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AN AERIAL SEARCH FOR ROOKERIES IN SOUTH CENTRAL GEORGIA

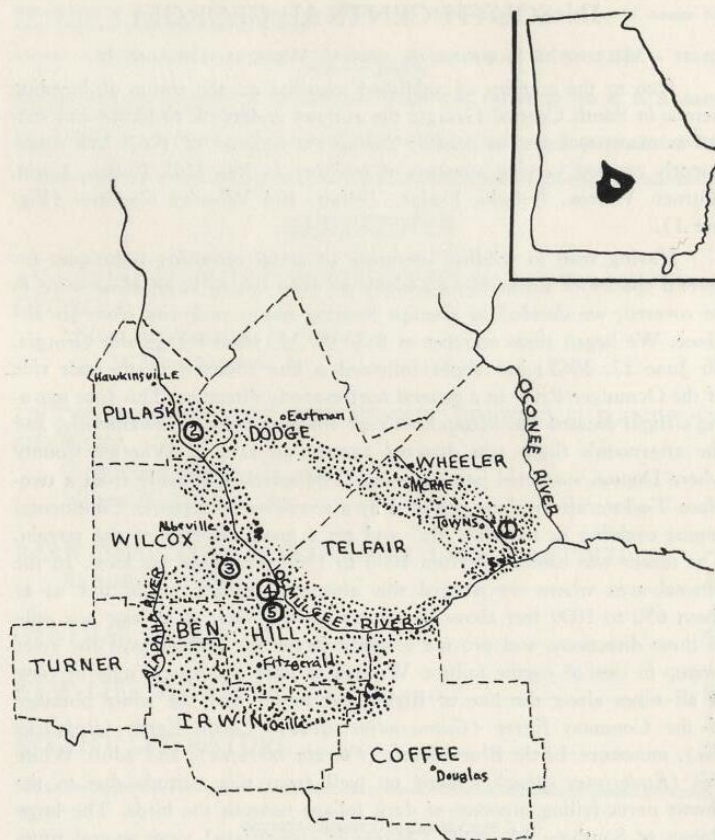
MILTON N. HOPKINS, JR. AND C. WILLIAM DOPSON, JR.

Due to the scarcity of published material on the status of breeding herons in South Central Georgia the authors undertook to locate and census as many rookeries as possible during the summer of 1967. We subsequently covered varying amounts of territory in Ben Hill, Coffee, Irwin, Turner, Wilcox, Pulaski, Dodge, Telfair, and Wheeler Counties (Figure 1).

Having read in wildlife literature of aerial censusing techniques for several species of mammals, especially in cases where large areas were to be covered, we decided to attempt locating heron rookeries from an airplane. We began these searches at 8:30 A. M. from Fitzgerald, Georgia, on June 17, 1967; our flight followed a line adjacent to the east side of the Ocmulgee River in a general northeasterly direction. This first morning's flight located the Mosquito Creek Rookery below Hawkinsville, and the afternoon's flight was directed toward an area in Wheeler County where Dopson suspected heron nesting. The search was made from a two-place Taylorcraft airplane powered by a sixty-five horsepower Continental engine enabling us to "slow fly" and get a good coverage of the terrain. The search was conducted from 1000 to 1500 feet above sea level. In the general area where we worked this altimeter reading would put us at about 650 to 1000 feet above the terrain, give a view of at least one mile in three directions, and provide a safety factor for getting over the river swamp in case of engine failure. We had at least one square mile in view at all times along the line of flight, and found that the white plumage of the Common Egret (*Casimirodus albus*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), immature Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*), and adult White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) showed up well from this altitude due to the almost never-failing presence of dark foliage beneath the birds. The large blooms of Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) were several times confused with the white plumage of these birds, but a closer look and the absence of movement quickly showed their true identity. We had hoped to locate the exact position of rookeries from the air and then visit them on foot. While rookeries can be located by airplane, no claim is made that they can be completely censused from the air; most nets of the Cattle Eg-

ret and Little Blue Heron are partially concealed by overtopping foliage; however, a fairly close approximation of Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) nest numbers can be made from above as these large nests stand out well in the crowns of the tall cypress (*Taxodium spp.*) trees.

To an untrained eye, such things as distances, type of vegetation and its density, and the condition of roads are very difficult to ascertain from



Stippled area intensively searched.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Spring Hill Rookery | 3. Forest Glen Rookery |
| 2. Mosquito Creek Rookery | 4. Bowens Mill Rookery |
| 5. Abandoned Bowens Mill Rookery | |

the air. Subsequent experience in attempting to locate one of these rookeries on foot convinced us that some better method of pinpointing them was necessary, so a Polaroid camera picture of the rookery from 1500 to 2000 feet was tried. A picture from this altitude would show the river course, public roads, and a building or so that could be located by vehicle, and if the compass heading of the aircraft was noted at the time of picture exposure it would likewise be valuable in a ground search.

Literally hundreds of square miles of South Georgia can be censused or searched with a fair degree of accuracy in a morning's flight since lime sinks and cypress fats can be seen from several miles away. Almost all other topographical features and land uses can be ascertained and discounted as far as heron rookery use is concerned, since all rookeries we have found have been in these natural water holding areas, away from farm ponds, and generally in what can loosely be called "wildland". We have found no evidence of nesting in man-made ponds, whether or not they contained living trees. A good pair of binoculars with large objective lens can be usefully employed in looking ahead of a projected line of flight at a heron beneath you and also for getting some close-ups of the actual rookery. Aerial sectional charts (Jacksonville and Savannah) and county highway maps of the counties flown also proved useful.

MOSQUITO CREEK ROOKERY — This rookery was first suspected in June of 1966 when Dopson conducted a breeding bird survey in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At that time he noted numerous Cattle Egrets and two adult White Ibis seemingly flying from a central location. From several points he noted the direction of flight and roughly approximated the "central location" from which the birds were coming.

With this observation in mind the authors located the suspected rookery from the air on June 17, 1967. The rookery is in a natural pond, probably a lime sink, in southeast Pulaski County between Georgia Highway 230 and the Ocmulgee River, about 2½ to 3 miles from the river. From the vantage point of the plane we could distinguish approximately eight occupied Great Blue Heron nests and a number of occupied Cattle Egret nests. We could also distinguish Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*), Common Egrets, Little Blue Herons, and White Ibis, but could not associate them with any nests. The following day the authors attempted, without success, to locate this rookery on foot. On June 19, 1967, Hopkins photographed the rookery and the surrounding territory from 1500 to 2000 feet. With the information attained from the photographs the rookery was located on foot on July 3, 1967. On that date the authors and Milton Hopkins III censused the rookery. Only eleven nests were then occupied: six Cattle Egret

with young, one Little Blue Heron with young, two Great Blue Heron with two and three young each and one Anhinga with two young. One other nest, probably that of a Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), contained eggs. Approximately 275 nests very probably occupied earlier this year were located. From the size and structure they were Cattle Egret and/or Little Blue Heron nests. Eight recently occupied Anhinga nests and seven recently occupied Great Blue Heron nests were also located. Several other nests, evidently White Ibis, were located. Among the trees in and around the rookery at least fifty young White Ibis were seen. They were apparently young from this rookery. For details see "Extension of the White Ibis Breeding Range in Georgia" in this issue of *The Oriole*.

The evident woody vegetation consisted of Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii*), Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*), Pondcypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), Bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*), Virginia-Willow (*Itea virginica*), Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*), Poison Ivy, (*Rhus radicans*), Titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*), Myrtleleaf Holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Tupelo (*Nyssa spp.*), *Lyonia*, and Buttonbush (*Cephalanthis occidentalis*). Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia cordata*) grew abundantly around the edge of the pond, and the surface of the water was covered with Duckweed (*Lemna sp.*).

The Great Blue Heron nests were located in large Baldcypress about 40 to 50 feet above the water, while the smaller heron nests were 5 to 15 feet above the water and located in Slash Pine, Bayberry, Swamp Rose, Titi, Tupelo, and Buttonbush. The Anhinga nests varied from 3 to 30 feet above the water and were built in Slash Pine, Baldcypress, Bayberry and Tupelo.

At present this rookery probably represents the most inland known location in Georgia for nesting Cattle Egret, White Ibis, and Anhinga.

SPRING HILL ROOKERY — A rookery in the vicinity of this one was first suspected as early as the summer of 1963. At that time Frank Thompson, Jr., Reese Thompson, and Dopson tried without success to locate the rookery. With the general vicinity in mind the present authors located this rookery from the air on June 17, 1967. It is located in Wheeler County in the forks of Alligator Creek and Gum Swamp Creek, approximately one mile from their confluence. After spotting it from the air, we visited the rookery on foot a few hours later and made a rough census.

The active rookery, located in a lime sink pond, covered approximately four acres, although adjacent to this was a wet boggy area covering perhaps 15 to 20 acres. All of the nesting area was over water 2½ to 3 feet

deep. The common woody plants of the pond consisted of Tupelo, Red Maple, Pondcypress, Bayberry, Slash Pine, Loblolly Pine, Myrtleleaf Holly, and Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*). Pickerel Weed was common along the margin of the pond; the surface of the water was covered with Duckweed. Four Green Heron nests were found, one with young, and three with eggs. Approximately 150 Little Blue Heron nests were found. An estimated 35 to 40% were in the egg stage, and 60 to 65% contained young. Some of the young were capable of making short flights. These as well as the Cattle Egret nests probably averaged about 8 feet above the water. About 276 nests of the Cattle Egret were noted; the percentage of nest stage development approximated that of the Little Blue Heron. At least five Common Egret nests were found. These larger nests were located higher (15 to 20 feet above the water) than the majority of the Little Blue or Cattle Egret nests. All the Common Egret nests contained young, varying in number from two to four, several of which were capable of making short flights. Two Anhinga nests, both containing young with buff-colored down and short dark flight feathers, were also in the rookery. The nests, one with two young and the other with three, were about 8 feet above the surface of the water.

BOWENS MILL ROOKERY — The flight up the eastern side of the Ocmulgee River on June 17 by-passed this rookery. It was located by Hopkins on a return flight from the Mosquito Creek Rookery down the west side of the river on June 19, 1967. This rookery is located in a cypress-filled circular lime sink of about 15 acres extent in Wilcox County about ¼ mile NNW of the State Fish Hatchery at Bowens Mill. The occupied rookery covers only about one acre of the pond. In 1967 approximately 99% of the nests were located at an average height of 8 feet above the water in Ogeechee Tupelo (*Nyssa ogeche*) and about 1% were placed in small Pondcypress. The depth of the water under the rookery was 1½ to 3 feet deep. Occupied nests, either in egg or nestling stages, were counted by a mechanical tally meter. An estimate of the breakdown of nest condition shows 65% in egg stage, 30% in very young nestling stage, and 5% in advanced nestling stage. An actual count of 611 active nests was made and showed 586 Cattle Egret nests with over 300 adults present, 25 Little Blue Heron nests with over 35 adults present (no subadults—white-plumaged individuals—were seen), and three Green Heron nests with eggs. Over 15 nests of the common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) were found in the rookery area. Two adult Anhinga and one immature White Ibis were seen in the rookery also.

FOREST GLEN ROOKERY — This small rookery in the midst of hundreds of small to 100-acre size cypress flats was located from the air

by Hopkins also on June 19, 1967. It is approximately 3 miles WNW of Forest Glen (a former post office on U. S. Highway 129 between Bowens Mill and Abbeville) in Wilcox County. It is interesting to note that the present Bowens Mill Rookery is about 5 miles SSE of here and that the now abandoned Bowens Mill rookery as reported by Hopkins (*Oriole*, 7:34) in 1942 is approximately 6 miles south of here.

This rookery is located in about a 1 acre area on the NE side of a 50-acre cypress flat. All of the nests with the exception of one Anhinga nest were located in 50 to 60 foot cypress trees on the topmost part of the crown. By actual count the rookery was composed of eleven Great Blue Heron nests, twelve Common Egret nests, and ten Anhinga nests. All nests were in an advanced nestling stage with large well-feathered young standing on the nests and nearby branches. A couple of broods of the Common Egret and Anhinga were making short flights but not leaving nearby trees. Whereas Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons flushed at the slightest provocation and were quite noisy about it, Great Blues and Common Egrets were quite tolerant of the presence of the observer, several adults not even flushing from nest trees as he sloshed in the water beneath them. Some of the cypress trees contained two nests. One Anhinga nest with four young was located over 100 yards from the other group in a 20-foot cypress; the young's flight feathers were almost all present.

Within the general area of the Duckweed and Water-lily (*Nymphaea* sp.) covered pond were 30 to 40 Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), 20 Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*), and 25 wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*). One of the ducks was in eclipse plumage and unable to take flight. There were also 15 adult White Ibises and 18 adult Wood Ibises (*Mycteria americana*). There was no indication that the last two species are nesting at this rookery. Other plants in the 2 to 5 foot deep water were Pickerel Weed, Arum (*Peltandra* sp.), Buttonbush, and Sawgrass (*Mariscus* sp.).

DISCUSSION

Mortality evidently is not a serious problem in any of the rookeries. In the Spring Hill site less than five adults were noted hanging dead from limbs, having either entangled themselves and starved or died from other causes. Nestling mortality was less than a dozen out of over 400 nests. At the Bowens Mill rookery no dead adults were seen and only five young were found dead. No mortality was seen in the Forest Glen or Mosquito Creek sites.

The lopsided numerical ratios of Cattle Egrets to Little Blue Herons within the rookeries gives one pause to contemplate the possibility of competition between our native Little Blues and the rapidly expanding new-

comer, the Cattle Egret. Because of diet differences there seems to be no competition in feeding, but there could be competition for nesting sites between these two species. It is evident that for some reasons, perhaps hereditary imprinting, colonial nesting instinct, or whatever, not all of the suitable nesting trees in each rookery were used. We saw no fighting or territorial aggressiveness in the sites. Certainly the amazing population growth of the Cattle Egret is having a marked affect on composition of Georgia heronries.

SUMMARY

In an attempt to locate as many rookeries— as possible in a limited time the authors searched all or portions of nine counties in South Central Georgia during the summer of 1967 from a light airplane. Four heretofore unknown rookeries were located in about two days of flying. These rookeries were later visited and censused on foot. The Little Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Common Egret, White Ibis and Anhinga were found nesting.

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EXTENSION OF THE WHITE IBIS BREEDING RANGE IN GEORGIA

C. WILLIAM DOPSON, JR. AND MILTON N. HOPKINS, JR.

In Georgia the White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) is considered by Burleigh (1958. Georgia Birds. U. of Okla. Press. Norman, Okla.) to be a common breeder on the coast and in the Okefenokee Swamp. Elsewhere in the state he regarded it as a visitor. During the summer of 1967 the White Ibis has been found nesting in three rookeries in the Upper Coastal Plain of Georgia.

On June 24, 1967, while censusing the rookery at McKinney's Pond in Emanuel County, ten White Ibis nests were found by Dopson and his party. The nests, more cupped than heron nests and partially lined with leaves and grass, were located at the edge of the active rookery, though a few herons were nesting within the small colony of ibises. The height of the nests, built in either Tupelo (*Nyssa* sp.) or Buttonbush (*Cephalanthis occidentalis*), varied from about two to ten feet above the surface of the water. Two nests contained one egg each, five nests contained two each, and three nests contained three eggs each. During the time we were present about fifteen adult White Ibises were present in and around the rookery. Also found were seven Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) nests, eighteen Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) nests, fifteen Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) nests, two Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*) nests, and one Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nest. Ronald Pulliam, Wayne Kuenzel, Nancy Taylor, Sam Marshall, Marc Mason*, and Vince Nabholtz* helped in the censusing of this rookery.

On this same date another rookery was found within a mile of the known rookery at McKinney's Pond; we have called it the New McKinney's Pond Rookery. Twenty-five White Ibis nests were found here. Again they were located in Tupelo and Buttonbush and varied in height from about six to ten feet above the water. Three nests contained one egg each, thirteen nests contained two each, five contained three eggs each, three contained two young each, and two contained three young each. In addition three Anhinga nests, 174 Cattle Egret nests, and seventeen Little Blue Heron nests were located. Pulliam and Mason assisted Dopson in the censusing of this site.

On July 3, 1967, the writers and Milton Hopkins III discovered at least fifty young White Ibises in the Mosquito Creek Rookery in Pulaski County (for details of this rookery, see "An Aerial Search for Rookeries

*National Science Foundation Undergraduate Summer Research Participant, University of Georgia.

in South Central Georgia" in this issue of *The Oriole*). All of these birds were out of the nest, but evidently they were still dependent on the parent birds. Most of these could fly easily from tree to tree, but several had trouble making short flights even among the limbs of the larger trees. We observed young birds being fed on several occasions by adults. Several nests located in the rookery were, judging from their structure, definitely White Ibis nests. On the late date of July 3 a number of the nests, some of which must have been White Ibis nests, were beyond positive identification.

With the breeding in Emanuel County the nesting range of the White Ibis has been extended over fifty miles from the coast, and with the Pulaski colony the breeding range has been extended over ninety miles from the Okefenokee region.

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BARN SWALLOWS BREEDING AT LAKE HARTWELL

Richard H. Peake

In a recent article Peake and Baker (1967. *The Oriole*, Vol. XXXII, No. 1, March, 1-3) discussed the rapid range extension of the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) in Georgia. On July 20, 1967, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. and I made a rapid survey of swallow nesting sites on the Georgia side of Hartwell Reservoir from Hartwell Dam to Prather Bridge on Ga. Highway 184 at the upper end of the reservoir. Checking each bridge along the lake, we at each stop estimated the number of swallows present and made a quick but thorough search for nests (for the purposes of this study, nests obviously in good repair were considered to have been used in 1967 and were listed as *active*). In Hart County Barn Swallows were found at six sites, in Franklin County at no sites, and in Stephens County at three sites. The places that produced swallows are designated in the body of this paper as H-1 through H-10.

HART COUNTY --- At Hartwell Dam itself (H-1) we were not able positively to identify any nests as those of Barn Swallows, although there were on the lower part of the dam some nests that might have been the work of this species. However, as many as eight Barn Swallows were in flight at one time, and at least two of these birds appeared to be young of the year lacking the long outer tail feathers characteristic of adults. These numbers represent a definite increase over last year's population; then only one pair was seen at H-1 (See Peake and Baker).

The next site, H-2 (on Ga. Highway 77 over Lightwood Log Creek) produced no nests, but one swallow was flying about the bridge. At H-3 (Ga. Highway 51 over Flat Shoals Creek) there were two swallows in flight and twelve active nests. In one nest were two young.

Sykes and I saw at least 14 birds in flight at one time at H-4 (Ga. Highway 51 over Lightwood Log Creek) and counted eleven nests that appeared active. Three young were in one nest. Thirty-six birds were perched on telephone wires or were in flight at H-5 (Ga. Highway 59 just before its deadend on Lake Hartwell). A barn stood in the vicinity, but the majority of the swallows probably nested at nearby H-6. Such a concentration, except in migration, certainly is unusual in Georgia. At H-6 (U. S. I-85 over Lake Hartwell) we counted five adults flying, eight fledglings perched on a concrete beam, and two active nests, one of which contained four young. Additional nests were found on the South Carolina side of the bridge.

STEPHENS COUNTY --- Though no swallows were found in Franklin County, Sykes and I counted ten birds flying in Stephens County at H-8 (abandoned steel bridge off Ga. Highway 123 a mile south of H-9). We had no means of looking under the bridge for nests, but the movements of the swallows indicated the presence of several nests there. At H-9 (Ga. Highway 123 over Lake Hartwell) twelve birds were seen in flight, and there were eight active nests. One nest contained two young; a second, four young. We found fifteen birds and three active nests at H-10 (Prather Bridge, Ga. Highway 184 over Tugaloo River). Swallows had previously been reported at this location by Marie B. Mellinger—personal communication to Dr. J. Fred Denton—and R. L. Russell—personal communication to me.

These records provide a total of 36 active nests, five containing young, from Hart and Stephens Counties, together with additional evidence of breeding swallows.

In addition I wish to mention two records obtained on June 29 while I was running a breeding bird survey in Habersham and White Counties: first, a bird flying in Habersham and White Counties over the Chattahoochee River on the road to View; second, four birds in flight at a farm just beyond Shoal Creek on the road between Friendship Church and Shoal Creek Church in White County. One of these swallows was a young bird without the long outer tail feathers of adult Barn Swallows.

Swallow nests found in the northeast Georgia Piedmont have been located most often under concrete bridges extending over water. This evidence suggests to me that the impounding of reservoirs and the subsequent building of large concrete highway bridges is accelerating the expansion of the Barn Swallow's range in Georgia. Certainly the records presented in this paper indicate a rapid increase of the Barn Swallow along the Georgia edge of Lake Hartwell. Probably a similar expansion is occurring on the South Carolina side of Hartwell Lake.

Young Barn Swallows who are reared in nests over water would be at a definite disadvantage if they left the nest too soon. However, young swallows evidently are able to prepare themselves for flight very well on the ledges of concrete highway bridges. The young swallows remain in the nest until their outer wing primaries are mature. Then the birds apparently practice flight in short spurts. I observed eight young birds engaged in flight practice at H-6. These young were lined up along a concrete beam; one at a time, apparently in succession, each bird flew up and out at a sixty degree angle, turned, and glided back to its perch. This procedure evidently permits a maximum of practice with a minimum of risk.

SUMMARY

Observations of Barn Swallows in northeastern Georgia during 1967 offer additional evidence of an increase of this species in the region. The creation of Hartwell Lake and the subsequent building of many highway bridges over the lake seem to be accelerating this increase.

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GENERAL NOTES

WILSON'S WARBLER WINTERING IN CLARKE COUNTY — On Jan. 21, 1967, James Richardson carefully observed a small warbler on the University of Georgia campus near the tracks of the Central of Georgia Railroad. Identifying this bird as a Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*), Richardson contacted Richard H. Peake, Jr.; later the two went to the area, part of a cleared right-of-way where a new street was being constructed through what had been a mixed pine and deciduous woods (dominated by *Quercus* and *Carya* species) bordering the railroad track. Responding to "squeaking" noises, the warbler appeared in the tangles of honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and sumac (*Rhus* sp.) immediately below the track. For about thirty minutes the observers followed the bird, which moved warily through the area emitting a *chip* obviously different from the notes of the Myrtle Warblers (*Dendroica coronata*) also present. When the observers finally obtained several good views of the bird, Richardson's earlier identification appeared correct. To Peake the bird seemed to agree with the description of the first winter plumage of the species given by A. C. Bent (1962. *Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers*. Part II. Dover Publications, Inc. N. Y., p. 629): (In July) "The black cap is acquired, veiled with brownish feather tips; the upper parts become bright olive green; the forehead, sides of the head, and the under parts become lemon yellow." On Jan. 23 C. William Dopson, Jr., accompanied Richardson to the area and collected the warbler, which is now No. 2847 in the University of Georgia collection. Apparently these observations and the collected specimen comprise the first winter record of the Wilson's Warbler for Georgia.—C. William Dopson, Jr., Dept. of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia; and Richard H. Peake, Jr., 342 Milledge Terrace, Athens, Georgia, 30601.

LARK BUNTINGS AT ATHENS, GEORGIA — During the past year, Lark Buntings (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) have appeared on two occasions at Athens. It is interesting that the sightings occurred seven months apart in almost precisely the same spot - a pasture behind the beef cattle barns south of the University of Georgia campus. The first bird was seen by the author on February 22, 1967, feeding with two Savannah Sparrows in a clump of weeds at the edge of the pasture. It was still present on February 25, at which time it was collected by William Dopson. The bird, a female weighing 33.35 grams, appeared to be in good condition except for a large tick on its throat. The specimen is now #2869 in the University of Georgia collection.

The second Lark Bunting appeared in the same pasture on September 3, 1967, where it fed on the ground under the cattle feed troughs with a

flock of several hundred house sparrows. Like the first specimen, it was streaked with brown below, and showed prominent white patches in flight, as smaller white areas in each corner of the tail. No attempt was made to collect it.

A review of pertinent literature (Burleigh's 1958 *Georgia Birds*, as well as *The Oriole* and *Audubon Field Notes* from 1958-present) indicates that these are the second and third records of the Lark Bunting in Georgia. The first occurred on Tybee Island on June 27, 1952. — Elliott J. Tramer, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30601.

SOLITARY VIREO BREEDING IN GREENE COUNTY — In "The Breeding Distribution of the Least Flycatcher and Solitary Vireo in Georgia" (1962. *The Oriole*, Vol. XXVII, No. 1, March, 1-6) J. Fred Denton summarized the breeding records for the Solitary Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) in this state. The evidence presented by Denton indicated breeding populations of the Solitary Vireo close to the Fall Line in Jones and Upson Counties to the west and in Columbia, McDuffie, and Wilkes Counties to the east. Between these populations, no breeding birds of this species had been reported south of Clarke County. However, on June 26, 1967, I obtained a breeding record for the Solitary Vireo from southwestern Greene County on Georgia Highway 44 about 300 yards west of Richland Creek. While running a breeding bird survey line, I heard what I thought to be a Solitary Vireo singing in a stand of mature short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*). The lack of understory made locating and viewing the bird at close range fairly easy. Later, after finishing the survey line, I returned to Richland Creek. The vireo was still singing and moving about the same area and definitely appeared to be on territory. Staying about 15 yards ahead of me, the bird moved back and forth in a rectangle about fifty yards long and twenty-five yards wide, making repeated visits to an especially large pine tree on the edge of the pine stand. The third time the vireo visited this tree, the sounds of a second adult and young birds were audible, and a second adult appeared briefly. Although the nest itself was not visible, the calls of the young birds seemed to come from a branch about thirty-five feet from the ground. Even though I did not actually see the nest and young, I feel that the observations presented here are sufficient to provide a breeding record for the Solitary Vireo in Greene County.—Richard H. Peake, Jr., 342 Milledge Terrace, Athens, Georgia, 30601.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE IN AUGUSTA — Mississippi Kites, *Ictinia mississippiensis*, are frequently seen hawking for insects over the Augusta Airport (Bush Field) in the late spring and summer. On July 30, 1967, four birders of the Augusta Bird Club were working the levee, southeast-

ward toward Bush Field. Kites were seen back of the levee, swooping and soaring over the cultivated fields and pastures. At about 10:00 A. M., an unusual Kite was noted in the group of about half a dozen. The deeply forked swallow tail of the bird was evident when viewed through 7X binoculars. The bird was more closely examined with a 20X scope. The larger size, prominent black and white markings, and forked tail assured us that we were seeing a Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*. The bird eventually disappeared from sight behind the tree line.

By about 1:00 P. M. we had arrived at the airport. Hawking over the short grass on the field were twelve Mississippi Kites. Very soon, the Swallow-tailed Kite was spotted. We watched the bird for about one-half hour thru 7X and 10X glasses. The range varied from 50 to 500 yards and sometimes greater distances. The identification was positive, since the field marks were distinct. The identification was checked in both Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* and *Birds of North America* by Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer.

About ten days later, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at the airport by Miss Ellen Merry.

Consultation with Dr. J. Fred Denton revealed that this bird had not been reported in the Augusta area since May 26 and 27, 1943.

The initial observers of this bird were Mr. and Mrs. John Koch, Mrs. Jeannine Angerman, and T. M. Rial.—T. M. Rial, 791 Boardman Road, Aiken, S. C. 29801

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

MISS ELLEN MERRY: The Georgia Ornithological Society welcomes to its roster of life members Miss Ellen Merry of Augusta, Georgia.

Ellen has been a birder for five years and to date has about 500 species of birds on her life list. She has done extensive birding under expert leadership in the Augusta Bird Club and the GOS. She has also birded in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, Mexico, and Iceland.

Ellen says that possibly her most thrilling bird experience was watching 27 whooping cranes feed at the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge. Soon after, to add to the thrill, she heard one of the captive whoopers at Audubon Zoo, New Orleans whoop!

Ellen has been a regular member of the GOS since 1964 and has attended semi-annual meetings. She is also a member of the Georgia Conservancy, the Carolina Bird Club, and the National Audubon Society.

She served as Vice-President and Program Chariman of the Augusta Bird Club. For the last three years she has been the able editor of the Augusta Bird Club Bulletin.

Ellen is a person of versatile talents. She plays the guitar and is an artist of no mean ability, having studied art in New York and Fontainebleau, France. She can provide an evening's entertainment with a showing of bird slides photographed on her various birding expeditions.

The GOS is fortunate that she has given concrete evidence of her abiding interest in wildlife by becoming a life member of the organization. Gladys Buckner, 5500 West Avenue, N. Augusta, S. C. 29841

MR. HENRY T. ARMISTEAD: The Georgia Ornithological Society welcomes Henry T. Armistead of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as a new life member. Mr. Armistead is a graduate of the School of Library Science, Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia. He spent two years in the Army at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and birded in the Augusta and Savannah areas. He does most of his present birding on the Del-mar-va Peninsula and is writing an annotated list of the birds of Dorchester County, Maryland. Mr. Armistead also does some bird banding and mist netting. He has been a member of the Georgia Ornithological Society since 1959. R. W. Overing, Rt. 2, Chapin, S. C. 29036

MRS. CAROLINE G. NEWHALL: The Georgia Ornithological Society welcomes a new life member, Mrs. Caroline G. Newhall of North Forest Beach, Hilton Head, South Carolina. She also has a home near Tiger, Georgia, on Eastman Mountain.

Mrs. Newhall is an ardent conservationist. She helped to build the wild flower sanctuary at Pearson's Falls near Tryon, North Carolina, and has recently planned and built the Island Wildlife Preserve on Hilton Head. This preserve has ponds to attract wildfowl and plantings of native trees, shrubs, and wild flowers. She helped to organize the Hilton Head Audubon Club and has been a leader in the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Mrs. Newhall is also a member of the Carolina Bird Club, the Florida Audubon Society, and the Georgia Conservancy. Marie B. Mellinger, Rt. 1, Tiger, Ga. 30576

RECENT LITERATURE

BIRDS OF AMERICA, by John James Audubon; paperback reprint of 1840-44 octavo edition, seven volumes, \$2.50 per volume. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St. New York, N. Y. 10014.

Audubon's *Birds of America* was for many years the authoritative work on bird life in North America. The plates have been very popular ever since they were issued, but the text has long been out of print. This Dover edition, according to the publisher, is the first reprinting of it since 1871. In this issue the plates are included in black and white, interspersed within the text; however, the real intent is not to furnish the plates, but to make available a valuable text long relatively inaccessible. A helpful feature which greatly increases the value of the Dover edition is the inclusion of two new indices to changes in nomenclature which correlate old common and scientific names with new and vice versa. L. B. D., Jr.

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TITLE—The title should be concise, descriptive, and not more than 10 words in length. Avoid use of scientific names in titles if possible.

FOOTNOTES—Avoid footnotes by incorporating such material in the text.

NOMENCLATURE—Vernacular names should be capitalized in text. They are to be accompanied by appropriate scientific names the first time each species is mentioned. Show reference for long lists of scientific names (i.e., A.O.U. Checklist, 5th ed., 1957).

REFERENCES—When there are fewer than 3 references insert them in parentheses where needed in the text by author, journal, volume, pagination, and year of publication. Three or more references are grouped alphabetically by authors last names under "literature cited".

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