No Wake Zone

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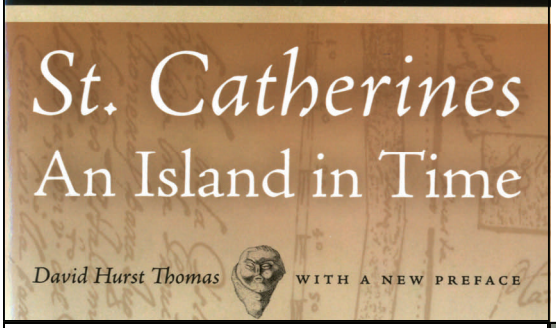

St. Catherines: An Island in Time Second Edition

By David Hurst Thomas

This past March, the University of Georgia Press released a revised edition of *St. Catherines: An Island in Time* by David Hurst Thomas. This is the story of how a team of archaeologists found the lost sixteenth- and seventeenth-century site of Mission Santa Catalina de Guale. The discovery of Mission Santa Catalina has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the first European visitors to SCI, and the people they encountered. The work highlights the early Spanish presence in Georgia—nearly two centuries before the arrival of British colonists in Savannah.

Originally published in 1988, *An Island in Time* was commissioned by The Georgia Humanities Council to accompany a half-hour television show documenting the discovery of Mission Santa Catalina de Guale. Designed for classroom use, this new edition contains a new preface, *Suggestions for Further Reading*, and several discussion questions prepared by Dr. Margaret Holt (Department of Adult Education, University of Georgia).

In the new preface, Thomas updates the mission story, outlining some of the more important discoveries that have emerged over the past two decades of archaeological research on St. Catherines Island.

Bald Eagle Update

On St. Catherines Island we had another successful year for Bald Eagles, with a total of six chicks fledged. Of our five nests, two pairs have relocated and we were unable to locate them by land or air. The remaining three nests were monitored and produced 2 chicks each.

Jim Ozier, Program Manager, Nongame Conservation Section of GA DNR found 143 occupied nesting territories in Georgia, up from 2010, in this year's aerial surveys. In total for the state 113 nests produced 178 young Bald Eagles.

Bald Eagles are doing a marvelous job of recovery in the Southeastern United States.

Photos by Tom Murphy

Nest at Mr. Larkins Birding Trail

Editor-in-Chief Jenifer Hillburn

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Imping.....A Rehabilitation Tool as Interesting as its Name

By Susan Inman

In the beginning of February, Dr. Terry Norton received a Red-shouldered Hawk that was shot by a local youth with a BB gun (DNR took appropriate action, penalizing and educating the young man). The hawk's only chance for survival was a surgical repair of the wing by Terry , and a 3-week wing-wrap (for immobilization) recovery period. During a bird's healing process, many factors have to be considered before returning them to the wild. A major factor is the evaluation of flight capabilities; if the bird doesn't fly well, it will not succeed upon release. A common delay for release is bad feather condition caused by being held in an enclosure (as was true for this Red-shouldered Hawk). If the bird has damaged their feathers in such a way that it inhibits their flight and or balance, you are limited to a few choices that can actually fix the problem. One is to keep the bird for a longer period of time so it can molt most or all the broken feathers (this can take up to a year). This natural process takes the most time and may lead to more problems. Another choice is to pull out the damaged feathers to stimulate new ones to grow in. This process causes some pain for the bird as feathers are still attached to the follicle, much like pulling a human hair. This technique, however, decreases the length of time the bird will have to remain in an enclosure (the least amount of time in captivity, the better).

A final choice is to imp the bird's feathers. Imping is the process of cutting a broken or damaged feather and replacing it with an undamaged feather. The imping procedure involves cutting the shaft of the bird's broken feather and replacing it with a feather from a donor bird (one that has died in your care or was found on the side of the road). However, donor birds are not always available, and having extra tail feathers wasn't an option for this red-shouldered hawk. Instead, we had to reuse the broken feathers by splicing out the damaged portion. Once the damaged portions are removed, a brace is added to the feather shaft. What is used for a brace all depends on how thick the feather shafts are. Wooden dowels (eagles), bamboo skewers, toothpicks, or surgical needles can be used. Since the feather shafts on a Red-shouldered Hawk are so small, we needed something narrow and strong. A shaved toothpick is just not strong enough so surgical needles were fitted to the correct length. There is no problem using a light-weight brace because the bird will molt the repaired feather when a new one is ready to grow in its place. After the brace is superglued into one part of the feather, the other feather section is lined up correctly, slipped onto the projecting brace and secured with a final drop of superglue. Once the glue is dry, the bird returns to the enclosure until its time for its release. We used this procedure on our Red-shouldered Hawk's tail feathers. After several weeks of rehabilitation, the wing was healed, and the bird had molted 2 of 7 imped tail feathers. The remaining imped feathers were still intact and useful to the bird. This made it possible to release the bird in early May, rather than holding the bird for several months. Great job wildlife team!

The process of Imping. Procedure completed by Dr. Terry Norton and Susan Inman. Photos by Rachel Harris.