

IN MEMORIAM: TERRY S. MOORE

Robert A. Sargent

1263 Clairmont Place
Macon, GA 31204

John Swiderski

P.O. Box 5707
Valdosta, GA 31603-5707

Terry Moore, aged 70, passed away on 2 October 2014 as a result of injuries suffered from a catastrophic fall at his Roswell home. A 41-year fixture in GOS, he was not formally trained in ornithology or science in general, yet Terry doggedly established himself as the epitome of a "citizen scientist" in Georgia's ornithological family long before the phrase was in vogue. It is no exaggeration to state that his seemingly boundless contributions to birding and to ornithology in Georgia rank him among some of the loftiest names in GOS history. Terry received the society's Earle R. Greene Memorial Award (1992) at the midpoint of what would become an astonishingly productive career on behalf of both GOS and the Atlanta Audubon Society (AAS). He edited *The Oriole* for an unrivaled 17 years, contributing 33 of his own articles and notes to the journal's pages, and was responsible for compiling the "From the Field" section for 6 years. As if that were not enough volunteer labor for a devoted father of two (Mathieu and Jillian) and a 37-year-employee as a systems engineer at IBM, Terry also performed yeoman's service for AAS, coordinating and leading field trips, serving as president in the late 1970s, and, remarkably enough, compiling the "Field Notes" section of AAS' newsletter *Wingbars* for 36 years until his debilitating injury kept his hands from his keyboard. Along with his marathon service to *Wingbars*, in recent years (2003-2008) he served as chair of GOS' Checklist and Records Committee. His many contributions to that committee and to bird study in Georgia were appropriately acknowledged when the dedication to the 2003 Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (Beaton, G., P.W. Sykes, Jr., and J.W. Parrish, Jr., Occasional Publ. No. 14, 156 p.) listed his name alongside H. Branch Howe, Jr., and Dick Parks. Notably, Terry's 15 citations in that 2003 checklist put him ahead of all others except Fred Denton.

Born in Santa Monica, California, where his Navy officer father was stationed at the close of World War II, Terry's fascination with birds and the outdoors bloomed when his family relocated to the eastern shore of Maryland

in 1947. He participated in his first Christmas Bird Count under the guidance of a local bird club member by the name of Wilbur Rittenhouse. Other significant birding teachers in his life included Bill and Roberta Fletcher, who were members of the Caroline County Bird Club. He routinely participated in cross-country camping and nature trips with the Fletchers and their son Bob. When he was 16, he encountered Chandler "Chan" Robbins, creator of the Breeding Bird Survey and co-author of Golden Guide's Birds of North America, at a meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Chan further fueled Terry's growing obsession with birds by teaching him the art of banding. Following high school, Terry acquired a degree in industrial engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology (1966), and then spent a few years working for the Georgia Tech YMCA while chasing birds across the U.S. whenever the opportunity arose. In the late 1960s he elected to follow in the footsteps of his father by enlisting in the Navy, serving on a submarine tender in the Pacific Ocean. Thanks to the Navy, Terry accumulated a lengthy birding list while visiting Guam, Hong Kong, Australia, Mexico, and Japan. His Navy years instigated in him a hunger for foreign travel, especially in pursuit of more birds, which he fed in later years with his family, taking them to Europe, South America, and other exotic locations. After his military term, he returned to Atlanta to accept a full-time job at IBM, and soon met his wife of 34 years, Margaret "Peggy" Fletcher. The Moore family settled in Roswell in 1985, where they would live the rest of his life. His birding roots by then were already deeply established in Georgia soil.

Terry became a master bander, was responsible for organizing and compiling the Marietta Christmas Bird Count for many years, and was one of the instigative forces behind the creation of a permanent banding station on Jekyll Island (JIBS) following a 1977 test banding weekend with Doris Cohrs and others at that site. In the decade that followed, hands-on training at JIBS mist-nets would graduate numerous citizen scientist banders, most of whom were taught by Terry, and by Doris and Don Cohrs. During that era he also became a member of what was then a somewhat small North American community: the 600 species club. Perhaps the highlight of his list development years was the "Holy Grail" trip to Attu in 1980. He often led big day and out-of-state birding adventures, frequently in the company of a small group of friends including Patrick Brisse, Hugh Garrett, Vaughn Morrison, and John Swiderski.

Most who knew him would argue that Terry's greatest legacy, with respect to the evolution of modern bird study and birding in Georgia, were his teaching gifts and his generous nature. He was a stickler on checking off field marks before rendering a bird's identification, but he was consistently polite

and diplomatic when others rushed to mistaken identifications. He seemed to possess an encyclopedic memory. Without exception, his banding students and the participants of the field trips he led praised his humble, gentle, and always positive nature. That humbleness shines through in his final entry in *The Oriole* (Vol. 61, Numbers 2-3, page 72), where he heaped praise on numerous advisers for helping him to captain the journal, from Frank McCamey who asked him to take the job in 1981, to the enduring understanding and support provided by his wife Peggy, to the people he often relied on for advice and guidance including John Swiderski and Branch Howe. Swiderski and Terry shared a bond that ties brothers, and the former is fortunate to have an abundant store of birding memories associated with Terry dating to the mid-1970s. He credits Terry with making him a birder, a gift that no doubt was bestowed by Terry on dozens of other birders now roaming the swamps, forests, and beaches of the state. Bob Sargent is thankful to Terry for shepherding his first ornithological manuscript into print, a paper about mountain warblers published in *The Oriole* in 1994. It was a short paper and certainly did not contain material that would be deemed scientifically rigorous, yet Terry treated it (and the authors) like it was the finest thing he had ever published. That was typical of him. When Sargent served as co-editor of this journal, it was Terry he periodically approached for guidance. Sargent came to rely on Terry's unwavering support and words of encouragement, especially when publication of the journal fell off schedule, which was often. Although Terry's ornithological output was prolific, he once reminded Sargent to not lose perspective; contributions to science are certainly invaluable, but family and life must always be the principal priorities. His kindness and gentleness have left a permanent mark on those who knew him, as have his immeasurable efforts to improve our understanding of Georgia's birds.



Past presidents and recipients of the GOS's Earle R. Greene Memorial Award gather for a group photo at the 75th anniversary meeting on Tybee Island, Georgia, 2011. Terry Moore is on the far right in the second row. Photograph by Phil Hardy.



Terry Moore (right) and John Swiderski (left) presenting Chandler "Chan" Robbins (center) with the Earle R. Greene Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Ornithology at the GOS fall meeting in Statesboro, Georgia, 2000. Photo from the GOS archives.



Last respects to a birder: Terry's well-used Balscope, cap, and binoculars at the center of his memorial service at Roswell United Methodist Church, Georgia. Photograph by John Swiderski.