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## REVIEW: Birds of Georgia

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makes the point that Faulkner, before international recognition brought about by his receipt of the Nobel Prize for Literature, was not just a Southern writer, indeed “merely a regional writer of some interest,” as Dr. Marius describes the view of Faulkner held at the time, but was also very much a member of the Lost Generation of American writers, with all their hallmarks: a deep spiritual wounding brought on by the horrors of World War I, a recognition of the worthlessness of the values held by previous generations, i.e., chivalry. While Dr. Marius never quite comes out clearly with the word “existentialism,” he does mention the effect that T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* had on Faulkner and that Faulkner thought Hemingway’s style lacked “courage,” although he did admire his fellow American’s work. A serious reader of Faulkner will find much to like about *Reading Faulkner: the First Thirteen Novels*, and the book would be put to good use in most academic libraries, but public libraries, especially those outside of the South, might find that they already have something on the shelf by Harold Bloom that can do what this book does, and possibly do it better.

— Reviewed by **John McConnell**  
Hall County Library System

**Birds of Georgia** by Dr. John W. Parrish, Jr., Giff Beaton, and Gregory Kennedy, with contributions from Chris Fisher and Andy Bezener (Lone Pine Publishing, 2006; ISBN 10-976-8200-05-7; \$21.95).

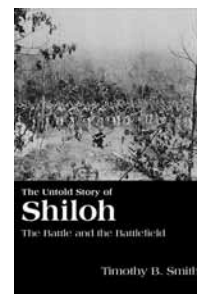


The striking cover of this 383-page trade paperback encourages the curious amateur or experienced professional birdwatcher to investigate further. Once inside, the contents offer the reader many more surprises. The beautifully detailed color illustrations on glossy pages often show the bird species at rest or in flight, as well as visual differences (such as color and size) between the male and female birds. The color coding on many levels and the cross-references within the Reference Guide, the Top Birding Sites, and the Species Accounts are a definite help to the novice birdwatcher like myself. The introduction, interesting and quite readable, provides key information for effectively using the information within and provides an overview of birding as a hobby. The introduction also highlights the Top 50 Birding Sites in Georgia, with a state map and an expanded write-up for 15 of the sites. A typical Species Account includes the common and scientific name of each bird, large bold illustrations, an overview of the species, identification characteristics, size, status, habitat, nesting, feeding, voice, similar species and best sites for viewing. I have found the voice information to be particularly helpful to

me during my backyard adventures. The authors have impressive credentials and share their extensive knowledge with obvious enthusiasm. They encourage the reader to participate in birding activities such as joining organizations and clubs, landscaping for conservation and to attract wildlife, and setting up bird feeders and nesting houses to invite birds to visit and stay. Helpful websites are listed. This comprehensive publication engages the reader on many levels and is a worthwhile addition to the two other popular birding books in our public library’s collection (*Georgia Bird Watching*, Thompson, 2004 and *Birds of Georgia Field Guide*, Tekiela, 2002). Easy to follow and a delightful reference, this book is a terrific mid-priced gift for a nature lover and a “must have” for any academic or public library collection.

— Reviewed by **Ruth Hayden**  
Smyrna Public Library

**The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield** by Timothy B. Smith (University of Tennessee Press, 2006; ISBN 1-57233-466-5, \$34.00).



On April 6-7, 1862, Shiloh, Tennessee, was the site of the largest and bloodiest Civil War battle up to then. More than 65,000 Union troops under General Ulysses S. Grant fought it out against 45,000 Confederate soldiers under General Albert Sidney Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. At the battle’s end, 24,000 were dead, wounded, captured or missing. Smith is a staff member at the Shiloh National Military Park; this is his second book on Shiloh and it is not about the battle. In an introduction and 10 short chapters, Smith views aspects and issues that emerged from the two-day clash. It is about memory, the force of personality, reconciliation and changing views of historians. Chapter 1 sets the stage with a concise overview of changing historiography of the battle. The second chapter attempts to demolish the 10 “greatest myths of Shiloh,” starting with the one that the Union forces were surprised by the Confederate army (they weren’t). One of the myths—that the Union Navy played only a minor role in the battle—is also dealt with in a separate chapter. Smith shows how Navy gunboats on the Tennessee River protected the arrival of Union troops in a hundred transports and brought fire to bear on Rebel positions at critical moments. Chapter 7 reviews the period of reconciliation in the late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when a forest of commemorative statuary rose on the restored battlefield, and contrasts it with the rekindled “Lost Cause” mentality of our time. The book reads well, helped by appropriate historic photos, but badly needs a good map