

Biographical Resume of Robert Gifford (Giff) Beaton

Apr 2018

Born on 1 Nov 1959 in Toronto, Canada. Graduated from high school in Towson, Maryland in 1977. Attended the United States Naval Academy where he graduated with a BS in Physical Science in 1981. US Navy pilot from 1981 until 1988, during which time he attended Troy State University where he earned a MS in Management. In 1988 he joined Delta Air Lines as a pilot, and he is currently a Captain for Delta on the Boeing 737-700/800/900 aircraft. Married to Allie Kelly, with twin sons Gifford and Wyatt born 4/2013. Home address is 10760 Serenbe Ln, Chattahoochee Hills GA 30268. (678) 428-2328. giffbeaton@mindspring.com.

Interested in the outdoors his entire childhood, mostly photography and fishing, and started birding in 1976. He has been an active field birder and naturalist since that time and is a member in many birding and nature conservation organizations. His interest in nature also turned to insects around 1992 and he has been very involved in field identification, distribution, and taxonomy of several groups since then, most notably Odonata, Asilidae, Cicindelidae, Salticidae, and Homoptera. Has authored or co-authored seven books:

Birding Georgia (Falcon, 2000), author.

Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds (GOS, 2003) Senior author and editor.

Birds of Kennesaw Mountain (GOS, 2004), author.

Birds of Georgia (Lone Pine, 2006) Co-author.

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast (University of Georgia, 2007), author.

The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia (University of Georgia, 2010) Co-author.

Tiger Beetles of the Southeastern US (University of Alabama Press, in press), senior author.

Has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and reviews including the following:

ABA Guide to Metropolitan Areas (2001), Atlanta chapter

State specific chapters in Georgia Bird Watching (2004) Cool Springs Press

"The Distribution of Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata) in Georgia (co-author),

("Bulletin of American Odonatology" June 2005)

Numerous articles in "Argia," the news journal of DSA (Dragonfly Society of the Americas), 2002-present

"Kennesaw Mountain: Cerulean Warblers and Much More" ("Winging It", April, 1995)

"Birding I-75 Through South Georgia" ("Birding", December 2001)

Book reviews in "Birding": "Finding Birds in South Carolina" (February 1994), "Birder's Guide to Alabama" (February, 2002)

Numerous book reviews in "Journal of Field Ornithology" (1998-2005)

Numerous articles in "The Oriole" (1991-present)

Georgia range consultant for all the major bird field guides, including National Geographic, Sibley, and Peterson

Other articles or notes in Cicindela and Herpetological Review (2008-present), and various other general nature magazines.

He has had hundreds of photographs published in various books and magazines. Sole judge for Atlanta Audubon Society Photo Contest 2011 - 2013.

Among his other activities are the following:

Atlanta Audubon Society Board of Directors 1995-1997

Co-Compiler of the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count 1995- 2003
State Editor for all Georgia CBCs, 2001-present.

Georgia Breeding Bird Atlas 1996-2001: Steering Committee Chairman, Region 3 Coordinator, Species Account Co-Editor, Species Account Author and Record Committee.

Georgia Ornithological Society Checklist and Record Committee member 1995-2005, Committee Chairman 2009-2015.

Carolina Bird Club South Carolina Record Committee member 1997-present.

Assistant Editor of "The Oriole" (journal of the Georgia Ornithological Society) 1991- 2005.

Georgia Important Bird Area Technical Committee, Georgia Audubon Society.

Birding Tour Leader in Dry Tortugas, 1992-1994; Alaska 1994 and 2000; Yellowstone National Park (ABA) 1999.

He has given hundreds of slide and powerpoint lectures and workshops to nature groups, history groups, and bird clubs, including identification workshops and life history presentations on Odonata and Cicindelidae and Civil War lectures at Kennesaw Mountain NBP. Numerous keynote presentations including Georgia Ornithological Society (Eastern Warblers 1999 and History of Georgia Birding 2011), Carolina Bird Club (Feather Topography 2002), Alabama Ornithological Society (Eastern Warblers ca. 2003), Cleveland Museum of Natural History Conservation Symposium (Stream Conservation 2008), and Ohio Dragonfly Conference/Ohio Odonate Society Conference (Observing Odonates 2017).

Organizer and maintainer of the Kennesaw Mountain Migration Database which includes 17 years of data of daily migration bird counts during spring and fall migration, including seasonal summary reports, and published the results in 2004.

Recipient of Earle R Greene Memorial Award (GA Ornithological Society) for achievement in Ornithology and for outstanding service to the Society. 2004.

Organized DSA Southeastern Regional Survey Meetings May 2003 (Cumberland Plateau and Ridge and Valley), July 2007 (Southwestern Georgia Coastal Plain), and May 2011 (Blue Ridge).

Civil War History Tour Leader for WINGS covering Gettysburg and Antietam in 2011 and Savannah to Charleston in 2010 and 2012.

Contributed over 200 records to the Georgia Herp Atlas, 1996-2001.

State survey for odonates in Georgia, 1998-present. Nominated and authored candidate species for state listing in Georgia, and surveyed for three listed species (*Cordulegaster sayi*, *Gomphurus consanguis*, and *Ophiogomphus edmundoi*) for the GA DNR 2007-2008.

State surveys for cicindelids, salticids and asilids 2002-present in Georgia.