

THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. V. NO. 1

MARCH, 1940

CONTENTS

NESTING EXTREMES FOR BIRDS BREEDING IN THE ATLANTA REGION—By William W. Griffin	1
ACTIVITIES OF THE MILLEDGEVILLE CLUB—By Mabel T. Rogers	6
OUTLINE OF PROGRAM—STATESBORO MEETING	7
BIRD BANDING AT MILLEDGEVILLE—By Mabel T. Rogers	7
GENERAL NOTES: Saw-whet Owl from Atlanta, 8; The Golden Eagle in Southwest Georgia, 8; Sight Record of A Kittiwake Along the Savannah River, 8; Some Recent Winter Records from the Fitzgerald Region, 8; White-crowned Sparrow from Coastal Georgia, 9; Seasonal Notes from Atlanta, 9.	
NEWS OF PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS	10
EDITORIAL	12

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No. 1

NESTING EXTREMES FOR BIRDS BREEDING IN THE ATLANTA REGION

WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN

So little has been published on the birds of Georgia, especially the breeders, that it seems desirable at this time to list all of the nesting species of the Atlanta region and give the extreme dates for their nesting.

Data has been accumulated from a number of sources. Earle R. Greene included many breeding records in *Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia, Area*. Occasional notes on nesting in the area have appeared in the ornithological journals. Emory University has accumulated a fairly large collection of eggs, and field observers have been active for the last decade. From all these sources a fairly comprehensive knowledge of the breeding birds of the region has been obtained.

There are still many questions to be raised, however, and it is the purpose of this paper to present them. For this reason a hypothetical list has been added. Each record represents a nest, and the source of the record is enclosed in parenthesis. The order is that of the fourth edition of the A. O. U. check-list.

Butorides virescens virescens — Green Heron, Apr. 21, '22—3 eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—May 14, '05—4 partly incubated eggs (Geo. Mosely, Emory col.)

Aix sponsa—Wood Duck, May 3, '32—12 eggs (Barkalow)

Cathartes aura septentrionalis—Turkey Vulture, Apr. 16, '38—2 eggs (Griffin)—June 11, '32—1 egg (Greene)

Coragyps atratus atratus — Black Vulture, June 4, '39—1 young (Griffin)

Accipiter cooperi—Cooper's Hawk, Apr. 23, '20—5 partially incubated eggs (Rogers, Emory col.)—June 2, '39—3 young (Griffin)

Buteo lineatus alleni—Red-shouldered Hawk, Mar. 18, '33—5 eggs (Eyles)—May 13, '39—3 young (Griffin)

Buteo platypterus platypterus—Broad-winged Hawk, Apr. 29, '39—young (Ramsey, Hill)—May 25, '32—4 eggs (Barkalow)

Falco sparverius sparverius—Eastern Sparrow Hawk, Mar. 13, '38—4 eggs (Griffin)—June 5, '39—young (Griffin)

Colinus virginianus virginianus—Bob-white, May 18, '32—10 eggs (Barkalow)—Aug. 18, '39—12 eggs (Griffin)

Rallus elegans elegans—King Rail, May 18, '39—8 eggs (Griffin)—May 21, '39—10 eggs (Bell)

Oxyechus vociferous vociferous—Killdeer, Apr. 15, '38—2 eggs (Griffin)

Philohela minor—Woodcock, Jan. 12, '35—4 eggs (Barkalow)—Mar. 15, '04—4 partially incubated eggs (Mills, Emory col.)

Zenaidura macroura carolinensis—Mourning Dove, Apr. 5, '32—2 eggs (Greene)—Sept. 20, '35—young (Barkalow)

Coccyzus americanus americanus—Yellow-billed Cuckoo, May 10, '39—1 egg (Griffin)—July 26, '03—2 eggs (Mills)

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus—Black-billed Cuckoo, May 5, '20—1 egg, 1 young (Rogers, Emory col.)

Otus asio asio—Screech Owl, Apr. 15, '20—1 fresh egg (Hembree, Emory col.)—May 18, '32—1 egg (Barkalow)

Bubo virginianus virginianus—Great-horned Owl, no nests for region—2 young out of nest found on May 10, '39 by a farmer and sold to A. Menaboni.

Chordeiles minor chapmani—Florida Nighthawk, June 8, '39—2 eggs (Griffin)

Choetura pelagica—Chimney Swift, June 6, '39—incubated eggs (Bell)—June 20, '30—4 partially incubated eggs (Mills, Emory col.)

Archilochus colubris—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, May 10, '13 and '22—2 eggs (Emory col.)—Aug. 12, '39—1 egg (Griffin)

Megaceryle alcyon alcyon—Belted Kingfisher, June 19, '37—young (Griffin)

Colaptes auratus subsp.—Flicker, Apr. 25, '03—6 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—June 5, '37—7 young (Griffin)

Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus—Pileated Woodpecker, Apr. 26, '32—4 eggs (Barkalow)—June 6, '39—1 young (Griffin)

Centurus carolinus—Red-bellied Woodpecker, Apr. 16, '38—4 eggs (Griffin)—June 8, '37—young (Griffin)

Melanerpes erythrocephalus—Red-headed Woodpecker, Apr. 16, '37—young (Griffin)—July 21, '37—4 young (Griffin)

Dryobates villosus auduboni—Hairy Woodpecker, Apr. 9, '39—6 young (Griffin)—June 4, '39—young (Griffin)

Dryobates pubescens pubescens—Downy Woodpecker, Apr. 12, '21—5 incubated eggs (Arpal and Rogers, Emory col.)—June 17, '37—5 young (Griffin)

Tyrannus tyrannus—Eastern Kingbird, May 25, '18—4 partially incubated eggs (L. Harris, Emory col.)—July 29, '38—4 eggs (Griffin)

Myiarchus crinitus subsp.—Crested Flycatcher, May 20, '02—2 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—July 3, '39—5 eggs (Griffin)

Sayornis phoebe—Phoebe, Apr. 10, '22—5 eggs (Emory col.)—June 23, '36—3 young (Griffin)

Empidonax virescens—Acadian Flycatcher, May 12, '18—3 fresh eggs (L. Harris, Emory col.)—June 28, '04—3 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)

Myiochanes virens—Wood Pewee, May 15, '21—3 partially incubated eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—July 29, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis—Rough-winged Swallow, Apr. 9, '39—3 eggs (Griffin)—June 19, '39—5 eggs (Griffin)

Progne subis subis—Purple Martin, May 7, '38—4 young (Griffin)—July 1, '37—5 young (Griffin)

Cyanocitta cristata florincola—Florida Blue Jay, Apr. 3, '18—5 fresh eggs (L. Harris, Emory col.)—July 19, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus—Southern Crow, Mar. 23, '02—5 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—Apr. 15, '00—4 fresh eggs (Mills and Nabell, Emory col.)

Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis—Carolina Chickadee, Apr. 12, '03—5 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—May 22, '32—1 young (Greene)

Baeolophus bicolor—Tufted Titmouse, Apr. 26, '03—7 incubated eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—June 9, '37—3 young (Griffin)

Sitta pusilla pusilla—Brown-headed Nuthatch, Mar. 13, '38—3 eggs (Griffin)—May 21, '32—4 eggs (Eyles, Giles)

Sitta carolinensis subsp.—White-breasted Nuthatch, Apr. 17, '37—5 young (Griffin)

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus—Carolina Wren, Mar. 3, '39—1 fresh egg (Griffin)—July 30, '39—6 eggs (Griffin)

Mimus polyglottus polyglottus—Mockingbird, Mar. 2, '32—3 eggs (Dobbs and Greene)—July 25, '37—3 eggs (Griffin)

Dumetella carolinensis—Catbird, May 2, '14—4 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)—July 29, '37—4 eggs (Griffin)

Toxostoma rufum—Brown Thrasher, Apr. 5, '32—3 eggs (Greene)—July 24, '38—2 eggs (Griffin)

Turdus migratorius achrusterus—Southern Robin, April 2, '38—2 eggs (Griffin)—Aug. 8, '39—4 fresh eggs (Griffin)

Hylocichla mustelina—Wood Thrush, May 6, '39—2 young (Wolfe)—July 22, '39—3 eggs (Griffin)

Sialia sialis sialis—Eastern Bluebird, Mar. 13, '38—4 fresh eggs (Griffin)—July 23, '39—3 eggs (Griffin)

Poliophtila caerulea caerulea—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Apr. 26, '8—5 fresh eggs (L. Harris, Emory col.)—June 19, '38—4 young (Griffin, Sciple)

Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus—Loggerhead Shrike, Apr. 3, '32—5 eggs (Greene)—June 29, '39—3 fresh eggs (Griffin)

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris—Starling, Apr. 1, '37—4 eggs (Griffin)—Aug. 3, '39—2 eggs (Griffin)

Vireo griseus griseus—White-eyed Vireo, Apr. 14, '29—1 egg (Greene)—May 27, '20—4 eggs (Arpal, Emory col.)

Vireo flavifrons—Yellow-throated Vireo, May 1, '38—young (Oliver)—June 19, '38—4 young (Griffin)

Vireo olivaceus—Red-eyed Vireo, May 12, '13—2 eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—July 1, '36—3 fresh eggs (Griffin)

Mniotilta varia—Black and White Warbler, Apr. 23, '21—5 green eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)

Protonotaria citrea—Prothonotary Warbler, May 4, '30—contents undetermined (Greene)

Limnithlypis swainsoni—Swainson's Warbler, May 27, '20—3 eggs (LaPrade, Arpal, Rogers, Emory col.)

Vermivorus pinus—Blue-winged Warbler, June 14, '39—4 young (Griffin)

Dendroica aestiva aestiva—Yellow Warbler, May 17, '31—5 eggs (Giles)

Dendroica dominica dominica—Yellow-throated Warbler, Apr. 18, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)—June 15, '39—2 young (Griffin)

Dendroica pinus pinus—Pine Warbler, Mar. 28, '13—3 fresh eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—May 15, '39—4 young (Griffin)

Dendroica discolor discolor—Prairie Warbler, May 6, '19—4 eggs (Arpal, Emory col.)—Aug. 5, '03—5 fresh eggs (Mills, Emory col.)

Seiurus aurocapillus—Oven-bird, Apr. 24, '22—4 eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—June 4, '39—3 young (Griffin)

Seiurus motacilla—Louisiana Water-Thrush, Apr. 21, '03—4 eggs (Emory col.)—May 3, '37—4 eggs (Griffin)

Oporornis formosus—Kentucky Warbler, May 7, '21—5 eggs (Emory col.)—June 5, '36—1 egg (Griffin, Sciple)

Geothlypis trichas typhicola—Athens Yellow-throat, May 1, '38—4 eggs (Hames)—May 23, '37—4 eggs (Griffin)

Icteria virens virens—Yellow-breasted Chat, May 15, '27—4 eggs (Greene)—May 24, '21—3 eggs (Emory col.)

Wilsonia citrina—Hooded Warbler, May 12, '21—4 fresh eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)—June 28, '36—4 eggs (Griffin)

Setophaga ruticilla—American Redstart, May 5, '17—4 fresh eggs

(Arpal, Emory col.)—June 19, '37—3 eggs (Griffin)

Passer domesticus domesticus—English Sparrow, Mar. 4, '39—3 fresh eggs (Griffin)—July 28, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Sturnella magna argutula—Southern Meadowlark, June 3, '38—5 young (Griffin, Sciple)

Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus—Eastern Red-wing, Apr. 25, '38—2 eggs (Griffin)—July 16, '39—3 eggs (Griffin)

Icterus spurius—Orchard Oriole, May 16, '38—5 eggs (Griffin)—July 1, '39—4 young (Griffin)

Icterus galbula—Baltimore Oriole, May 15, '20—4 partially incubated eggs (Rogers, Emory col.)

Quiscalus quiscula quiscula—Purple Grackle, May 28, '37—4 young (Griffin)—June 22, '39—2 young (Griffin)

Piranga rubra rubra—Summer Tanager, May 18, '18—4 fresh eggs (Arpal, Emory col.)—June 8, '38—4 fresh eggs (Griffin)

Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis—Cardinal, Apr. 9, '33—2 eggs (Greene)—July 22, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Guiraca caerulea caerulea—Blue Grosbeak, June 9, '37—4 young (Griffin)—July 23, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Passerina cyanea—Indigo Bunting, May 17, '16—3 fresh eggs (Arpal, Emory col.)—July 23, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Spinus tristis tristis—Eastern Goldfinch, June 19, '39—2 eggs (Griffin)—Aug. 27, '37—4 young (Griffin)

Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster—Alabama Towhee, Apr. 5, '32—3 eggs (Greene)—Sept. 5, '39—3 young (Griffin)

Ammodramus savannarum australis—Grasshopper Sparrow, June 8, '31—4 young (Greene)

Aimophila aestivalis bachmani—Bachman's Sparrow, May 8, '03—4 young (Mills)—June 25, '20—4 fresh eggs (Hembree, Emory col.)

Spizella passerina passerina—Chipping Sparrow, May 6, '32—young (Greene)—Aug. 24, '39—4 eggs (Griffin)

Spizella pusilla pusilla—Eastern Field Sparrow, Apr. 22, '19—4 incubated eggs (Arpal, Emory col.)—Aug. 12, '18—3 fresh eggs (L. Harris, Emory col.)

The following species may or may not nest around Atlanta. Only future work will tell.

Buteo borealis borealis—Red-tailed Hawk, a permanent resident; found nesting in Athens and Jasper County and the mountains.

Strix varia alleni—Florida Barred Owl. A permanent resident, undoubtedly breeding.

Antrostomus carolinensis—Chuck-will's-widow. No nests have been

found in the area although it undoubtedly breeds.

Antrostomus vociferous vociferous—Whip-poor-will. Greene recorded it as breeding; no definite records found.

Helmitheros vermivorus — Worm-eating Warbler. Included on the strength of a statement by Dr. W. H. LaPrade (Wilson Bulletin, 1922, p. 81)

Dendroica caerulea—Cerulean Warbler. This species is also included on the strength of Dr. LaPrade (Wilson Bulletin, 1922, p. 81)
Biology Department, Emory University.

ACTIVITIES OF THE MILLEDGEVILLE CLUB

MABEL T. ROGERS

The following plan, to be carried out by the Milledgeville Audubon Society was started because it is the tenth anniversary of our founding. We felt that we wanted it to be an outstanding year in some particular field and we chose that of education.

The president appointed a special "Education Committee" with one of the strongest members as chairman at large. She was to act not only in an advisory capacity but also as an active worker in certain groups. Then there were six sub-committees appointed to make the plans for their special fields. We are fortunate in having members who are teachers in the two grade schools of our town and the committees there will plan to be a little more active in presenting the question of birds and conservation in their various classes. We have committees also for the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H Clubs. In each case we have at least one member of our club working in these fields. We are planning to render aid in every way possible by procuring materials for work, helping them with field trips, and encouraging the making of bird houses.

In our club itself, our programs this spring are to be in discussion groups with a competent leader. There have been some who upon joining our club have remarked: "I don't know much about birds but I want to learn." They, upon their own choice, are to go into the beginning group. There, they are to be aided in learning to observe—as well as can be done indoors—in noting not only the field marks of color but size, shape, type of bill, habitat, and special habits. When we have our field trips later we hope to have some better observers. The rest of the club will take up special topics, with the one in the group as leader who has done best work in that field. We have one visiting member who has a keen eye for Hawks. She is going to give us pointers which have helped her in her observations in that field and through the discussion we hope to become more alert along that line.

[This seems an excellent plan for any club needing a rejuvenation of program and a means of providing activity for all stages of advancement. Ed.]

OUTLINE OF PROGRAM—STATESBORO MEETING

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

April 6th, 7th, 1940

First Session, Saturday afternoon.....3:00 P.M.

Registration at home of Miss Malvina Trussell.

Business meeting Statesboro Woman's Club.....3:30 P.M.

Second Session, Saturday evening, Woman's Club.....7:30 P.M.

Dr. Eugene Murphy, of Augusta, Toastmaster.

Third Session, Sunday morning, Field trip at Beechwood.....8:00 A.M.

Send or bring any exhibits of art work, photography, taxidermy, books and periodicals to Miss Trussell.

Letters containing details as to lodging, speakers, etc., will be sent to each member within the next week. Please return the card for reservations at the earliest possible date.

BIRD BANDING AT MILLEDGEVILLE

MABEL T. ROGERS

Last fall a report was given to the editor of *The Oriole* concerning the first activities of the Milledgeville Bird Club in bird banding when about 600 Chimney Swifts were banded. Later on the work was continued with the birds which came to our yards. We used three different traps in three different locations within a radius of a mile. This could not be done steadily as no one in the group could care for the traps at long intervals. Only about 100 yard birds were banded and over half of these were White-throated Sparrows. The list also included Chipping Sparrows, 1 Towhee, 1 Junco, 1 Chickadee, which stayed around all summer, 14 Cardinals, a few of which remained, Brown Thrashers, Mocking Birds and Myrtle Warblers.

The Chimney Swift banding was continued this fall and about 700 birds were banded. We noticed that the birds did not seem to be in as good physical condition as last year and they were infested with insects. We recaptured four of those we banded in the same chimney last year. We also trapped four that Mr. Raymond Fleetwood banded last year near Gray and two that Mr. Harold Peters banded. One of these was banded in Atlanta and one in Tuskegee, Ala. Mr. Fleetwood captured this year two of those we banded last year. The only bird aside from our Swifts that was captured was one of the White-throated Sparrows taken in the meadows of Dan, Virginia.

GENERAL NOTES

Saw-whet Owl from Atlanta—January, 1940 was an extremely cold month around Atlanta, and on the 19th the mercury dropped to 6 above zero. The next day, January 20, with the temperature only 7 above, a Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) was collected. As far as the writer knows, this is the fourth record from Georgia. Hoxie collected a female at Bull Hammock south of Tybee on January 1, 1911 (Auk 1911, page 265), and Murphey secured two specimens from Richmond County in 1912 and 1920 (Observations on the Bird-Life of the Middle Savannah Valley). The stomach of the writer's specimen, a male, was empty, and no external parasites were noted. William W. Griffin, Biology Dept., Emory University.

The Golden Eagle in Southwest Georgia—Definite records of the Golden Eagle (*Acquila chrysaetos canadensis*) in Georgia seem worthy of publication at present, especially where the birds have been collected and critically examined. On December 16, 1939, one of these eagles was shot by a deer hunter on the Ocklocknee in Grady County south of Cairo. The specimen was given to Mr. Richard Parks, one of my associates in the quail work, and has been mounted and is in his possession. It is a male in the plumage of the young bird. The bird weighed six pounds, fifteen ounces. Herbert L. Stoddard.

Sight Record of A Kittiwake Along the Savannah River—For years I have watched for strange gulls among our flocks along the river, particularly for the Great Black-backed Gull and the Kittiwake. The first still remains to be seen, but on April 6, 1937, I saw clearly a Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) for some minutes, at distances from a hundred yards to fifty feet, both resting on the water and in flight. The bird was checked with the field marks in Peterson's Field Guide, then in hand, and compared with our four common species (Herring, Ring-billed, Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls, all of which were present at the moment. Unfortunately I did not succeed in collecting it. It is not intended that this observation entitles the species to a place on the State List, but it certainly should place it on the hypothetical list, and give other students something to look for. Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.

Some Recent Winter Records from the Fitzgerald Region—During the past two winters, the following unusual observations were made which appear to be worthy of record.

Buffle-head, (Charitonetta albeola)—On December 22, 1939, during my Christmas census, three females were observed on Lake Beatrice at close range from a small boat. Proportionately, these ducks were very chunky. When flushed, they proved to be extremely swift in flight, their wings

being almost invisible. They would invariably alight in sight. This constitutes a first record for the county.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, (Poliophtila caerulea caerulea) — Throughout December, 1938, this species was common among the cypresses and varied undergrowth that borders Lake Beatrice. It was again found in considerable numbers, at the same place, on January 14, of the same winter; and, strangely enough, some of the individuals were in full song. So far, the Gnatcatcher status for this winter (1939-40) corresponds closely with that of last winter. Nevertheless, more regular field work must be done before this bird's residential stability may be determined.

Black and White Warbler, (Mniotilta varia)—One was observed creeping about a lichen-covered trunk on January 28, 1939, at Bowen's Mill. Three individuals were seen on my Christmas census this winter. Evidently, this species is very scarce and of irregular occurrence in this state, during the colder months, except in the extreme southern portions.

Yellow-throated Warbler, (Dendroica dominica subsp.)—On December 22, 1939, one bird was noted as it foraged in an old Tupelo, at Bowen's Mill. It crept a little but spent most of its time hanging on the streamers of Spanish moss, with which the tree was draped. As far as known, there is but one other published mid-winter record of this species for the state, a bird seen by Bill Griffin and George Sciple in Atlanta on December 29, 1936 (Oriole, 3: 30, 1939). Robert Norris, Fitzgerald, Georgia. [Ed. Note—Earle R. Greene records a bird seen in Liberty County on January 1, 1930 (Auk 1930, p. 418)—B. G.]

White-crowned Sparrow from Coastal Georgia—On November 23, 1939, I collected a female of *Zonotrichia l. leucophrys* along the abandoned Tybee Railway track, about four miles east of the city. The specimen bears my number 650, and exact subspecific identification has not been made. The chances, of course, favor the typical subspecies as stated. Ivan R. Tomkins, U. S. Dredge Morgan, Savannah, Ga.

Seasonal Notes from Atlanta—The winter of 1939-40 was fairly warm until the very last of December, when the weather suddenly changed, causing January to be the coldest month on record for Atlanta. Then in February everything was again fairly moderate. These curious weather conditions were largely responsible for a number of unusual observations. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen on the Christmas census, December 22, and Ray Werner found a Bufflehead on Piedmont Park lake on December 21 and 22. On January 11, two Red-breasted Nuthatches were observed and a Saw-whet Owl was taken on January 20. On February 12 a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at Emory. It was fluttering near the windows of the Physics Building apparently trying to keep warm. It

was studied carefully but unfortunately could not be collected. At the time high southeast winds were blowing and the tornado had just swept Albany.

This winter the Horned Lark and the Brewer's Blackbird have again been noted fairly regularly. Probably both have simply been overlooked in the past.

Birds found frozen or starved during late January by members of the Atlanta Bird Club were as follows: Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Mockingbird, 1; Brown Thrasher, 2; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 2; Starling, 1; Pine Warbler, 1; Meadowlark, 1; Towhee, 1; Chipping Sparrow, 3; and White-throated Sparrow, 1. No doubt the majority of the birds killed tried to secure protection in thick vegetation and consequently went unnoticed. If this were true great numbers must have been killed or weakened in the northern half of the state.—William W. Griffin, Biology Department, Emory University.

NEWS OF PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS

Koelz, Walter, *Three New Subspecies of Birds*. Proc. Bio. Soc. Wash. Vol. 52, pp. 121-122, July 22, 1939.

This paper is of interest to Georgia ornithologists because a new subspecies of Towhee (*Pipilo alleni rileyi*, no common name) is described from Brunswick, Ga., his type an adult male collected March 6, 1939. The description does not give the number of the type, nor its permanent location. He also fails to give measurements except of the wing (85 mm.). Local students would find value in knowing the numbers of the specimens from the Charleston Museum Collection which were designated as paratypes. We wonder how the author arrived at the conclusion that *alleni* is a full species, most authorities considering it a subspecies of *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.—I. R. T.

Cooke, May Thacher; *Suggestions for Bird Field Study*. Wildlife Leaflet BS-150, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. This leaflet will be of interest to teachers and sponsors of Junior Clubs particularly. Besides instructions as to time, place, and equipment for field trips, methods of keeping notes, etc., the author gives an excellent list of bird books suitable for different regions of the United States. (Free)

A note from C. Russel Mason requests *The Oriole* in exchange for *The Bulletin of Massachusetts Audubon Society*. Many of our members know about Mr. Mason's excellent work with the Florida Audubon Society and will be interested to learn of his present position as Secretary-Treasurer of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Mr. Mason helped to swell

the ranks of the Florida Club to 1,200 members, and we understand his goal for the Massachusetts Club is 5,000 members. Its present membership is 2,700.

The Chat brings us news of a wonderful field trip at Mattamuskeet. They announce the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club at Henderson, April 26-27. Since this is a holiday with many of us it would be fine for us to attend this meeting. The goal for 1940 is 1,000 members.

The continued low temperature prevailing in Georgia this winter, though unfortunate for the birds has been a means of bringing birds to our feeding shelves and "back yard sanctuaries." The concern for the birds has increased the interest in bird life on the part of the public generally as was proved by the contribution of large quantities of grain for distribution in parks and other places where birds may feed with a fair chance of being unmolested. The radio broadcasting stations were very generous in giving time to announcements effecting concern for the welfare of birds.

There was much interest among G. O. S. Members in *Bird Lore's* Christmas Census (Dec., 1939) as evidenced by the number of reports sent in from Georgia. The Atlanta area, represented by Mrs. J. C. Oliver, Louise Girardeau, Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Ray C. Werner, Nelson Spratt, Jr., and Bill Griffin, reported a total of 79 species and 6,031 individuals.

From Fitzgerald, Robert Norris reported 62 species and 997 individuals.

From Mt. Berry, Harold C. Jones reported 54 species and 913 individuals.

From Piedmont Wild Life Refuge, Round Oak, Raymond J. Fleetwood reported 56 species and 1,811 individuals.

From Sherwood Plantation (Grady County), Herbert L. Stoddard reported 59 species and 1,303 individuals.

We are sure that others took a census, but for some reason their report did not appear in *Bird Lore*.

The Savannah Evening Press December 27, 1939, carried a notice that the Savannah Club took a census on December 26, reporting 67 species and 8,538 individuals. Those taking the census were Mrs. J. R. Cain, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wingo, Miss Annie Reddy, Miss Marie Reddy, Miss Minnie Carter and Mrs. May Walsh.

Earle R. Greene reported 31 species and 761 individuals from The Great White Heron Refuge, Key West, Florida.

Thirty-nine years ago Dr. Chapman printed the results of *Bird Lore's* First Christmas Bird Census. There were at that time 25 lists from 13 states and 2 Canadian Provinces. This year censuses from 47 states, the District of Columbia, 2 Canadian Provinces, Hawaii, and Peru occupy 70 pages—with 262 lists and 2,100 persons participating. The highest single party list was from Harlingen, Tex., with 155 species and subspecies, and 24,293 individuals.

THE ORIOLE

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.00 Per Year

PROBLEMS OF BIRD POPULATION

For the present year the motto of the Georgia Ornithological Society is "Every Backyard a Sanctuary," and in connection with this very important ideal, it may be well for us to try to work out some measure of our bird population. In the first place we should get some definite information as to the number of species that visit our backyards, and then estimate in some reliable measure the number of individuals in each species. This will require careful observation, careful counts, and careful identification. But this is part of the fun, and we must find the time to make our organization,—our work effective.

During this past winter it has been quite an inspiration to me to find in my own back yard sanctuary as many as 75 Cedar Wax-wings, 35 White-throated Sparrows, 12 Cheewinks, 8 Brown Thrashers, 3 Catbirds, 10 Cardinals, 7 Myrtle Warblers, 4 Mocking birds, 1 Woodcock, 3 Purple Finches, 5 other species of Sparrows,—some hard to identify,—totaling 14 individuals, 8 Blue Jays, 2 Brown-headed Nuthatches, 2 Sapsuckers, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 5 Flickers,—all in one morning's walk and on less than three acres. The total was 23 species and about 193 individuals.

It has been a rather hard winter in south Georgia for birds, and we have been constantly feeding them, and suggesting that all feed them who can do so. This is a way to keep the birds about the premises, and at the same time help them to bridge over the hard winter. It is true that the cat always becomes a problem where birds gather about feeding grounds. Our birds roost very close to our feeding grounds, which gives the cats the advantage, and we have to make an issue of this. Every one will find his own method of dealing with the problem.

Bird life is surrounded with all kinds of difficulties, and often suffer from dangers of which we are not aware. We ought to lessen the dangers as far as we can do so practically. To undertake such a thing requires a wide knowledge of their life histories, habits, food, and enemies, and we could hardly find a better way to combine all of these in our program than to make of our backyards bird sanctuaries. It will be interesting to hear reports on our combined work along this line. The membership is urged to help make our efforts at this work as nearly unanimous as conditions make it possible.

Let's all be at the spring meeting in Statesboro prepared to give a good account of our stewardship. The date of the meeting has been set for April 6th, and 7th. The program will be found in this issue of *The Oriole*.