

NEW GEORGIA SPECIMENS – The Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Beaton, G., P.W. Sykes, Jr., and J.W. Parrish, Jr., 2003, GOS, Occasional Publ. No. 14) gives 4 accepted sight records for the South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*), but there are no voucher specimens for the state; nor are there specimens from Florida (G. Woolfenden, Archbold Biol. Sta.; A. Kratter, Fla. Mus. Nat. Hist., pers. comm.) or South Carolina (W. Post, Charleston Mus. pers. comm.), although there are accepted sight records from Florida and South Carolina. On 14 September 2006, a live South Polar Skua was observed on the beach at the high wrack line, about mid-island, on Cumberland Island, Camden County, Georgia. Weather conditions had been normal for the preceding 2 weeks. The bird was too weak to fly and died within the hour. Its stomach was empty and it lacked body fat. The specimen has been accessioned into the U.S. National Museum as catalog number USNM 602092.

On 24 August 2008, following strong winds associated with Tropical Storm Fay, a Scopoli's or Mediterranean Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea diomedea*) was found dead on the beach at the north end of Cumberland Island. The bird was noticeably smaller than the usual Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*) found off Georgia's coast, and the bill was darker, although it had tinges of yellow. The gizzard contained squid beaks, but there was no body fat. Identification of the specimen has been confirmed by the U.S. National Museum and accessioned as catalog number USNM 602130. The checklists published by GOS and the American Ornithologists' Union reference only specific designations, so they do not address the 2 subspecies of Cory's Shearwater (*C. d. diomedea* and *C. d. borealis*). The most common subspecies, and the largest one, found off the Georgia coast is *C. d. borealis*, for which there are many sight records and specimens. Unfortunately, subspecies designations are not always immediately assigned in museum collections, so determining the presence of specimens from adjacent states is difficult at this time. There were no specimens or accepted sight records from Georgia for *C. d. diomedea* until this finding.

Both the South Polar Skua and the Scopoli's Shearwater were collected under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit number MB751734-0.

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