

# THE ORIOLE

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



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VOL. V, NO. 2

JUNE, 1940

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## FOUR ESSENTIALS IN WRITING NOTES

Looking through some of the ornithological journals of forty or fifty years ago, some of the notes are often found lacking in essentials which would make them usable to us now. The science of bird study then was quite new, and in that formative period when ever the better collectors did not put adequate data on their specimen labels (to say nothing of giving the color of the soft parts and the like), it is not strange that the contributors did not realize how eagerly readers at a later day would scan their writings, trying to understand and use their work, but would perhaps be prevented by some little omission which might have been included as well as not.

It is not intended, here or later, to tell anyone how to write, for that is a problem which each individual must solve for himself. But there are certain essentials for even the briefest of notes, in order that the writing may be adequate. On several points, more accomplished bird students as well as the newest amateur, should check their efforts before submitting them to any scientific publication. And we should not forget for a moment that we are writing for a long time ahead, as well as for the present.

Referring only to short notes, four things seem essential and of primary importance. The identity of the bird, the locality, the date, and the name of the observer, all need to be plainly indicated.

It is always well to refer to the technical name (at least once in the article) of any species mentioned more than casually. Any index which may be made later will then include the note under both headings. Besides, common names are often misleading. No one could be certain if "yellow-throat" means *Geothlypis trichas* or *Dendroica dominica*. In various works the same common names have been used for different birds, even as they are today in local usage.

As a general practice, the nomenclature of the current A. O. U. Check-list should be used, unless there is a definite reason for departing from it, and then the reason should be made plain by a reference or in detail. The later manuals follow this nomenclature.



except in cases which are listed, and they usually mention the fact in the introduction somewhere.

One method of giving the locality which seems satisfactory, is to list it as so many miles in a given direction from the nearest post-office. Of course, the name of the State should definitely be given in all cases.

Dates should be as explicit as possible, and the month, the day and the year are necessary in most cases. It is not sufficient to write 4/10/29, for instance, for in some countries this would be read October 4th, rather than April 10th.

The writer should give his full name and address. It is a great pleasure to receive a note from some other ornithologist, commenting on a published record, or possibly asking fuller information. If the address is not easily available, the note may never be written. Many a pleasant acquaintance has come about so. Longer articles are often reprinted as separates, and to me it adds finish to find them completed with the address of the author and the date of submission.

Particularly is this of use where several papers come to hand from the same author. The date serves to show when such views were held, and we should realize that any writer may correctly revise, or possibly even change, his views, as his knowledge unfolds from year to year.

A useful paper to author or editor, is that by Cheeseman and Oehser (Auk, July, 1937, pp. 333-340) on the spelling of common names of birds.

Each of us has, within his own reach, happenings of interest in the bird world, and well worth recording for the scientific world at large. It only remains for us to see truly and clearly, and having seen, to write,—for our own benefit and the use of anyone who may follow later.—I. R. T.

#### GENERAL NOTES

A PURPLE GALLINULE RECORD FROM NORTHERN GEORGIA.—In a recent communication from Mr. George Smith, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, a record of a Purple Gallinule (*Porzana martinica*) from Jackson County was uncovered. I quote from Mr. Smith's letter of March 10, 1940. "About 1917, just after a severe spring storm, Berry Seay, a local farmer, brought a brilliantly colored metallic hued bird into Maysville. He had found it completely exhausted, lying in a field 2½ miles south of Maysville. It was dead when he brought it to town, but the brilliance of its plumage was still fiery." Mr. Smith goes on to give a complete description of the bird, although

he was only 13 years of age at the time. He states that he got his verification from a small bird picture card put out by the Boy Scouts of America, of which he was a member. He furthermore states that there is no doubt in his mind that the bird was a Purple Gallinule.

This species was not included in T. D. Burleigh's *Birds of Athens*, nor has it been recorded from Atlanta. The writer has talked with Mr. Smith, a good ornithologist and a member of the Cuyahoga Falls Bird Club, and feels that the record is worthy of publication.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University.*

RECORDS FROM LAKE RABUN.—During a stay in North Georgia, my wife and I observed a male Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubrida*) in winter plumage on Lake Rabun on September 3 and 4. The bird was able to fly and apparently was not injured, although his presence so early in the fall in Georgia is unusual. Also on September 4 a flock of about 30 Black Terns (*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis*) was observed, the birds flying down from above the mountains to wing along close to the surface of the lake, evidently in search of food. This species is a rather regular fall migrant through North Georgia and has been observed several times before on Lake Rabun. The occurrence of such a large flock is unusual, however.—NORMAN GILES, JR., *Biological Laboratories, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.*

SPRING NOTES FROM THE FITZGERALD REGION.—The daily temperatures during March and April were mild in general, with no weather extremities. There were a number of very cool days, however, and we must concede that this spring was a late one. During the latter part of April, some little rainfall caused lakes and streams to rise and "wet weather ponds" to appear. Marshy areas bordering lakes were covered with water. May, as usual, brought dry weather and fair skies. But the weather conditions apparently had very little, if any, effect on the spring migration.

The Parula Warbler appeared ahead of the regular summer contingent, two birds being seen on March 15. Other new early dates are as follows: Purple Martin, March 24; Prothonotary Warbler, March 30 (male taken); Osprey, last of March (Fussell, Manager of Fish Hatchery); Solitary Sandpiper, April Fools' Day; Orchard Oriole, April 5; Red-eyed Vireo, April 6; Chuck-Will's-Widow, April 12; Crested Flycatcher, April 13; Nighthawk, April 16; Tree Swallow, April 20; Black-throated Blue Warbler, April 25; Indigo Bunting, April 26.

There were several unusual records made. On April 24, a male Blue-winged Warbler was collected in a thicket along a drainage ditch. Two more first records for the region were made on the 27th—a female Tennessee Warbler and an immature female Sora Rail, both



secured along the edge of Lake Beatrice. It was interesting to find that the little "marsh hen" had abundant pin-feathers, all of which were located under the contour feathers. The specimen's breast is gray (as in an adult) and there is a dusky facial patch. The ovary was much enlarged, measuring in inches .25 by .40. Half of the rail's stomach contents was animal matter (remains of insects); about 35%, seeds of aquatic plants; and the remainder, gravel.

Another record, which was indeed surprising, was that of a Painted Bunting. A male was taken on April 29, at the "old ditch." As far as the writer knows, this is the first record for the state of the Nonpareil's occurrence this far inland (115 miles from the nearest point of the Atlantic, "as the crow flies"); excepting instances in which large watercourses, such as the Savannah River, are responsible for the influx of coastal species into the hinterlands.

Three more new birds for this region are the following: Short-billed Marsh Wren, May 5 (singing pair, Bowen's Mill); Connecticut Warbler, May 9—18 (singing male on last date); and Semipalmated Sandpiper, May 16 (a single collected).

There was but one unusually late record. A Vesper Sparrow was carefully watched on May 2. The observation was made at such close range that the writer felt it needless to collect the bird.

More than a hundred bird nests of twenty-three species have been found to date (May 20). Those of note are as follows: Sparrow Hawk, March 20 (hypothetical); adult seen hovering at hole in tall dead pine, cries being heard from inside; but on following days, although the hawks still stayed around, there were no breeding evidences. Loggerhead Shrike, March 28, 6 eggs; Pine Warbler and Tufted Titmouse, April 27, 4 eggs and 5 eggs, respectively; Grackle, April 28, 2 eggs, 2 young (small colony of twelve nests, May 5); Southern Meadowlark and Screech Owl, April 30, 1 egg and 3 eggs, respectively; Green Heron, May 11, 1 egg; Acadian Flycatcher, May 18, bird constantly incubating—contents undetermined. Also on the 18th, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Parula Warbler were seen building nests. The writer intends to collect the latter when it materializes. Young of three additional bird forms have been found, including ten or twelve young Wood Ducks on May 11.

During the past four springs, there has been considerable fluctuation in the numbers of Ospreys in the vicinity of Bowen's Mill and the State Fish Hatchery. These differences have been determined by counts of actual birds killed. Jim Fussell, game protector at the Fish Hatchery, has shot more than fifty of these "fish eagles" since 1930, averaging about ten each season. In 1937, just one was taken; 1938, twenty; 1939, six; and this spring, from the last of March to the middle of May, fifteen Ospreys were killed. This yearly variation is pretty accurate, for he tries to shoot all that enter the hatchery

grounds. Some of these predators had wingspreads exceeding seven feet, while the pinions of other individuals could not be stretched more than five feet. The writer has a specimen whose spread is six feet, four inches. On April 26, of this year, a banded Fish Hawk was secured. The band has been sent to the Biological Survey, and we are awaiting reply. It is already known that the bird was banded when young in 1938. There is absolutely no way to offer protection to these transients within the Fish Hatchery grounds. This year, the last Osprey was observed on May 16, at Lake Beatrice. It has never been seen during the fall migration.

The writer is indebted to Milton Hopkins, a young bird student of this city, who, with keen eyes, has done much this spring in the way of stimulating Fitzgerald ornithology, which, indeed, is still in its embryonic stage.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Fitzgerald, Georgia*.

WHISTLING SWAN FROM THE SAVANNAH AREA.—Through the courtesy of Mr. John Boswell, Federal game warden, I was allowed to examine the head and part of a wing of a young swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), illegally shot by a hunter on November 22nd, 1939. The bird was shot in South Carolina, about a mile east of the Beaufort-Jasper County line, and about a mile from the Savannah River. The bird was mistaken for a snow goose, which, of course, would have been equally illegal game.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, *U. S. Dredge DeWitt Clinton, Savannah, Ga.*

SEASONAL NOTES FROM ATLANTA.—Spring migrations seemed to be a little late in and around Atlanta and the peak was not reached until the first week in May. This was probably caused by the cool weather of March and April, both months being several degrees colder than average. Late vegetation in the region possibly had an effect also. Rainfall was near normal in March and an inch under normal for April, consequently water birds were uncommon. Increased observation, however, produced a good many results.

Tim Paxton and Will Cordes report the following observations on water birds: Red-breasted Merganser and Pintail, February 17; Golden-eye, March 12; 3 Canvas-backs, March 25; Shoveller, March 30; Black-crowned Night Heron, April 18 and 19; and Semipalmated Plover, May 9 and 16. Sciple and Griffin saw a Bufflehead on March 22. On May 4 a Sora was captured by Mr. R. Allan Bryant. The bird died on May 6 and is now preserved in my collection. Cordes found an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Candler's Lake on May 9 and since that date it has been seen by Griffin and Paxton. An immature bird was reported by Paxton on June 2, the date of writing. Records are very few from northern Georgia.

A male Wilson's Warbler was observed closely by Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Harris at Fernbank on April 26. Then on May 5 at the



Atlanta Bird Club's spring camp-out at Camp Highland several Warbling Vireos were reported by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Abercrombie and Glenn W. Bell. All were familiar with the bird on its nesting grounds and obtained excellent views of the birds. There are no other records for the region. A Connecticut Warbler was seen by Paxton at Emory University on May 8 and the writer saw another on May 24 in the same locality. Bay-breasted Warblers, usually rare in spring, were among the most common of the warblers the first week in May. Siskins were absent—only one group seen, a flock of five in early March by Glenn Bell.

Unusual migration dates for more or less common species follow: Early dates—Gray-cheeked Thrush, April 13 (Bell, Grimes); Parula Warbler, April 13 (Boyd Hames). Late dates—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, May 5 (Dorsey, Paxton, Cordes); Pectoral Sandpiper, May 5 (Ramsey, Paxton, Cordes); Cerulean Warbler, May 5 (Griffin); Black-throated Green Warbler, May 11 (Griffin); Olive-backed Thrush, May 18 (Paxton); Gray-cheeked Thrush, May 21 (Griffin); Bobolink, May 20 (E. Harris); Greater Yellow-legs, May 24 (Griffin) and Semipalmated Sandpiper, June 1 (Paxton, Cordes).—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Ga.*

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA.—On April 22 and again on April 24, 1940 a White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia L. leucophrys*) was observed singing in a wild cherry tree in bloom at the time. This was in a meadow on the outskirts of Dalton Whitfield County, Georgia. The bird was not taken but identification was made at close range with the aid of Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds* and Bausch and Lomb binoculars of 6x30 power. Aside from the fact that it had no white on the throat and that the burred song is quite different, it did not resemble the White-throated Sparrow in other respects: the broadness of the central white stripe over the head and the lighter colored bill which appeared shorter and more conical. This bird has been reported in the Atlanta area by Don Eyles (*Oriole* 1:19, 1936) and in the Athens area by Burleigh (*Birds of Athens, Clarke Co. Ga.*) and by Denton (*Oriole* 2:19, 1937). In Macon Beryl T. Mounts reported one (*Oriole* 1:10, 1936) and Tompkins took one near Savannah on November 23, 1939 (*Oriole* 5:9, 1940).—ANNE PFEIFFER HAMILTON, *Dalton, Georgia.*

SANDHILL CRANES AT JACKSON LAKE.—On March 24, 1940, my father and I were fishing at Jackson Lake, about a mile up from the dam in Jasper County, Georgia. Just as we were preparing to leave we heard a peculiar cry which increased in volume until we perceived a flock of about 40 great birds. They flew right toward us as if preparing to alight and passed over us at an altitude of about 150 feet in a long irregular wedge. Their long extended necks and

legs and the red bare head parts, together with the loud calls which several were giving, identified them as Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*). We did not see them alight but the upper reaches of Jackson Lake afford ideal conditions for them and it is most probable that they stopped here.—CHARLES H. WHARTON, *State Museum, Atlanta, Georgia.*

MOURNING DOVE BREEDS IN OLD HERON NEST.—On April 20, 1940, a typical Green Heron nest was found in the cypress swamp at Lake Beatrice. It was located in a small cypress over the water and was approximately fifteen feet high. When I climbed a nearby tree to see whether it was occupied, a female Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) started from the nest, exposing two white eggs that lay in the center of the bulky heron dwelling. On each subsequent approach by boat, the dove flushed, thus indicating that incubation was constant. Apparently, there have been no published details in the ecology of this resourceful species in regard to the utilization of nests of larger birds.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Fitzgerald, Georgia.*

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.—The spring meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society held in Statesboro April 6-7, 1940, got off to a good start with a delightful reception at the home of Miss Malvina Trussell Saturday at 3 P. M. The business session followed at the Woman's Club with Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach presiding. In the absence of Mrs. Oliver, Ralph Ramsey, Jr., served as secretary. Minutes of the last meeting were dispensed with as they were printed in *The Oriole*. Mr. Thomas M. Hall, Milledgeville, and Mr. Edward Friend, Wild-Life Refuge, Augusta, were presented as new members. The report of the treasurer, Mr. Ray C. Werner, was both informative and encouraging. Mrs. Hugh Harris, Editor of *The Oriole*, urged all regional reporters to send information from their respective areas more often. She regretted that Dr. DeLoach had not been given credit for writing the editorial in the March *Oriole*, and called attention to the literature and photographs on display in the club room. President DeLoach suggested that the *Oriole* be sent to the Associated Press. The president urged that the membership co-operate with the editor, pointing out that the publication was the mouthpiece of the society and should be placed before the public as much as possible. Reports were read from 1st Vice President, Miss Rainwater; 2nd Vice President, Miss Burns, and from Miss Mabel Rogers, Department of Education. Ralph Ramsey, Business Manager of *The Oriole*, requested information in regard to changes of address or failure to receive the magazine. Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Librarian, requested clippings from local papers over the state concerning G. O. S. and its members. Reports of regional Vice Presidents followed. Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, of Augusta, gave



an interesting report on activities in his region. Besides bird study and conservation, there was a Wild-Life Ranger organizing junior ranger work, a junior museum plus a regular newspaper column in the local paper. Mr. Fred C. Morton, from Savannah, reported good results from the work of the Savannah Audubon Society in photography, bird study and winter census. Miss Vera McElveen, from Thomson, reported increasing membership and field work. Mr. Harold Jones, of Rome, sent his report by telegram with greetings from the Mount Berry Bird Club which is promoting bird study among students and teachers.

Mrs. James R. Cain called attention to Bill S-3611, before the Senate to permit baiting of waterfowl. A motion protesting was carried and telegrams sent to Senator E. D. Smith, Chairman, and Senators Russell and George. A discussion on protection of Eagles was referred to the Committee on Hawks and Owls. President DeLoach read expressions of regretted absence from Miss Mary Burns, Rev. Fred Glisson, Miss Willingham, Dr. Wallace Rogers, Miss Rainwater and Mrs. Oliver.

After dinner Saturday night the program continued. President DeLoach introduced Dr. Pittman, President of the Georgia State Teachers' College, who gave the address of welcome. Following this Mr. Turner, publisher of the county newspaper, delighted the group with a brief witty speech. Dr. Eugene Murphey served as toastmaster in the traditional "a la Murphey" style. Dr. Hall, of Milledgeville, told of his back-yard sanctuary and showed a color film of bird life taken in the sanctuary by Dr. Arthur Allen, of Cornell University. Miss Mabel Rogers talked on her work and the value of nature study to the teacher. Mr. Anthony Carter outlined his program with the Biological Survey in Savannah, giving interesting data on waterfowl. Mr. Franklin, Department of Agriculture, talked on soil conservation and its connection with wild-life. Mr. Bill Griffin gave an interesting report on the Atlanta region, and Mr. Don Eyles, Department of Public Health, discussed drainage and mosquito control. Miss Lucy Bunce, of Springfield, and Mr. Thompson, from Collegeboro, gave interesting reports. Mr. Fleetwood spoke on his work on the Piedmont Wild Life Reserve and Mrs. Seymour, from Savannah, made interesting comments. Mr. Ivan Tomkins, Savannah, spoke briefly on some of his interesting observations.

Legislative Committee appointed by the President: Dr. Eugene Murphey, Chairman, Augusta; Mrs. Hugh Harris, Emory University; Mrs. Victor Bassett, Savannah; Mr. Ray C. Werner, Atlanta; Mrs. J. Connor Oliver, Atlanta.

Nominating Committee to report at Autumn Meeting, 1940: Miss Malvina Trussell, Chairman, Statesboro; Mr. Ivan Tomkins, Savannah; Miss Blanch Tait, Milledgeville; Mr. Hugh H. Harris, Emory University; Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Dalton.

After announcements the meeting adjourned, followed by an interesting field trip Sunday morning at Beechwood, the private sanctuary of President DeLoach, where visitors were served a delicious lunch, compliments of Dr. DeLoach, Miss Trussell and the G. S. T. C. Class in Bird Study.—MRS. J. CONNOR OLIVER, *Executive Secretary*.

COOT ON TOP OF SKYSCRAPER.—During the forenoon of April 12, 1940, a friend called me from downtown Atlanta to see a strange bird on the roof of the Citizens and Southern Bank Building. It proved to be a Coot (*Fulica americana americana*), apparently in normal condition, and was found on the gravel roof seeking shelter in a corner below a coping. The bird was picked up and, after examination, was carried to Grant Park Lake where it swam away in normal fashion. There was an unusually high, cold wind blowing which may have forced this bird to rest while it was flying over the city.—RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Georgia*.

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT REPORTS.—The program of work for a G. O. S. member in a small town is naturally different from working where there is a local adult club. Some methods of approach that have been to some degree successful in creating and stimulating interest in our G. O. S. program in Thomson are:

1. Supplying each school room with "*Birds, Nature's Protectors*" charts and cooperating as occasions arose with each group in getting more material, talks on bird study and field trips.
2. The school Civic-Science Club sponsored a bird house building contest. Fifteen houses were submitted. Other houses were built after the contest was over.
2. Girl Scouts sponsored project of feeding the birds during the cold weather. This seemed to have created interest in many individual homes.
4. The Fine Arts Division of the Woman's Club sponsored a study of the life and works of John Audubon.
5. The P. T. A. and the Flower Garden Club have begun work on a bird sanctuary.
6. Several in the Hobby project at school chose birds as their new hobby.—VERA McELVEEN.

SPRING NOTES FROM DALTON.—During April and May a number of interesting observations were made around Dalton, Georgia, by



the writers. Since the region has not been studied or worked to any great degree we think some of these records worthy of publication. On April 21 a Shoveller was seen in company with Blue-winged Teal. April 26 brought a Baltimore Oriole and on April 28 Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded. Neither is at all common in the vicinity. Four species of swallows, the Bank, Barn, Tree, and Cliff Swallows, were seen on May 2. A Prothonotary Warbler was observed on May 4 and on May 16 a Wilson's Warbler was noted. Connecticut Warblers were seen on May 19 and also on May 23. Possibly this species is fairly common here. The White-crowned Sparrow seen near Dalton is reported in another note.—MR. AND MRS. R. E. HAMILTON AND FANNIE McLELLAN, Dalton, Ga.

ATLANTA.—The Atlanta group has been busy in the field as notes from the area prove.

Several new members have been enrolled; Mrs. Oliver has been in great demand by garden clubs and other organizations who are waking up to the pleasure of bird study; Mr. Werner has assisted junior groups with field work; Bill Griffin has made a real contribution as field chairman and reporter; Glenn Bell has made the front page with his photography; Charles N. Elliott, Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, is lending a hand in making the new city park (Collier Woods) into a wild life sanctuary; Mrs. Wolfe, in her position as president of the City Federation of Civic Organizations, is putting in a plea for wild life at every chance; Ralph Ramsey is busy with Scouts in bird study.

ORNITHOLOGICAL CONVENTIONS—The A. O. U. will meet in Boston, Mass., September 9, 1940. This meeting is held at an earlier date than usual to take advantage of low-rate railroad fares in connection with the N. Y. World's Fair.

The annual meeting of The Audubon Society will be held in New York, the exact date has not been announced.

The W. O. C. meets in Minneapolis, Minn., November 22-25, 1940. A committee has been appointed to report on the advisability of inviting regional ornithological organizations to affiliate with the W. O. C.

#### NEWS OF PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS

Some notable features of the spring meeting at Statesboro:

1. Dr. DeLoach's presentation of "*Wings at Dusk and Other Poems*" by Edmund Murphey, M. D., decorations by Roger Tory Peterson, published by Longmans, Green & Co., 1939.

The following quotation from the prefatory note by William

Lyon Phelps portrays the character of the collection:

"His poems, which seem to me full of imagination based on knowledge and graced with felicity of language, will delight many readers. They are the expression of an original, humorous, whimsical, acute mind; and show the poet's power of transfiguration—the elevation of individual objects into universal ideas."

2. An exhibit of nature photography by Ivan R. Tomkins. One, a photograph of a Woodcock, was a prize-winner in a recent contest. Ivan is a master photographer and we look forward to other exhibits in which he is joined by more G. O. S. members.

3. Bird paintings by Robert Norris. We understood that a series of these was to be used as illustrations in Miss Marie Reddy's book reviewed in this issue of *The Oriole*.

Two articles in the May 1940 *Bulletin* of the Massachusetts Audubon Society that will be of practical interest to all members of the G. O. S. are: "Attracting Birds With Food Plants" by Russell C. Mason, which is more specific and more usable than the usual extensive list found in government bulletins and elsewhere; "Well, Why Not?" by E. V. F. which describes an excellent experiment in providing a nature study course for third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades and corroborates the belief of many educators that high school is too late for the most effective conservation study.

*Mr. Simmie or The Square Dance in the Clearing\**, a recently published juvenile book, by Marie E. Reddy, of Savannah, will appeal highly to the younger generation. The author is a member of the G. O. S. and has long been a bird and nature enthusiast. She has taught in the primary grades for many years and has thus become intimately acquainted with the younger folk, their ways, and their interests. Through this knowledge, she has acquired the ability to express ideas in a manner that engages the young person's interest and imagination. The story is written in pleasing and simple language. This should gain the child's singular attention. The book is profusely and attractively illustrated with pen drawings, these lending amusement and vital interest. The characters comprise a little boy and girl, also an array of wild and domestic creatures, all of whom partake in a merry march and dance in a woodland clearing. The very names of some of the personified animals—such as Simmie 'Possum, Rackie Coon, and Gobble Turkey—will undoubtedly become stamped indelibly in the youngster's mind, as was the case of *Peter Rabbit* and *Winnie the Pooh* in years gone by.—R. N.

\*Reddy, Marie E. *Mr. Simmie or The Square Dance in the Clearing*. 50 pp., illustr. The Christopher Publishing House, Boston. \$1.50.



# THE ORIOLE

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Mr. Robert Norris, Fitzgerald; Mr. George McDonnell, Savannah.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$2.00 Per Year

[Our New Bird Artist. Members of the G. O. S. will read with pride the following article copied in its entirety from the *Massachusetts Bulletin*. Mr. Menaboni is one of our new members and we look forward to seeing more of his bird pictures.—Ed.]

## YOU MUST SEE THESE PAINTINGS

"During the first three weeks of April, the Audubon Society is cooperating with the New England Museum of Natural History with an exhibit of bird paintings in oils by Athos Menaboni, of Atlanta, Georgia. These paintings are remarkable and should be viewed by all our members and their friends. Particularly striking to visitors will be the life-size figures of the Blue Jay and his cousin, the Crow, as well as the excellent paintings of the tiny Golden-crowned Kinglet and the flaming Redstart.

"Mr. Menaboni is one of the newer ornithological artists, although he is already well known as a mural painter and decorator. He was born in Livorno, Italy, became passionately fond of birds as a school-boy and his father finding that he had talent in art sent him to Florence to the Royal Academy. He enlisted in the World War as an aviator and emerged with the Italian War Cross for valor. Following a round-the-world trip on an American freighter he resumed his painting in this country, became an American citizen, and married a Georgia girl. He now makes his home in Atlanta where he likes particularly to paint the birds of that region. His bird studies are done in a technique which he evolved himself, using light oil on illustration board. They are particularly noteworthy for the great detail of feather pattern and the excellent habitat backgrounds which although true to life do not obscure the beauty of the bird figures."

*Bulletin of the Mass. Audubon Society, April, 1940.*

The G. O. S. is to meet this fall in Rome and Mount Berry with the Mount Berry and Dalton Clubs joint hosts. Harold C. Jones is chairman of arrangements. Details of the convention will follow in the September *Oriole*.