

THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology : Official Organ of the
Georgia Ornithological Society



VOL. V, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1940

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BIRDS OF THE PIEDMONT NATIONAL WILD LIFE REFUGE

RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD
Assistant Refuge Manager

Extending across the state in a northeast and southwest direction is an irregular belt averaging seventy miles in width that is known as the Lower Piedmont Plateau.

The topography of this region is rolling and dissected by many streams. The ridges are narrow and there is general erosion throughout the area. Approximately two thirds of the area is covered with a loblolly-shortleaf pine forest type with an interspersion of hardwoods along the watercourses and in coves. Only a small percentage of the total area is classed as desirable crop land since erosion and poor cropping practices have depleted the soil fertility. As a result there are interspersed among the pines thousands of acres of land that have been abandoned and are reverting to forest. Such fields in this stage of plant succession are usually attractive to many species of song birds but as the food producing plants are eliminated and the forest floor is covered with pine straw, the area becomes devoid of birds except for a few species such as the woodpeckers that dwell within the deep forest.

Lying along the east side of the turbid and rocky Ocmulgee River, which crosses this plateau, is the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge of approximately 34,000 acres that extends for eighteen miles along this river in Jones and Jasper counties. The refuge is bounded on the east by Highway No. 11.

There are no lakes and marshes in the refuge and none of the small ponds or pools in the watercourses continue to hold water during the summer and autumn periods of scanty precipitation. Moreover, the refuge lies at a point which is approximately equidistant from the Chattahoochee and Savannah rivers, Okefenokee Swamp and the Blue Ridge Mountains, Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico—a significant geographic isolation. A glance at the list of one hundred and thirty-seven birds that are known to occur on the refuge reveals the absence of many shore-water inhabiting species. Nevertheless, five species of ducks have been observed on the refuge or adjacent to its boundaries and certain waterbirds and shorebirds

such as the Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers, Upland Plover, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe and Kingfisher occur with more or less regularity.

Approximately one-fifth of the bird population may be classed as summer residents—those found here during the breeding season only. These include six of the thirty-six wood warblers, four of the nine flycatchers, three of the five vireos and many others. Close to one-fourth are permanent residents—those found at all seasons of the year in this region. This group includes a number of hawks and owls, probably all the woodpeckers that occur in this area and such birds as Crow, Jay, Bobwhite, Dove, Turkey and Black Vulture. Cardinal, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Field Sparrow, Starling, Titmouse and many others. Winter residents, those found here in winter only, constitute one-sixth of the bird population and include such species as the Slate-colored Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and many others. The remaining group which includes the transients, those that migrate through this region and those listed as casual or accidental, make up one-third of the population. Representative species are Canada Geese, Upland Plover, Barn Swallow, Red-start, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and many others which breed farther north.

Introduced species are represented by the Starling, English Sparrow and the common domestic Pigeon. Fortunately the first two species, although breeding, are not common on the refuge and do not invade undisturbed areas.

In its birdlife as well as its floristic composition, the Piedmont Refuge is clearly that of the Lower Austral Zone and representative birds are: Chuck-will's-widow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue Grosbeak, Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Pine Warbler and Black Vulture.

Mid-April marks the peak of the spring migration in the refuge. By that time most of the flycatchers, vireos, swallows, warblers and other species have appeared on the scene; some remaining to breed while others continue northward to breeding grounds. Late October marks the autumnal migration peak but the largest list of species will invariably be obtained in April.

During the year and one-half of field work that the author has done on the refuge exactly one hundred and thirty-seven species have been observed on or adjacent to the refuge. There is still much to be learned about the occurrence and the distribution of birds on the refuge. Even though the data contained in this list are admittedly incomplete, the author is prompted to offer the following check-list in the hope that it will stimulate further study in this region.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Pied-billed Grebe | 4. Eastern Green Heron |
| 2. Great Blue Heron | 5. Black-crowned Night Heron |
| 3. American Egret | 6. Common Canada Goose |

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7. Common Mallard | 52. Prairie Horned Lark |
| 8. American Pintail | 53. Tree Swallow |
| 9. Wood Duck | 54. Rough-winged Swallow |
| 10. Lesser Scaup Duck | 55. Barn Swallow |
| 11. American Merganser | 56. Purple Martin |
| 12. Turkey Vulture | 57. Florida Blue Jay |
| 13. Black Vulture | 58. Southern Crow |
| 14. Cooper's Hawk | 59. Carolina Chickadee |
| 15. Eastern Red-tailed Hawk | 60. Tufted Titmouse |
| 16. Florida Red-shouldered Hawk | 61. Brown-headed Nuthatch |
| 17. Marsh Hawk | 62. Brown Creeper |
| 18. Osprey | 63. Eastern House Wren |
| 19. Eastern Sparrow Hawk | 64. Eastern Winter Wren |
| 20. Eastern Bob-white | 65. Bewick's Wren |
| 21. Killdeer | 66. Carolina Wren |
| 22. American Woodcock | 67. Eastern Mockingbird |
| 23. Wilson's Snipe | 68. Catbird |
| 24. Eastern Whip-poor-will | 69. Brown Thrasher |
| 25. Spotted Sandpiper | 70. Southern Robin |
| 26. Eastern Solitary Sandpiper | 71. Wood Thrush |
| 27. Eastern Mourning Dove | 72. Eastern Hermit Thrush |
| 28. Black-billed Cuckoo | 73. Olive-backed Thrush |
| 29. Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 74. Veery |
| 30. Eastern Screech Owl | 75. Eastern Bluebird |
| 31. Great Horned Owl | 76. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher |
| 32. Florida Barred Owl | 77. Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| 33. Chuck-will's-widow | 78. Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| 34. Eastern Whip-poor-will | 79. American Pipit |
| 35. Eastern Nighthawk | 80. Cedar Waxwing |
| 36. Chimney Swift | 81. Loggerhead Shrike |
| 37. Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 82. Starling |
| 38. Eastern Belted Kingfisher | 83. White-eyed Vireo |
| 39. Flicker | 84. Yellow-throated Vireo |
| 40. Southern Pileated Woodpecker | 85. Red-eyed Vireo |
| 41. Red-bellied Woodpecker | 86. Black and White Warbler |
| 42. Red-headed Woodpecker | 87. Worm-eating Warbler |
| 43. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 88. Golden-winged Warbler |
| 44. Southern Hairy Woodpecker | 91. Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| 45. Southern Downy Woodpecker | 92. Myrtle Warbler |
| 46. Red-cockaded Woodpecker | 93. Black-throated Green Warbler |
| 47. Eastern Kingbird | 94. Blackburnian Warbler |
| 48. Southern Crested Flycatcher | 95. Yellow-throated Warbler |
| 49. Eastern Phoebe | 96. Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| 50. Acadian Flycatcher | 97. Black-poll Warbler |
| 51. Eastern Wood Pewee | 98. Northern Pine Warbler |

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 99. Northern Prairie Warbler | 119. Eastern Cardinal |
| 100. Palm Warbler | 120. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| 101. Northern Water-Thrush | 121. Eastern Blue Grosbeak |
| 102. Louisiana Water-Thrush | 122. Indigo Bunting |
| 103. Kentucky Warbler | 123. Eastern Purple Finch |
| 104. Maryland Yellow-throat | 124. Eastern Goldfinch |
| 105. Yellow-breasted Chat | 125. Alabama Towhee |
| 106. Hooded Warbler | 126. Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow |
| 107. American Redstart | 127. Eastern Vesper Sparrow |
| 108. English Sparrow | 128. Bachman's Sparrow |
| 109. Bobolink | 129. Slate-colored Junco |
| 110. Southern Meadowlark | 130. Carolina Junco |
| 111. Eastern Red-wing | 131. Eastern Chipping Sparrow |
| 112. Orchard Oriole | 132. Eastern Field Sparrow |
| 113. Baltimore Oriole | 133. White-throated Sparrow |
| 114. Rusty Blackbird | 134. Eastern Fox Sparrow |
| 115. Purple Grackle | 135. Lincoln's Sparrow |
| 116. Eastern Cowbird | 136. Swamp Sparrow |
| 117. Scarlet Tanager | 137. Eastern Song Sparrow |
| 118. Summer Tanager | |

BIRDS IN RELATION TO THE 1940 HURRICANE

In looking around we find large numbers of birds killed by the heavy storm of August 11th of this year. Jays, Thrashers, Catbirds, Cardinals, Woodpeckers, etc. Bluebirds have suffered again as in the years past, though loss of them does not seem to be quite so heavy as some of the other species. The sea birds were blown inland, and many of them killed. Inland ponds and streams have harbored many gulls, terns, and probably petrels. We received a dead specimen of the Least Tern by mail that was found near Millen. There is not much that bird students can do about these losses, but it should make more emphatic the necessity for protecting bird life in the realm of human possibility. The elements have always taken a full share of our bird life. It is to be regretted that this has to be, but destruction by young boys, and those not familiar with the value of birds to society, and the ignorant, should be challenged by the G.O.S. Stray cats become a real problem where bird students have feeding stations, and home sanctuaries. This is a matter that should be dealt with—of course with gloves on, for many people almost worship cats, but the problem should be dealt with most seriously. A superficial survey indicates that young boys in our town destroy about 600 birds in a year, and stray cats fully as many if not more. The problem is serious enough to warrant a careful study with a view to making suggestions on methods of approach.

R. J. H. DEL.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE ATLANTA BIRD CLUB

"Anyone interested in birds call C. R. W. Hemlock 2134. Please do this." This request written in pencil in "Chapman's Handbook of Birds of N. A." led to the organization of the Atlanta Bird Club.

The request of C. R. W. (initials of Carter R. Whittaker) was answered by George Dorsey and together they set about making a list of prospective members for a bird club. Shortly after this Mr. A. B. Haight saw the pencilled note and called Mr. Whittaker. Miss Hattie Rainwater, Supervisor of Nature Study in the Atlanta Schools, was listed as a prospective member and subsequently called upon. She promised her cooperation.

Finally the date of the first meeting was set for March 15, 1926. Announcements of the meeting were sent to all the Atlanta papers, and there was an immediate response from S. E. Riddle who had just come to Atlanta from Philadelphia. When the group met at the home of Carter Whittaker, 221 East Tenth Street at seven-thirty o'clock in the evening Monday, March 15, 1926, there were fourteen people present as follows:

Ashley B. Haight, Lindsay Bawsel, Walter Bedard, Jr., T. Bartow Ford, Jr., Kenneth Thurmond, Miss Hattie Rainwater, Miss Marion N. Allen, Peter S. Twitty, R. W. Bell, Carter R. Whittaker, George A. Dorsey, S. E. Riddle, Mrs. S. E. Riddle and Dr. Wallace Rogers.

Carter Whittaker served as chairman and a nominating committee was appointed consisting of Miss Rainwater, Mr. Twitty and Mr. Ford. The following officers were elected: President, Carter Whittaker, Vice President, T. Bartow Ford, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer, George A. Dorsey.

Ashley Haight was given charge of field meetings and announced a field trip for Sunday, March 21st. to be held in the vicinity of Emory University leaving from the Law Building at 9:30 A. M.

Bi-monthly meetings followed with field work and round table discussion until the fifth meeting when the following were defined as objectives:

1. Collecting and filing of data on migration of birds, food habits, etc.
2. Making every public park a bird sanctuary.
3. Enlisting the cooperation of the police in enforcing the City Ordinance related to firearms which would lead to protection of birds.
4. The prevention of inhuman treatment of birds.
5. Enforcing laws regarding caging of song birds.
6. Encouraging the building of bird boxes by Scouts and school children.
7. Publicizing these objectives.

Names added to the list that year: Prof. D. C. Peacock, Lucien Harris, Jr., Prof. Thos. L. Bryan, Mrs. John Cooper, Henry Whitner, Miss Louise Hollands, Miss Jimmie Brown, Miss Helen Haggard, Miss Ethel Purcell,

Earle R. Greene, Miss Berma Jarrard, Stephen F. Reade, Mrs. Arthur Tufts, John Tufts, Rutledge Tufts, Mrs. A. B. Haight, Miss Mary O. Russell, Waldemar Zeigler, R. W. Beall, Hal Drake, Mrs. F. C. Miller, Mrs. K. S. Bogman.

On the evening of May 11, 1926, Dr. Wallace Rogers gave an illustrated lecture on birds at the Chamber of Commerce Building. This lecture, which was free to the public, brought out a crowd too large to be comfortably taken care of. Mr. Haight had been appointed chairman of publicity and the idea of bird protection was brought to the attention of the public by interesting newspaper articles and through the cooperation of the Georgia Power Company, a message of bird protection was carried all over Atlanta by means of posters on trolley cars.

Late in July 1926 an incident occurred which stimulated the Club to greater activity. Great flocks of purple martins, preparatory to leaving on the fall migration, had chosen the shade trees on Capitol Avenue for a gathering place. These flocks of noisy birds caused considerable discomfort in the neighborhood and the police department was called to make war on them. Upon investigation members of the Club found that the police had slaughtered over four hundred Martins. Dr. Rogers brought the incident to the attention of The Atlanta Journal and through its columns those responsible for the act were severely censured. Through the cooperation of the Chief of Police and the State Game and Fish Department protection was promised. A deputy was assigned to the scene and further killing was definitely stopped. Bird Lore carried an article relating the incident and the affair raised a nation-wide protest.

In March 1927, the Club became affiliated with the National Association of Audubon Societies, President, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, making a personal visit to Atlanta in the interest of the Association. Members participated in Bird Lore's Christmas census in December 1926, the first year of the organization of the Club and each year since, the Club has sent in a report covering the Atlanta area.

Throughout the years the Club has enlisted the interest of Boy and Girl Scouts, Garden Clubs and owners of large estates in the subject of conservation and the members have devoted much time to talks given to such groups.

"Bird-O-Grams" were placed in the City Parks in the interest of protection and study of birds. A city-wide birdhouse contest was conducted throughout the Atlanta Public Schools and by means of a state-wide election the Brown Thrasher was chosen the State bird of Georgia.

The caging of wild song birds has been definitely discontinued through the activities of the Club in cooperation with the State Game and Fish Department.

To stimulate interest in keeping accurate records, a contest was held and prizes awarded for the greatest number of species recorded in the state

during a year. This probably did more to further the scientific study of Georgia birds than any other project carried on.

Each year near the Christmas season the annual dinner is held. Other bird clubs in the state and individuals interested in the work are invited to attend the gala occasion. Week-end field trips are held during the spring and fall migration season, and throughout the year field trips are extended to various parts of the state.

Through the efforts of The Atlanta Bird Club, The Georgia Ornithological Society was organized December 1936. Interest in bird study was thus stimulated and conservation has been strengthened.

A bulletin, *Birds of the Atlanta Area*, by Earle R. Greene was the first tangible contribution to the study of Georgia birds. George Dorsey's column, *Afield with a Naturalist*, in Magazine section of the *Atlanta Constitution* is read with interest by school children and Scouts.

The Oriole, a quarterly journal of Georgia ornithology, was started and published for one year by Don Eyles and Norman Giles, two of our most promising members. The following year, 1927, this magazine was taken over as the official publication of the Georgia Ornithological Society.

There has been steady growth in the Club from the time of its organization. Although the scope is broader and the interests more varied the purpose of the Club may still be expressed in the simple words of the founders: "Organized for the protection and study of our native birds."

BERMA JARRARD ABERCROMBIE

GENERAL NOTES

SEASONAL NOTES FROM ATLANTA—Weather conditions had little effect on the bird life of the region except for a brief period during the middle of August when hurricane aftermaths blew in several coastal species. Precipitation was heavy in July and August, both months showing over eight inches of rainfall as compared to a normal four inches. Temperatures were normal all summer, the hottest weather being recorded in late July.

Following are the unusual observations of the summer. A Barn Owl was seen near Decatur on three occasions, June 14, 21, and 29, by the writer. Charles Wharton and others observed closely five American Egrets on July 9, a new early date for an uncommon species. This was during the heavy rains of the first of July. On August 8, I saw a Duck Hawk chasing pigeons in downtown Atlanta. It was indeed interesting to see such a wild, untamed bird alight on a ledge of the First National Bank Building overlooking Five Points. On the 14th of August the low pressure area of the Savannah hurricane reached Atlanta and brought with it a female Laughing Gull, which Mr. C. D. Chatham captured alive within the city. The specimen was photographed but died soon after and is now in the

writer's collection. On the 15th a number of Black Terns were seen and a Yellow-billed Tropic Bird (described in another note) was observed at the water works lake. Pectoral, Least, Semipalmated, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, and one Semipalmated Plover were also seen on the 15th. On September 3 an Upland Plover was noted near the water works. This species has not previously been recorded here in the fall.

Migrations began with a Pied-billed Grebe on July 8, a new early fall date. First large wave occurred on August 31 and September 1 when a large number of Nighthawks passed over and Barn and Bank Swallows were common. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron remained as late as June 19 at Candler's Lake. Other migration notes were not out of the ordinary. WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Georgia.*

CRESTED FLYCATCHER CATCHES SPARROW—In literature on the Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) I can find no records for this bird capturing other small birds. On June 18, 1940 I observed a Crested Flycatcher perched in the usual manner near my home. An English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) just out of the nest was sitting by the side of the road. The flycatcher dropped, picked up the young sparrow in its feet, and heavily flew to a perch with the squawking victim. It killed the sparrow with several pecks on the back of the head and dropped the dead bird to the ground, making no attempt to eat it. After this the flycatcher went on in a normal fashion catching insects. The writer can give no explanation of this curious action, only records without conclusions.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Georgia.*

SIGHT RECORD OF A YELLOW-BILLED TROPIC BIRD AT ATLANTA—After the storm swept the coast of Georgia and the Carolinas, a number of ocean birds were swept off their courses and followed the low pressure area northward to Atlanta and other inland points. Among them was a lone Yellow-billed Tropic Bird (*Paethon lepturus catesbyi*) which the writer observed on one of the water works lakes in Atlanta on August 15, 1940. The bird was an adult in fine plumage and was studied at comparatively close range as it rested on the water. Unfortunately it could not be collected. A survey of the literature reveals no other State records. Since the specimen was not collected, the writer feels that the species is not entitled to a place on the State list but should be included in the hypothetical list.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Georgia.*

SUMMER NOTES FROM THE FITZGERALD REGION.—The last few days of May and early June were typified by considerable rainfall which kept large areas of water relatively high.

In spite of waterlogged marshes, a very late record for the Sora Rail was established on May 25, when an adult was flushed. Although assiduous search followed, the bird was seen no more. On the same day, two striking White Ibises winged over; hence another first record for the county!

The Black-billed Cuckoo and the Louisiana Water Thrush proved the most lingering of transients, each remaining until May 27.

Midsummer notes are extremely meager, due partly to the writer's absence from early in June until the latter part of July. Perhaps the only records of interest during this time are of two Ground Dove nests, both located on June 24, by Milton Hopkins and the writer's two brothers, Charles and Bill. One held young; one, eggs. The last mentioned was collected.

More breeding records of note follow: Crested Flycatcher, May 25, 4 eggs (M. H.); Ruby-throated Hummingbird, May 25 and June 1, 1 egg and 2 eggs, respectively (R. N.); Summer Tanager, June 1, young (C. N.); Anhinga, June 3, 1 egg (C. N.); Prothonotary Warbler, May 27 (2), 4 eggs and 5 eggs—and June 3, 3 young (M. H.); Kingbird, June 3, 3 eggs (M. H.).

The marked Osprey mentioned in a previous note, bearing number 38-804166, had been banded at Glenolden, Pennsylvania, by J. A. Gillespie (presumably in 1938—date not having been filed as yet). This species remained at Lake Beatrice until the last of May.

As there seems to be no actual evidence of the Parula Warbler's breeding in the interior of this state (excluding the mountains), the fact that an immature bird was taken on June 1 is of interest. It was pin-feathered and had little yellow underneath. This date is certainly too early for young south-bound wanderers, which might appear later in the month. Moreover, the presence of singing males throughout the summer further substantiates the nesting probability of this species.

A high water level was maintained practically all summer. The usual surface wane in August was prevented somewhat by a rigorous blow and accompanying torrents on the 11th and 12th—a suggestion of the coastal hurricane—plus a number of preceding rains. This inclemency tended to discourage the presence of certain birds, particularly Solitary Sandpipers and King Rails, both of which were noted daily exactly a year ago. Since the storm date, however, a dry spell has neutralized conditions a good deal.

There were few late nesting dates: Green Heron, June 3, 3 young (group); Catbird, August 2, 3 eggs (R.N.); Cardinal, August 23, 1 young, 1 egg (M. H.); Red-headed Woodpecker, August 29, young (M. H.).

Regarding the early autumnal travelers, a Louisiana Water-Thrush appeared first on July 26, the individual being collected. Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, July 29; the latter, a "single" and a new bird for the area, being taken. Black and White Warbler (3) and Cowbird (20 est.), August 15; Barn Swallow (1), August 19; Least Sandpiper (1), August 27 (taken—first regional record); Kentucky and Yellow Warblers, (1 of each), August 30 (the former apparently a fall migrant only).

Doubtless, the surprise of the season occurred when a Least Tern was carefully observed at Lake Beatrice, on August 20, by the writer's brother, Charles. Since he was well acquainted with this form on the coast, it is

with reasonable safety that the record is acknowledged. Very likely the Atlantic disturbance was responsible for its presence.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Fitzgerald, Georgia*.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO NESTING IN FULTON COUNTY—On the afternoon of September 7, 1940 while tramping through a wooded patch in the extreme southern part of Fulton County, Georgia near Fairburn, I discovered the nest of a pair of Black-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). The nest was located in a dogwood tree about 10 feet above the ground. On that date it contained two half-grown young. The adult bird was studied at close range, and was positively the black-billed species. On the 12th of September Bill Griffin and the writer returned to the nest only to find it empty.

Earle R. Greene in *Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia Area* gives two other nesting records from the region. This record is, however, extremely late and one of the few recorded nests for the State. GLENN W. BELL, 727 Cherokee Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

RANDOM NOTES FROM ABOUT STATE—Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) Seven of these birds were observed on August 10, 1940 at Lake Rutledge near Rutledge, Georgia. This is an extremely early date for this species. It has been recorded as early as August 27, 1939 in Atlanta.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) The writer noted a bird of this species near Woody's Gap in Union County, Georgia, on April 26, 1940. The date suggests the possibility of birds breeding in the North Georgia mountains.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*) A bird of this species was seen near Blairsville, Georgia on August 19, 1940. This is likewise an early migration date although the bird has been recorded from Atlanta in late August on other occasions.

Osprey (*Pandion haleatus carolinensis*) A single bird was seen on August 10, 1940 over Lake Rutledge, Georgia.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*) Five of these birds were observed with other sparrows on the morning of April 26, 1940 in Southwestern Union County, Georgia. On the next day, April 27, several more were observed. It is interesting to note that a bird of the same species was observed in Dalton, Georgia by Mrs. R. E. Hamilton and Miss Fannie McClellan on approximately the same date. GLENN W. BELL, 727 Cherokee Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia.

CHIPPING SPARROW'S NEST—On August 28, 1940, I found a Chipping Sparrow's nest containing three young birds which appeared to be half-grown. The nest was about 8 feet high in the branches of a mulberry tree on a farm nine miles northwest of Dalton. Bill Griffin reports (see Oriole 5:5, March 1940) having found a Chipping Sparrow's nest with four eggs in it on August 24, 1939, so my record is really not a later one than his, though nest was found at a later date.—ANNE P. HAMILTON, Dalton, Ga.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING

September 21, 22, 1940, Rome, Ga.

Program—Saturday—September 21, 8:00 P. M.

Auditorium—Martha Berry School

1. Training Naturalists for Uncle Sam (with technicolor slides)
Mr. Chas. M. Graves, National Park Service
2. Wild Birds of Georgia
Mr. H. E. (Bob) Atkins, National Resources Department of Georgia,
Wild Life Division
3. Conservation of Bird Life as Practised by U. S. A.
Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood, U. S. Biological Survey, Piedmont
Wild Life Refuge, Round Oak, Ga.
4. Wild Life in and About Key West, Florida
Mr. Earle Greene, U. S. Biological Survey, Key West, Fla.
5. Phases of Bird Life in Cinema
Dr. Harold C. Jones
Hosts—Rome and Dalton Clubs

THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY announces the third annual camp-out to be held near Melbourne, October 4th, 5th and 6th with a field trip by boat across the beautiful Indian River.

In October of this year the Tennessee Ornithological Society will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding.

DR. ARTHUR HOLMES HOWELL

To his many friends in Georgia, the death of Dr. Holmes Howell on July 10, 1940, caused profound regret. Throughout the many years in which he visited Georgia as a naturalist, this outstanding mammalogist and ornithologist collected a host of friends who were deeply appreciative of his ability and who loved him for his good sportsmanship and for his wholesome philosophy of life.

Dr. Howell was born at Lake Grove, N. Y., May 31, 1872. In 1895 he became associated with the U. S. Biological Survey. From 1903 until 1930 he was in charge of exploration work in the southern states from Texas to North Carolina. Six years, 1927 to 1933, he devoted to the study of mammals and birds of Georgia.

Dr. Howell was the author of many books and pamphlets dealing with wildlife. Among his best known publications are *Birds of Arkansas*, *Biological Survey of Alabama*, *Birds of Alabama and Florida Bird Life*. He was planning a book on Georgia birds when his untimely death came.

His many friends in this state mourn his passing and feel richer for having been associated more intimately with the out-of-doors through his eyes and through his understanding heart.—CHARLES N. ELLIOTT, Com. Ga. Dept. Natural Resources.

THE ORIOLE

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Publicity—MISS CLEMMIE WILLINGHAM, Atlanta, Ga.

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Mr. Robert Norris, Fitzgerald; Mr. George McDonnell, Savannah.
Treasurer—RAY C. WERNER, 736 Wildwood Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

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EDITORIAL

Another year has been added to the history of the Georgia Ornithological Society, and it is now that we shall give an account of our stewardship. What have we accomplished? What have we left undone? How have we evaluated and handled our responsibility? All these are questions that should concern us as we enter into another year as a group of bird students—bird enthusiasts. It goes without saying that we have held the regular meetings, and have kept *The Oriole* going—the publication representing in a measure what we stand for. We have developed interest in bird surveys—a most important phase of our work. We have promoted a general movement to convert Georgia backyards into bird sanctuaries; we have enlisted the sympathies of officials in our state and national sanctuaries and refuges; a number of our individual members have done most excellent work in bird photography, in writing bird articles, in paintings and we as an organization should feel that we have been moving forward during the year.

It goes without saying that there remains much yet to be done, and taking a forward glance, we can see that we have not yet linked up our activities with all the civil authorities that can and should help carry forward our work. Our fall meeting should be centered partly upon objectives along this line. We have not fully worked out the necessary publicity program of which the Society is so deserving. We have not fully concentrated our efforts on building up a center for bird information—and especially information about Georgia birds and Georgia ornithologists. The Georgia State Archives and History, the University, the various University and College libraries would no doubt welcome contributions along this general line.

The Georgia Ornithological Society can wield a powerful influence in the framing of laws, directing of policies, originating movements for bird study and bird protection when our ideas and ideals are pointed and concentrated; when files of the papers, books, pamphlets of our members, and literature on Georgia birds from all sources are made readily available.

R. J. H. DEL.