

SEASONALITY AND HUMAN MOBILITY ALONG THE GEORGIA BIGHT

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BY DIANA ROSENTHAL

The American Museum of Natural History published the newest Anthropological Paper, *Seasonality and Human Mobility along the Georgia Bight*, on March 6, 2012. The volume, which was edited by Elizabeth J. Reitz, Irvy R. Quitmyer, and David Hurst Thomas, presents new research on methods for reading the seasonality record found in common biological proxies and applying these various methods grounded in the natural sciences to estimate seasonality with particular reference to the archaeology conducted on St. Catherines Island and along the Georgia Bight.

The authors of the volume considered questions relating to seasonality and its importance in order to establish a link to settlement patterns, resource availability, landscapes, and social complexity, among others. The research shows that all animal and plant remains found in a midden contain a record of human behavior. Throughout the volume, applications of methods including stable isotope analysis, ¹⁴C dating, longitudinal studies of animals, zooarchaeology, and archaeobotany are discussed. The authors of this volume agree that multiple indicators of site seasonality provide the clearest picture of the annual settlement cycle.

The chapters in this volume were initially presented at the Fifth Caldwell Conference, cosponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and the St. Catherines Island Foundation and held on St. Catherines Island, May 14–16, 2010.

Many thanks to the SCI Foundation for their support, and to all the

participants (Top row: Fred Andrus, Christina Friberg, Sarah Bergh, Carol Colannino-Meeks, Lori Pendleton, Margaret Scarry, Elizabeth J. Reitz, Matthew Napolitano, Rachel Cajigas, and Elizabeth Wing. Bottom: Kandace Hollenbach, Greg Waselkov, Alexandra Parsons, Irvy R. Quitmyer, Royce & Christa Hayes, Doug Kennett, David Hurst Thomas, Nicole Cannarozzi, and Elliot Blair).





Georgia Ornithological Society's Winter Fundraiser, with Guest, George Archibald

By Steve Holzman



There was a rare sighting on the island back in January. It wasn't a rare Hooded Crane (recently observed in Tennessee) but was a rare crane conservationist, perhaps the most important crane conservationist in the world, George Archibald, co-founder and Senior Conservationist of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). George was the keynote speaker at the Georgia Ornithological Society's

(GOS) Winter Meeting held on Tybee Island. He was the draw for 8 birders who had either bid on or won a raffle to spend some time with him on St. Catherines Island. Through this trip GOS raised \$2000 to present to the ICF for their continuing crane conservation work. When the group arrived on the island, we quickly unloaded our gear and headed out to Party Bluff to search for sea



ducks. There were quite a few scaup and scoters, but the highlight was a very cooperative Great-horned Owl that gave us all crippling scope views. Phone-scoping (placing cell phone camera to scope) even resulted in some pretty decent pictures. After a quick trip around the North Pasture, we headed to Royce's house where Christa and he had laid out a spread of drinks and appetizers prior to dinner. Good conversation about conservation was followed by a delicious meal of fresh local seafood. Whether there was room for dessert or not, we made room.

Royce talked about the history of the island and the fascinating tale of the search for the mission of Santa Catalina de Guale.

The intrepid birders woke early to begin our exploration of the island. A morning walk along North Beach provided good looks at wintering shorebirds including American Oystercatchers and banded Piping Plovers. Bald Eagles made a showing along with a Merlin patrolling the beach. From there, we headed over to visit the always obliging windmill troop of Ring-tailed Lemurs. On every tour of St. Catherines the lemurs are a big hit. This day was no exception. It was a cool morning so the

lemurs were in their full modified lotus position, absorbing as much sun as they could. Some of our group (okay, me) assumed a similar posture to warm up my own bones. Our trip around the north end brought us to the new pond where the resident Sandhill Crane Zipper hangs out. He (She?) was interested as George approached wearing his own red cap on this head. Although we couldn't encourage George to dance, we did get to see this beautiful crane up close and personal. We then made our way to the south end dock, to listen for Clapper Rails. Two birds clapped their way onto our list and then we headed to the tabby ruins for a picnic lunch. A few of the island deer have adopted the human custom of living in homes, and we did see a couple in these former slave cabins. In a few



years, I'm predicting we will see them in Lazy-Boy recliners watching the game. We then made the leisurely trip back to the compound, hitting one of my favorite spots, Cracker Tom. Cracker Tom can always be relied upon for sightings of egrets, herons, and wood storks. It's a great place to just sit and watch what the wind blows in. Time sneaks up on you on the island, so before we knew it, it was time to make our way to the dock. With the last bit of time left before departure, we got a quick tour of the Hornbill enclosures and learned about the successful breeding techniques used for this extremely endangered group of birds. Folks are pretty beat after a long day on St. Catherines, so there were many happy but tired faces on the ride back. GOS would like to offer its sincere thanks to the staff of St. Catherines Island for showing us such welcome over the years and allowing us to expose some of our membership to the flora, fauna and beauty of this wonderful place.