

# THE ORIOLE

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



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# THE ORIOLE

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## NOTES ON THE BIRD LIFE AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA

By RICHARD M. STRAW

The Fort Benning reservation, which lies about ten miles south of Columbus, Georgia, on the banks of the Chattahoochee River and Upatoi Creek, offers many excellent opportunities for the study of birds which, unfortunately, we were not able to take full advantage of because of our military duties. Lack of transportation limited the area covered to that within walking distance of the Main Post, a semicircle averaging approximately eight miles in radius on the east bank of the Chattahoochee. Also, the time available for exploration was sporadic making the records week-endish in nature.

The rolling terrain furnishes a great variety of habitats, but the ponds were mostly beyond our reach. The swamp areas are limited, mostly along the water-courses, although cloudbursts and flash floods frequently inundated large areas of low land. The floral types are mainly oak, hickory, and oak-pine, greatly intergraded, with roughly half of the area being fields and cutover strips—artillery impact areas.

The period covered by this report is mostly between January and May 1946, with casual records either side of those limits. A four-day field trip April 28-May 1 accounts for a large share of the records.

Much credit is due Noel Pettingell of Coral Gables, Florida, whose companionship and particularly his knowledge of bird songs were of great help in collecting the data contained herein. Also, appreciation is due Dr. J. Fred Denton of Augusta, Georgia, for advice and many helpful suggestions in the preparation of the manuscript. *Peterson's Field Guide, Birds of Georgia* (Greene et al) and Dreyfoos' paper (1946. *Oriole* 11: 14-18) on the birds of this area were the principle references used in the preparation of this paper.

## ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

GREAT BLUE HERON: *Ardea herodias*. One record, April, 28.

EASTERN GREEN HERON: *Butorides v. virescens*. One record in April (Pettingell).

PINTAIL. *Anas acuta tixtzihoa*. A pair seen in a backwater pond of the Chattahoochee on April 10.

TURKEY VULTURE: *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. A common resident.

BLACK VULTURE: *Coragyps atratus*. Resident, somewhat more common than the preceding species although not recorded by Dreyfoos.

COOPER'S HAWK: *Accipiter cooperii*. Seen occasionally in March, the last record is a pair seen April 29.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK: *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*. A resident but not



common.

FLORIDA RED-SHOULDERED HAWK: *Buteo lineatus alleni*. First seen March 31, the most common hawk after that date.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: *Buteo p. platypterus*. Occasional records between April 14 and 30, not common.

MARSH HAWK: *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*. One individual seen several times during March and April.

OSPREY: *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. A single male spent April 30 fishing on Victory Pond.

PIGEON HAWK: *Falco columbianus*. One seen high overhead on April 28.

BOB-WHITE: *Colinus virginianus*. Common, breeding on the post.

KILLDEER: *Charadrius v. vociferus*. Heard more often than seen. A flock of 30 passed through on March 3; some probably bred on the Main Post as they were heard through the breeding season.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: *Actitis macularia*. One seen at Victory Pond April 30.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER: *Tringa solitaria*. A pair rested on the post April 28 and 29.

MOURNING DOVE: *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. A common resident.

EASTERN GROUND DOVE: *Columbigallina p. passerina*. The first record was group of five on March 24; after that they were seen singly or in pairs through the breeding season.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: *Coccyzus a. americanus*. Pettingell identified the song several times in April; the only sight record was on May 12.

GREAT HORNED OWL: *Bubo v. virginianus*. An individual stopped here from February 17 to March 10, but as nearly as we could ascertain did not remain to breed.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. One seen on April 18, although they are probably more common than my records indicate.

FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK: *Chordeiles minor chapmani*. Summer resident, arrived April 28.

CHIMNEY SWIFT: *Chaetura pelagica*. Common summer resident, breeding.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: *Archilochus colubris*. Breeding summer resident, first nest found April 14.

BELTED KINGFISHER: *Megasceryle a. alcyon*. Uncommon, but occasional records from February through April.

NORTHERN FLICKER: *Colaptes auratus luteus*. Winter resident, along with *C. a. auratus*, leaving before April.

SOUTHERN FLICKER: *Colaptes a. auratus*. Breeding resident, two nests known by end of April.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER: *Centurus c. carolinus*. Fairly common resident, especially common in winter.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: *Melanerpes e. erythrocephalus*. Uncommon in winter; breeding resident in summer.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates villosus auduboni*. One record, a male seen on January 2.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: *Dryobates p. pubescens*. Common resident. First nest with four or five young seen on April 28.

RED-CKADEAD WOODPECKER: *Dryobates borealis*. First seen April 28, found regularly after that and probably breeds in suitable areas.

EASTERN KINGBIRD: *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Common summer resident, first record on April 10.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER: *Miarchus crinitus*. Summer resident, breeding; first

record April 14.

EASTERN PHOEBE: *Sayornis phoebe*. Only two records, one individual and a flock of five seen on February 9 and 10 respectively. Pettingell made frequent checks but no evidence whatever of the bird's breeding here was found although Dreyfoos reported it common throughout the summer.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: *Empidonax virescens*. Probably a summer resident, first seen April 29.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE: *Myiochanes virens*. Abundant summer resident.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. Breeding summer resident. First record April 7, first nests on April 29.

BARN SWALLOW: *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*. Four birds seen April 28.

PURPLE MARTIN: *Progne s. subis*. Summer resident, although not common here.

FLORIDA BLUE JAY: *Cyanocitta c. cristata*. Common to abundant resident.

SOUTHERN CROW: *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*. Only occasional records throughout the season.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: *Parus c. carolinensis*. First seen February 10, more or less common after that date.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: *Parus bicolor*. Fairly common resident; peak of migration about March 3 when larger flocks were seen.

FLORIDA NUTHATCH: *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*. Permanent resident but not very common.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: *Sitta p. pusilla*. First record is March 24, fairly common from that date on.

BROWN CREEPER: *Certhia familiaris*. Not too common winter resident, last record March 24.

CAROLINA WREN: *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A common resident.

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD: *Mimus p. polyglottos*. Abundant permanent resident. First nest April 14, with three week-old young. Two broods reared through July.

BROWN THRASHER: *Toxostoma r. rufum*. Abundant permanent resident.

ROBIN: *Turdus migratorius*. Seen only in transit from February 10 to March 24; peak of migration the first week in March. Robins are known to breed in this area, however.

WOOD THRUSH: *Hylocichla mustelina*. A common summer resident after March 31. Nest with four eggs found April 30.

HERMIT THRUSH: *Hylocichla guttata*. Winter resident, not common. Last regular record was February 10, but another individual was found on April 14.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. A pair seen April 29.

VEERY: *Hylocichla fuscescens*. A lone individual seen April 29 and 30.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: *Sialia s. sialis*. Fairly common resident, breeding.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: *Poliophtila c. caerulea*. A summer resident, common. First record March 24.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus s. satrapa*. Uncommon, seen twice during first half of March.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus c. calendula*. Fairly common, seen from February through April.

CEDAR WAXWING: *Bombicilla cedrorum*. Common, in large flocks, through February and March.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: *Lanius ludovicianus*. A common permanent resident. First fledglings on wing April 28, second brood out by August 10.

STARLING: *Sturnus vulgaris*. Abundant resident.



WHITE-EYED VIREO: *Vireo griseus*. Fairly common from March 31 on.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: *Vireo flavifrons*. Common from April 19 through season.

RED-EYED VIREO: *Vireo olivaceus*. Earliest record April 19, quite common from then on.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: *Mniotilta varia*. Transient, a flock of eight seen March 31, last record is April 14.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: *Protonotaria citrea*. Apparently a transient; was fairly common from April 14 to 30.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: *Vermivora pinus*. A fall migrant (adult male) seen July 28.

PARULA WARBLER: *Compsothlypis americana*. Migrant, a few individuals seen at the end of April.

YELLOW WARBLER: *Dendroica aestiva*. Uncommon migrant, two records only.

MYRTLE WARBLER: *Dendroica coronata*. Common through April 30.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: *Dendroica dominica*. A male seen several times in the same spot, April 27-30.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: *Dendroica pensylvanica*. Spring migrant, not very common. Recorded first on April 28.

BLACK-POLL WARBLER: *Dendroica striata*. Migrant, common the last week in April.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER: *Dendroica p. pinus*. Common by the last week in April.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER: *Dendroica d. discolor*. A breeding summer resident, earliest record April 14. A female carrying nesting material seen April 30.

WESTERN PALM WARBLER: *Dendroica p. palmarum*. Except for the Myrtle, the most abundant warbler. Recorded from March 3 through April.

YELLOW PALM WARBLER: *Dendroica p. hypochrysea*. A single bird seen in company with a large flock of *D. p. palmarum* on March 24.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH: *Seiurus motacilla*. A bird found regularly from April 14 to 30.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: *Oporornis formosus*. Common at the end of April.

ATHENS YELLOW-THROAT: *Geothlypis trichas typhicola*. First seen March 24, fairly common and presumably breeding after that date.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: *Icteria v. virens*. Fairly common after mid-April.

HOODED WARBLER: *Wilsonia citrina*. Common from April 14 on.

AMERICAN REDSTART: *Setophaga ruticilla*. An abundant migrant during the last half of April.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK: *Sturnella m. magna*. Common winter resident.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK: *Sturnella m. argutula*. Breeding resident; first nest with four eggs found April 29.

EASTERN REDWING: *Agelaius p. phoeniceus*. Common breeding resident, first recorded March 16.

ORCHARD ORIOLE: *Icterus spurius*. Abundant summer resident, earliest record April 14.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: *Icterus galbula*. An adult male seen with *I. spurius* on April 14, probably in transit.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: *Euphagus carolinus*. Fairly common as a migrant.

PURPLE GRACKLE: *Quiscalus quiscula*. Common after March 24, a summer resident.

SCARLET TANAGER: *Piranga olivacea*. Recorded several times during last

few days of April.

SUMMER TANAGER: *Piranga r. rubra*. A common summer resident, first seen April 14.

CARDINAL: *Richmondia c. cardinalis*. Abundant permanent resident.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: *Hedymeles ludovicianus*. A rather uncommon migrant, seen only on April 29.

BLUE GROSBEEK: *Guiraca c. caerulea*. Found regularly but not commonly after April 15.

INDIGO BUNTING: *Passerina cyanea*. An abundant resident after mid-April.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH: *Spinus t. tristis*. Quite common from March 24 through April; no direct evidence of breeding.

RED-EYED TOWHEE: *Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*.—

ALABAMA TOWHEE: *Pipilo e. canaster*. Both of these forms were here during the winter, the latter presumably being the breeding form.

SAVANNAH SPARROW: *Passerculus sandwichensis*. One seen March 3, no other record.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: *Ammodramus savannarum*. Not uncommon during the last two weeks in April. We could find no evidence of breeding.

VESPER SPARROW: *Pooecetes gramineus*. A single bird sighted March 3.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW: *Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii*. Occasional individuals found in March and early April.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: *Junco hyemalis*. Abundant winter resident, last recorded on March 24.

CHIPPING SPARROW: *Spizella p. passerina*. A common resident.

FIELD SPARROW: *Spizella p. pusilla*. The most abundant sparrow; a permanent breeding resident, though reported as an uncommon winter resident by Dreyfoos.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: *Zonotrichia albicollis*. More or less common throughout the winter.

SONG SPARROW: *Melospiza melodia*. Doubtful records based solely on song on March 3 and 24. Dreyfoos commented on the scarcity of this species.

Como Station, Route 3

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## GENERAL NOTES

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER BREEDING IN GEORGIA.—On June 14, 1947, I found the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) nesting on the Towns-White County line at Tray Gap, altitude 3850 feet. (TVA Topographical Survey.)

I was standing on the Appalachian Trail at the beginning of the climb up Tray Mountain trying to locate the source of the sound of young birds fussing when I heard the familiar "cat-note" of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. I looked up and saw a male with a small moth in his bill. He eyed me with disfavor and flew a short distance away but returned almost immediately and entered a hole about eighteen feet from the ground in a Black Locust (*Robinia Pseudo-acacia*). The voices of the young birds became so loud at the approach of food that they were noticeable to my companions fifty feet away.



No further observations were made at this time, but on June 23, Mr. T. D. Burleigh examined the nest and found the young almost ready to fly.

This, the first record of the Sapsucker's nesting in Georgia, extends the known breeding range of the species south approximately 30 air miles from Standing Indian Mountain in North Carolina.—MRS. CHARLES NEAL, *Demorest, Georgia*

THE WILLOW THRUSH IN GEORGIA.—During the fall of 1947 a special effort was made by the writer to collect a small series of specimens of the Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens*). Only three were collected, but it is interesting to note that all were representative of the western race, the Willow Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola*). All were collected in DeKalb County, Georgia, some three miles north of Decatur: a male on September 7 and females on September 12 and 28. They are now deposited in my collection at Emory University. I am indebted to Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the U. S. National Museum for the subspecific determination in which Dr. John W. Aldrich and Mr. Allen Duvall concurred.

This is apparently the first record of the occurrence of this form in Georgia as it was not listed in *The Birds of Georgia* (1945) or in shorter papers subsequently published. Four other Georgia specimens in the Emory University Collection (a male on May 4, 1908 from Newton County and a female on September 11, 1907 from Fulton County collected by W. H. LaPrade, and specimens of undetermined sex collected September 9, 1906 in Chatham County and September 11, 1907 in Fulton County by T. D. Perry and Luther R. Smith respectively) have been referred by Dr. Friedmann to the nominate race, the Veery (*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*). Dr. Harry C. Oberholser has identified as *fuscescens* an additional specimen, a male, taken by LaPrade in Fulton County on September 11, 1907.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, 135 Peachtree Way, NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

AN OLD RECORD OF THE SCARLET TANAGER NESTING IN FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.—In the recently published (1945) *Birds of Georgia* the Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is listed as a breeding bird only in the mountains of Georgia. In view of this it seems advisable to point out an old record, apparently overlooked, of the nesting of this species in Fulton County in the Piedmont Plateau.

In an article entitled "My Summer Boarders. Season 1902" (*Wilson Bulletin*, 14: 124-125, 1902) William J. Mills discusses in popular language some of the birds nesting in his back yard in East Point, Georgia. On page 124 of this article Mills states: "A pair of Scarlet Tanagers built a beautiful nest in the top of a peach tree. The set of four eggs were taken because the tanagers do considerable damage to my crop of grapes, and I didn't have a set of Scarlet Tanager eggs, so couldn't resist the temptation to add to my collection." The article then continues with a discussion of a Summer Tanager nest, thus eliminating the possibility that Mills had inadvertently referred to the wrong species of tanager. No further comment on the Scarlet Tanager appeared in

the article, nor did Mills mention the species in a subsequent article of the same nature (*Wilson Bulletin*, 17: 115-116, 1905).

In attempting to verify this record, I searched the egg collection at Emory University but was unable to find the Scarlet Tanager set collected by Mills. Since most of Mills' collection was deposited at Emory, I am afraid the set in question has been destroyed. There is, however, one male specimen of the Scarlet Tanager in the Emory collections which was collected by Mills on June 17, 1903 in Campbell (now a part of Fulton) County near Fairburn, a few miles south of East Point. The date on the label appears at first glance to be June 19, 1903, and this date is reported in error in my list of migration extremes for the Atlanta region (*Oriole*, 6: 23, 1941).

This specimen taken by Mills in June appears to lend considerable weight to the validity of his published record of the nest. It should be pointed out, however, that Robert Windsor Smith, an ornithologist working DeKalb County during the same period, failed to find any evidence of the Scarlet Tanager breeding in that county, this fact being noted on the labels of several of his specimens as well as in his notebooks. Nor has any subsequent observer around Atlanta obtained any data that would indicate a breeding status. The single male bird observed singing by me near Vinings in Cobb County on June 4, 1939 (*Oriole*, 4: 29, 1939) was probably a belated migrant.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, 135 Peachtree Way, NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

SUMMER OCCURRENCE OF THE BLACK DUCK IN GEORGIA.—On the morning of August 3, 1946 the writers observed four Black Ducks, *Anas rubripes*, on a small slough adjacent to the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta, Fulton County. The birds immediately took wing, affording many views to confirm identification.

Acknowledgments are due to Thomas D. Burleigh, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Charles N. Elliott, Director of the State Game and Fish Commission, Atlanta, Ga., for the following unpublished account of a previous summer occurrence of this duck in the state: on July 17, 1937 two adult birds were observed on the Alcovy River near Covington. Mr. Elliott stated in a letter to the junior writer that this species of duck is "now seen throughout that area in the summer".

The senior writer observed three black ducks in flight August 2, 1947 about ten miles south of Valdosta, Lowndes County, in the vicinity of Twin Lakes. It is possible that these birds could have been wandering Florida Ducks, *Anas fulvigula*, rather than the common black duck, but, since this species of duck has never been recorded in Georgia, this possibility must remain hypothetical. Further ornithological investigations in the area, however, may add this species to the Georgia list.—T. F. DAVIS, 109 7th St., N. E., Atlanta, Ga., and DAVID W. JOHNSTON, Dept. of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

LATE SPRING OCCURRENCE OF THE COWBIRD AT ATLANTA.—On the morning of May 18, 1947 I collected a female Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) in the same area described for the Swainson's Warbler (See separate note). This ex-



tends the late spring record for Atlanta by nearly a month, the latest previous record being April 20, 1886 (Griffin, *Oriole*, 6: 23, 1941). On skinning, the bird was found to be in full breeding condition. However, careful searches for parasitized nests proved fruitless. It is possible the bird was a late migrant or a summer resident. The discovery of Cowbird eggs and young near Asheville, N. C. and the appearance of young birds of the year without adults led Burleigh to conclude that Cowbirds laid eggs during migration (*Wilson Bulletin*, 48:13-16). However, on July 12, 1945 Denton found a Cowbird egg in an Indigo Bunting nest at Augusta and later noted that the first midsummer flocks contained adult birds as well as young birds. His conclusion was that the Cowbird must be a fairly common breeding bird in some parts of Georgia (*Oriole*, 11:24-27, 1946).—RICHARD A. PARKS, 3754 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Ga.

THE BARRED OWL IN ATLANTA.—A Barred Owl (*Strix varia georgica*) was seen about 6:15 p. m. December 14, 1946 in the tall oak trees just back of my home on Wildwood Road, N. E. It flew from the first perch in about 5-6 minutes and went about 200 feet, remaining several minutes. I had thought I heard an owl call a few days before but was never certain of it. On March 1, 1947, probably the same Barred Owl was observed in the patch of woods on surrounding property, also near my home. It seemed to fly from the ground into a large pine tree where it was clearly seen. Again on March 5 I saw the bird perched about 6:40 p. m., a little after sundown. It flew over our home, rested shortly, then flew into a wooded ravine across the street. The bird never gave any of its loud characteristic hooting calls.

This is only the second time that I have ever seen the Barred Owl in life in the Atlanta area. One was seen in flight on a Christmas bird count a few years ago near South River.—RAY C. WERNER, Atlanta, Ga.

MARSH HAWKS RESPONDING TO PEAK ABUNDANCE OF COTTON RATS.—It is well known that many small mammals undergo pronounced cycles of abundance being quite rare in some years and very abundant in others. The cause of these cycles is not definitely known although it is believed that animals build up to a peak over a period of one or more favorable years and then "crash" or decline very rapidly due to disease. Some cycles are regular in length, others, as the cotton rat in the south, appear to be irregular. While predators are not believed to play a major role in bringing on a decline of rodents they are naturally attracted to large populations.

During the fall and winter of 1946-47 cotton rats (*Signodon hispidus*) were more abundant at Athens than in any of five years that we have been carrying out systematic trapping operations. In a large broom-grass field near the campus cotton rats were estimated to be 60 to 100 per acre on the basis of quadrats set out in February. In this field a large number of Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus hudsonius*) congregated during the late winter, far more than we have ever noted in this location previously. The hawks roosted in depressions in the grass usually near tops of hills. Nine of these roosting places were counted on February 9 and as many as three birds could be seen flying over

the field at one time. Most of the roosting places contained many pellets which on examination proved to contain in all cases the remains of cotton rats. In fact, nothing but cotton rat bones and skulls was found in a series of 50 pellets brought to the laboratory for examination.—EUGENE P. ODUM, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

THE LINING OF HUMMINGBIRDS' NESTS.—Only one person with whom I discussed it seemed sure of the material used by the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) to line its nest. This person stated that the lining was made of the small patch of soft material found at the base of each pinna of the cinnamon fern. There is so little of this material at each spot that I questioned this statement until recently.

Last summer while I was teaching a nature course at the Huckleberry Artist Colony near Hendersonville, N. C., one of my students, a keen observer of birds, watched a Ruby-throated Hummingbird collecting this material on two different days. The observer was within ten feet of the cinnamon ferns, so there could be no mistake as to the material being gathered.—MABEL T. ROGERS, Milledgeville, Ga.

BIRDS OBSERVED ON A THREE-DAY FIELD TRIP INTO COASTAL GEORGIA.—Between April 24 and April 27, 1947 the ornithology class from the University of Georgia traveled over a large part of the Coastal Plain of Georgia, making a detailed study of the avifauna in that area. This class consisted of H. V. Autry, A. G. Oliver, and the writer, and was under the supervision of its instructor, Dr. E. P. Odum.

From Athens on the 24th the party, including a field botany group, proceeded to Brunswick where the first night was spent. The following day this area and St. Simon's and Sea Islands were covered thoroughly; ecological communities studied in these areas included: salt marsh, where Willets and Boat-tailed Grackles abounded; palmetto-pine area, in which Towhees, Yellowthroats, and Painted Buntings were seen; and open seashore. Here we found a large concentration of shore birds, including Black Skimmers, Oyster-catchers, many terns and sandpipers, and a few plovers. From Brunswick the group then moved on to Camp Cornelia on the eastern side of the Okefenokee Swamp. On the 26th the swamp was entered by boat for a distance of about six miles, and many interesting species of birds were observed within and around the swamp. Ecological communities investigated here were: pine-gallberry forest; live oak-pine forest, in which we found woodpeckers, warblers, and other species which prefer the mixed habitat; and various areas in the swamp such as "houses" or islands, "prairies", etc. One short trip was made to St. Mary's, but only a few new birds were seen there.

Although nothing spectacular was observed during this field trip, 126 species were counted, and as a matter of reference for future work in any of these areas, some of the more interesting species are listed below.

Brunswick, St. Simon's and Sea Islands (April 25)—Bald Eagle, Oyster-catcher, Piping, Semipalmated, and Wilson's Plovers, Hudsonian Curlew, Dow-



itcher, six terns (Common, Forster's, Gull-billed, Royal, Caspian, and Least), Cedar Waxwing, Black-poll Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Savannah and White-throated Sparrows.

Okefenokee Swamp and areas around Camp Cornelia (April 26-27)—Cooper's Hawk, Osprey (nest), Florida Crane (two birds), Spotted Sandpiper, Robin (one bird seen and another reported on Chesser Island), Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Oven-bird, Redstart, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Pine Siskin (three birds seen flying overhead).

On this extended trip into the Coastal Plain of Georgia special emphasis was placed upon various species of birds and the biological and ecological communities associated with them. Some scientific collecting was done by the writer to determine certain races of birds whose distribution is still not fully known.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Dept of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.*

#### NEW LITERATURE

FORTY-FIVE YEARS WITH THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP, 1900-1945. By John M. Hopkins. Georgia Society of Naturalists, Bulletin No. 4, 70 pp. Illustrated. \$1.00.

Those who are interested in a personalized historical account of life and developments in the Okefenokee will find this bulletin pleasant reading filled with valuable information. Essentially it is the story of lumbering in the swamp.

Divided into seven sections, each dealing with a different phase of information, this bulletin rambles along with little attention to literary style and sentence structure, but it is always readable and interesting. Mr. Hopkins recounts the old tales of the swamp, tells of various deals which have resulted in the present boundary lines of the swamp, and gives a running account of his experiences in logging camps throughout the Okefenokee. Excellent photographs add much to the bulletin.

Perhaps the best of the writing appears with the author's description of the swamp itself. In it he reveals his deep knowledge of and appreciation for the trees, birds, and wildlife found there. His section on "Recommendations for Future Government Management" is well worth reading, the suggestions being sound and logical, having evolved themselves out of actual experience.

The bulletin's last paragraph is a very fitting conclusion: "It would be difficult to express in a few words the impression left upon my mind by Okefenokee, so I shall not attempt it, but I like the wording used by a little Belgian lady after a day in the Swamp, when she said to me, 'O, Mr. Hopkins! It is wonderful! It reminds me so much of something I have never seen!'"

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS AND TERNS: ORDER LONGIPENNES. By Arthur Cleveland Bent. Reprinted. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. Pp. xii + 333. \$5.00

This is a so-called "unrevised reprint" of Bent's "Gulls and Terns", first published in 1921 as U. S. National Museum Bulletin 113. However, all illustrations and the twelve pages (pp. 329-340) of "explanation of plates" which gave considerable amount of detailed data have been left out of the reprint. The introduction has been slightly altered in order to omit all reference to the illustrations, but the main body of text has been reproduced very faithfully. For those who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a copy of the scarce early bulletin this will serve satisfactorily in filling out your set of Bent's "Bulletins".

#### NEWS

FALL MEETING.—The seventeenth semiannual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held in Atlanta on October 4 and 5, 1947, with a total registration of 69 members and guests.

The meeting opened with a morning session beginning at 10:15 a. m., October 4, in the Church School Building at Emory University. Mr. Kenneth Lewis, director of the Fernbank Children's Museum in Atlanta, showed his motion pictures on European birds. Other films shown were "Haunts for the Hunted", dealing with wildlife on the federal game refuges, and "The Western Grebe", portraying some aspects of the life history of this species.

At 2:00 p. m. in the same building the business session was called to order by the vice president, Mr. William Griffin. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, second vice president, reported that twenty-four new members had been added during 1947, and Augusta, Athens, and Milledgeville had doubled their membership. (see list p. 56).

Miss Blanche Tait, chairman of the constitutional revision committee, reported for that group and read in its entirety a proposed new set of by-laws for the Society. Mr. Ray Werner moved and Mr. Lucien Harris seconded the motion that the Society adopt the by-laws as proposed by Miss Tait. In the course of discussion several amendments were proposed and accepted, after which the original motion for adoption was placed to a vote and carried unanimously. (see below).

Mr. Ralph Ramsey, in the absence of Dr. Sam Anderson, nomination committee chairman, then presented ballots containing the names of nominees for office. Ballots were marked and collected.

Three outstanding members were then introduced: Mr. Harold Peters, Mr. Thomas D. Burleigh, and Mr. Herbert Stoddard. Mr. Peters told of the sharp decline in the number of wild ducks and geese and the necessity of legislation; Mr. Burleigh told of his new position in Idaho and of plans for the completion of his treatise on Georgia birds; Mr. Stoddard very graciously acceded his time to Mr. Burleigh for further comment, after which the session was adjourned.



Those who cared to go were shown the Emory University Museum housing the La Prade Collection of Birds and Eggs, and the Fernbank Children's Museum. Exhibits on display in the Church School Building included a fine collection of old bird prints, bird skins, photographs by Horace Cantrell and Richard Parks, and paintings by Richard Parks.

At 7:30 P. M. members and friends assembled in the Emory Cafeteria for the banquet. Miss Mabel Rogers, president, expressed appreciation to Mr. William Griffin and the Atlanta Bird Club for their hospitality. Mr. Ralph Ramsey then reported the results of the election of officers. Those elected to office for the ensuing two years were as follows:

President—William W. Griffin  
 First Vice President—Miss Malvina Trussell  
 Second Vice President—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris  
 Secretary—Mrs. Lucille T. Rotchford  
 Treasurer—Ray C. Werner  
 Librarian—Robert Norris

Miss Rogers thanked the out-going officers for their cooperation after which Mr. William Griffin introduced Mr. Harold Peters the speaker for the evening. Mr. Peters spoke on Newfoundland and its bird life while showing several reels of motion pictures in color on this subject.

Sunday morning at 8:00 a group of about 30 members met at the Master Grill in North Fulton Park for the field trip. After observation in small groups in the vicinity of the park every one assembled at 11:30 to compile a list of forty-eight species. This concluded a very happy and interesting fall meeting.

#### BY-LAWS OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

##### Article I. NAME

The name of this society shall be the GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

##### Article II. OBJECTIVES.

The objectives of this society shall be:

- a. To secure the cooperation of the various bird students and clubs over the state in gathering and disseminating accurate information concerning bird life in Georgia.
- b. To promote interest in and appreciation of the value of birds both aesthetic and economic, in order to insure wiser conservation of our bird life.
- c. To stimulate and unite public sentiment toward legislative enactment for bird protection.
- d. To provide opportunity for acquaintance and fellowship among those interested in nature.

#### Article III. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Membership in this society shall consist of the following classes:

- a. Associate member: annual dues one dollar.
- b. Regular member: annual dues two dollars.
- c. Sustaining member: annual dues five dollars.
- d. Garden Club membership: annual dues five dollars.
- e. Life member: twenty-five dollars.
- f. Patron: one hundred dollars payable at one time.

Section 2. The privileges of membership are the same for all classes except that associate members shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office.

#### Article IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, regional vice-presidents not to exceed fifteen in number, secretary, treasurer, editor, and librarian.

Section 2. The above named officers shall be elected biennially at the fall meeting of the society and shall serve for a term of two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur through an officer's death, resignation, or removal from the state of Georgia, the society may elect a successor to such an officer at any regular meeting.

Section 3. The newly elected officers shall be installed at the close of the semi-annual meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4. At the spring meeting of the year in which a new slate of officers is to be elected, the members shall indicate by secret ballot their preference for officers, said ballots to be tabulated by a nominating committee appointed by the president. At the following fall meeting the nominating committee in the exercise of sound discretion and after due consideration of the preferences of the members, shall nominate one person for each office and shall present for election such nominations to the membership in attendance. This section shall not be construed as preventing nominations from the floor at any regular election.

#### Article V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the society; enforce a due observance of the by-laws; call all special meetings; appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and perform such other duties as his office may require. He shall make no motion or amendment, nor vote on any question or motion, unless the society be equally divided, when he shall give the deciding vote.

Section 2. The first vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence. He shall further arrange the program of the two yearly meetings in cooperation with the local committee.



Section 3. The second vice-president shall be chairman of the membership committee, assisting the regional vice-presidents in obtaining new members and organizing new clubs. He shall also secure reports of activities from the regional vice-presidents for the general meetings.

Section 4. The regional vice-presidents shall plan and preside at regular meetings held in their territories; promote field activities; arrange for delegations to state meetings; cooperate with the secretary in providing for publicity in local papers and clubs; encourage Junior Audubon societies; enroll new members.

Section 5. The secretary shall keep records of all meetings; notify members of meetings; get reports of activities of officers; authorize publicity; promote the welfare of the society in general.

Section 6. The treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the society; keep an account of all dues, and of all receipts and expenditures; notify each member when his dues are payable. He shall place funds received from life memberships and patrons in the Publications Fund. He shall report the state of the treasury at the semi-annual meetings. At the close of the two year term of office his books shall be audited by a group of three, chosen by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The editor shall perform all duties necessary for the proper publication of *The Oriole* and *Occasional Papers of the Georgia Ornithological Society*.

Section 8. The librarian shall keep a scrap book of clippings and photographs. He shall file radio scripts, exchanges, and copies of publications of the club and individual members.

#### Article VI. MEETINGS.

Section 1. The semi-annual meetings shall be held during one week-end in the spring and one in the fall, the exact dates to be chosen by the Executive Committee in cooperation with the local arrangements committee from the locality selected as a meeting place.

Section 2. The place of meeting shall be chosen by the Executive Committee.

#### Article VII. PUBLICATIONS.

Section 1. The society shall issue a quarterly publication as a means of furthering the objectives of the organization. This publication shall be called *The Oriole*.

Section 2. The Staff of this magazine shall consist of the editor, a business manager, and such other assistants as may be necessary. These assistants shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The society may issue and sell separate publications to be known as *Occasional Papers of the Georgia Ornithological Society* upon a majority vote of the members attending any regular meeting.

#### Article VIII. COMMITTEES.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of all the officers. In case of wide distribution of the officers, the Executive Committee shall be composed of president, secretary, and treasurer together with five additional members selected by said officers. Its duties shall be to correlate the work of all other committees, to advise the president and other officers, and to perform such other functions as are designated in the by-laws.

Section 2. The Finance Committee shall be composed of the treasurer, secretary, and business manager of *The Oriole*. The duties of this committee shall be:

- a. To approve disbursement of all funds.
- b. To present a budget at the fall meeting each year.
- c. To formulate plans for raising funds when needed.

#### Article IX. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any semi-annual meeting by two-thirds vote of the members present.

Section 2. Every proposed amendment to the by-laws shall be submitted in writing to the president, who shall publish the same to the society.

#### NEW G. O. S. MEMBERS

Our membership continues to increase steadily. During the past year twenty-four new members were added while only five were lost from death or resignations. We welcome these new members and hope that they will participate as far as possible in the activities of the Society.

#### LIFE MEMBER

Dr. Lawrence E. Hicks, 8 Chatham Road, Columbus, Ohio.

#### MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Donald Ambrosen, Round Oak, Ga.  
 Mr. H. V. Autry, Plainville, Ga.  
 Major Richard B. Belser, Ward 1, Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, Ga.  
 Mrs. K. G. Berrie, Board of Trade, Brunswick, Ga.  
 Mrs. Elizabeth K. Brickman, 769 Penn Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
 Mr. Ralph E. Calhoun, 425 Second Ave., Albany, Ga.  
 Mr. Eugene H. Driver, 218 Scott Bldg., Thomasville, Ga.  
 Mr. Harry G. Greene, 1306 Piedmont Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
 Mr. Roy A. Grizzell, 419 S. McDonough St., Decatur, Ga.  
 Mr. Lee R. Herndon, 1533 Burgie Place, Elizabethton, Tenn.



Mrs. Warren T. Jackson, 642 Seminole Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
Mr. J. T. King, Sr., 405 W. McIntosh St., Milledgeville, Ga.  
Mr. David Knowles, 903 Glen Arden Way, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
Miss Clara Morris, Milledgeville, Ga.  
Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.  
Mrs. N. D. Pinkston, Pinkston's Pharmacy, Tifton, Ga.  
Miss Angie E. Puckette, American Red Cross, 1709 Washington Ave., St. Louis.  
Mr. Hollis T. Ross, 29 South Second St., Lewisburg, Pa.  
Miss Bonnie D. Sansom, Tigner House, Milledgeville, Ga.  
Miss Sara Singleton, Clayton, Ga.  
Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, 1434 Morningside Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
Mr. Paul B. Smith, Box 358, LaGrange, Ga.  
Miss Barbara Woodward, Wolcott St., Le Roy, N. Y.

#### 1948 DUES

Membership dues for 1948 are due January 1. We regret that because of the great increase in the cost of printing and paper it will be impossible to send you the January issue of *The Oriole* until your dues for the year are paid. Please give attention to this matter NOW.