garden clubs, the Bibb County Master Naturalist Program, the Wesleyan Academy for Lifelong Learning, and other colleges and universities.

Jim's in-the-field experiences include Breeding Bird Survey routes, Christmas Bird Counts, mid-winter shorebird surveys, and being field trip leader for GOS and Audubon chapters. He also has submitted 5,800 eBird checklists. And that was just yesterday! Jim has numerous honors and awards, so this Earle Greene Award will be in good company.

What Got Me into Birding

By Bob Chitwood

Momma always kept the binoculars by the telephone on the little kitchen desk—always, that is, unless things got birdie at the backyard feeder. Then she'd leave them on the counter near our sliding glass door, uncased and ready for a quick look at the latest unusual visitor. Maybe a White-breasted Nuthatch, or even a Brown-headed one, or sometimes a White-throated Sparrow foraging in the leaves under the adjacent elm tree. I learned them from Momma because she was interested in things like that. I still have her Golden book, *Birds of North America*. I hold it in my hands as I write this. Although it has my grandmother's name on the front, the faded newspaper clippings, dried brown leaves, and various pamphlets like the "Birds of Alabama," printed on heavy yellow paper, were all put there by my mother. She shared her love of nature with her family, and though all three of us children carried some of it with us even until today, it really soaked in for me. I tried to make a career out of working outdoors, majoring in Wildlife Management at Auburn University and working for the federal government until retirement. The things I learned about the outdoors from my grandfather and grandmother, my uncle, my father, and many others all contributed to my choices about a vocation and an avocation. I still would rather be outside than in, almost anytime. But it was my Momma who started me down that path. I've tried to pass that along to my sons. Both are interested in birding; the younger one more so. I'm so glad to have this little Golden book. It reminds me of where I came from.



A quick little story: Momma fought with the squirrels on a regular basis. Her theory seemed to be "you guys are welcome to have what's spilled on the ground, but stay off my feeder." Once, when a squirrel gained access to the top of the feeder and was chowing down, she used Dad's .22 rifle to fire a warning shot and scare it away. The squirrel disappeared and she thought her effort successful—that is until we later found it lying behind the old creosote post, graveyard dead. No more warning shots were attempted after that. At least not by Momma.

Teenagers catch the birding bug at Blackbeard Island NWR during Camp TALON in 2013. Photo by Kimberly Hayes.

In Tribute to Lydia Thompson

Recollections from Diana Churchill, Gene Keferl, and Sheila Willis

Editor's note: Lydia Christa Thompson passed away on November 7, 2022.

I (Diana) don't remember exactly when or how I first met Lydia. I moved back to Savannah/Tybee Island in December of 1998 and began working at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Savannah in February of 1999. Maybe I met Lydia at an Audubon or GOS meeting, but somehow I found out that she was working at the Wild Birds Unlimited on St. Simon's Island, so we at once became sisters in Wild Birds.

I was immediately impressed by the fact that she had done a cross-country birding trip by herself, in her van, with her dog as a companion. She really knew her birds and could capture them with her amazing artistic abilities.

I was thrilled when she invited me to accompany her on a trip to the Cape May Birding Festival, where she had a booth, and later to Green Bay, Wisconsin, for the Midwest Birding Symposium. Lydia displayed her artwork at these events, but mostly she passionately shared her enthusiasm for the Georgia Coast and its unique habitats and bird life.

Her time spent at a variety of festivals fueled her desire to create a similar experience in her own backyard—Jekyll Island. In 2003, partially in honor of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first federal wildlife refuge (Pelican Island, Florida), Lydia was the prime mover behind the first "Georgia's Colonial Coast Birding and Nature Festival." She served as director for all of its seven years. That festival brought together a variety of speakers, seminars, field trip leaders, vendors, scientific poster presenters, and hundreds of bird enthusiasts to spotlight the birds of the Georgia Coast.



Lydia Thompson (facing the camera) and Gene Keferl (at right holding the spotting scope) doing what they loved: teaching young people about birds and ecology. Camp TALON 2013 at Jekyll Island. Photo by Julie Duncan.

In Tribute to Lydia Thompson *(continued from page 7)*

When Dr. Eugene (Gene) Keferl, now a retired professor of biology, joined the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society in 1995, Lydia was on the board of directors. She was a member for more than 20 years, serving in various positions, including president, vice president, secretary, field trip coordinator, and membership chair.

Gene recalls her as a good and gentle friend. She was a gifted artist, an ardent conservationist, an enthusiastic teacher, and a regular columnist for the *Golden Isles* magazine. He was impressed with the way that in her art, she could create a microhabitat and then draw the observer's eyes to the featured birds.



Former GOS President Steve Holzman presents the 2016 Earle R. Greene Award to Lydia Thompson on January 14, 2017, at the winter meeting, Tybee Island, Georgia. Photo by Ed Maioriello.

Through her “Rambles” (i.e., weekly birding trips open to anyone) on Jekyll Island, she taught many people to see and appreciate the birds and nature around them. Says Gene, “When I was with her, she would frequently point out some feature about the bird or the habitat that I had not noticed, often drawing on her artist’s eyes.”

Gene also tells of having someone complain to him about all the dogs and people on the south end of Jekyll Island where shorebirds were attempting to nest. Lydia got the ball rolling, and she and Gene constructed the first rope line delineating the nesting area for Wilson’s Plovers.

In an attempt to educate people about the birds and their challenges, Lydia worked to create signage and enroll volunteers in Operation Plover Patrol. She wrote and illustrated *Willie Gets Her Friendship Bands*—a book about the life of one Wilson’s Plover chick—that was published in 2017.

South Georgia resident, birder, and Native American guide Sheila Willis treasured Lydia as a long-time special friend and birding companion. Sheila says that their most fun annually was doing the Ware County Breeding Bird Survey, with its Swallow-tailed Kites, Northern Bobwhites, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Indigo Buntings, and Brown-headed Nuthatches.

“Afterwards,” recalls Sheila, “we always went to eat lunch at a local restaurant to talk about the morning’s excitement and the changes we had noticed on the route over the years, especially after some major Okefenokee Swamp wildfires.”

Sheila, Gene, and I, as well as many others, enjoyed sitting with Lydia on the Observation Tower at the Jekyll Island Welcome Center as she did the “Big Sit” during the fall GOS meeting each year. Lydia was really in her element, welcoming newcomers to the tower and inviting them to look through her spotting scope at an elusive Clapper Rail, a Roseate Spoonbill, or even a Long-billed Curlew.

In Tribute to Lydia Thompson *(continued from page 8)*

Both Gene and Sheila recall not only Lydia's gifts as an artist and birder, but her friendship. Says Gene, "She had a unique understanding of dogs and horses. I was always pleased to have a trusted friend stay at my farm while I was away. I knew she could handle the unexpected events that could and did occur."

Says Sheila, "She was always very supportive of me in non-bird related ways over the years. In 2019, when I had a series of comas and other illnesses, she and Annette Bittaker came over and cleaned my house when I got out of the hospital."



Nesting Least Tern. Photo by Lydia Thompson.

My (Diana) own relationship with Lydia had something of the "Same Time Next Year" quality about it. Lydia had a friend on Jekyll Island who loaned Lydia her house for the weekend of the fall GOS meeting most years, and Lydia invited Sheila and me to join her there. That was our time to get caught up with what had been going on in our lives.

In January 2016, I partially returned the favor, as Lydia stayed with me on Tybee Island for the GOS Winter Meeting, where she was presented with the Earle R. Greene Award for her efforts on behalf of GOS, birds, and conservation.

On the wall next to my bed I have two of Lydia's paintings: "Wind Sails," a group of Brown Pelicans in flight, and "Calling It Home," a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers at their nest cavity.

Thank you, Lydia, for leaving this world a more beautiful, bird-conscious, and caring place than you found it. Fly high and free!



Interpretive signage and a roped-off shorebird nesting area near Gould's Inlet, St. Simons Island, Georgia. Lydia played an instrumental role in this conservation effort via Operation Plover Patrol, an initiative she established. Photo by Lydia Thompson.

CAMP *TALON**

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

June 3-8, 2023 – 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 18 campers.

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

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

Registration

Until April 14: \$400 (paid in full).

April 15-May 5: \$450 (paid in full).

Cancellations after May 5, 2023, will not receive \$100 of the paid registration fee.

Registration details at georgiawildlife.com/CampTALON

Contacts

Julie Duncan: jdwildlife15@gmail.com, 770.313.5762

Bob Sargent: bob.sargent@dnr.ga.gov, 404.291.8124

What Got Me into Birding

By Sandy Pangle

The year was 1972, and I was entering the 7th grade. For the first time in my life, we were allowed to take elective classes, so the very first one I enrolled in was a Nature Study class taught by a gentleman named Coach Ray Broadrick. I had visions of learning all about mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and every other living thing in the world, but instead, we spent our entire time in the classroom drawing bird pictures and discussing birds. I still have never met a more enthusiastic birder than the coach was. He told us with excitement in his voice and a gleam in his eye about seeing four Pileated Woodpeckers together one day, and I marveled at his story. I only dreamed of seeing one of these spectacular birds for myself.

One day during every week, our class would go out and walk the neighborhood around the school and look for birds on the feeders all along the route. I can still remember a male Northern Cardinal singing his spring song from an exposed treetop and how he taught us about plumage and territorial behavior of male birds. Interestingly enough, the most common feeder birds that winter were the Evening Grosbeaks. Sometime later in the class, as I played football on the playground during recess next to a pine thicket, I caught some motion in my peripheral vision, and behold, there were not one but two Pileated Woodpeckers flying from tree to tree. That was it! I was forever hooked! Later, Coach Broadrick put me in contact with two older ladies (Anne Hamilton and Harriet Digioia), who then took me under their wings and transformed me into the birder I am today.

I recall an Atlanta Audubon Society [now Georgia Audubon] field trip up Kennesaw Mountain, maybe eight years ago, when we had a beautiful male Blackburnian Warbler that was in brush just below our sight line. A young lady who obviously was new to birding and did not know how to proficiently use her binoculars was almost panicking while trying to find the bird. As she looked through her glasses, I knew the very second that she found it when I heard her breath being taken away by what she was viewing. With tears in her eyes, she exclaimed, "That is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen." I knew that she had found the same thing I did 50 years ago in those two Pileated Woodpeckers. I only hope that she enjoys fifty years of chasing birds as I have. There is a moral to the story here, and that is to take some time, invest in our youth, and make environmental progress by teaching others to fully appreciate this wonderful planet we all share.



Young birders and their mentors during the Youth Christmas Bird Count at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, Mansfield, Georgia, December 2016.. Photo by Georgia DNR.

Summary of the GOS Fall Meeting at Jekyll Island, October 7-10, 2022*By Steve Wagner*

Approximately 85 attendees participated in our fall meeting activities, which included interesting and entertaining presentations on Friday and Saturday, the banquet, and field trips. For the weekend, participants found 177 species (see list below) on field trips to Altamaha Sound, Altamaha WMA, Altama Plantation WMA, Andrews Island Causeway and Disposal Site, Cannon's Point, Clayhole Swamp WMA, Cumberland Island, Glennville Wastewater Treatment Facility, Harris Neck NWR, Jekyll Island (banding station, hot spots, welcome center), St. Catherines Island, and Sapelo Island. As always, thanks to our field trip leaders: Adam Betuel, Kris Bisgard, Larry Carlile, Chris Depkin, Malcolm Hodges, Gene Keferl, Ed Maioriello, Pete Moore, Evan Pittman, Bob Sattelmeyer, Lydia Thompson, Dan Vickers, Steve Wagner, and Gene Wilkinson.

Our Friday speaker was Heather Gaya, a Ph.D. student in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia and a recipient of a H. Branch Howe Graduate Student Research Grant from GOS. Her presentation, "Trailing-Edge Community Dynamics in the Southern Appalachian Mountains," examined the environmental factors that influence the distributions of species at the edges of the species' ranges.

Kevin McGowan, Senior Course Developer and Instructor for Bird Academy at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, gave the Saturday keynote address. In his talk, "The Uncommon Crow: The Hidden Life of a Familiar Bird," Dr. McGowan shared many interesting examples of crow behavior that he has observed in his more than 30 years of studying American Crows. He emphasized the importance of social interactions of family groups and the intelligence of these "familiar birds." In addition to providing an interesting and entertaining presentation on Saturday evening, Dr. McGowan was also the first to spot the Townsend's Warbler during that morning's Jekyll Island Hot Spots field trip. His photographs of the bird are also posted on eBird.



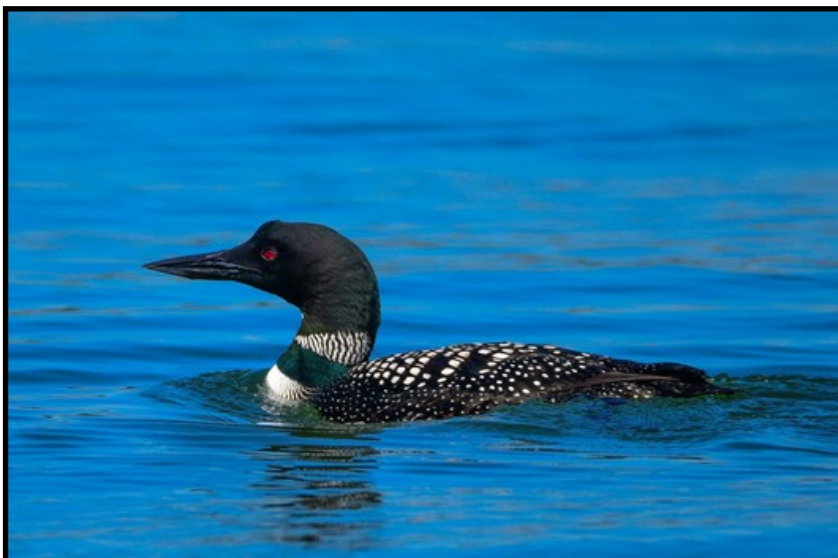
GOS members enjoy Heather Gaya's presentation during the fall meeting at Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 7, 2022. Photo by Adam Betuel.

Species Tally, GOS Fall Meeting, Jekyll Island, Georgia, October 7-10, 2022
Compiled by Steve Wagner; 177 species

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Spotted Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher
Canada Goose	Solitary Sandpiper	Red-headed Woodpecker
Wood Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Blue-winged Teal	Willet	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Northern Shoveler	Greater Yellowlegs	Downy Woodpecker
American Wigeon	Laughing Gull	Northern Flicker
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	Pileated Woodpecker
Mottled Duck	Herring Gull	American Kestrel
Northern Pintail	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Merlin
Green-winged Teal	Great Black-backed Gull	Peregrine Falcon
Pied-billed Grebe	Gull-billed Tern	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Rock Pigeon	Caspian Tern	Acadian Flycatcher
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Common Tern	Least Flycatcher
Common Ground Dove	Forster's Tern	Eastern Phoebe
Mourning Dove	Royal Tern	Eastern Kingbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Sandwich Tern	White-eyed Vireo
Chimney Swift	Black Skimmer	Yellow-throated Vireo
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Anhinga	Blue-headed Vireo
Clapper Rail	Double-crested Cormorant	Red-eyed Vireo
Sora	American White Pelican	Loggerhead Shrike
Common Gallinule	Brown Pelican	Blue Jay
Black-necked Stilt	Least Bittern	American Crow
American Avocet	Great Blue Heron	Fish Crow
American Oystercatcher	Great Egret	Carolina Chickadee
Black-bellied Plover	Snowy Egret	Tufted Titmouse
Killdeer	Little Blue Heron	Tree Swallow
Semipalmated Plover	Tricolored Heron	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Piping Plover	Cattle Egret	Barn Swallow
Wilson's Plover	Green Heron	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Whimbrel	Black-crowned Night-Heron	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Long-billed Curlew	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Hudsonian Godwit	White Ibis	House Wren
Marbled Godwit	Glossy Ibis	Marsh Wren
Ruddy Turnstone	Roseate Spoonbill	Carolina Wren
Red Knot	Black Vulture	Gray Catbird
Stilt Sandpiper	Turkey Vulture	Brown Thrasher
Sanderling	Osprey	Northern Mockingbird
Dunlin	Northern Harrier	European Starling
Least Sandpiper	Cooper's Hawk	Eastern Bluebird
White-rumped Sandpiper	Bald Eagle	Veery
Pectoral Sandpiper	Red-shouldered Hawk	Swainson's Thrush
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Broad-winged Hawk	House Finch
Western Sandpiper	Red-tailed Hawk	American Goldfinch
Short-billed Dowitcher	Eastern Screech-Owl	Lark Sparrow
Wilson's Snipe	Barred Owl	Chipping Sparrow

GOS Fall 2022 Meeting Species Tally *(continued from page 13)*

Seaside Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Yellow-breasted Chat
Bobolink
Eastern Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Boat-tailed Grackle
Ovenbird
Worm-eating Warbler
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Townsend's Warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel



From top to bottom: American White Pelican, Common Loon, and American Woodcock. Photos by Ron Goldfarb.

Mark Your Calendars: GOS Winter Meeting, Tybee Island, Georgia, January 13-16, 2023*By Steve Wagner*

Don't miss the winter GOS meeting, which will be held on our northernmost barrier island at Hotel Tybee. In addition to the four days of exciting birding led by some of Georgia's most skilled and engaging birders, we will have two fascinating and talented speakers on the agenda. The meeting will be located at Hotel Tybee, 1401 Strand Ave, Tybee Island, GA. For reservations, please call (912) 786-7777. For more information visit www.gos.org



Clark Rushing. Photo provided by Clark.

Saturday keynote presentation: "New Technological Tools Advance Age-old Questions in Avian Ecology," by Dr. Clark Rushing. Clark is an assistant professor in the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. Prior to coming to UGA, he was a faculty member at Utah State University in the Department of Wildland Resources. Dr. Rushing received his B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University, where he was advised by Rosemary Grant, and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland under the supervision of Drs. Pete Marra and Michele Dudash. He also held postdoctoral fellowships at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge. Research done by Dr. Rushing and his students focuses on using new technological and statistical tools to study migratory birds and how they can be better conserved.

Friday evening's program: "Not Your Average Flu Bug: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus' Toll on Wild Birds in Georgia and Across the U.S." by Dr. Bob Sargent. Bob badgered his major professor into letting him take an ornithology class while doing his master's research (a deer study) at the University of Florida. That class changed his life and focused his career track, as he has been consumed by a passion for learning about and conserving feathered creatures ever since. He studied the ecology of migratory songbirds for his Ph.D. (UGA), and then worked 20 years as the natural resources manager of Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. Bob was an adjunct teacher at three universities in middle Georgia, and served as president of the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, Ocmulgee Audubon Society, and the Georgia Ornithological Society. In 2015, he was hired by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as program manager of the Wildlife Conservation Section office in Forsyth. He supports a team of biologists and technicians, participates in songbird and shorebird surveys, and is the agency's lead for the conservation of raptors, especially bald eagles and peregrine falcons.



Bob Sargent. Photo by Pete Griffin.

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>



Admiring shorebirds during the fall 2022 GOS meeting. Photo by Steve Wagner.