

THE ORIOLE

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VOL. XXVI

MARCH, 1961

No. 1

IN MEMORIAM: FREDERICK VANUXEM HEBARD

BY LUCIEN HARRIS, JR.

Frederick Vanuxem Hebard was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania October 15, 1900. His parents were Daniel Learned Hebard and Julia Vanuxem Hebard. His mother's home was in Knoxville, Tennessee. He died of a heart attack in Everglades National Park, Florida on March 29, 1961. He was a charter member of the Georgia Ornithological Society; in 1930 became an associate member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and was elected a Fellow in 1951. He was a member of the Georgia Society of Naturalists and other organizations.

After graduating from Chestnut Hill Academy (Philadelphia) he was graduated from Yale University in 1922 and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1925. He practiced law in Philadelphia and for many years his office was in the 1500 Walnut Street Building. In later years the firm was Clark, Hebard and Spahr, and in 1959 he formed his own law firm of Frederick V. Hebard.

His interest in bird study and his attraction to Georgia came about through the Hebard family's interest in trees and wildlife. Charles Hebard and Sons of Philadelphia were in the timber business. The Hebard's first purchased land in and around the Okefenokee in 1901. They incorporated the Hebard Lumber Company as a Georgia corporation and acquired additional lands in the swamp until its holdings amounted to approximately 295,555 acres, which amount was lessened somewhat before selling to the Government in November 1936. It was made a Wild Life Refuge and Earle R. Greene was the first to be placed in charge of it. Later John M. Hopkins was appointed as agent in charge.

Fred Hebard and Earle Greene were both greatly interested in the birds of the swamp and just prior to Fred's death they had completed a manuscript about birds of the Okefenokee based on observations they had made as well as those of H. A. (Tony) Carter, Frances Harper, and others.



FREDERICK VANUXEM HEBARD

Fred's parents had built a stately home, Coleraine, six miles east of Folkston, Georgia on the St. Mary's River just inside Camden County. Coleraine Plantation contained approximately 10,000 acres of land heavily wooded with pine and other trees, with some fields and ponds. Quail, dove, and wild turkey were abundant. It was an excellent place for "birding". Fred came for frequent visits and often invited friends who were interested in birds. He encouraged young bird students and Fred's enthusiasm for bird study was contagious.

His interest in birds was evidenced at an early age. Although Fred Hebard appeared to be robust and strong because of his large size, he had experienced occasional illness. At 14 when he was convalescing from an illness and couldn't join his friends in their activities, he became a "bird-watcher". In a letter, thanking this writer for a book sent him, he wrote:

"WINGS AT MY WINDOW" is truly delightful. How many persons have found solace in birds in illness and in sorrow! As a small boy of fourteen recuperating from a serious illness and forbidden to play with any human friends I turned to my avian ones beginning their annual trek north. I remember how I considered a day list of 22 with great pride, but my first and only encounter with a large flock of Brown Creepers stands out in memory along with the first Cape May Warbler (incidentally the earliest known Pa. record: April 30), the first Chestnut-sided and the first Bay-breasted. Then I was healthy for a good many years until 1927, when I recuperated during the nesting season in the Michigan woods. There the Black-throated Green revived earlier memories and my first Blackburnian was a thrilling sight. By the next summer after about five weeks I had a list of over 75 there with the aid of only Reed's Bird-Guide when I met Bayard Christy. Perhaps the fact that I recognized the beauty of the Hermit's evening-song and the plaintive call of the Pewee as we sat on a bridge over a woodland stream at dusk caused him to ask me to go along on two birding expeditions with him. On these I learned the Winter Wren's effervescent song. Other memories were a trio of Ravens flying over a mountain lake at dusk and a turtle eating a sucker alive."

Herbert L. Stoddard, in connection with his work as an expert on

land use management for game abundance, made several trips to Coleraine Plantation in an advisory capacity to Daniel L. Hebard, Fred's father. He also had many invitations to hunt with the Hebards. He knew of Fred's interest in birds and did much to encourage him to make his observations more accurate. Fred's natural enthusiasm sometimes led him to attempt to make a sub-specific identification of a bird in the field which would have been difficult even with the bird in hand. Herbert Stoddard had learned from years of collecting and handling skins that sight records are not always accurate and that sub-specific identification is difficult except under ideal conditions.

In an excellent article on "The Abuse of Trinomials" which Fred Hebard wrote for *The Florida Naturalist* Vo. XXVI, No. 4 (October 1953 issue) he stated:

"Every new locality one visits has possibilities, either for what it has or for what it has not. In showing the Okefenokee to ornithologists I was often disappointed by the paucity in numbers or variety of birds, but the greater the ornithologist the more he was interested in what was not in the swamp. To increase my list I had the temerity to believe I could tell the difference between the breeding and the wintering Great Blue Herons as well as to record two wintering forms of Robin. I now realize full well the lack of scientific exactness of such records."

Although Fred Hebard devoted a large share of his spare time afield in Georgia he also spent considerable time in other states. In the summer of 1958 he spent a delightful vacation with his wife, Betty (Elizabeth Fales Hebard) and the two youngest children (Danny and Freddy, Jr.) at Camden, Maine. On July 15, 1958, he wrote,

"This is an exciting summer here ornithologically. Yesterday, I found a GLOSSY IBIS, though fifty all over and first summer record for Maine."

Once he reported on a three weeks visit to Michigan where he observed Ravens in the Upper Peninsula having extended its range considerably since Fred was a boy. Other letters told of visits to Cape May and various localities where he combined vacations with an opportunity to find birds new to his list. His interest in birds remained at a high level.

"WINTER BIRDS OF THE OKEFINOKEE AND COLERAINE" (84 pages plus index and map) was published in 1941 by the Georgia Society of Naturalists. The subtitle was "A Preliminary Check-List of the Winter Birds of the Interior of Southeastern Georgia." The word "preliminary" was significant for Fred Hebard thought of his studies as being a continuing activity.

One of his special interests was injury-feigning by birds. He was working on a major paper in this field at the time of his death.

"He has achieved success who has lived well . . . laughed often . . . enjoyed the trust and respect of his fellowman and the love of little children . . . who has filled his niche and left the world better than he found it."

The list of his published observations shows the wide range of his interest.

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Lucien Harris, Jr.
 Atlanta, Georgia
 June 1, 1961

Ed. Note: Mr. Hebard submitted an additional article shortly before his death. It appears in the "General Notes" section of this issue.

SKETCH OF A THEORY OF IMITATIVE SINGING

BY CHARLES HARTSHORNE

Emory University

Imitation of sounds is little known among mammals, apart from man, although nearly all mammals have voices. On the other hand, a German ornithologist has proposed the hypothesis (which I accept) that all birds of songbird type have some capacity to imitate what they hear. Under natural conditions this capacity is not readily detected because it usually results only in the bird's learning to sing the standard song of his species somewhat better than he otherwise would. But wherever conditions are made unnaturally and strongly favorable for imitation of songs of other species, or of human utterances, rather than of the characteristic song-type of the species, unnatural song seems to result. Thus we have two types of imitation, that which copies normally singing adults of the same species, and that which is more or less indiscriminate as to the species copied. In nature, the indiscriminate type is apparently very exceptional, but artificial situations show that the capacity is widespread.

There is, I believe, a third type of imitation. Whereas the most usual—though not the most conspicuous—form of imitating consists in a young bird's learning the song of his species partly by listening to other, usually older, males of the species; and an unusual but conspicuous form consists in copying miscellaneous sounds coming from various species; the third type is imitation of the mate, whether of the male, by the female, or vice versa. We shall see that the hypothesis of such male-female imitation explains certain otherwise puzzling facts.

But why, we may ask, is there any imitation at all? Imitation of sounds presupposes a flexible capacity for producing sounds, and an interest in sounds and sound production. Such capacity and interest is also what makes an animal sing at all, that is, produce utterances which are more like what we call music than are animal cries in general. Merely instinctive cries are farthest from music. The growling animal, for instance, is not interesting in growling, but in scaring away a hated or feared rival or competitor. With the latter's departure, the growling ceases. But a bird singing to announce its territory or to attract a mate has to keep at it for hours and weeks, though no rival, perhaps, is in sight, and no potential mate. For this and other reasons the singing animal must be a genuinely musical animal, in the sense of

taking an interest in sounds themselves and for their own sakes. That it should modify its utterances in response to the sounds it hears is then more or less inevitable, for much the same reasons as lead to a baby's learning to transform its instinctive babbling into words.

What we have to explain is not that imitation can occur, for this is inherent in song as such, but rather that it takes the three forms mentioned, and that these are distributed as they are. Since song is an announcement, among other things, of the individual's species, it is necessary that imitation should usually stop short of extensive and conspicuous borrowings from alien species. For such borrowing, as a general tendency, would produce confusion, and nullify the functions of song. We must, therefore, suppose an inherited narrowness in the interest which most birds normally feel in the sounds they hear. A young Wood Thrush is evidently not much impressed by the songs about it, unless they are Wood Thrush songs. Its musical taste or preference, you might say, is sharply limited. Hearing alien songs, it feels, as it were, "Yes, and so what?" Hearing a Wood Thrush song, it may on the contrary feel, "Ah, that's the stuff that's worth while." Yet make the conditions of life for the young bird sufficiently strange, and I am willing to bet it will copy something unrecognizable as a Wood Thrush song. Thus it is not as though there were *no* capacity for interest in alien songs; there is only so much *less* interest that, in normal competition with the right songs, only these get copied.

How then are we to understand the species which, even under natural conditions, copy all sorts of species—and not only songs, but cries, alarm notes, or what not? First, they must have a much less sharply defined inherited direction of musical taste. There is clear evidence of this in the character of the non-imitative portions of the songs of such species. In no case known to me is the species song of an imitative bird as distinctive musically as that, say, of a Wood Thrush. Always the non-imitative part is either very simple, or very loosely organized. What the imitative bird has as its innately assigned musical possession is rather a general style, than a definite pattern, of singing. Into this style, all sorts of elements can be fitted, as they could not be fitted into the Wood Thrush design for singing.

But why should evolution produce both types of birds, those with a narrowly defined, and those with a vaguer, more flexible or catholic musical taste? Partly, no doubt, this is a matter of chance. But I think we can see ecological factors which might in some cases favor the trend

toward miscellaneous imitation. Suppose, for instance, a bird competes for territory with individuals of many, rather than of but one, species; it will then be interested, even though in an unfriendly sense, in the voices of these various species. Imitation is a proof of interest; and concerning at least *some* highly imitative species, it is known that their territorial rivalry is remarkably miscellaneous or generalized. Moreover, duplicating the songs of various species may help somewhat to discourage these from approaching. Not that they will necessarily be deceived into thinking the mocker is of their own species; perhaps they will scarcely think about it at all, but if the species song has a tendency to inhibit invasion, similar sounds may also have something of this tendency, not by way of thought but of feeling.

There are other respects, perhaps more plausible, in which imitation may have survival value. There is, I claim, an "anti-monotony" tendency in birds, and indeed in all life, which inhibits constant repetition, at short intervals, of the same activity. If territorial proclamation through song is unusually important for a species, it may also be important that the proclamation should be continuous, or without marked pauses, for many minutes at a time. To avoid intolerable monotony in such continuous singing, a plentiful supply of contrasting phrases or sounds is necessary. These might perhaps be determined by the genes at birth, or by individual invention, or finally by imitation. Invention requires brain power; imitation is more within the reach of the bird brain. And perhaps only simple song patterns can be readily cared for by genes alone. So imitation may be the most efficient way to acquire the variety needed for continuous singing.

Another value in a complex song, such as imitation helps to produce, is that it can better express individual differences. (I owe this idea to W. E. Armstrong, a most fertile and discriminating writer.) We have considerable evidence that song is not merely an announcement of the species, but also an individual's identity tag. Not only the mate but rivals need to recognize the singer individually, for otherwise they would never know whether adjoining territories were occupied by the same neighbors, with whom boundaries had already been settled in previous boundary disputes, or by mere strangers with whom understanding was still to be reached.

Among the puzzling facts concerning imitation are the following. Why is it that imitativeness in Mockingbirds seems to decrease as one goes northward from Florida to New England or Ohio? And why

have so many Parrots and Parroquets shown themselves such splendid mimics in cages, although not one has been observed to imitate in the wild?

The Mockingbird puzzle is easy. Going northward here means going toward the extreme limit of the species range; for the southernmost limit has simply not been studied in this respect, being far down in Mexico. Well, near the limit of the range of a species one finds but a few widely scattered pairs; whereas in Florida, which is in the midst of the range, many individuals and pairs may be crowded into a small area. The result is clear: a Mockingbird in a Miami park hears a dozen neighboring Mockingbirds, and not too much else; a Mockingbird in New England hears, probably, no other of its kind, and alien songs ring in its ears in abundance. Surely Mockingbirds do not rule out other Mockingbirds as subjects to be imitated! And so, where the birds are closely packed together, their imitations of Wood Thrushes, Cardinals, or Wrens are not exclusively taken from wood thrushes, cardinals, or wrens, but also at second, fourth or tenth hand, from other Mockingbirds. Thus accuracy is diluted. This is all I can see in the greater imitative power of the northern individuals; their copies are made more largely at first hand, and alien species constitute almost the entirety of what they hear.

The Parrot problem is more subtle. My theory is this. Parrots are among the most chummy, by pairs, of all birds. Yet the pairs fly in flocks. Now how do the pairs keep together in the flocks? Sight is hardly the sufficient answer, for several reasons. But suppose the two birds have a tendency to copy each other; the result would be that each pair would develop a style of chatter, a dialect, slightly different from that of the others in the flock. If this be the case, it would naturally follow that Parrots in the wild would not be observed to imitate, in the striking, easily noticed sense in which they imitate in cages, especially where there is no mate, and human sounds are what they chiefly hear. The poor bird has then to be chummy with and imitate a human being. And this imitation is of course detected. But who would be subtle and patient enough to notice the slight eccentricities of sound common to members of a pair, as contrasted with the general style of chatter of the species? I hope that observation will throw further light upon the validity of this hypothesis. Many tropical species, other than Parrots, use territorial song also for maintaining year-round pair relations, and the mutual imitation I have spoken of may occur in some cases also with

them. However, such flocking in pairs as that of Parrots does not, so far as I know, occur in birds of songbird type. Charles Hartshorne, Emory University, Atlanta 22, Ga., May 10, 1961.

GENERAL NOTES

A SIGHT RECORD OF THE TREE SPARROW AT WAYCROSS.—

On the afternoon of March 18, 1961, while Sidney Clark and I were birding at the Waycross city dump, we saw what we feel sure was a tree sparrow (*Spizella arborea*). It was feeding in company with a small flock of chipping sparrows, field sparrows, house sparrows, red-wings, and grackles at a pile of pecan hulls.

The size was the feature which first attracted our attention to the bird. It appeared to be larger than the field sparrows which it resembled except that it did not have the pink waxy bill. Then we saw the black spot or "stickpin" on the unstreaked breast.

I observed the sparrow at a distance of about 20 yards with 7X50 binoculars for several minutes. There was plenty of time to check the identification in the Peterson's Field Guide.

Burleigh (Georgia Birds) classes the tree sparrow as hypothetical for Georgia because a specimen has never been collected in the state. He cites only one sight record, that by Aaron C. Bagg at Augusta, February 25, 1921.

Several trips were made to the same locality later but the bird was not seen again. KELLY LEE, 409 Reed Street, Waycross, Georgia. March 27, 1961.

EARLY OBSERVATION OF A BLUE GROSBEAK AT WAYCROSS.—

Late in the afternoon of February 27, 1961, Kelly Lee called me and said that he has seen a blue grosbeak at the Waycross city dump. I was somewhat dubious about his identification so we immediately went to the dump together.

I found that Mr. Lee was correct. There was a male and a female blue grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) in company with a small flock of chipping sparrows feeding around a large pile of pecan shells which was refuse from a local pecan processing plant. We were able to approach to within about thirty feet of them and watched them for about ten minutes. There was no doubt about the identification.

Burleigh, in his *Georgia Birds*, does not report any observations in Georgia earlier than April, his earliest records being April 4, 1937, Grady County, April 11, 1929, Milledgeville, April 11, 1947, Athens, April 12, 1885, Savannah, April 12, 1953, Macon, and April 13, 1942, Camden County.

Since these birds were so much earlier than the expected spring arrival, it seems likely that they had not made the southward migration at all. Perhaps they had found the picking so good on the pile of pecan shells that they did not migrate last fall.

This area was revisited by several members of the Okefenokee Bird Club several times after this and the birds were seen almost daily until March 6. EUGENE CYPERT, *Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Waycross, Georgia, March 27, 1961.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE JUNCO IN SOUTHEASTERN GEORGIA.—

I have never seen the Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) in Camden, the far southeastern county of Georgia. Robert A. Norris, when but 17 years old, suggested this was because of the almost complete absence of the various species of grand oak (*Quercus*) on the true Coastal Plain which extends throughout the county. The Satilla Terrace commences about one mile west of the Camden-Charlton line and winds to the northwest and then around to the northeast to the Satilla River just about on the county line. Here on Leigh Hill about one-half mile north of the St. Mary's I collected a male on December 20, 1949, identified by Allen W. Duvall as of the nominate race. This is but another example of Lincoln's Law that the more northern subspecies tends to migrate the furthest south.

Since John W. Burch has moved to Stanley's Landing on the St. Mary's River almost exactly 5 miles southwest of Folkston, Ga. on the Wisconsin Terrace, he has found many more Juncos each winter than he found in his 20 years on Coleraine which is on both sides of the Camden-Charlton County line. This past winter was about normal in southeastern Georgia both for temperature and moisture. As is well known, the region to the north along the Atlantic Coast up to but not including Maine, had probably its most severe winter in history both for cold and snow. Probably as a consequence, Juncos were more numerous at Stanley's Landing than ever before. However, Burch found them only from Dec. 16, 1960 to Feb. 20, 1961. It is interesting to note the first big snowstorm along the Atlantic Coast was Dec. 11-12, 1960

and that the weather in the south turned much warmer in mid-February. Our extreme dates for Charlton County are Nov. 13 (1951) to March 28 (1957). FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 *Walnut St. Bldg., Phila. 2, Pa., and John W. Burch, Folkston, Ga., March 17, 1961.*

IPSWICH SPARROW SEEN ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND.—March 11, 1961, Miss Jane Park, Mrs. Margaret Scott, Messrs. Kelly Lee and Sidney Clark and I saw what we feel certain was the Ipswich Sparrow (*Passerculus princeps*) on St. Simons Island.

We flushed two of the birds on the beach near the south end of the island. One of them perched upon a clump of spartina and we had ample opportunity to observe it with our binoculars for several minutes from a distance of about fifty feet. The bird looked like a very pale Savannah sparrow. None of it was darker than a pale gray. The eye stripe, which in the Savannah sparrow is yellow or buff, appeared white in this bird. When the bird dropped to the ground, its colors blended remarkably with the pale color of the beach sand.

A few minutes later we saw a Savannah sparrow. The contrast between it and the birds we had seen on the beach was unmistakable. EUGENE CYPERT, *Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Waycross, Georgia, March 27, 1961.*

RECENT OCCURRENCES OF THE YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD IN COASTAL GEORGIA.—Through the courtesy of Mr. Phil Cannon and Mr. Walter J. Harmer, two additional occurrences of the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) can be reported from near Darien, McIntosh County, Georgia.

On January 29, 1961, a bright male was caught in a duck trap on the Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area, on Butler Island. It was banded and released. Then on April 24, a specimen was obtained. This is a bright male, though slightly immature, and is the only specimen from the Coastal Plain, and but the second specimen from the State. IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 *East 50th St., Savannah, Ga., May 7, 1961.*

SPRING MIGRATION OF SANDHILL CRANES.—A northward movement of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) over Georgia during the month of March is indicated by notes in recent volumes of the ORIOLE: March 20, 1955 (XXI, 7); March 5, 1956 (XXI, 11); March 11-15, 1957 (XXII, 24); March 23, 1958 (XXIII, 24); and March 10-13, 1960 (XXV,

10). The latest records were secured on March 5, 1961, when a flock of 20 were seen near Zebulon, Pike County, by William L. Towns, and on the same day 3 flocks totalling about 75 were observed over Decatur, DeKalb County, by Rolyston R. Rudolph, Jr. Probably these spring migrants were enroute to Michigan from wintering areas in Okefenokee Swamp or in Florida. HAROLD S. PETERS, 968 Cumberland Rd., N. E. Atlanta 6, Georgia, April 14, 1961.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH SINGING IN GEORGIA.—Thomas Burleigh's fine book, *Georgia Birds*, contains a statement about Olive-backed Thrushes (*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*) which needs correction. He says this species "rarely if ever sings in migration." In fact, it rather commonly does so, as I know from much experience with it in Illinois, Indiana, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and—quite definitely—in Georgia.

A. T. Wayne, says in his book on the birds of South Carolina, "Most of the birds sing imperfectly in spring and it is rare to hear the full volume of their beautiful song." In other words, what is exceptional is not song, but normally loud song. Even so, the volume is far above mere whisper singing, and is at least half way to the typical loudness of the summer song, as I have heard it in Northern Michigan and elsewhere. Anyone with anything like normal hearing, who takes a little pains, can hear the song in Georgia. Just before writing this I heard it a dozen times from my porch. The species was heard singing on two succeeding days, both in the morning and afternoon. So it has been each spring for five years.

According to A. A. Saunders, it is the later rather than earlier migrants which are likely to sing. In Georgia this might mean in May rather than April, and I am sure that I have heard the song in April. According to A. Skutch, in Central America the Swainson's Thrush sings abundantly from late March to early May, before leaving for the North. Thus this fine song can be readily heard in many latitudes and the notion of the species as customarily silent is quite erroneous.

The migrating thrush which is least likely to sing is perhaps the Hermit (*Hylocichla guttata*). For each song (none in Georgia) which I have heard from this species when south of its breeding grounds, I have heard fifty or a hundred from the Olive-back.

The Olive-back's "abrupt whit" or "peep" (Peterson) will also be heard as well as its song. CHARLES HARTSHORNE, *Emory University*, Atlanta 22, Ga., May 10, 1961.

CATTLE EGRETS IN LIBERTY COUNTY.—On April 18, 1961 while traveling along Ga. Highway 38 about five miles south of Hinesville in Liberty County, I noticed a group of medium-sized herons feeding in a pasture. I passed by the herons, but noticing that they had bright bills, went back to take a closer look.

On returning to the pasture I discovered that the herons were Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*). I observed the sixteen egrets for ten minutes at about fifty yards through 7X50 binoculars. The birds were among a small herd of cattle where they were catching insects which the cattle flushed.

The birds were white, with the back, breast, and back of their heads buff-colored. The buff faded into the white; there was no abrupt end in the color. The bills were a bright yellow-orange color and the feet were a purple-flesh color. WILLIAM DOPSON, 708 Graham Street, McRae Georgia, April 19, 1961.

THE CASE OF THE FISHING PHOEBE.—Just off our south terrace is a bird bar containing a shallow bird-bath shaped like a tiny fish pond edged with field rock. It had been "stocked" with small minnows from nearby Lake Oliver by our little grandsons. On one side a ledge provided one perch, a small willow on the opposite side providing the other favorite perch. This Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) began using the pool in mid-January and could be seen daily through the period of severe cold ending with the ice storm two weeks later. He would make short sorties from one perch to the other, sometimes fluttering over the surface, but more often diving or scooping bill-first into the water, continuing to the other perch and resuming his patient watch. We saw him successfully catch and swallow a minnow on several occasions, one time having it crosswise in his mandibles and having to maneuver it before swallowing. At another time he lost his hold, the minnow wriggling free back into the water. At no time did the bird approach by wading.

Dr. Maurice Baker of the Alabama Fish & Wildlife Service witnessed the fishing and dubbed it "Case of the Fishing Phoebe". The nearest approach to fishing that we could unearth is William Brewster's description of a phoebe bathing by striking the surface of the water with his breast, which appears on page 149 of U. S. National Museum Bulletin 179, in Arthur Cleveland Bent's Life History series.

ROBERTA & L. A. WELLS, *Green Island Hills, Rt. 1, Columbus, Ga., April 7, 1961.*

CATTLE EGRETS IN CHARLTON COUNTY.—A flock of cattle egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) have been feeding in the cattle pastures along the Prospect road in western Charlton County, Georgia this spring.

On May 1, Tom Chesser told me about the white herons which had been following the cattle in the pastures near his home about three and a half miles west of Folkston. He said the birds had been there about three weeks. Roy Moore and I investigated the report that day and were pleased to find that the herons were cattle egrets. At the time of our visit there were thirty birds there.

As far as I know, this is only the second report of a cattle egret observation in this part of Georgia. Frederick V. Hebard and I reported an observation of a single bird April 4, 1960 in Grand Prairie on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (*Oriole* 25: 23, 1960) at a point about 12 miles from the location of the birds reported here. EUGENE CYPERT, *Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, May 4, 1961.*

CORRECTION

Page 11, line 13 from top, Vol. XXVI, 1961, No. 2 should read L. A. Wells etc.

FROM THE FIELD

Dr. J. Fred Denton reports the following interesting observations for the winter and spring of 1960-1961 at Augusta: Common Egret, 5 to 6 individuals present all winter, Oldsquaw, five birds noted above Clark Hill Dam on Dec. 10, Sandhill Crane, a flock of about 30 birds was noted on March 19, Baltimore Oriole, a single bird noted on January 8, Lapland Longspur, a single bird at the Augusta Municipal Airport on December 18. Alma Cooke also noted the Common Egret in Peach County on Feb. 28, in Laurens County on March 1, and in Taylor County on March 10. A Canvas-back was seen in Taylor County on February 24 and she and the Caters of Warner Robins observed a Solitary Vireo in the Flint River swamp in Taylor County on January 6. Miss Cook noted three Horned Larks beside the runway at Cochran Field, Bibb County on April 6. On April 8 Thomas and Hedvig Cater, Mildred Grubbs and David Van Haverbeke recorded the American

Golden Plover from Peach County. A Sooty Tern banded as a chick on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, on July 12, 1960, was found in a dying condition Sept. 16, 1960 at Brunswick, Ga. by A. Wright Knight.

L. A. Wells of Columbus reports arrival dates for spring migrants as follows: Whip-poor-will, March 25, Rough-winged Swallow, March 12, Black and White Warbler, March 27, and Prairie Warbler March 8 (Mrs. Florence Lynn). Mr. Wells saw Pine Siskins in Dec. and January. The most unusual occurrence there was that of a Summer Tanager which spent the winter in Columbus. The bird's presence had been noted by Mrs. Carolyn Miner during the winter but was not seen by Mr. Wells until March 3.

Mrs. Marene Snow and Manilla Land submit a sight record on August 27, 1960 of the Willet from a location near Roswell, Georgia in Fulton County. For a period of at least five minutes they observed a group of 30-35 birds believed to be of this species near the Chattahoochee River. Mrs. Snow is familiar with this species on the coast.

RECENT LITERATURE

BINOCULARS AND SCOPES AND THEIR USES IN PHOTOGRAPHY.—by Robert J. and Elsa Reichert, Chilton Co.—Book Division, Philadelphia and New York, 128 pp: \$1.95 paper, \$2.95 cloth.

This book is written with the layman and amateur ornithologist in mind, avoiding any theoretical or mathematical analyses, and specifications of binoculars and scopes are given from the point of view of their effect on performance in the field, with clues on how to detect misrepresentation.

It contains over 50 illustrations in addition to 17 pages of photos taken through binoculars, monoculars, and scopes indicating or showing what can be expected in the way of results from varying sizes and magnifications. The book is subtitled "How to choose, use, and photograph through them" and the contents cover these subjects well for the average bird watcher without going into the technicalities of optics. Do you suspect that you have been "taken in" in your binocular purchase or does your fellow birder's scope of the "same power" give a much clearer view? The Reichert's with over 35 years experience in the optical field, are well qualified to answer such questions. There is also an offer to answer inquiries concerning special problems.

The purchase of a good binocular should be considered as a life-time investment. The Reichert's have impartially covered the merits and disadvantages of the binocular and scope field as to make and manufacture and offer much information that will guide one in the selection of an instrument suitable for its intended use.

PENGUIN SUMMER,—by Eleanor Rice Pettingill, Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York, 197 pp. \$5.00.

Mrs. Pettingill and her ornithologist husband, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., spent an entire summer from October to March living closely with the penguins of the Falkland Islands. This British Crown Colony is located approximately 300 miles off the tip of South America and 800 miles north of the Palmer Peninsula of Antarctica.

During their entire stay on the islands they were within walking distance of at least one species of penguins that nested there. Three major species of penguins, the gentoo, jackass, and the rockhopper bred here. The islands are rugged and treeless and are swept by strong winds during the greater part of the year. They are inhabited by about 2500 people and cover an area the size of Connecticut. The book is well illustrated in black and white photographs by Dr. Pettingill and contains over 50 of these; picturing penguins, gulls, albatrosses, and birds of prey in addition to other interesting subjects found on the islands.

Mrs. Pettingill's narrative covers in an interesting manner the lives and occupations of the islands inhabitants and also describes the plant and animal life in addition to many human interest episodes connected with the making of a nature film. The penguins, as indeed most all of the bird species on the islands, showed no fear of humans and the problem in some cases was not one of hiding in blinds to photograph the birds but keeping out of their way while in the open.

LOUISIANA BIRDS.—by George H. Lowery, Jr., 1960 Louisiana State Univ. Press, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 567 pp. \$7.50

This new, revised edition of Louisiana Birds covers 387 species and contains 13 full-page four color plates, 27 full-page two color plates, and many excellent photographs and text illustrations.

Robert E. Tucker's water colors of similar species are grouped in guide-book style and are pleasing to the eye. The photographs by

Allan D. Cruickshank and Samuel E. Grimes could hardly be improved upon.

The book could well have been subtitled "an introduction to birding and the science of ornithology" since it covers briefly, but well, these subjects in leading up to the species accounts. Dr. Lowery has written in a correct but informal style and while the volume contains most of the essential information it does not go into technical aspects that would tend to discourage its consumption by the beginning bird watcher. While documentations of all records appearing in the book are undoubtedly available the reader has been spared this information. Subspecies have not been dealt with in the present work as stated in the preface.

Easily read charts in Table 3 show the seasonal occurrence of Louisiana birds for every species including the approximate relative abundance and the earliest arrival and latest departure dates for the state. They cover the period from the time of Audubon until March 1, 1960.

Any ornithologist or bird watcher and especially those in the southwest and southeast would enjoy having this book in his library. Milton Hopkins, Jr.