

Reviews

Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds

by Giff Beaton, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., and John W. Parrish, Jr.
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For an order form visit the GOS web site: www.gos.org

The Fifth Edition of *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* is a great example of what an annotated checklist for a state should be. It gives a short account of each bird species on the Georgia state list as of 31 December 2001, plus a few species added in 2002. The main body of the work covers 407 species on the Regular Species List, followed by a Provisional Species List of 8 species having fewer than 4 accepted sight records and a Hypothetical Species List of another 31 species for which no currently accepted sight records exist.

Other useful features of the book include a county outline map of Georgia (essential, since only a handful of enthusiasts knows the location of all Georgia counties), an outline map of the Georgia coast and adjacent offshore waters, and a map showing major rivers, large wetlands and reservoirs of Georgia, as well as a map of frequently mentioned localities.

The seasons of occurrence of bird species are not shown by a set of bar graphs, but such information is readily available in the text of the various species' accounts. Typically there are three to five species accounts per page, summarizing the status and distribution of the species in Georgia.

Here is an example of a species account (page 68):

Chuck-will's-widow *Caprimulgus carolinensis* *

Common summer resident breeding throughout state up to elevations of 520 meters, 5 Mar (1910,1983)–29 Sep (1949); uncommon in Mountain region and Lookout Plateau. Extreme dates 3 Apr–6 Sep in Piedmont, 21 Mar–29 Sep in Coastal Plain, and 5 Mar–25 Sep on Coast. High counts: 34 at KBSB (*Camden*) on 4 May 1995 (P. Sykes pers. comm.) and also on 24 May 2001 in *Hall* (E. Horn pers. comm.). Accidental in winter in extreme south *Charlton* 28 Feb 1945 (Hebard 1945) and 5-19 Jan 1987 in *Valdosta* (B. Bergstrom, pers. comm.). An additional record is listed from *Leigh Hill (Charlton)* in Feb 1939 (Hebard 1941). This species winters as far north as the GA/FL state line and these last three records are probably of wintering birds. An additional record of a calling bird in *Baldwin* 9 Nov 1993 (Johnson 1998) probably represents a very late migrant. *Sp*: USNM 220656.

I have been using an annotated checklist of Georgia birds from GOS since the 1970's to keep details of where I first find a bird species in Georgia. The 1969 version, *Pocket Check-list, Georgia Birds*, which I have used so long is, indeed, a pocket sized book (4 inches by 6 inches), but with much less information than the latest version, which measures 7 inches by 10.5 inches. Here is the species account for Chuck-will's-widow from the 1969 edition:

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Common summer resident in all parts of state except mountains, breeding.

I will not be able to tuck the new checklist book into my pocket, but I will put it in the car whenever I go birding in Georgia. The spiral binding should hold up well in the field. Congratulations to GOS and all involved in producing this excellent tool for understanding the status and distribution of Georgia birds.—*Robin Carter, Columbia, SC*