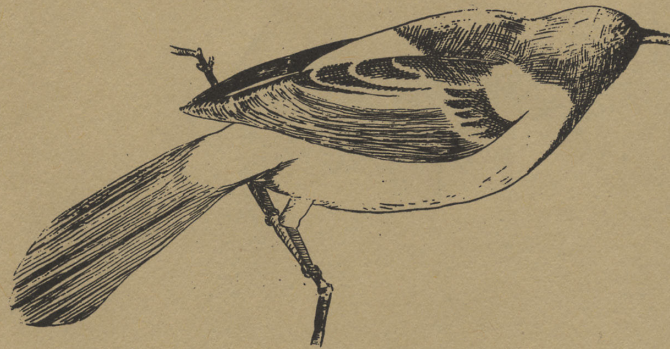


THE ORIOLE

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THE ORIOLE

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRD LIFE OF CUMBERLAND ISLAND, GEORGIA

By ALEXANDER SPRUNT, Jr.

Those who have had the privilege of ornithological investigations on Cumberland Island will agree that few finer localities for such a pursuit exist. Everything conforms toward making one's stay a memorable one. The hospitality of the Carnegie family, to whom almost all of the island belongs, leaves nothing to be desired; the spot itself offers primeval woodland, swamps, fresh and salt-water marshes, ponds, mud-flats and sea beach. It has been the writer's pleasure to experience two trips to this delightful region, one lasting a week and the other ten days. Birds were the object from first to last and birds there were in splendid variety and individual abundance. Long known as a veritable treasure-house for the student of nature, Cumberland Island seems a particularly logical and strategic point for discussion of some out-standing locality in Georgia as regards typifying the diversified avian population of the state.

A glance at any good map, particularly a chart of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, will reveal the topographical and geographical features of the island. About eighteen miles long and three and a half at its widest portion, Cumberland lies almost in a north and south line off the lower Georgia coast and is the most southern of that long chain of sea islands which stretch from Georgetown, South Carolina, to the Florida line. The southern tip of Cumberland lies just north of Fernandina, Florida, the inlet between the two marking the division of Georgia and Florida. Among the "golden isles", Cumberland is, in the opinion of many, the crowning item and the writer would be the last to dispute such a claim.

For more than fifty years it has been in possession of the Carnegie family. "Dungeness", the palatial home built long ago near the southern end, is yet a landmark, although younger generations of the family have reared homes on other parts of the island, and continue to spend not only their winters there, but much of the spring and fall seasons as well. Of Cumberland's long and colorful history little can be said in this space, suffice it to say that it was named by the Indian Toonahowie, who, on a trip to England in company with Oglethorpe, was presented with a gold watch by the Duke of Cumberland. So impressed was the young savage that he asked Oglethorpe to change the Spanish name of San Pedro previously given to the island, to that of Cumberland. Study of the history of the region will abundantly repay those who delve in it.

That the island is not better known to ornithologists generally is not to be wondered at, in the very nature of the case. It is a private estate, and as such is not available as are public lands. Scientists have worked there however, through the courtesy of the Carnegies, and it is from their notes that Cumberland occupies a prominent niche on any mammalian, ornithological or reptilian map! The late Outram Bangs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, spent some time on Cumberland, engaged mainly in mammalian research; Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson of the National Association of Audubon Societies visited there for a few days in May, 1921, and has published a list of 97 species of birds seen there, in the Wilson Bulletin (June, 1922).

It is however, the work of Arthur H. Helm that brought Cumberland before the ornithological public to a greater degree than any other worker. In The Auk, Vol. XXI, Page 280, he gives some of his findings of rare birds seen and secured

during his stays there, included among them being species of the Plains and Rocky Mountain regions! These will be referred to later. Cumberland is a great place for uncommon species, a fact that the writer discovered himself.

It is sometimes difficult to name a bird which might be considered essentially characteristic of a given locality. In the case of Cumberland Island it is not hard however, and anyone who has visited it would doubtless agree that such a distinction belongs to the Wild Turkey! Dr. Pearson says that "in no place have I found wild turkeys so plentiful". This was certainly the impression gained by the writer and in spite of the fact that there is hunting every winter, there seems to be no diminution of their numbers. It is no unusual thing to see turkeys every day, indeed, it would be unusual not to! Though accustomed to good turkey country in coastal South Carolina, there is no area of similar size in that region in which so many are concentrated, as far as the writer is aware.

Such a condition is due primarily to rigid protection given all bird life on the Island, but even there the poacher is not unknown and some illegal taking of this bird goes on in spite of all efforts to prevent it. However, from car, or on foot, whether in woodland, swamp or the very dunes of the sea beach, turkeys may be seen. The gobbling of the males is an invariable morning chorus and the silent watcher has only to keep moderately on the look-out to catch as many glimpses of the birds as he cares to indulge in.

The abundance of the turkey is in striking contrast to the marked lack of other upland game-birds. Quail are absent and the Mourning Dove uncommon. Cumberland is not cultivated agriculturally and there are but few large fields or clearings, the former areas which were devoted to planting now being grown up in timber. This is undoubtedly the reason for the lack of the above mentioned species. The Ground Dove occurs about the southern portion, and at The Cottage, the residence of Mr. Morris Carnegie, Greyfields, where the Fergusons live and Stafford, the home of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the writer saw a few pairs regularly. It is probable that there are less than a dozen pair all told.

As might be supposed the water-bird life is abundant and varied. Rails clack from the marshes; herons nest and roost in the swamps and ponds; shore-birds patrol the magnificent beach; gulls, terns, skimmers and pelicans ply their feeding in the surf. Ducks gabble amid the sloughs, bitterns boom, ibises whirl and soar above the swamps; coots and gallinules complain querulously from the reedy ponds. Woodland birds are as easily met with. Cuckoos, woodpeckers and flycatchers; sparrows, warblers and tanagers; vireos, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches and thrushes pursue their lives in untrammelled freedom, making the woods ring with song and lending color and animation to the wonderfully park-like glades and aisles of the forested areas.

The night life of the Island can be studied to advantage. On several occasions, extensive use of the "jack-light" was made by Mr. E. Burnham Chamberlain of the Charleston (S. C.) Museum and the writer, and it was found that the eyes of the Chuck-wills-widow, owls and other birds, reflected the beam fully as brilliantly as those of mammals and it was possible at times to actually creep up and seize the sitting bird in one's hands. Several times the Southern Screech Owl was seen on low stumps and efforts made to approach to within touching distance, to no avail. About two feet seemed to be the dead-line beyond which here was no crossing before the bird took flight. Even at this intimate range it was absolutely impossible to hear a whisper of sound as the owl left its perch.

The jack-light is a wonderful asset to nature study in the woods. The eyes of spiders, alligators, raccoons, deer and other dwellers of the night silences, reflect the light wonderfully and, indicative of the abundance of some of them, a two hours roam through the woods one night revealed a count of fifty-four deer, there being no duplication whatever!

Since a complete list of the birds observed by the writer is included in this paper, it may be well to confine the remaining remarks to some account of the rarer species which have been observed from time to time. Mr. Helm's records reveal some startling instances of extralimital occurrence and constitute some of the most interesting items of the state's ornithology. On April 14, 1903, he secured a female of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*), that elusive species which so end of the Island, the southernmost point at which the species has been taken, and marking the limit of its winter range. On April 12, 1902, he secured a fine

female of Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*), that elusive species which so many have looked for in vain during migration, and on the 27th of the same month in 1904, he secured a male.

January 19, 1903 marked the taking of a far western species, Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguei*), and on March 27th, the same year, two were secured. From this last date to the 3rd of April, six more were taken, all being females but one. On March 16, 1903, on the mainland just across from Cumberland, Mr. Helm captured a typical specimen of the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) and while the bird cannot be credited to the Island literally, it was taken within sight of it.

In a letter to the writer written in May, 1933, Mr. Helm states that on "Dec. 28, 1904, I procured an adult male European Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*) from a gunner on Cumberland Island. I do not recall any other records of this species from this section." As far as the writer is aware, this is the only record for Georgia.

The writer's two trips to Cumberland cover the periods of April 13-21, 1932, and April 7-15, 1933. Every day of this time was spent in the field and the following observations of more than passing interest made. On April 15, 1932, a Wayne's Warbler (*Dendroica virens waynei*) was observed in Rhetta Legoon. This is one of the very few, if not the only record of the sub-species in migration. The bird was in full song.

Two Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) were seen over the beach near Whitney Lake on April 17, 1932. They were flying southward and passed over at less than two hundred feet elevation.

Failure to secure what was undoubtedly a specimen of the Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*) on April 15, 1932, has caused the writer to omit mention of it heretofore in ornithological publications. The bird was seen and studied in very thick growth at the side of the causeway near the Duck House. Convinced of its identity, the writer fired at it with too large a load of shot, and subsequent search revealed only feathers!

On April 7, 1933, in the Big Slough, a fine adult Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis f. fallacellus*) was seen and pursued for nearly an hour. Attempts were made to stalk the bird, and though within range twice, the shots were ineffective. Upon writing to Mr. Arthur H. Howell, of the U. S. Biological Survey, the writer was told by him that it was the first record for Georgia.

On returning to Fernandina at the close of the second trip, April 15, 1933, a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) was seen between Cumberland Island and the former locality. It passed the boat at about fifty yard range, in company with a flock of Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*). Mr. Robert Ferguson of the Island, later told the writer that a bird of the former species spent most of the summer of 1933 on and about Cumberland.

Essentially the Island is a bird sanctuary. It is hunted only by the Carnegies and guests and never at any time is any excess indulged in. The great majority of the birds are protected at all times, and it is the only place within the writer's knowledge that the alligator enjoys immunity from molestation. Even the Black Bear is still present in small numbers, and unmistakable signs of this animal were noted on the writer's visits.

Following is a complete list of the birds seen on these two trips. It will be noted that a total of 149 species were observed. It should be borne in mind that the time of year was the same in both cases, visits at other seasons would doubtless exhibit many other varieties. The ducks, for instance, are poorly represented, but this is to be expected in April. The migrations were not quite complete, and a remnant of the winter population was still on the Island. It is a typical list for that time of year.

1. Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus p. podiceps*)
2. White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)
3. Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
4. Gannet (*Moris bassana*)
5. Cormorant (sp)
6. Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)
7. Ward's Heron (*Ardea herodias wardi*)
8. American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*)

9. Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*)
10. Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*)
11. Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*)
12. Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)
13. Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax n. hoactli*)
14. Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)
15. Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
16. Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*)
17. Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis f. falcinellus*)
18. White Ibis (*Guara alba*)
19. Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)
20. Canada Goose (*Branta c. canadensis*)
21. Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*)
22. Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
23. Lesser Scaup (*Nyroca affinis*)
24. Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)
25. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)
26. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*)
27. Black Vulture (*Coragyps a. atratus*)
28. Sharp-skinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*)
29. Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*)
30. Florida Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus alleni*)
31. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
32. Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*)
33. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*)
34. Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*)
35. Sparrow Hawk (*Falco s. sparverius*)
36. Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallapavo silvestris*)
37. King Rail (*Rallus e. elegans*)
38. Wayne's Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans waynei*)
39. Purple Gallinule (*Poronornis martinica*)
40. Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*)
41. Coot (*Fulica americana*)
42. American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus p. palliatus*)
43. Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
44. Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)
45. Wilson's Plover (*Pagolla w. wilsonia*)
46. Killdeer (*Oreochus v. vociferous*)
47. Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*)
48. Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres morinella*)
49. Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*)
50. Hudsonian Curlew (*Phaeopus hudsonicus*)
51. Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)
52. Willet (*Catoptrophorus s. semipalmatus*)
53. Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*)
54. Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes*)
55. Knot (*Calidris canutus rufus*)
56. Least Sandpiper (*Pisobia minutilla*)
57. Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*)
58. Dowitcher (*Limnodromus g. griseus*)
59. Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*)
60. Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*)
61. Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*)
62. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*)
63. Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)
64. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)
65. Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)
66. Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica aranea*)
67. Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)
68. Common Tern (*Sterna h. hirundo*)
69. Royal Tern (*Thalasseus m. maximus*)
70. Black Skimmer (*Rynchops n. nigra*)

71. Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*)
72. Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*)
73. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus a. americana*)
74. Southern Screech Owl (*Otus a. asio*)
75. Great Horned Owl (*Bubo v. virginianus*)
76. Chuck-wills-widow (*Anstrostomus carolinensis*)
77. Florida Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor chapmani*)
78. Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)
79. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
80. Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle a. alycon*)
81. Southern Flicker (*Colaptes a. auratus*)
82. So. Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus p. pileatus*)
83. Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*)
84. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)
85. So. Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus auduboni*)
86. So. Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates p. pubescens*)
87. Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*)
88. So. Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus c. crinitus*)
89. Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)
90. Wood Pewee (*Myiarchus virens*)
91. Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*)
92. Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*)
93. Florida Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola*)
94. Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)
95. Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes c. carolinensis*)
96. Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*)
97. Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta p. pusilla*)
98. Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*)
99. House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
100. Worthington's Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris griseus*)
101. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*)
102. Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
103. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*)
104. Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata faxoni*)
105. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila c. caerulea*)
106. Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus s. satrapa*)
107. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Corthylio c. calendula*)
108. Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)
109. Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius l. ludovicianus*)
110. White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo g. griseus*)
111. Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo s. solitarius*)
112. Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)
113. Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)
114. Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)
115. Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*)
116. So. Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis a. americana*)
117. Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica c. caeruleascens*)
118. Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*)
119. Wayne's Warbler (*Dendroica virens waynei*)
120. Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)
121. Sycamore Warbler (*Dendroica d. albiflora*)
122. Pine Warbler (*Dendroica vigosii*)
123. Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica d. discolor*)
124. Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*)
125. Ovenbird (*Seiurus auricapillus*)
126. Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*)
127. So. Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas ignota*)
128. Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*)
129. Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*)
130. So. Meadowlark (*Sturnella m. argutula*)
131. Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
132. Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)

133. Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*)
134. Boat-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix mexicanus*)
135. Florida Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*)
136. Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
137. Cardinal (*Richmondia c. cardinalis*)
138. Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)
139. Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis*)
140. Towhee (*Pipilo e. erythrophthalmus*)
141. White-eyed Towhee (*P. e. alleni*)
142. Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*)
143. Seaside Sparrow (*sp*)
144. Pine-woods Sparrow (*Aimophila a. aestivalis*)
145. Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)
146. Field Sparrow (*Spizella p. pusilla*)
147. White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)
148. Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*)
149. Song Sparrow (*Melospiza m. melodia*)

Much has been said and written about conservation, but unless more co-operative efforts are made to remedy conditions we are threatened with the extinction of several species of birds, such as the wild ducks, the Great White Heron, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and the Bald Eagle. The majority of hawks and owls do far more good in destroying rodents than they do evil, yet they have been steadily persecuted until they are now listed among the vanishing species.

There was a time, not so many years ago, that the Passenger Pigeon flew over Georgia in flocks so dense as to darken the sky. Millions would descend upon a forest and perch upon trees in such numbers that limbs would break with the weight. It would have been hard for the people who killed those birds with sticks and clubs to believe that the last of the species would die in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden in September, 1914.

Birds have natural enemies which must be taken into account, but these are nature's own method of keeping down excess numbers of any species. Man's carelessness and greed, however, are chief among the causes of the rapidity with which some of our birds are vanishing.

Game birds are among the nation's greatest resources and the loss of such birds as the Mourning Doves and the Bob-white that have economic value is to be lamented, but equally lamentable is the loss of those that have only beauty and song, for they add much to the joy of living.—Berma Jarrard.

ORNITHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN GEORGIA

By HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

[Dr. Oberholser is, as all bird-students in Georgia well know, a Senior Biologist of the Bureau of Biological Survey in Washington. Because of his outstanding position in the field of Ornithology and his comprehensive knowledge of the subject, the editors asked him to write a short article presenting some of the possibilities for worthwhile studies in ornithology in Georgia. As will be readily seen, Dr. Oberholser's article is addressed in large part to the serious student of bird life. He has dealt principally with problems in the more technical aspects of ornithology; however, as he himself says, there are numberless opportunities for contributions to our knowledge from bird-students who do not have the time or inclination to pursue their studies quite so far. The daily observation of a feeding shelf can and will produce records of interest and value in our study of Georgia birds.—Eds.]

Ornithology is not, as some people seem to believe, a finished or a purposeless science. It is, in fact, really at the threshold of its greatest usefulness. Today, a bird student does not have to hunt for opportunities to do valuable work. Within the last few years, problems of bird life have multiplied so rapidly that the study of birds has developed into something more than a mere hobby.

Today the serious student need not go into African jungles or to the deserts of Asia to accomplish real service for the science of ornithology. He can make valuable discoveries in his own back yard. Intimate and fundamental facts of a large number of our most common birds are lacking. There are problems of life history activities, as relationship, classification, distribution and behavior to be solved. We need to know more about the birds we see every day. Such studies in anatomy, physiology, ecology, game propagation, conservation, bibliography and even history, are waiting for the enthusiastic student.

In a state like Georgia where little study has been made of birds, there is a real opportunity for investigations which may reveal information of importance, both locally and nationally. First of all it is necessary to determine what birds actually occur in the region and to work out their distribution and times of occurrence. This, particularly in the case of subspecies, requires the examination of specimens from different parts of the state, collected both at the breeding season and at other times of the year.

Among the most important birds in Georgia that need such careful investigation by use of specimens are those mentioned below. Two forms of the Great Blue Heron occur in the State, and it is desirable to delineate the actual limits of the breeding range of the southern form, as well as of the northern form, and also to determine the winter range of the latter. On the coast should occur in the winter at least two, perhaps three, forms of the Clapper Rail, and it is important to work out the times of migration and the distribution of these forms in the State. The summer distribution of the races of the common crow, particularly in the southeastern part of the State, is more or less uncertain and should be carefully worked out. The distribution and migration of the various races of the Long-billed Marsh Wren that occur in the State will need much careful study because of the possibility of the appearance in the winter of the Mississippi Valley forms. The distribution of the House Wren, of which probably three subspecies are found in Georgia, presents also an important problem; as does that of the races of the Yellow Warbler and the Maryland Yellow-throat. The Purple Grackle of the State will need a great deal more study, particularly in view of the recent investigations that Dr. Frank M. Chapman has made, in order to determine the exact limits of the different breeding forms in the State, also the status of these birds at other seasons. The summer and winter ranges of the different forms of the Red-winged Blackbird, the limits of their distribution, and similar problems can be worked out only from specimens. This applies also to the Song Sparrow and the Seaside Sparrow, of which latter there are probably at least three forms in Georgia at some time of the year. A few of the other problems of distribution concern the Georgia breeding range of the Black-billed

Cuckoo; the Fish Crow in the interior of the State; the Short-billed Marsh Wren, particularly its southern limit; the Cerulean Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Bachman's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Water Thrush, the Dickcissel, and the Grasshopper Sparrow; together with the migration range of the Black-poll Warbler and the winter range of the Bachman's Warbler. Also the present status of the Swallow-tailed Kite, as a bird of the State, needs investigation. The Brewer's Blackbird, which has been found rather commonly in winter in North Carolina recently, should be looked for, as well as other western birds rare in the east, like the Leconte's Sparrow. Careful observations will probably add to the State list as winter visitors other northern species, as for instance, the Lapland Longspur.

In every region some birds have peculiarities of habits, so that it is desirable to study the life history of birds with relation to local conditions, in addition to learning all that can be discovered regarding their general economy. In addition, it is important to find out as much as possible concerning the birds of Georgia from the standpoint of their relation to environment, particularly that of vegetation, and to work out more in detail not only the life zones but also the extent and peculiarities of the smaller ecological areas of the State.

No real student should neglect the protection of birds, but should ascertain the local needs of his bird friends and attempt to supply them. Feeding shelves, shelters, and bird baths perform double duty by helping the birds and by providing observation posts for learning many interesting facts regarding bird behavior. Game and other birds often need protection from enemies, particularly man, and the bird student should be interested in aiding such efforts. To this end there is much that can be done in an educational way to impart knowledge and arouse sentiment for the conservation of bird life.

An adequate, authentic book on the birds of Georgia is much to be desired, but would require much research. It is, however, an excellent goal for bird students in the State. Furthermore, articles on the birds of small areas, particularly if interesting and important, and annotated lists of the birds of counties are likewise often of much value, especially to the student of geographic distribution and ecology. It is best to have a definite purpose in bird study, and no more worthy one is there than to make known new facts and thus add to the permanent sum of human knowledge.

GENERAL NOTES

White Pelican in Atlanta, Georgia.—On July 27, 1935, I observed at close range the White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) which is of accidental occurrence in Atlanta. The bird was resting on the Atlanta reservoir when first seen. Later it flew up, circled about several times, and flew off at a high altitude. White body and wings, and black wing tips were easily noted.

Three other records for the Atlanta area are given in Greene's "Birds of the Atlanta Area". Mr. Alexander Sprunt lists several coastal records in the Auk (Vol. 47, April, 1930) and his article in this issue of The Oriole contains an additional record from Cumberland Island.—Nelson T. Spratt, Jr., Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

Wood Ibis and American Egret at Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.—On August 26, 1935, Dr. E. E. Byrd, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia and I collected a specimen of the Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) from a flock of more than fifty birds feeding in one of the shallow lakes about two miles south of Macon. The bird was feeding with another of its kind near the shore. The specimen was an immature female. The skin was prepared for a museum specimen and deposited in the Zoological Museum of the University of Georgia.

Feeding on the same lake, we identified two specimens as belonging to the species *Casmerodius albus egretta*, the American Egret. These birds were feeding about one hundred yards out from shore which prevented our taking either of the specimens for the purpose of checking the identification.

These records are the first for either of these birds in Bibb County. The American Egret is known to wander to the interior in late summer and has been recorded as far inland as Athens and Atlanta in the State of Georgia. The Wood Ibis has been recorded less frequently from as far interior as this, and so far as I know, its record from Macon is the farthest point from the coast yet reported in the State.—J. Fred Denton, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

White Ibis at Atlanta.—On the afternoon of July 25, 1935, the writer, accompanied by Mr. Britt Bailey, visited that part of South River section known to local bird students as "Sawtell's Meadow". Among the flock of Little Blue Herons feeding in the marshy part of the meadow were discovered two immature White Ibises (*Guara alba*). The birds were unusually tame and allowed an approach to within fifty feet.

This constitutes the third record for this species in the Atlanta area. Earle R. Greene in his "Birds of the Atlanta Area" records two birds on the Chattahoochee River near Bull Suice on July 17 and 23, 1921. The other record was made in Sawtell's Meadow, when one immature bird was observed on August 23 and again on September 14, 1934.—Norman H. Giles, Jr., Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

The Red-tailed Hawk Breeding on the Georgia Coast.—Wayne (Birds of South Carolina, 1910), expresses the belief that the eastern red-tailed hawk (*Buteo b. borealis*) does not nest on the coast in South Carolina. There are a few recent records from that state disproving this.

And I know of a pair of these hawks that have nested on Turtle Island, S. C., which is about three miles east of Savannah.—Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. dredge "Morgan", Savannah, Ga.

Two January Woodcock Nesting Records from Marietta, Georgia.—Through the kindness of Mr. Fred Barkalow of Marietta, Georgia, I am able to place on record these two early nesting records.

The first, found on January 12, 1935, was situated on high ground in a swamp, and contained four eggs. The second, found on January 19, 1935, in the same vicinity but on a hillside contained but one egg. Unfortunately no further data were obtained.

The Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) is a rather rare breeder in this part of the state, the only other record being of a nest in Campbell County (now a part of Fulton County) March 15, 1904, the eggs of which are deposited in the Emory University Museum Collection.—Don Eyles, Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

The Ring-billed Gull Summering Again in Georgia.—In 1932, several ring-billed gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) stayed around the mouth of the Savannah River all summer, and the fact was recorded in the Auk, 1933, p. 103.

Again this summer, one of these gulls was seen nearly every day along the city front until late July. I had little chance to be around the river mouth, and left August first on vacation, so do not know if there were more present, or if they stayed through August. None were seen through September.—Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. dredge "Morgan", Savannah, Ga.

Two Late Breeding Records for the Mourning Dove.—A conflict in the state and federal dove seasons has created considerable stir among bird students and the better class of sportsmen. The federal season opens on September 20th and closes January 5th. Georgia has a split season allowing shooting from September 1st to September 30th and again from November 20th to January 31st.

On September 1, 1934, I discovered a nest of the Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*) with one newly-hatched young and one egg at Gainesville, Georgia. On August 25, 1935, I located another nest at Gainesville with two eggs. The fate of the young, if the parent birds are legally shot on the day the season opened in Georgia, is one of the reasons for the decreasing number of Mourning Doves.

The federal regulations allow a liberal open season which, if conformed to, should satisfy the sportsmen and result in helping to save the Mourning Dove from actual extermination.—Berma Jarrard, 54 Briarcliff Circle, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Bank Swallow, a Fall Migrant in Coastal Georgia.—For the past three years (1933-35) the bank swallow (*Riparia r. riparia*), has been present from late August until about September 5th in small numbers. I have not seen it in spring, but may have missed it.

Most of the works at hand mention a fall migration route through Mexico and Central America, and one (Forbush: Birds of Massachusetts, etc.), mentions the species as casual in the West Indies.

Because of the difficulty of distinguishing it from the very similar rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*) it may have been easily overlooked. The bank swallow however, has a clearly marked white throat and a breast banded with dark, while the rough-wing has no such distinct white throat.—Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. dredge "Morgan", Savannah, Ga.

Nesting Records of the Catbird in Chatham County.—Two egg dates for the catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), June 18, 1927, and June 9, 1931, respectively, constitute the first breeding records of this species in Chatham County. And there is plenty of evidence to prove it a regular breeder and common in particular habitat of myrtle bushes overrun with pepper vine, on Hutchinson and on Argyle Island, on the north side of the Savannah River.—Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. dredge "Morgan", Savannah, Ga.

Does the Cerulean Warbler Nest in Georgia?—The breeding range of the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) as given in the 1931 A. O. U. Checklist is as follows: (the bird) "Breeds mainly in Austral zones from southeastern Nebraska, southeastern Minnesota . . . south to northeastern Texas . . . and northern Georgia." Although the bird is thought to nest in the mountains of northern Georgia no nests have been reported by observers to verify the actual breeding of the bird in this state.

On June 10, 1935, while studying the biology of certain species of birds in the vicinity of Canal Lake Camp, Union County, Georgia, E. E. Byrd, L. H. Mounts and I encountered two Cerulean Warblers. The first bird was sitting quietly on a dead limb overhanging a small river. It was unusually tame and sat quietly for several minutes allowing us to approach to within a few feet of the tree before becoming startled. The second bird was feeding among the limbs of a pine not more than fifty yards from the tree in which the first bird was observed. After a time both flew away up the mountainside. No attempt was made to observe them further. No nest or actual evidence of "nest-building" was observed, yet it is quite possible that they remained in the vicinity to breed.—J. Fred Denton, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

White-crowned Sparrow in Bibb County.—On February 8, 1935, Mr. Mounts and I noticed a strange sparrow among the other sparrows feeding on the ground under our hedge, where we scatter chicken feed every day for the birds. This bird at first glance seemed much like a female English Sparrow, but there was a faint suggestion of a wide light stripe through the crown, and it was somewhat larger and grayer. It appeared nearly every day, along with English Sparrows, White-throats, Chipping Sparrows, and an occasional Song Sparrow; but it kept somewhat apart from the other sparrows. We watched it and discussed its identity but the description of no sparrow which might be expected in the region fitted. We had seen full-plumaged White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys*) in the north and not expecting to see it here we did not even look up the description until in April. We did feel sure that this must be an immature bird.

As spring advanced the bird became more prominently marked. The second week in April the crown began to show white, and in about ten days the bird was in adult plumage. It continued to come to the yard every day until the 5th of May when it and the White-throats disappeared.—Beryl T. Mounts, Ballard Normal School, Macon, Georgia.

Seasonal Notes from Atlanta.—The following records constitute a few of the more interesting observations made in the vicinity of Atlanta from mid-summer through November. As a whole the fall migration seemed to be about on schedule. However, since it was impossible to be in the field constantly, a very comprehensive report on arrivals and departures is not possible.

Among the interesting water-bird records from South River in the summer were two immature White Ibises, an American Egret, a flock of fourteen Little Blue Herons, and a King Rail on July 25th. The Little Blues remained at least until September 8th and probably later. On October 2nd a Great Blue Heron was present. The first Barn Swallows were present at South River on August 8th and remained until October 2nd, which was a new late date for that species. Golden-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers were observed in Collier Woods on September 22nd. A Broad-winged Hawk on October 2nd at South River constituted a new late date for that species. The first Cedar Waxwings appeared at Emory on October 15th and the first Purple Finches at East Lake on November 10.

A trip to Stone Mountain on October 20th produced several of the common winter residents, such as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireo, and Song Sparrow. Black-throated Green Warblers were abundant and one Black-throated Blue was recorded. A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak established a new late date. On another interesting trip to the lake south of Stone Mountain on November 2nd, three male and two female Baldpates and one male Wood Duck were observed. Other waterfowl records were: November 10th, Ring-necked and Scaup Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, and Coots at East Lake; November 16th, two Red-breasted Mergansers at Brookhaven, one Loon and four Herring Gulls at the Waterworks.—Norman H. Giles, Jr., Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

Nesting Data from the Atlanta Area.—In the literature very few data on breeding Georgia birds are to be found. Only in such annotated lists as Greene's "Birds of the Atlanta Area" and Burleigh's campus list of the Georgia State College of Agriculture are any considerable number of breeding records given. Of course all the nesting records of each and every Georgia bird student could not be immediately placed in print; the volume would be too great even though it would, admittedly, be desirable.

The dates which I record in this note are perhaps not all worthy of publication. The manner in which they were selected was by asking myself which I would wish printed if I were to attempt some research on Georgia nesting birds.

For the majority of these records I am indebted to Mr. Fred Barkalow of Marietta, Georgia; the additional ones are from my own notes.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—May 3, 1932, Marietta, Georgia; nest in hole in dead tree twenty-five feet up; twelve eggs.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*).—April 25, 1933, at Marietta, Georgia; in a large pine about fifty feet high; five eggs.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus* sp.).—One nest, April 4, 1931, at South River, Atlanta, contained one egg; next in fork of Sweet Gum fifty feet up. April 25, the single egg had hatched and young was several days old. (Partial data concerning this nest are to be found in Greene's "Birds of the Atlanta Area"). A second nest, March 18, 1933, was found in the same position in the same tree; contained five eggs which eggs hatched late in April (This nest also recorded by Greene).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo p. platypterus*).—One nest, May 1, 1932, at Marietta; in an oak about fifty feet up; two eggs. A second nest, May 25, also at Marietta; in the forks of a large poplar tree about eighty feet up; four eggs.

Eastern Bob-white (*Colinus v. virginianus*).—A nest, May 18, 1932, at Marietta; at edge of field on the ground; ten eggs.

Southern Screech Owl (*Otus a. asio*).—One deserted nest in Atlanta, May 3, 1931; in hollow of tree about ten feet up; one broken egg. A second nest, May 18, 1932, at Marietta; in Sweet Gum cavity ten feet from ground; also one egg.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker (*Phloeotomus p. pileatus*).—Nest, April 26, 1932, Marietta; in dead tree thirty feet up; four eggs.—Don Eyles, Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

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EDITORIAL

For months we have anticipated this moment. We had always thought that anticipation was greater than realization. It is not! We feel a sense of keen pleasure—of warmth around the region of our hearts, as we introduce you to this—our first number of THE ORIOLE.

We should like to explain the purposes and aims of this publication, but we cannot. You would think our purposes too many, and our ambition too high. But through its pages we want bird lovers everywhere to meet—and talk—and be friends. We have no desire to convert these pages into a strictly scientific journal—but we do hope they will contribute just a little toward helping to create a general, wide-spread interest in birds, and in preserving valuable notes and records which may come to us from time to time.

A final word. This is your magazine. Through your subscription you will keep it alive. Through your contributions of notes and interesting items, you will build it. And when, through beads of perspiration, we have assembled, selected, typed and proof-read, THE ORIOLE will be returned to you for your final approval. We hope you will like it.

THE EDITORS.

The editors of The Oriole are very grateful for the aid they have received in preparing the first number of this magazine. Especial credit is due all those included on the editorial board. From the first their help has been freely and generously given.

Mr. Alfred F. Gainer, editor of the Migrant, was of invaluable aid in explaining the mechanism of a journal of this sort, and to him great thanks are due. Mr. Alexander Sprunt, director of Southern Sanctuaries for the Audubon Association, gave much time and thought to the publication and, in addition, contributed one of the leading articles. From Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Biological Survey was received much good advice and he too contributed an article which appears in this issue. To the above two and to many other friends the editors are greatly indebted. Without their cooperation this enterprise could not have been undertaken.