

THE ORIOLE

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



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DECEMBER, 1939

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PROBLEMS AND POLICIES OF THE G. O. S.

By R. J. H. DeLoach

As the years come and go it seems more and more evident that our bird life is weaving itself into the fiber and fabric of our social and economic existence. In the wilderness of any primitive society birds are adjusted to the order of nature and can take care of themselves. As man clears away the forests little by little, wild birds find it more and more difficult to keep pace with the constantly changing civilization. For this reason we should become concerned about the welfare of our native birds.

The Georgia Ornithological Society is young when compared with other societies of its kind, but it is potential in proportion to the dynamics of its members. We are now entering into the fourth year and should be in a position to see more clearly our problems and work out policies that will lead to definite results. It will be the purpose of the new administration to take up where our former President, Mr. Greene, left off and to secure if possible a more complete correlation of bird study in the state. We should know more about our birds. We should have a clearer picture of number of species and individuals and the geographical areas in which they live. More people should be interested in and acquainted with birds—in order that we may have reliable reporters from every nook and corner of the state. This is by no means impossible if we only furnish convincing evidence that it is important to have this information.

The Georgia Ornithological Society should feel a deeper responsibility in the making or modifying of the laws of the state for the protection of birds and other wild life. In order to meet this responsibility we hope to have a vigilance committee whose duty should be to help construct or make suggestions as to the laws regarding drainage and its effect on our wild life. Such a committee could prove a blessing to the state by examining proposed laws on nature conservation and suggesting needed laws for protecting our wild life. This is especially true regarding hawks and owls. The public has apparently sworn vengeance on these two families of birds. Any one who knows the facts fully understands the error of such a position taken by the public. Only a very few species of hawks and owls are ever harmful and even in such cases the species do far more good than they do evil. As a matter of fact all hawks and owls prove to be a blessing to agriculture by destroying harmful rodents, insects, etc.

One of our projects for the current year is to try to induce the public to convert back yards into bird sanctuaries. It requires only a willingness on the part of owners to do this. Certain trees and shrubs should be planted in order to furnish food for birds—but even this is not necessary if one has the proper attitude. A little finely ground chick feed scattered in the back yard—or equally as satisfactory—a good sprinkling of hominy grits will bring birds to our doors. It will afford us the rare opportunity of observing them in the wild state and of seeing how they respond to man's kindness. For every one who undertakes this there is many an hour of happiness. The new friends that we make daily will repay us in music and all kinds of

comedy for the money we invest in bird food. The new songs that come into our sanctuary from day to day will soon be as familiar to us as the voices of any of our human friends, and what a difference this will make in our interests about the premises! Home will have new meaning to us. It should be the purpose of every member of the G. O. S. to make it a point to emphasize this work whenever and wherever he can. First let us convert our own back yards into bird sanctuaries, and then show our neighbors how easy it is to attract birds to their premises.

If we mean business in the organization of the G. O. S. we should be in a position to retain the \$2.00 membership fees. It seems like a very small contribution to the education of the public on the importance of bird life. We should work to the end of knowing our birds and then communicating this information to the public through every possible channel. Certainly one of the best channels is our educational institutions, of which the public schools are the best. It is here that we ought really to do constructive work. Bird study at the present time is only a part of general nature study but we can make teachers more bird conscious only by bringing before them constantly reliable information about birds.

Every officer in the organization should feel deeply the responsibility that the particular office carries with it. Let us not wait until the next meeting to start something. Now is the time to get busy and make the next meeting a great success. Not only the officers, but every individual member should arrogate to himself some particular task between now and the next meeting in April at Statesboro. Can we not visit some school or family and help spread the gospel of nature conservation, and especially bird conservation? Can we not recommend a good bird book to our school libraries and in this way put the girls and boys in possession of the right kind of literature? Can we not help to make a part of our various club programs some phase of bird life and its relation to nature and human nature? Can we not help to equip more of our public schools with movies and lantern slides and projectors? If we can do some of these things we will have justified our membership in the G. O. S.

Every member of the G. O. S. should be a member of a local bird club if such a club exists. If there is no local club he should endeavor to bring the possibility of such organization to the attention of the community in which he lives. It is easy to influence the local thinking about bird life if we place our enthusiasm at the disposal of the community. Unless we do this our influence will prove of little value. Our information and enthusiasm placed under a bushel cannot be of very great service. It is quite possible that many of us would like to purchase copies of THE ORIOLE and distribute among people who may now be considered prospective members of the G. O. S. This type of work will help to make our light shine so that others seeing our work will catch the idea and help carry it forward.

Would it not be a fine thing for each of us to register with the secretary our willingness to give illustrated lectures on birds if we are prepared to do so? Every member who is prepared should be willing to get out once or twice during the year and deliver such lecture, or help provide such lectures when in his opinion it may prove of especial value. In this same spirit to serve we should make every possible use of our Georgia Educational Journal by merging our bird study with nature study in general and having ready at all times material that would fit into such a program. Members should keep careful notes of their own observations and of any outstanding facts in the field of nature study and send to Miss Rogers, where it could be placed on the waiting list for the Journal. Who will be the first to undertake something of this kind? Let us pull together to make the citizens of Georgia aware of the pleasure to be derived from bird study and the danger accompanying their diminishing numbers.

AVIAN MALARIA

By Elizabeth Gambrell

The term "malaria" which literally means "bad air" is vague and indefinite. In human beings this term is applied to a disease or rather three diseases characterized by chills and fever and caused by three species of blood parasites of the Genus *Plasmodium*. In birds the term is applied more widely, and is usually used to denote any type of infection in which parasites are found inside blood cells, either the red or the white corpuscles. As more facts are acquired regarding infections in birds, the need of more specific diagnosis becomes evident. If we restrict the term malaria to those infections in birds caused by parasites of the Genus *Plasmodium* much confusion in the future will be avoided, for even with this limitation, protozoologists are confronted with at least a dozen different species in birds of North America alone.

True malaria in birds is transmitted by culicine mosquitoes, the common mosquitoes so prevalent in tropical and temperate regions, while malaria in human beings is transmitted by anopheline mosquitoes which are more limited in occurrence. The most common vector of bird malaria is *Culex pipiens*. This mosquito breeds more often in rain barrels or standing water in containers about human habitations. Other known mosquito vectors breed in salt marshes, fresh and brackish water in tree holes, stump holes and temporary rain pools. This wide range of breeding places increases the chances of the transmission of malaria in birds and makes control measures against the mosquito almost impossible.

Birds probably acquire the infection very early in life, especially in regions where young birds are exposed to the bites of the mosquitoes which transmit the infection. Young birds in the nest are relatively unprotected by feathers. Mature birds are bitten while roosting, as many of them ruffle their feathers when asleep. Small birds are infected more often than large birds.

The fact that young birds acquire the infection early has its advantages for the bird, but decided disadvantages for the bird parasitologist who tries to determine the extent of infection among the bird population. Malaria is diagnosed in wild birds from blood smears usually taken at bird-banding stations. Unfortunately this gives a false picture of the prevalence of the disease because of its characteristics. Infections in birds normally occur in three stages, first an incubation period, the time which elapses between the mosquito bite and the developed infection; then an acute stage when parasites are plentiful in the blood and can be found by the examination of a blood smear, and finally a latent period when the bird has no demonstrable parasites in the blood but still has the infection. The incubation period varies from two weeks to several months, the acute stage lasts only a few days and the latent stage may last for years. During this latent period the bird may be immune to re-infection with the same species of malaria and sometimes is partially immune to other species. Some types of malaria cause a chronic infection where parasites are present in small numbers in the blood over a long period of time. The infection is not confined to the blood alone, but parasites are in the bone marrow, spleen and liver. They have a predilection for young red cells and cause an anemia by destroying them. Most of the smears taken at bird-banding stations are from adult birds which are in the latent stage and therefore show no parasites.

Canaries are very susceptible to malaria and offer the best means of determining the extent of infection in wild birds. Some ornithologists ob-

ject to the use of canaries for studies of this kind, but their use may be justified on the following grounds: they are accustomed to captivity, and by sacrificing a few of these birds in the interest of science a great deal can be learned which will benefit wild life. Some very interesting facts have come to light in other sections of the country where small drops of blood from wild birds were injected into canaries known to be uninfected. In Syracuse, N. Y., Manwell and Herman captured birds and tested their blood by this method. In a series of 29 Song Sparrows only six cases of malaria were diagnosed by blood smears, but injections into canaries showed 17 or 58 per cent infected. On Cape Cod, Herman made blood smears from 193 Eastern Red-Wings and found only seven infected with malaria. Later the blood from 48 Red-Wings was subinoculated into canaries and 29 or over 60 per cent showed positive infections. In Nebraska, Coatney and Roudabush found a Magpie, a Crested Flycatcher and a Blue Jay infected with malaria. They also found a fledgling Robin with the infection. This was particularly interesting because Manwell and Herman had examined twenty Robins including ten young ones during their survey in New York and had found all the adults carrying malaria but none of the young birds. They suggested in Robins, "that the disease is generally acquired late in life very likely in the winter habitat." In Nebraska, at least, there is evidence that young Robins become infected before they migrate, in other words the mosquito vector occurs in northern regions as well as southern. Huff, by obtaining smears from banding stations in different sections of the country; Massachusetts, California, Michigan, North Dakota and Illinois, found by this method one out of every 16 birds examined to be infected with some species of *Plasmodium*. Nine were isolated and established as laboratory strains in canaries. At Emory University isolations have been made from birds for Dr. Huff and seven out of 13 Song Sparrows have yielded a positive infection in canaries.

Just how serious an attack of malaria is to a wild bird has never been determined. Some of the birds which when captured showed a high number of parasites in their blood streams were apparently suffering no ill effects from the disease. On the other hand, other birds are noticeably sick. Canaries in the acute attack become quite sick, usually sit quietly on a perch with their feathers ruffled and often with their heads under their wings. Death results from the great destruction of red cells by the parasites, and the accompanying enlargement of the spleen and liver, and the depletion of cells in the bone marrow. If an analogous condition exists in wild birds, then great numbers of fledglings must die before they reach maturity, and others weakened by illness are the victims of predators.

A great need for studies of malaria in birds exists in the South. Here the problem in human beings has overshadowed the problem in our bird population. Very few studies have been made in this region and yet the importance of malaria in regard to exposure during migrations and the future conservation of bird life here and elsewhere is almost unequalled.

SOME BACKYARD SANCTUARIES IN MILLEDGEVILLE

Because the whole city of Milledgeville has been rated a "Bird Sanctuary", many of the citizens are attracting birds to their gardens even though they are not members of our bird club. One of these is Mrs. William Rives who says that she does not know many of the birds (she is learning them all the time) but she loves them and wants them in her yard. She keeps her front yard for her friends to enjoy as they pass by. The

pansy beds and other flowers in their season are most attractive. The back yard, however, is for her bird friends and her own enjoyment with them. Here there are two bird baths, and in part of the space a somewhat tangled growth of grass and shrubs which means so much to the birds for food as well as for protection from the weather. There is one arbor which is covered with "trumpet vine" around which the humming birds come in numbers during the summer, six or eight at a time. In this comparatively small area made so attractive to them, the birds feel as much at home as in a larger unprotected area on the edge of town.

"Bird Haven", belongs to Dr. T. M. Hall. For nine years Dr. Hall has been doing more and more to attract the birds, and for a while they were so unafraid that they would eat from his hand. This has been done by planting trees such as the chinaberry, sugarberry, wild cherries and ever-bearing mulberries. The shrubs bearing berries which birds like are the *lugustrum*, *pyracantha* and *nandina*, beside some that are enjoyed for their tender buds, as the *lonicera fragrantissima*. The yard in the rear of the house is bordered by tall, thickly growing wild shrubs and vines which have sheltered as many as twenty-five nests in one season. There is one bird bath on the ground in an open place and two which are on pedestals. Those birds which accept a bird house for their nest have a choice of about a dozen of various shapes and sizes. One old tree trunk was "planted" here and is used by different species of woodpeckers and once by a crested flycatcher. The feeding stations are many but only one has a roof. The food put out is mainly scratch feed, sunflower seed, apples and best of all cracked nuts with sand mixed with them. Occasionally suet is added to the diet by tying it to a nail on the feeding shelf. Neither dogs nor cats are welcome in the yard. When the latter is seen trying to catch a bird, it is promptly "interned". This home with a yard of one and one-half acres is located across from the college, in the heart of the residential district. The number of birds that make it their home demonstrates conclusively that birds can be attracted to back yards with noisy surroundings.

"The Bird Life of Louisiana," June 1938—This bulletin of the Louisiana Department of Conservation written by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser should be in every Southern ornithologist's library. It contains a list of some 430 ovian forms found within the state including several never before named. In addition to this naming of five or more new races, Dr. Oberholser has accepted many forms and names not recognized by the last check-list of the A.O.U. The book also contains an excellent bibliography, a hypothetical list, several short chapters on history, migration, and conservation, and numerous colored plates and photographs. The *Bird Life of Louisiana* should truly inspire Georgians and serve to stimulate them to a greater realization of the need for scientific collecting. Dr. Oberholser and the entire state of Louisiana are to be congratulated on this comprehensive and authoritative publication.—Bill Griffin, Emory University, Ga.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher in Lumpkin County—On June 10, 1939 I observed an Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis mesoleucus*) on top of the small peak just south of Blood Mountain, in Lumpkin County, Georgia. The bird was perched in the top of a dead tree at an elevation of about 3500 feet, and stayed long enough for a complete check of its markings. The throat was whitish while the breast, in between the dark areas at the sides, was yellowish white. Its call note at the time might be written: "Pyew! Pyem!" repeated two or three times, low and gentle in tone. This was probably a note of alarm at my presence. George A. Dorsey, College Park, Ga.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Nature Stories, Vol. II, by Baker, Harris & Rogers, just off the press, carries a poem by George Dorsey, "The Ruby Crowned Kinglet". This is the second volume of the series of three planned by these friends and in many ways it is an improvement over the first. We heartily commend the authors on their attempt to give the school children of Georgia literature covering the Natural History of this region.

Two new publications of the Smithsonian Institute are "Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers," by A. C. Bent and "Notes on the Birds of Tennessee," by Alexander Wetmore.

The former is the twelfth volume of a series of bulletins begun twenty years ago. It consists of condensed accounts of the habits, distribution, nesting dates and egg measurements as well as a description of plumages and other facts of interest of 64 species and sub-species of Woodpeckers. Members of the G. O. S. will be interested in the fact that Dr. Eugene E. Murphy contributed the data on the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

Those fortunate enough to own the whole series of these bulletins are to be congratulated as they are compiled from a wide search through literature for important notes besides personal observations of many collaborators and the aid of the U. S. Biological Survey's immense files of data.

Notes on birds of Tennessee is of interest to G. O. S. members because Ornithological literature on any surrounding territory contributes to knowledge of our own avi fauna.

This "biological survey" reports on 186 forms of Tennessee birds seen or collected by parties from the National Museum during 1937.

Exchanges—The Auk—From the April, 1939 issue we find the following members of the A.O.U. in Georgia: Fellow—Herbert Lee Stoddard, Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville; Member—Ivan R. Thomkins, U. S. Engineering Department, Savannah; Associates—Fred S. Barkalow, Marietta (now of Auburn, Ala.); Mrs. Victor Hugo Bassett, 1010 E. Park Ave., Savannah; Earl R. Greene, Fargo (now of Key West, Fla.); Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Emory University; Lucien Harris, Jr., 500 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta; Paul E. Herring, Oglethorpe University; Lamdin Kay, 2332 Dellwood Drive, N. W., Atlanta; Robert C. McClanahan, Glen Building, Atlanta (now of Washington, D. C.); Neil T. McMillan, 2130 Belvidere Ave., Atlanta; Dr. Eugene E. Murphy, Augusta; Dr. Irvine Phinzy, 415 S. F. Building, Augusta; Rev. Wallace Rogers, Griffin. Also in this number is an article by George M. Sutton and Thomas D. Burleigh entitled "A New Screech Owl From Nuevo Leon."

Bird lore literally sparkles with nature lore, news of new books, bird pictures, teaching methods, legislative and sanctuary activities and conservation in general. In the September-October issue, "Birds in a Hedgerow," by M. McKenny, and "Forests," by R. T. P., were timely and helpful for the home builder and teacher.

The Wilson Bulletin—"The W.O.C. of Today" by Olin S. Pettingill, Jr. in the March Bulletin will be an excellent guide to a survey for any organization for years to come. Other exchanges are: The Florida Naturalist, The Migrant, The Chat and Iowa Bird Life.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

MABEL T. ROGERS
G. S. C. W., Milledgeville

Editors

HARRIET RAINWATER
Allen Couch School, Atlanta

Perhaps you have heard the question asked, "Why is a woman's mind cleaner than a man's?" When the answer is not forthcoming the questioner, with a twinkle in his eye, replies, "Because she changes it so often". Changing one's mind or policy too quickly may sometimes be a sign of lack of thought concerning the original plan, but an unwillingness to change when better suggestions are made will surely impede progress.

The point in question now is concerning the carrying-out of the educational policy of our organization. No doubt we all agree that the greatest field for arousing interest in studying birds and in their protection must come through the elementary teachers of the state. This cannot be done well unless the teacher knows a little about birds but even more, that she be interested in them. One may possibly teach a child to read and write without much enthusiasm but the teaching of nature in a vital way can only come through the "contagion" of the teacher.

At our fall G. O. S. meeting, the Educational Forum led by Mr. Lucien Harris was full of pertinent suggestions. Three of these most important to us in this field are:

(1) "To encourage the elementary schools of the state to offer a course in nature study and to utilize the books now available".

(2) "To appeal earnestly to the State Department of Education to offer courses in bird study in all summer schools operated by the state for teacher training.

(3) "To get the secretary of the Georgia Education Association, Mr. Ralph Ramsey, to devote one page of the Journal to Nature Study each month. The material to be contributed by some member of the Georgia Ornithological Society. This can be a most effective means of carrying out point one."

This latter plan seems to be excellent because the Journal reaches nearly every teacher of the state while THE ORIOLE, as yet, goes to not more than a dozen subscribers who are teachers in the grades. The president of our organization liked this idea so much that he recently conferred with Mr. Ramsey, who seemed favorably impressed. He said, however, that the page cannot be a project of the Georgia Ornithological Society, although it can be utilized by some of our members. Another limitation was that the article should relate to methods of teaching nature study rather than giving subject matter which could be obtained from text books. If this plan is carried out it bids fair to be one of the most far-reaching progressive steps we have taken.

If any of our readers wishes to express his opinions concerning this educational venture, or if he has suggestions in regard to carrying it out, the president, Dr. DeLoach of Statesboro, the editor-in-chief of THE ORIOLE or the editor of this page would be glad to hear from him.

NOTES AND NEWS

The sixth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at Vogel State Park October 14-15-39. In the absence of the president, Mr. Earle R. Greene, the executive secretary, Mrs. J. Connor Oliver, presided. The session Saturday afternoon was well attended and all business dispatched. Messages were read from Mr. Earle R. Greene, Dr. Wallace Rogers, Dr. Eugene Murphey and others. Reports from all parts of the state were most encouraging.

Mr. Herbert Stoddard, national authority on quail conditions and habits, reported several unusual records including a quail's nest on October 10 with ten fledglings. He considers this the most favorable year to date on the status of quail, and that wild turkey, under protection, are increasing yearly.

Mrs. G. S. Hames was our acknowledged representative at the American Ornithologists Union, which met in San Francisco in June, and Mrs. Lewis Gordon for National Association of Audubon Societies, meeting in New York in October. Statesboro's invitation for the spring meeting, via Dr. DeLoach, was heartily accepted. Mr. Paul Thompson's report on blood parasites in birds was of unusual interest.

The nominating committee, Mr. Lucien Harris, Jr., chairman, presented the following who were elected unanimously.

President—Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach, Statesboro.

First Vice President—Miss Hattie Rainwater, Atlanta.

Second Vice President—Miss Mary Burns, Milledgeville.

Executive Secretary—Mrs. J. Connor Oliver, Atlanta.

Treasurer—Mr. Ray C. Werner, Atlanta.

Librarian—Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Dalton.

Editor of THE ORIOLE—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Emory University.

Business Manager—Mr. Ralph Ramsey, Jr., Atlanta.

Department of Education—Miss Mabel Rogers, Milledgeville.

Publicity—Miss Clemmie Willingham, Atlanta.

Regional Vice Presidents—Augusta, Dr. Eugene Murphey; Albany, Mr. Richard Tift; Savannah, Mrs. T. H. D. Griffiths; Brunswick, Mr. M. H. Burroughs; Atlanta, Mrs. Maurice Abercrombie; Rome, Mr. Harold Jones; Thomson, Miss Vera McElveen; Milledgeville, Mrs. Sam Anderson; Columbus, Mr. T. C. Hudson; LaGrange, Mr. R. W. Martin.

Reporters for THE ORIOLE—Miss Blanch Tait, Milledgeville; Miss Malvina Trussell, Statesboro; Mr. Bill Griffin, Atlanta; Mr. Robert Norris, Fitzgerald; Mr. George McDonnell, Savannah.

Nature and bird students, numbering 62 from 14 towns, attended the dinner Saturday night at Walasiyi Inn. Mr. Charles N. Elliott, Superintendent of Wild Life in Georgia, our official host, extended greetings. A highly interesting and informative forum on "An Educational Program to Promote Interest in and Appreciation of the Value of Birds" was led by Mr. Lucien Harris, Jr., Atlanta, followed by Miss Sara McDowell of Douglas, and Mr. M. E. Thompson, assistant state school superintendent.

Dr. Edwin Creaser of the Biological Survey, gave an enlightening talk on "The Georgia Ornithological Societies' Part in Wild Life Study and Conservation". Members of the Naturalists Club were introduced as our honored guests. Mr. Elliott led the field trip Sunday morning with a report of 53 species observed.

An exhibition of exchange magazines, new books, a collection of splendid bird photographs by the members and sets of unusual bird skins were of wide interest and of real educational value. This meeting is added to the increasingly rich memories of its predecessors.—H. M. Oliver, Executive Secretary.

(At the suggestion of the executive secretary, a letter signed by all G. O. S. members at Vogel Park was sent to Life expressing appreciation for the space it has given to articles on birds especially the recent article giving the status of Birds of Prey. The following letter is the reply.—Editor.)

"Dear Mrs. Oliver:

"We were indeed gratified to receive the kind note signed by yourself and other members of Georgia Ornithological Society. Won't you please give our thanks to all those who were good enough to sign this letter. We are particularly glad that you feel "Life" rendered a real service to its readers in giving them the true facts about "Birds of Prey"—those frequently maligned and misunderstood birds. We are planning several other bird stories to appear in the next couple of months and I hope the Georgia Ornithological Society will find them equally good.

"Sincerely yours,

"ANNA GOLDSBOROUGH,

"For the Editors of Life."

Dr. A. D. Shaftsbury, member of the executive board of the N. C. Bird Club was a welcomed visitor at the recent meeting of the G. O. S. at Vogel Park. One of the greatest joys of our organization is the fellowships with members of neighboring national clubs.

Early occurrence of pintail in Fitzgerald region.—On September 29, 1939, a small boy friend brought me the head of a duck which had crashed into the windshield of his parents' car as they drove on a country road about fourteen miles from town on the night before. I immediately felt sure that it was a female Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoo*), for the buffy, streaked head and the bluish bill matched the pictures and descriptions that I had. Also the boy stressed the fact that the neck had been very long, and this is a well-known characteristic of this species. I was positive when I later obtained all of the feathers and a blue-gray foot. The earliest records that I can find for the fall migration of the Pintail in Georgia are October 29 (The Birds of Athens, by Thos. D. Burleigh) and November 23 (The Migration of Birds of the Atlanta, Ga., Area, compiled by Earle Greene). As each of the previous records are at least a month later than mine, and as I am in a southern part of the state, I feel that this record is worthy of mention.—Robert Norris, Fitzgerald, Georgia.

Eastern Henslow's Sparrow near Fitzgerald.—While hiking through a vast, abandoned field grown up in broom-sedge, near Lake Beatrice, on October 21, 1939, I noticed a queer, fidgety little Fringillid eying me from a bush. As I cautiously approached I found it to be quite tame, although nervous. The little fellow was almost comical in appearance; the head was large and the tail short. I opened my "Peterson" and, with aid from my glass, checked the characters on the spot—with the bird before me—and identified it as an Eastern Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi susurrans*). The observation was made at close range and every detail observed. Two more individuals were seen in the field that morning. I could

find but one previously published record for the state: Burleigh (Birds of Athens) took one specimen in his area on April 19, 1933. Neither Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, of Augusta, nor Atlanta observers have records for the Henslow's Sparrow. I was informed by Herbert L. Stoddard, of Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, that this species has not been found in his section. He added that he has seen it across the Florida line, and that Francis Weston has found it to be a winter resident in the Pensacola region. It is my belief that this species is not uncommon in the southern part of our state during the winter in its chosen habitat—old broom-sedge fields.—Robert Norris, Fitzgerald, Ga.

Notes of Interest from Morgan County—Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula thula*)—From the first of July 1939 through the middle of August, Snowy Egrets (*E. t. thula*) were present at Camp Rutledge, Morgan County. They associated with Little Blue Herons (*Florida c. caerulea*), and American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) and to a lesser extent, with Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias subsp.*) and Green Herons (*Butoridesn. virescens*). The 275-acre lake here offers ideal environment for all herons and numbers were to be seen at times.

(Note—The occurrence of the Snowy Egret this far north may not be unusual but is, at the present time, worthy of record since neither Greene and associates nor Burleigh recorded them at Atlanta and Athens. There were, in fact, no published records for the bird north of the fall line in Georgia until this summer.—B. G.)

Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*)—A bird of this species was captured alive on June 25, 1939, near Camp Rutledge by a boy who was leaving camp. The boy wanted to carry his prize home but a camp director saw the bird and brought it back to camp. Several photographs were made and the bird was released near the lake, but it would not fly more than 50 feet. It seemed to be wounded or sick. The huge bird waded about the lake shore trying to find food. The sixth day after the bird has been released a Wood Ibis was seen across the lake and we thought the bird had recovered. This proved to be another individual, however, for the next day the badly decomposed carcass of our sick bird was found. This is the farthest north in the state that this species has been reported.

Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum subsp.*)—On July 12, 13 and 14, 1939, a lone bird was seen flying about the lake at Camp Rutledge. The first observation was made from a boat. The bird flew over several times. It seemed to be looking for food but we never saw it strike. As far as I know the Least Tern is uncommon or rare away from the coast in Georgia. Glenn W. Bell.

Bobwhite Quail—Young quail of ages varying from recently hatched to nearly mature are being observed almost daily, and it appears that this section has a good quail "crop" this year. Start of nesting was late, and many nests were deserted due to excessive rainfall (Tallahassee, Fla. 20 miles to the South, has recorded 80 inches of rainfall up to October 1st. This breaks all records even for an entire year.) Have never seen more very young quail at this season—October 8, 1939.

Wild Turkey—An average "crop" of young turkeys, though probably not over two-thirds as many as last year, which was a very exceptional season. Several very late broods were reported this year, some of which must have

hatched in July. Wild turkeys are now very abundant on the great preserves south of Thomasville—it is doubtful whether a greater number occur on an equal area anywhere in the eastern United States. Fortunately, the stock is excellent; almost no admixture with the domestic bird being noted.

Too little field work in this section was done since the beginning of the migration to have noted any peculiarities. My earliest arrival date for the Whip-poor-will was obtained this year; a bird called for several minutes on the evening of September 1st. Other dates of calling (the "whip-poor-will" note, however, is rare here in Fall, Winter or Spring, while, of course, the bird is entirely absent during the Summer) are: September 9, 1933, October 8, 1934, October 28, 1936 (seen), September 9, 1937 (Komarek), September 12, 1938 (Komarek).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—This bird appears to be very rare here in Fall. My only record in recent years is of an adult male (Fall plumage) observed October 7, 1939.

Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings (the latter numerous) are both present at this writing, October 8th, feeding on plantings of Shallu or "Egyptian wheat."

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet—My earliest Fall record is of one noted October 5th of this year. Herbert L. Stoddard, Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, Ga.

SOME BACKYARD SANCTUARIES IN AND AROUND ATLANTA

Mrs. Arthur Tufts, Sr., was among the first to co-operate with the Atlanta Bird Club in making her home, "Woodland", a bird sanctuary. Mrs. Tufts writes: "Most of my bird friends have returned to Woodland and I have been kept busy filling all the bird baths for my stream has about disappeared during our long dry fall. The hedges are truly alive with Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Chippies and Cedar Wax Wings. The birds seem to be enjoying the cosmos seed and crepe myrtle. I let my grass go to seed and it is full of Goldfinches. Today I saw Phoebes, Kinglets, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Brown Thrashers, Carolina Wrens, four varieties of woodpeckers, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Meadow Larks, and others. I saw a titmouse pulling peanuts from a bunch which I had tied to a tree. I have not yet put out suet as there are many bugs and plenty of berries on Holly, Pyracantha, Nandina and Haws, so the birds will be well fed for two weeks or so."—Jeanie Wilcox Tufts, Emory University.

"It's nice to get up in the morning but it's nicer to stay in bed" sang Sir Harry Lauder some years ago, and a bird-lover who can pursue her hobby of bird study while resting comfortably on her feather pillow is fortunate indeed. A feeding station at your bedroom window is the answer. Fourteen species partake of cracked nuts, bread crumbs, sunflower seed, apple and suet on my feed shelf. The parent birds bring the young there to feed. The families of the Titmice and the Black-capped Chickadees are most amusing to watch. The molting process can be observed well; the differences in male and female plumage in the mature and immature can be studied. There is nothing that pays such good dividends to a bird lover as a window feeding shelf. To cap the climax, it even furnishes a model for friend husband and his miniature camera.—Claire M. Gordon.

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EDITORIAL

Our new president, Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach, has surveyed with understanding the field of ornithology in Georgia and set some worthy goals for the year. Dr. DeLoach is well known in the state by his former students of the University of Georgia, his present and former students of South Georgia Teachers College and by educators generally. A remark of his at the recent meeting at Vogel Park gave the key objective for the year and suggested slogan, "Every Back Yard A Sanctuary."

The paragraph concerning back yard sanctuaries is only a beginning. We hope that there will be more contributions than we have room to publish and pictures of vital spots to illustrate the same from all over Georgia. A prize of one dollar is offered for the best.

Local groups are urged to participate in Bird-Lore's 40th Christmas bird census, December 20-26.

Dr. Winton Elizabeth Gambrell, assistant professor of Bacteriology and Pathology of Emory University, is well known for her researches in infectious diseases, particularly malaria. She has written for various medical journals and is considered an authority in this field. She won the Rickets prize for the best doctor's thesis in 1937 at the University of Chicago. Members of the G.O.S. will appreciate her enlightening article on Bird Malaria.

Seasonal Notes from Atlanta.—During the fall ducks were scarce on the small ponds around Atlanta, but congregated about Jackson Lake, 40 miles southeast of the city. About 3,000 Blue-winged Teal were present there in early November with a scattering of Black, Ring-necked, and other ducks. After the hunting season opened, however, the majority left. This lake affords excellent feeding and breeding grounds for water birds, and its proximity to Atlanta affords excellent chances for study.

On November 30 a House Wren was seen by George Sciple, and a Blue-headed Vireo was seen and heard on December 2. It might also be of interest that Red-headed Woodpeckers are remaining in numbers; possibly because of a good acorn supply.

New early migration dates were established for the Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked Thrushes on September 20. Late dates were: King Rail, one bird captured by S. E. Gower in an oil station within the city on October 20; Wood Thrush, October 23; Prothonotary Warbler, October 8; Worm-eating Warbler, September 20; Tennessee Warbler, October 23; Canada Warbler, September 24; and Blue Grosbeak, September 16.—Bill Griffin, Biology Department, Emory University.