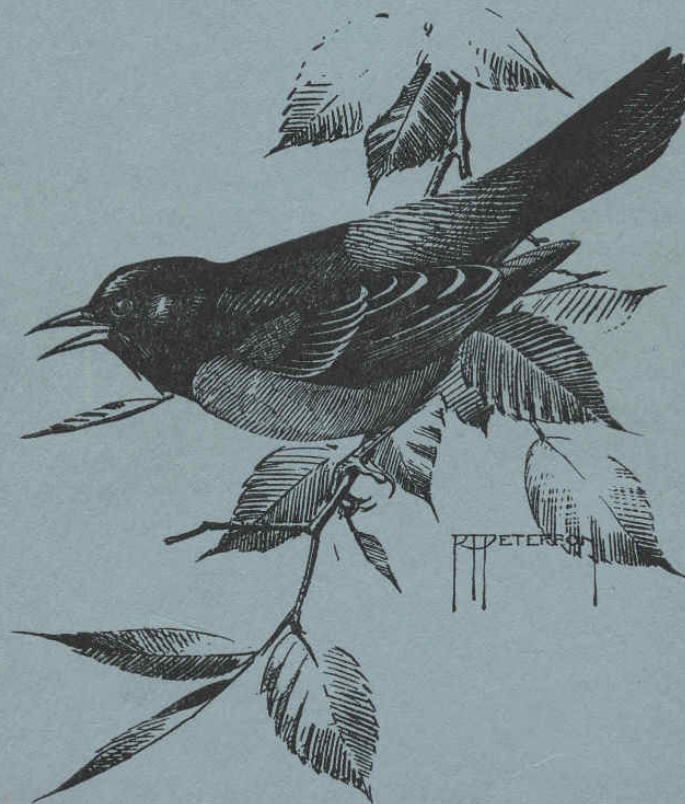


THE ORIOLE

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGY



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER, 1938

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THE ORIOLE

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VOL. III

SEPTEMBER, 1938

No. 3

SOME NESTING DATA ON NORTH GEORGIA BIRDS

By GLENN W. BELL

There are many fields of interest in connection with the study of bird-life that might easily hold our attention, varied though they are. Each phase is different in its scope and appeal to bird lovers in a different way. Some specialize in their songs, others are keenly interested in scientific research in their habits, while some are concerned with migration. Regardless of our specialty, we all have a deep interest in the nesting and breeding habits of birds.

The purpose of this short article will be to list the nesting of different species of birds found during the nesting season of nineteen-hundred thirty-eight. The writer's interest in this phase of bird study was stimulated by the contest held by the Atlanta Bird Club this spring. The object of this contest was to stimulate interest in bird identification and nest-finding. Each species and one nest of a species counted one point respectively. The club was divided into four groups, and the group getting the largest number of points won the contest. Much interest was manifested, and every member learned much through his or her efforts.

Many observations were made during the summer after the contest was over. These studies were made in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Union County. Some nests were found which were not included in the contest. Breeding records were counted when an adult bird was seen feeding its young. Such records are indicated in the following list.

To summarize rapidly the birds found nesting in north Georgia during the Summer of 1938 with the date of the finding of the first nest of each species, we find: the Green Heron (young), June 18; Coopers Hawk (young), June 12; Bob White, May 21; Ruffed Grouse (young), July 20; Mourning Dove, May 3; Screech Owl (young), June 16; Chimney Swift, May 8; Night-hawk, May 29; Hummingbird (young), June 8; Flicker, May 18; Pileated Woodpecker (young), June 16; Red-bellied Woodpecker, April 9; Red-headed Woodpecker, May 8; Downy Woodpecker, May 8; Kingbird, May 18; Crested Flycatcher (young), June 15; Phoebe, April 28; Acadian Flycatcher, June 15; Wood Pewee, June 9; Rough-winged Swallow, April 28; Purple Martin, April 28; Blue Jay, March 26; Crow, May 15; Carolina Chickadee, April 8; Tufted Titmouse, April 9; White-br. Nuthatch, May 30; Brown-headed Nuthatch, March 13; Carolina Wren, May 14; Mockingbird, May 3; Catbird, May 5; Brown Thrasher, April 9; Robin, April 9; Wood Thrush, April 28; Bluebird, March 13; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, May 6; Loggerhead Shrike, May 21; Starling, March 10; White-eyed Vireo, April 15; Red-eyed Vireo, April 18; Black and White Warbler (young), June 8; Yellow Warbler,

May 29; Cerulean Warbler, June 12; Yellow-throated Warbler, June 8; Pine Warbler (Building 3-10), April 13; Ovenbird, June 9; La. Waterthrush (young), June 18; Yellow-throat, April 31; Yellow-breasted Chat, April 25; Hooded Warbler, April 31; Redstart (young), June 12; English Sparrow, March 10; Red-winged Blackbird, May 3; Orchard Oriole, April 8; Scarlet Tanager (young), June 15; Summer Tanager, May 30; Cardinal, April 9; Indigo Bunting, April 27; Goldfinch (young), August 5; Towhee, May 21; Chipping Sparrow, May 8; Field Sparrow, April 27; Song Sparrow, June 8.

There are many common birds which are not among those listed above. There were twelve nesting species reported at the close of the Atlanta Bird Club contest which the writer did not find and did not include in this report. These nesting dates are not complete, they may be used as a guide, as individual pairs may vary from the typical. Many nesting irregularities encountered were perhaps due to an extremely wet spring season. Two nests of the Bob White were found in August, and were incubated the latter part of August. The Chipping Sparrow fledglings which left their nest September 2 might have been the second, or even the third brood of the season. It is always interesting to observe the things, we think, are irregular in the study of bird life.

Some of the highlights for the writer are: the finding of the first Hooded Warbler's nest and a nest of four fledgling Cerulean Warblers; watching the three fledgling Screech Owls which had just ventured forth from the hollow-tree home; seeing the Ruffed Grouse fly away as though her wing was broken, and hearing that peculiar whistle to her young which were securely hidden in the thick undergrowth; and searching for a sight of the Wild Turkey which was always just out of sight. One is repaid for any of the hardships found in hiking through the mountains, woods, and fields because nature gives us many pleasures if we cultivate our eyes to see and our ears to hear.

DOCTOR WILLIAM H. LAPRADE

By LOUISE GIRARDEAU

Dr. William H. LaPrade, well-known Methodist minister and pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, has been interested in birds from childhood. While he was a student at old Emory at Oxford, Georgia, Dr. Henry Stiles Bradley, a teacher of Biology, in talking with him, conceived the idea of helping Emory to get a collection of birds similar to some seen in other institutions. At that time Emory had no museum and little material for students of biology.

The collection for Emory was begun soon after Dr. LaPrade left Vanderbilt University in 1898. He learned to prepare scientific skins from textbooks without the aid of a teacher. For quite a number of years, Dr. LaPrade took his vacations in collecting trips and encamped in various sections from mountains to seashore covering most of the State of Georgia.

After Dr. LaPrade had prepared six hundred specimens, the collection was installed at Oxford and remained there until 1918 at which time the college was removed to the Atlanta campus. Altogether he has placed about 1800 scientific skins at Emory. Some have been added from time to time by other men among whom are: Dr. E. E. Murphey, Isaac F. Arnow, Troup D.

Perry, Gilbert Rossignol, and Robert W. Smith. These chief helpers exchanged bird skins with Dr. LaPrade.

Not only did Dr. LaPrade contribute the skins to Emory, but also at the request of a professor of biology, he undertook the collection of eggs. There are at present some eight or nine hundred sets of eggs in the collection. Mr. Lucien Harris, Dr. Wallace Rogers, and Mr. Gilbert Rossignol helped with the collecting of these eggs.

Besides the specimens of birds on display, there are many others in storage cases for special uses of students of biology. There are some of a series showing variations between species and recognized sub-species. These were of enough interest to the members of the Biological Survey in Washington that they asked Emory to loan over one hundred and fifty specimens to them for comparison and study. They kept this collection for a year or two.

In addition to Dr. LaPrade's gift to Emory, he taught a course on the Birds of Georgia for six sessions from 1919 through 1924. This instruction was given during the first six years summer school that was held at Emory. Some of those people now active in bird work started their work at this time.

Dr. E. E. Murphey of Augusta and Dr. LaPrade were boyhood friends and renewed their acquaintance after they were grown. They have spent hours comparing notes on birds of the State.

At Mt. Gilead Camp Ground in Fulton County, Dr. LaPrade and Dr. Wallace Rogers, just after they had begun their work in the ministry, were walking around the camp grounds. They saw a Kentucky Warbler and heard him singing. Dr. Rogers thought the bird was some kind of sparrow. Dr. LaPrade told him the name of the bird, explained some of its habits, and described the course of its migration. That incident was the beginning of Dr. Rogers' great interest in birds. Dr. LaPrade also helped Mr. Lucien Harris at the beginning of his study, so Dr. LaPrade has given to many others an inspiration to learn more of their feathered neighbors in Georgia.

NOTES AND NEWS

Below is printed the program of the fourth Semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society held at the Okefinokee Swamp on October 8 and 9, 1938.

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Semi-annual Meeting

Okefinokee Wildlife Refuge (Federal), Fargo, Ga.

Saturday, October 8, 1938

Registration upon arrival at The Cabin (Residence of E. R. G.)

4 P. M.—Meeting of Executive Committee.

6 P. M.—Informal Dinner (Griffis Dining Hall), Herbert L. Stoddard, President of Society.

8 P. M.—General Round Table. Discussion, talks, speeches, etc.

9 P. M.—Business Meeting—Election of Officers, etc.

10 P. M.—Lights out.

Sunday, October 9, 1938

Breakfast in Lem Griffis Dining Hall, 5:30 A. M.

6 A. M.—Leave for field and water trip through the Pocket to Billys Lake and Billys Island.

12 Noon—Lunch on Billys Island. Return to Camp.

Geese in the Savannah Area.—Geese of any species have usually been scarce in the Savannah area, but the fall of 1937 brought an unusual number of flocks which, however, did not tarry for the most part, but went on to some unknown wintering ground.

This fall to date (October 24, 1938), quite a number of geese have been seen again. Secondhand information is that some Snowies are mixed with the Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis* subs.) which make up the majority of the flocks. This also was true last year.

Just where these birds winter no one knows, and whether it is a migration branch that has been unnoticed previously, or some new departure, is also uncertain. If the Snowies prove to be *Chen hyperborea atlantica*, the Greater Snow Goose, then (as seems most probable) the group must come down the Atlantic flyway, but if these should be Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen hyperborea hyperborea*), it would indicate an offshoot of the Mississippi flyway.

A single specimen of *atlantica*, from Savannah, November 24, 1931, (Auk, 1932, p. 213) seems to be the only exact identification of any Snow Goose from the State.—Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. Dredge "Morgan," Savannah, Georgia.

Gray Kingbird Nesting in Georgia.—The Gray Kingbird has been known as a nesting bird in both South Carolina and Florida for several years. In Georgia there is one published sight record of its occurrence and a skin in the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences collection, but no nesting records. This sight record was published in the Auk by Ivan R. Tomkins of Savannah, Georgia, and was a report of an observation by Gilbert R. Rossignol. This observation was made at the old Quarantine Station on Cockspur Island in the mouth of the Savannah River.

On reporting at Fort Pulaski National Monument for work this summer, the writer was assigned quarters at the Quarantine Station on Cockspur. Notes of a strange bird were heard and it was found on observation to be the Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis dominicensis*). The first observation was made about July 18, 1938. On July 3, in the company of Ivan R. Tomkins a Gray Kingbird was observed to leave a nest in a Chinaberry (*Melia Azedarach*) on the lawn of the Quarantine Station. On climbing the tree, the writer found that the nest contained three eggs. On July 17th the nest contained three young and on that date several photographs of the adults were secured one of which appeared in the Savannah Evening

Press of July 22, 1938. The birds are present still at this writing (August 5, 1938).—Don Eyles, Biology Department, Emory University, Georgia.

Arkansas Kingbird in Georgia.—On October 9, 1938 during the course of a Georgia Ornithological Society field trip on Billy's Island, Okefinokee Swamp, an Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis verticalis*) was observed by the writers. The bird was easily approached and all of the distinguishing characteristics were noted.

Apparently this observation represents the first State record for this species as a search of the literature reveals no previous occurrences. No specimen was taken but the bird was carefully studied and the identification confirmed by a number of ornithologists including Ivan R. Tomkins, Earle R. Greene, Robert McLanahan, and Don Eyles.—Bill Griffin and George Sciple, Emory University, Georgia.

Atlanta Bird Club Contest.—On February 13, 1938, a contest was launched by the Atlanta Bird Club. The club was divided into five groups each consisting of about eleven members captained by a group leader. The contest was based on the number of species of birds seen in Georgia; however, species whose nests had been found counted double.

On June 3, 1938 the contest was closed and a winning group proclaimed. This winning group was headed by Ray C. Werner and contained the following members: Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Werner, Mrs. J. C. Oliver, Glenn Bell, Fred Glisson, Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Robert Gordon Mrs. John Brickman, Harry Greene, and Mrs. G. S. Hames. Their group turned in a list of 167 species of birds of which 46 were found nesting in Georgia, making a total of 203 points.

Although Mr. Werner's group was the only one to win it was not the only one to work. Real interest was shown by everyone and a fight was made by each group to win or at least not to come in last. Altogether the five groups saw 186 species of birds during the spring and found the nests of 56 of them. Very few coastal birds were seen because no one visited the coast for any length of time; however, a number of rather interesting records were made around Atlanta.—Bill Griffin, Emory University, Georgia.

A Review of "Southern Nature Stories."—A preacher, a teacher, and a publisher's agent took stock of the literature on the natural history of Georgia and the south and found children in Savannah reading, "The Robin Arrives in the Spring," and decided to do something about it. Southern Nature Stories, Turner E. Smith & Co., is the result.

Dr. Wallace Rogers, a Methodist Minister, has long been known as an authority on birds of the Atlanta area and bird photography as well. He has made many excellent pictures of nesting birds in their natural surroundings, often climbing tall trees to photograph a new species rather than to risk disturbing the home by lowering it.

About half of the stories in this text are about birds and written in the easy, intimate vein characterizing a lovable personality.

Dr. W. B. Baker, a professor in the department of biology at Emory

University, has the reputation of making students love botany.

In this book he has introduced fifth graders to six families of flowers, presenting them in such a simple, informal way that children are delighted and soon have the whole family answering the questions at the end of the story and farther tested out on the words to be pronounced and defined.

Mr. Lucien Harris, Jr. is a member of the family made famous by the stories of "Uncle Remus." His hobby from childhood has been collecting insects, especially the lepidoptera. The famous collection of moths and butterflies at the Emory University Museum made over a period of many years was presented by him to the museum as it became too valuable to remain in private ownership.

Other animals of particular interest to early adolescents such as reptiles, squirrels, and frogs are included in the stories.

Conservation of wild life is taught without mentioning it as such. Identification, collecting, and other activities dear to youngsters are made clear by these delightful stories told in an informal manner, yet every statement scientifically true.

The forty or more full page illustrations are made from photographs by Dr. Rogers. The committee on the selection of school books for Georgia is highly commended in their selection of this text.—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Emory University, Georgia.

Burleigh's Birds of Athens.—The editors have had several requests for information as to how copies of this work may be obtained. There are still a large number of copies on hand and these may be secured at the rate of fifty cents a piece from Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Emory University, Georgia.

The editors have more than once pointed out that this paper is among the most valuable contributions to knowledge of Georgia birds and insist that it should be in the library of every Georgia naturalist.

The Society offers condolences to Mrs. Victor H. Bassett in the recent loss of her husband. Mr. Bassett, although not an ornithologist, was one of the Society's staunchest supporters.

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Editors—DON EYLES EARLE R. GREENE
Box 555, EMORY UNIVERSITY, GA.

Advisory Editors:
NORMAN H. GILES, JR. CHARLES NEWTON ELLIOTT RAY C. WERNER
MRS. MAURICE C. ABERCROMBIE

Regional Editors:
DR. E. E. MURPHEY, Augusta; IVAN R. TOMKINS, Savannah; HERBERT L. STODDARD, Thomasville; J. FRED DENTON, Athens; L. H. MOUNTS, Macon, and MISS MABEL T. ROGERS, Milledgeville

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EDITORIAL

This issue constitutes the next to last of the present staff of editors of The Oriole. Most of us have served since the beginning in 1936 and it is with regret that we relinquish the publication of the magazine to the new staff, but we feel that with new energy and ideas The Oriole should during the coming years expand both in size and usefulness.

The present editors would like to add here a word of caution which we believe the new staff hardly needs. The editors believe that the Georgia Ornithological Society to be of value should make a contribution and the editors believe that The Oriole is an excellent vehicle for such a contribution. They believe that the contribution of the G. O. S. should be that of concrete, accurate, scientific data on the various phases of ornithology in the State of Georgia. Often there have appeared in The Oriole items which may of the members hardly understood and scarcely appreciated. Some of these have been valuable additions to the knowledge of Georgia ornithology. The member of the G. O. S. instead of ignoring these articles should let them stimulate him to become such a bird student that these articles would become intelligible.

The distribution of The Oriole is not limited to the State of Georgia. Files of the magazine can be found in university libraries and in the collections of recognized ornithologists in various parts of the country. By the material in The Oriole these ornithologists know the G. O. S. The calibre of the material in The Oriole will determine the degree of esteem in which the G. O. S. will be held by them. Natural history articles of a popular nature which contribute little to the knowledge of the reader and still less to the knowledge of ornithology are out of place in a journal meant to be scientific. Perhaps many of our members are not scientific or of a scientific bent, but let it be remembered that the Society is of a scientific nature as its rather imposing title indicates.

The editors do not suggest that the other functions of The Oriole be ignored; they merely express the wish that the primary function of the magazine remain that of publishing for posterity and for the ornithological world material data of a scientific nature on Georgia birds.

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