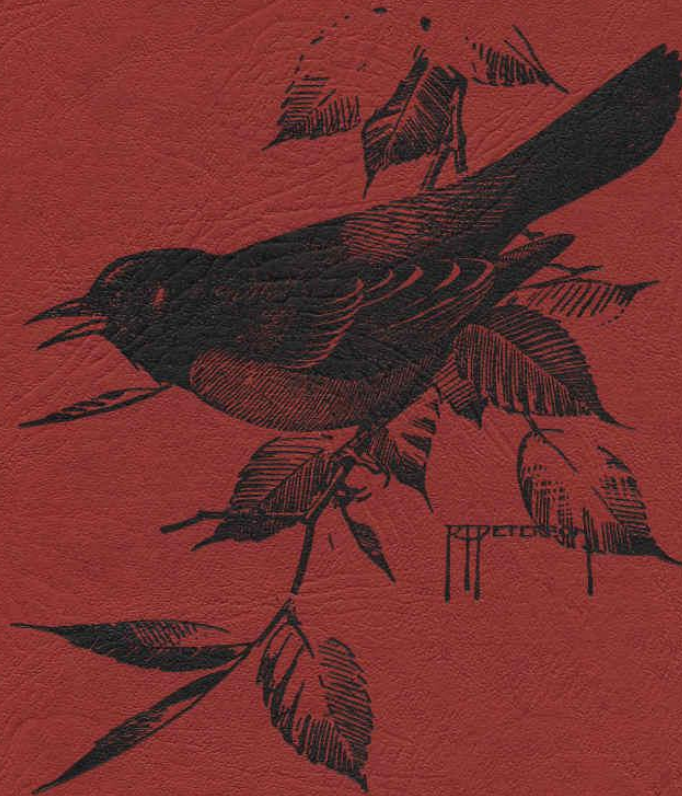


FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

# THE ORIOLE

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



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VOL. V, NO. 4

DECEMBER, 1940



FIFTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER  
DEDICATED TO OUR THREE A. O. U. MEMBERS:  
HERBERT LEE STODDARD  
IVAN R. TOMKINS  
EUGENE EDMUND MURPHEY

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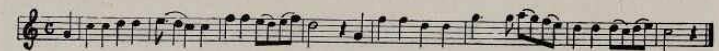
## THE EUROPEAN BULLFINCH IN MILLEDGEVILLE

FRANK M. CHAPMAN

Several years before the founding of the Georgia Ornithological Society (it was in March, 1872) I visited my grandparents who were passing the winter in Milledgeville. Their neighbors on one side were "the Hunters" and, across the street, lived Mrs. Jarret. I do not know whether I have spelled her name correctly nor do I recall ever hearing her given name. To me she has remained a soft-voiced lady whose home was placed in a large garden with box-lined walks and, what was of greater importance, who owned a trained Bullfinch that was a remarkable songster. Probably I had never before heard of a Bullfinch and certainly I had never heard a Bullfinch sing as Mrs. Jarret's sang.

As convincing evidence of her sympathetic interest in a small boy's love of birds and of her confidence in the safety of my grandparents' home, she brought her treasured bird in its cage to call on us in order that we might hear it sing.

However well trained the bird may have been as a vocalist, it had not been taught to perform at command, and was silent in its new surroundings. But that it might have an opportunity to confirm its reputation, and doubtless, also, that the bird-boy might not be disappointed, she left the Bullfinch with us and in due time it sang:



For the succeeding 68 years that was the end of the story; but here is a sequel: Several days ago, to illustrate some question in the singing of birds, I told this experience and whistled the Bullfinch's song to my colleague, Dr. Ernst Mayr. "Why," he said, "that's a German folk song, 'Ueb' immer Treu' und Redlichkeit.' It is played by the chimes at Potsdam."

In the light of this information may we not conclude that the Bullfinch was introduced into Georgia from Germany? The species, evidently, has not survived but to me, at least, its introduction was pre-eminently successful—*American Museum of Natural History*.



## HOW TO MAKE A MID-WINTER BIRD CENSUS

By ALBERT F. GANIER

**HISTORY:** Annual mid-winter or Christmas bird censuses have been made by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society for about 25 years. The idea was originated by Dr. Frank M. Chapman, editor of *Bird-Lore*, who made it a national feature of that journal.

**PURPOSE:** The lists, especially a series of them, taken in a locality year after year, form a valuable index to the presence and relative abundance of the winter birds of the State. As such, it serves a scientific purpose, is made part of a permanent published record, and it is one of the most worth-while activities in the field of bird study. Aside from this it is a very interesting game—that of listing—it has all the elements of a hunt and none of its destructiveness. The rewards of the “hunt” are usually in proportion to the skill and perseverance of the observers. The skill, of course, comes only from active preliminary work afield but can readily be acquired.

**PLANNING:** Select the localities to be covered well in advance and extensive enough to keep you afield all day. It should include all types of habitats, such as woods, brush and cane thickets, old fields, fence rows, pastures and streams, marshes and lakes if available. Make yourself comfortable against cold, wet and hunger by dressing warmly, wearing wool sox, boots, gloves, and carry a good lunch, or arrange to get one somewhere at mid-day. Don't think you're finished at noon; keep plugging all day and you'll find you will add new birds all thru the afternoon, even to the owls at dusk. On windy days, search sheltered valleys and in late p. m. keep to sunny slopes.

**DATE:** The Sunday closest to Christmas Day is usually selected. However, any other date within a week of Christmas may be chosen. (*Bird-Lore's* census permits a range of only six or seven days.)

**GROUPS:** Where there is a good size group available, it is best to divide it into parties of from 2 to 4, each headed by an experienced observer whose duty it will be to check on all rare or doubtful species. The areas covered by the parties should not overlap.

**PRELIMINARY:** Having chosen an area, it should be gone over several times in advance, in order to find the places favored by the birds and to learn what birds have established themselves upon it. A wild grape or poison ivy vine, a sumach thicket, a ragweed patch, a spring branch, a beech woods, a pea field, etc., etc., may be the rendezvous of individuals or groups of birds not found by random search.

**TECHNIQUE:** All methods of identification should be used, such as taking note of size, color, markings, call notes, mannerisms and habitat. In bad weather when the light is poor, size, form and mannerisms must sometimes be relied upon alone, and these should be carefully studied.

Carry a pocket Field Guide and refer to it often. Most birds stay together in winter in mixed groups, thus enjoying the protection afforded by many pairs of watchful eyes. One may walk rapidly until such a group is located, then a slow, stealthy approach must be employed. *Avoid all quick and jerky movements.* By moving slowly or standing still at vantage points, birds will come from hiding that will often surprise you. Teamwork may be developed, by partners and small groups, that will rout the birds from thickets and thus bring them into good view. Stay with or follow each flock until you have checked them over carefully; there may be a “stray” among them. Less sociable birds must be sought in their favored haunts; for example, in the pastures you should find Horned Larks and Killdeer, in old fields the Savannah Sparrows and Meadowlarks, in swampy places the Wilson's Snipe and Swamp Sparrows, along the streams the Kingfisher and Ducks, in poison ivy vines the Myrtle Warbler, by the roadsides Mockingbirds and Shrikes, while an eye cast skyward every now and then should add a Vulture, Hawk or roving flocks of smaller species. A lot where stock is fed, especially in snowy weather, will often attract Doves, Horned Larks and various Blackbirds.

**LISTING:** The party leader should carry a printed listing card (or notebook) and as fast as birds are seen, their numbers should be marked down on this card. Do not wait until the hunt is over and then *guess* at what you have seen. Such guessing is usually *too full* and it is not fair to those in other groups who are accurately recording numbers. When birds are seen in a flock, the number should be estimated and the figure enclosed in a circle or separated by a dash. On all rare and unexpected species, write out the details of observation on the spot, on a separate card or in notebook. At the end of the day the groups should meet, discuss their finds and prepare a composite list. In the case of unexpected birds, be prepared to give all data and do not be offended if your identification is frankly questioned.

**ACCURACY:** If you are not quite certain of an unexpected bird, please do not press its acceptance. Making up “big bird lists” has been severely criticized because of the desire to give oneself the benefit of the doubt in order to bring up the total. Competing, for the purpose of bringing in the *biggest list* should not be stressed. Many of the lists will be published, and errors have no proper place in bird journals. The purpose and value of the census is to establish the local status of our winter birds and the work must be done with regard to quality rather than to quantity.

**FINALLY:** Prepare your complete or composite list and send to the editor of *Bird-Lore* while the day's events are fresh in mind. Give the date, hours afield, temperature, wind and weather generally, and localities covered. List the names of persons taking the census in alphabetical order. Also include detailed notes on all rare or unexpected species. Even though your list is small, send it in; one must make a beginning some time, and perhaps a poor one now will lead to fuller lists in years to come.

NASHVILLE, TENN.



## SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING VS. SIGHT OBSERVATION IN LOCAL BIRD STUDY

ROBERT NORRIS

It seems that the general trend nowadays among ornithological groups and individual students is toward the identification of birds in the field based entirely on sight records. This practice is assuredly satisfactory and dependable in connection with the greater part of our bird species and their observers, although in some respects sight identification cannot be made with any reliability. For most students who work thus without the surety of a Ludlow Griscom is well nigh impossible. But every watcher can and should be serious in his study. On these grounds, the formation of a good accurate list of forms from a certain region would require collecting, the amount dependent on the student's approach.

To stress further the necessity of arbitrary collecting, specific instances concerning both species and minor races will be mentioned. The plain obscurity of some birds, such as the small flycatchers, certain of the shore birds and fall warblers, and even members of the sparrow tribe, is recognized as a shaky criterion for identification. Molt and plumage change as confusing factors would fall under this head. Considering further, the amount of individual variation in a vast number of species would sometimes be potent in misidentification. To cite a concrete example: the writer has in his collection a female Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens* subsp.) which he purposely secured being unaware of its identity, although he was well acquainted with both sexes of this species. The deceptive character was the white wing marking which was remarkably small and completely *concealed* by the "spur" of the wing. Of course, individual age plays an important part in variation, and one should find this to hold particularly over an extended time with the fringilline group. Yet another cause of confusion may be noted. Many small forms are so extremely active and wary and frequent such ecological associations as are unfavorable to the watcher, that, although should they bear sufficient patterns, identification is oftentimes difficult.

Contrariwise, sight records of large birds with marked patterns or of proportionate specialty are invariably dependable, providing the observer is competent; e. g., the writer warrants his observation of an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*), at a lake in Irwin County, fully as authentic as would be a specimen of this predator so rare to the interior.

As for subspecies, in most cases it is folly to make sight differentiation, except when one is well informed on geographical distribution but not always then, however. The instability of species and their variants both as to physical appearance and range has been emphasized (see Tomkins, *Wilson Bulletin*, 46: 238-240, 1934), and such light thrown on this fact partially

explodes the geographical element. Hence, if the subspecies is to be considered more than a nominal matter, collecting is the only alternative. In support of the conservative viewpoint, when subspecific field markings are evident on the living creature, as among Towhees and some other forms, in conjunction with the proper range, the chances often favor correct determination.

In this proposed compromise, the desirability of some degree of collecting is evinced, and in this relation the writer would state that the ability to prepare specimens is of indispensable value to the student. For those interested who have not been so fortunate as to have personal instruction, a bulletin by Chapin, "*The Preparation of Birds for Study*", may be obtained from the American Museum of Natural History, and should be of use, since it furnishes complete information on the methods of preservation.—*Fitzgerald, Ga.*

## HERBERT LEE STODDARD

Herbert Lee Stoddard was born in Rockford, Illinois, long enough ago to escape the recent draft but not the first one. When he was four years old his parents moved to Florida, where they lived for eight or nine years. It was here that his interest in nature was first awakened.

It was a fortunate day for sportsmen and ornithologists when young Herbert met an old government surveyor by the name of Barber. The surveyor took the boy under his wing and instilled in the youth an abiding interest in the great out-of-doors. Herbert L. Stoddard still remembers vividly the many Ivory-billed Woodpeckers which he saw in Florida at that time.

The quiet, modest, almost shy young man went to work in the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1910. In 1913 he accepted a place in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. While there he did taxidermy work in ornithology. After eight years at the Field Museum (1913-1921) he went back to Milwaukee, where he remained until 1924.

Now came the important turning point in his life that was to bring him lasting fame. A group of America's finest sportsmen financed the Co-operative Quail Investigation for the purpose of studying this great game bird. As co-operative agent of the United States Biological Survey, Herbert Stoddard came to Georgia and directed the work which was organized and conducted by the Biological Survey. The results of years of patient and exhaustive study of quail problems was made available to the public in a splendid monograph entitled "*The Bobwhite Quail*", published in 1931.

The American Ornithologists Union awarded him the Brewster Medal for the outstanding contribution he made to ornithology in producing this monumental work.

Although we usually think of Herbert Stoddard in connection with the



Bobwhite Quail it should be remembered that the Black Rail bears his name. This bird was collected by him and was described and named in his honor by Henry K. Coale in *The Auk*, Vol. XL, No. 1, issued in January 1923. Although the type specimen was originally collected near Chicago this bird also occurs in Georgia. As recently as November 26, 1940, Frederick V. Hebard and Robert Norris, accompanied by Mr. Stoddard, observed an adult *Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi* near Folkston, Georgia. However, Stoddard's general ornithological work was largely done in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

Herbert Lee Stoddard has given encouragement to many young naturalists through his interest and kindness. His work offers inspiration to all who follow him. In bringing this brief biographical note to a close it should be recorded that he joined the A. O. U. in 1912 as an associate member, was elected to full membership in 1924, and became a Fellow in 1936.—LUCIEN HARRIS, JR., *Atlanta, Ga.*

#### IVAN R. TOMKINS

Ivan R. Tomkins came of his interest in wild life quite naturally, for his youth on his father's farm near Williamsport, Penn., threw him into close contact with nature.

Nature study was a family trait and as a boy Mr. Tomkins interested himself in birds and animals about him. But it was not until he came to Savannah, Ga., in 1922, that Mr. Tomkins developed a deep interest in wild life study.

His first work in Savannah was at the U. S. Quarantine Station, located near the mouth of the river, placed him in an excellent position to observe bird life. After 3½ years, he accepted the position of Dredging Inspector in the U. S. Engineer Department and has remained in that work since.

Soon after coming to Quarantine Station, Mr. Tomkins became acquainted with three of the Savannah ornithologists of that time, the late Troup D. Perry, Walter J. Erichson and Gilbert R. Rossignol; and he began to learn somewhat of the bird life of that area. Mr. Rossignol, in particular, came to be a valued friend and instructor. During the next few years, Mr. Tomkins made contacts by letter and in person with many of the important naturalists of this country, particularly with the late Arthur H. Howell, of Washington, D. C.

The isolated character of the work and the life aboard dredges in the Savannah River further prompted Mr. Tomkins to develop an absorbing interest in all the wild creatures of that habitat, that of the salt marshes, and the beaches of the river entrance. As this area had not been well worked, the records made there contained some initial records for Georgia and for South Carolina. Among little-known or rare species collected during this time by Mr. Tomkins included the European Cormorant, Blue

Goose, Greater Snow Goose, Avocet, Glaucous Gull (the white "Burgomaster" gull of the Arctic), Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Atlantic Song Sparrow, Northern Phalarope, and many other species and subspecies of interest.

The results of these investigations have been published in *The Auk*, *The Wilson Bulletin* and *The Oriole*. About fifty titles, mostly short notes have been published, chiefly on birds, but including a paper on the marsh-rabbit in the *Journal of Mammalogy*. A number of popular articles and photographs have been published elsewhere.

The Charleston (S. C.) Museum elected Mr. Tomkins an Associate in Zoology in 1934, and for many years before and since he has maintained close contact with that well known southern institution. Several hundred birds collected by Mr. Tomkins are on display there.

The A. O. U. elected Mr. Tomkins an Associate in 1928, and advanced him to full membership in 1939. He also is a member of the American Society of Mammalogists and several other organizations interested in the study of birds.

His outstanding photographs of wild life have served to lift Mr. Tomkins head and shoulders above many other collectors. He has found photography to be a hobby which combines well with bird study, superseding collecting to some extent. He has used the camera successfully in discovering and recording certain details not easily caught by the human eye.

A study of Mr. Tomkins' photographs of birds in action reveals many characteristics and habits.

His photographic equipment consists of the well known Graflex, with several telephoto lenses, and a compact Super Ikonta B, in the popular 2¼x2¼ inch size. He is considering supplementing his equipment with a Speed Graphis, primarily in order to use a synchronizer with photo flash lighting (which can be fired by remote control from a distance if necessary) in order to catch nesting and other phases of bird life in the deep woods where light conditions for photography are unfavorable. Mr. Tomkins' photographs of wild life have been widely published and are frequent prize winners.

A charter member of the Camera Club of Savannah, Mr. Tomkins is an enthusiastic photographer, specializing in river scenes, in addition to wild life. He does his own processing in a tiny dark room aboard the Government Dredge Clinton.

His photographic prints have wide appeal and are technically excellent. One of the delightful features of his photographs is the toning, often in beautiful blue or green to suggest the outdoors.

A quiet, modest individual, Mr. Tomkins is held in high regard by those who count him as a friend.—JAMES H. COBB, JR., *Savannah*.



## EUGENE EDMUND MURPHEY

From earliest boyhood Eugene Edmund Murphey has shown an abiding interest in birds and an insatiable curiosity regarding their habits and homes, their comings and goings. Despite a lifetime devoted to his chosen profession, time has been found and opportunities made to search bird haunts in Canada, in our Northwestern States, along the Carolina and Georgia coasts, and, most of all, in his own beloved Savannah River Valley. Bird students know "*observations on the Bird Life of the middle Savannah Valley*," a bulletin embodying the results of observation extending over well-nigh half a century.

When the foregoing work was published three years ago, E. Milby Burton, director of the Charleston Museum and editor of its publications reminded that "Nearly fifty years ago this area was receiving the attention of a very young observer of birds—Eugene Edmund Murphey. Throughout his teen age schooling his interest in birds waxed steadily; it continued into college days and has remained undiminished during his long and distinguished career as a physician in Augusta, Georgia. The cause of ornithology is the better for his contributions and unceasing devotion to it despite outside duties and handicaps." And I would emphasize that time for this study had perforce to be squeezed out of the most time-devouring and exhausting profession I know—that of a beloved doctor. (And they call a doctor's never-ending cycle of activities his "practice"!)

Dr. Murphey's keen ability in the field, and his power of expression, are well balanced by his quick perception and understanding of the taxonomic side of bird study. His reputation as an outstanding ornithologist is indeed secure. He has merited and received national recognition.

I am certain that from his study of birds Dr. Murphey has added much to his joy of living. He couples his love for the knowledge of birds with a keen insight into the frailties, the joys and sorrows of man, that alleged "higher vertebrate." Then, the results are wholly charming. It is in "*Wings at Dusk*" that Dr. Murphey performs another distinct service to his friends—and they are legion. Here are a group of poems that—despite the printed page—are drawn with the brush of a true artist. And the pictures are sharp and crystal clear, be they gay, tender, humorous, or biting. Well does William Lyons Phelps say "His poems, which seem to me to be 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."

Eugene Edmund Murphey—gentleman, doctor, ornithologist, poet, raconteur, and friend. Occupations and avocations enough for half a dozen good men. Do the members of the Georgia Ornithological Society fully realize and appreciate what manner of man they have in their midst?

I give you Gene Murphey—Dean of Georgia ornithologists.—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

## MILLEDGEVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY COMMEMORATES

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The tenth anniversary of the Milledgeville Audubon Society was celebrated Monday, December 2, 1940, by a dinner attended by forty-two persons, members and friends. Of these, there were five of the original eleven members.

Miss Mabel T. Rogers, president, was introduced as toastmistress by Miss Mary Burns, program chairman. The tables were very artistically decorated by Mrs. Sam Anderson.

Greetings were read from former club members, other Bird clubs, Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach (President, G. O. S.), and Dr. A. A. Allen of Cornell University, who had visited the organization on two occasions. In person, Mr. Allan Dudley Cruickshank, brought greetings directly from the National Audubon Society.

Miss Hallie Smith, club historian, presented a brief of the delightful and witty history which was given in book form to each guest.

After the dinner, the guest speaker, Mr. Cruickshank, was shared with the community. An audience of over 700 was entertained and instructed by his most illuminating lecture accompanied by his excellent colored slides and movies.

The club feels that this occasion marks the culmination of the educational program it has been pursuing. At each monthly meeting during the past year the membership was divided into two groups, beginners under the direction of Miss Blanche Tait and advanced members led by Miss Mary Burns. The former group studied mainly the identification of common birds. The latter group took up Hawks, Warblers (those seen in this region) and the nests and habits of local birds. Junior groups for bird study have been formed in both the local schools and Girl and Boy Scout groups. These were organized and are led by club members.

## BIRD-BANDING IN MILLEDGEVILLE—1940

The results of our Chimney Swift banding project were most satisfactory this year due to two causes: first, since we have been banding for two years there was more chance for recaptures of our birds; second, and more important, we had reinforcements of efficient and experienced banders. Mr. Raymond Fleetwood, who has banded Swifts in Macon for a year or two, is now a member of our club. Mr. Fleetwood has an excellent record both here and in Macon. His trap is larger, letting in more light so that the swifts are more willing to leave the chimney. We worked two different mornings in four different chimneys. The following figures represent the work of our group, unless otherwise indicated:

Total number of swifts banded.....	2252
Total number of recaptures.....	20



Total number of foreign captures.....	34
Total number of recaptures by Mr. Fleetwood.....	18

A number of our birds were captured by Mr. Fleetwood in Macon, in three cases of which they had been banded about a week before. One of our foreign captures had the number 30-38303 which would probably mean that it was banded ten years ago. As yet, however, the data concerning this has not come from Washington. From the chimney of one of our college buildings we banded about 2400 Swifts. In one private home there were 600 birds. This seems to indicate that there is a definite concentration of Swifts in the area around Milledgeville.

At the home of Dr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson, also at the home of Dr. T. M. Hall we have traps for "yard birds." During the past year the following birds have been banded: 69 White-throated Sparrows, 24 Myrtle Warblers, 5 Cardinals, 3 Brown Thrashers, 35 Chipping Sparrows, 2 Wood Thrushes, 1 Towhee, 2 Mockingbirds, and 5 Catbirds. Besides these the following birds were recaptured which were banded in the same place the previous year: 1 female Towhee, 1 Brown Thrasher and 8 White-throated Sparrows. It seems that there should be others among our G. O. S. members who would be anxious to enter this interesting field of bird work.

MABEL T. ROGERS, *Georgia State College for Women, Milledgeville, Ga.*

#### NEWS OF PEOPLE AND PUBLICATIONS

The fall session of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held on September 21-22 at Mount Berry and Rome with Dalton as joint host. Registrations and business meeting were held on the beautiful campus of Berry Schools. Dr. DeLoach expressed appreciation to all who helped prepare the way for a successful meeting. A gracious response by Dr. Harold Jones of the Berry Schools Faculty assured us of a cordial welcome and literally gave us the campus keys. This campus, by the way, with over 2500 acres of land and more than 100 buildings, is the largest campus in the world. It is a bird sanctuary of long standing, with a record of 165 species observed. Dr. Jones reported that a course in Ornithology would be added in the next year.

All reports read and filed were full of interest and encouragement. A letter was read from our friend Dr. G. R. Mayfield of Nashville, Tenn., conveying good wishes and congratulations. An interesting assortment of bird books, photography, etc., were on display, including a remarkable collection of bird eggs given to Berry Schools by Dr. Lynds Jones, the father of Dr. Harold Jones.

A motor trip around the campus filled us anew with deep appreciation for this great educational institution, and the privilege of meeting there.

Fifty-four delegates and friends, representing 19 towns in four states met at Hotel Forrest in Rome, for dinner Saturday night. The invocation by Dr. Hugh H. Harris of Emory University was followed by greetings

from Dr. DeLoach, president of the G. O. S. Earle R. Greene, of Key West, Fla., served as toastmaster. Mr. O. C. Skinner, Industrial Manager of Berry Schools and President of the Rotary Club of Rome, welcomed the members of the G. O. S.

The following program was presented by Dr. Jones:

1. Training Naturalists for Uncle Sam—by Charles M. Graves, National Park Service.
2. Conservation of Bird Life as Practiced by the U. S. A.—by Raymond Fleetwood, Piedmont Wildlife Refuge.
3. Wild Birds of Georgia—by Bob Adkins, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
4. Wildlife Conservation in North Georgia—by R. L. Cornwell, Wildlife Ranger.

Mrs. Hamilton announced the Sunday morning field trip which proved an early affair but well attended, with a number of convoys scouting over the adjacent terrain—mountains and valleys—scoring a total of 54 species. Sunday lunch was the final get-together where fond goodbys and thank-yous filled the air.

The report of the nominating committee, Miss Trussell, chairman, is as follows:

President—Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach, Statesboro; First Vice-President—Miss Mary Burns, Milledgeville; Second Vice-President—Dr. Harold Jones, Rome; Executive Secretary—Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Dalton; Treasurer—Ray C. Werner, Atlanta; Librarian—Mrs. Victor Bassett, Savannah; Editor *The Oriole*—Bill Griffin, Atlanta; Business Manager—Ralph Ramsey, Atlanta; Department Education—Miss Mabel Rogers, Milledgeville; Publicity—Miss Clemmie Willingham, Atlanta.

Regional Vice Presidents: Dr. Eugene Murphy, Augusta; Mr. Fred C. Morton, Savannah; Mr. M. H. Burroughs, Brunswick; Mrs. Maurice Abercrombie, Atlanta; Miss Fannie McClellan, Rome; Miss Vera McElveen, Thomson; Mrs. Sam Anderson, Milledgeville.

MRS. J. C. OLIVER,  
*Executive Secretary, Atlanta.*

We welcome Fred Hebard's return to Georgia. He is at Coleraine Plantation near Folkston and plans to be there until late spring. A record of his observations of birds in the Okefinokee Swamp, to be published soon, will add greatly to our literature on Georgia birds.

Allen Cruickshank of the National Audubon Society visited Georgia the first week in December this year. During this time he addressed four bird clubs, Milledgeville, Dalton, Mount Berry and Atlanta. He has some beautiful slides and movies in color which together with his enthusiasm for all phases of bird study charm his audience completely.



Eugene Odum, Department Zoology, University of Georgia, is a new member who comes to us from a research station at Rensselaerville, N. Y., where he made an intensive study of the Black-capped Chickadee. Mr. Odum was formerly a member of the North Carolina Club and has been active in bird study for several years. We welcome him to Georgia and look forward to the association with him in the G. O. S.

Mr. A. F. Ganier of the T. O. S. paid us a short visit in November, (a most delightful surprise!). Mr. Ganier was one of the founders of the G. O. S. and has been generous in sharing his experience and lending encouragement to our young organization. His article, "How to Make a Mid-Winter Bird Census," published in this issue of *The Oriole* is both timely and practical.

We note with interest *Outdoor Georgia*, a magazine now eight months old, published by "The Georgia Division of Wild Life in the interest of Georgia Wildlife and for fishermen and hunters, nature lovers and conservationists." This periodical can be a great factor in educating people in the ways of conserving the wildlife of our state. Charles N. Elliott, Commissioner Georgia Department Natural Resources, is the editor and a member of the G. O. S.

Bird Lore's forty-first Christmas Bird Census is to be taken on any day from December 22-29 inclusive. Every member of the G. O. S. is urged to participate in this most interesting activity. If you will send a copy of your list to the editor we will compile records for *The Oriole*.

*Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and Their Allies*, by A. C. Bent, is a book every bird student should have. It is priced 75c and may be secured from Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. We are sorry that space does not permit a full review of this excellent reference book.

Ivan Tomkins was first place winner in the annual wild life contest conducted by the Camera Club of Savannah, December, 1940. His print was a study of a Marsh Rabbit caught in its natural habitat. For the winning picture he received \$25. The prize is part of the \$50 offered again this year by Remer Y. Lane. Ivan won this same honor last year.

#### GENERAL NOTES

ROSEATE TERN IN WESTERN CAMDEN COUNTY—On November 5, 1940, on Mill Creek in Western Camden County not over half a mile north of the St. Mary's River, which is the Florida boundary, John Burch picked up a young Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougalli dougalli*) which had just died. The bird was in splendid condition and its skin is now in the collection



TRIP TO BILLY'S ISLAND, OKFENOKEE SWAMP, OCTOBER, 1938





Organization Meeting of the G. O. S., Atlanta, Ga., December 13, 1936

Left to right: Dr. Hugh H. Harris, Norman Giles, Jr., Mrs. Berma Abercrombie, A. F. Ganier, Mrs. M. E. Judd, Roger T. Peterson, Mrs. N. H. Giles, Sr., Don Eyles, Miss Mabel Rogers, Ray C. Werner and Mrs. James Connor Oliver.



Fall Meeting G. O. S., 1940, at Mount Berry Schools

OUR THREE A. O. U. MEMBERS



Herbert Stoddard  
The Bob-white Specialist



Ivan Tomkins, the Photographer



E. E. Murphey, the Raconteur





SPRING MEETING, 1939, PELICAN ISLAND, BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Pa. This is the first record of any Tern which I have from interior southeastern Georgia. So far as I know after writing Ivan R. Tomkins and consulting Herbert L. Stoddard, this is the first Georgia record for the species.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, *Folkston, Ga.*

**WHISTLING SWAN FROM THE FITZGERALD AREA**—On November 15, 1940, the first day of our only cold snap, an immature of *Cygnus columbianus* was shot by a farmer, Jack Rayfield, on his place eight miles west of town, in Ben-Hill County, near the Irwin County line. The Swan had sought rest and food in a large, open field early in the morning. On the following day, the writer obtained the salvaged parts which are now preserved. There seem to be very few State records of this great waterfowl.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Fitzgerald, Georgia.*

**ADDITIONAL NOTES ON NESTING EXTREMES FOR BIRDS BREEDING IN THE ATLANTA REGION**—Since the appearance of Mr. W. W. Griffin's article "Nesting Extremes for Birds Breeding in the Atlanta Region" in the March, 1940, issue of *The Oriole*, several additional records have been revealed. I am indebted to Mr. Lawrence of Marietta, Georgia, for the majority of these notes.

Definite nesting records for the Red-tailed Hawk and the Whip-poor-will, species listed by Mr. Griffin as hypothetical breeders in this region, have been obtained.

Each of the following records represents a new extreme either early or late as indicated. The order is that of the fourth edition of the A. O. U. checklist.

*Accipiter cooperi*—Cooper's Hawk, June 27, 1935 (late)—3 young—F. S. Barkalow, Jr.

*Buteo borealis borealis*—Red-tailed Hawk, April 10, 1933 (new record)—2 fresh eggs—T. Lawrence. In a large hickory tree near Kennesaw Mountain.

*Buteo platypterus platypterus*—Broadwing Hawk, May 31, 1933 (late)—2 well-incubated eggs—T. Lawrence.

*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—Mourning Dove, March 28, 1938 (late) 2 eggs—F. S. Barkalow, Jr. Nest was on ground in an open pine woods.

*Oxyechus vociferous vociferous*—Killdeer, May 17, 1931 (late)—3 eggs—T. Lawrence.

*Antrostomus vociferous vociferous*—Whip-poor-will, "Middle of May" 1932 (new record)—2 eggs—T. Lawrence. 1/4 mile south of Kennesaw Mountain.

*Chaetura pelagica*—Chimney Swift, July 2, 1932 (late)—4 eggs—T. Lawrence.

*Archilochus colubris*—Ruby-throated Hummingbird, May 9, 1933 (early)



—1 egg—F. S. Barkalow, Jr.

*Colaptes auratus subsp.*—Flicker, April 17, 1933 (early)—1 egg (fresh)  
—F. S. Barkalow, Jr.

*Corvus branchyrhynchos paulus*—Southern Crow, March 9, 1935 (early)  
May 4, 1931 (late)—5 eggs—F. S. Barkalow, Jr. 3 eggs—T. Lawrence.

*Piranga rubra rubra*—Summer Tanager, May 15, 1933 (early)—3 eggs  
—T. Lawrence. Frederick S. Barkalow, Jr., Proj. Leader, Inventory  
of Wildlife Resources of Alabama, Auburn, Alabama.

[Each of these records were reported as of Marietta, Cobb County,  
Georgia.—Ed.]

NOTES FROM LAKE RUTLEDGE, MORGAN COUNTY—The Atlanta Bird Club held its annual fall camp-out at Camp Rutledge this year on October 12 and 13, 1940. Despite the late date numerous records of interest were made. On the 13th two Mississippi Kites were observed by the writer and others at the upper end of Lake Rutledge over the swamp. Being aware of the fact that they had never been recorded this far north in the State and that this was unusually late in the season for the species, we studied them carefully. It was impossible to collect them on the recreation area. A Black-crowned Night Heron was also seen by the writer on the same date. On the 12th a lone Green-winged Teal was observed. Both of the latter birds are rare or uncommon in the Atlanta region. Berma Abercrombie saw a Cape May Warbler, extremely rare in fall, on October 13. We were also surprised to find 2 Black Terns and a Whip-poor-will still present. Early Pipits (October 13, Abercrombie) and Song Sparrows (October 12, Griffin) were also reported.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Ga.*

SEASONAL NOTES FROM ATLANTA—Fall migrations were normal in most respects. This was to be expected, however, with the normal weather conditions which prevailed during the three fall months.

Several species were noted which have in the past been rare fall migrants, though not uncommon in spring. Bobolinks were seen on September 29 by Sciple and Griffin and a female specimen collected. Glenn Bell also saw some on October 19. These are the first fall occurrences for the species in the region. A Veery was seen by Paxton on September 25, the second fall record, although it is common in spring. Paxton also saw a Greater Yellow-legs at East Lake on November 5 and 6, the second fall record and an extremely late date for any sandpiper.

A Duck Hawk was observed on October 15 by Sciple. Other interesting observations and records are as follows: Horned Larks by Sciple and Griffin on November 12 and 14; Loon and Mallards by Paxton and Cordes on November 9; female Pectoral Sandpiper on September 29 and female

Ruddy Duck on November 14 collected by writer, first specimens from area.

This fall it was interesting to note the continued increase in waterfowl. Several trips were made along the Chattahoochee River by boat and it was heartening to see ducks in large numbers where, several years ago, they were absent. Charles Wharton reports waterfowl numerous about Jackson Lake also. Hooded Mergansers are notably increasing in numbers.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Biology Department, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.*

FALL NOTES FROM THE FITZGERALD REGION—The period, from September 1 to date (November 30), yielded many more unusual records than any previous fall. Yet, for the sake of brevity, information here given is as concise as possible, and only highlights of the migration are mentioned.

The entire season was much warmer than normal, there being no frost until the second week of November and no freezing temperatures except on November 15 and 16. On the whole, the weather was extremely dry.

First regional records are as follows: Black Tern (1 adult), September 1 (Crystal Lake, Irwin County, 12 miles east of town); Northern Water-Thrush (subsp.), September 14 (2 coll.); Bald Eagle (1 adult), September 21 (Crystal Lake); Common Tern (1), September 27 (football field at night—almost exhausted); Magnolia Warbler (5), October 16 (male coll.); Bay-breasted Warbler, October 19 (im. female coll.—Hopkins); Blackburnian Warbler, October 22 and 23 (pair coll.); Wilson's Warbler, October 31 (male observed); Black-crowned Night Heron, November 2 (im. female coll.); Whistling Swan, November 15 (im. coll.—described in another note); Bronzed Grackle, November 22 (highly-plumaged bird slightly wounded by small boy, Jack Farmer; examined and later liberated).

Second records were made for the Short-billed Marsh Wren, Olive-backed Thrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler (specimens taken of each), and the Worm-eating Warbler (1 taken—Hopkins; seen several times). Also the Henslow's Sparrow, of which three have been shot, on November 2, 8, and 22, by Brewer, Hopkins, and Farmer, and one observed on the 24th by Hopkins. Of further interest regarding these sparrows is the fact that six were collected in 1935 and 1936, by Dr. Francis Harper and Frederick V. Hebard, in Charlton County and western Camden County; and one taken by the writer, on November 27, of this year, in the last-mentioned county.

All species mentioned as being taken are preserved and most are in the writer's collection. Any details or additional information that might be desired on the birds of the Ben Hill County region will be furnished to those interested.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Fitzgerald, Georgia.*



ORNITHOLOGY AT OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY.—For a teacher wearied of textbooks and classrooms the course in Ornithology offered at Oglethorpe University the past two summers seemed heaven sent. It provided so many things in one course; an opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of birds, a chance to be out in the open every day, the companionship of congenial people and those well known credits that students work for at summer school.

Taught by Bernard H. Stevenson of Fort Myers, Florida, Ornithology was first offered at Oglethorpe during the summer of 1939 as a six weeks course with an enrollment of twenty students. It proved so popular, however, that during the past summer it was given both sessions of summer school and by request advanced work was offered during the second session. While Mr. Stevenson uses the victrola, lantern slides, movies and lectures to introduce or emphasize points he wishes the student to grasp, his classroom for the most part is out of doors. For this purpose the six hundred acre campus of Oglethorpe University is ideal. It contains suitable habitat for many different species and has been a bird sanctuary for a number of years. Its eighty acre lake, Lake Phoebe or Silver Lake, was visited by a pair of American Egrets this past summer which were seen there for several weeks.

It is with mixed emotions that I remember my first sight of an American Egret. The summer of 1939 we found no Egrets on Oglethorpe campus. Having heard rumors of a pair at Tallulah Gorge we planned an all day trip to north Georgia to see them. Leaving Atlanta before sun up we went up by Gainesville, where we breakfasted and to Tallulah Gorge. Not an Egret did we find but being determined we decided to visit the chain of lakes, Rabun, Seed and Burton, in hopes of discovering them at one place or another. Our patience was rewarded when we reached Lake Burton. There across the lake were four beautiful white birds feeding near the water's edge. In an attempt to get nearer the lake for a closer view my car slipped off the road and hung there, one wheel free in the air, for what seemed to me ages. Undaunted by this near accident we did succeed in getting an excellent close-up of them. When I saw them again at Lake Phoebe this summer they were like old friends.

In addition to field trips on the campus, and environs of Atlanta and all day field trips to some interesting spots suggested by the class, the courses gives practice in bird photography and in developing and tinting lantern slides. My list for the two sessions on the Oglethorpe campus totaled sixty species.  
—MARY WADDEY.

ANHINGAS BREEDING IN WAYNESBORO, GA.—In August of 1938, while I was visiting in Waynesboro, Georgia, Mr. Philip Gresham told me of an unusual bird that was breeding in Burke County. The following day we drove out to what is known as the "Big Pond" on Mr. Orrin Gresham's place. There we found some eight or ten Anhingas. Some of these were

old birds and some were fledglings. Again on May 20, 1939, I was in Waynesboro and so again visited this pond. This time we found four nests. Three of them contained young and the other held three fresh eggs. Mr. Orrin Gresham tells that the Snake-bird (*Anhinga anhinga*) breeds there regularly.—BERNARD H. STEVENSON, *Fort Meyers, Fla.*

Your *Orioles* may be bound for the extremely low price of \$1.65 per book if as many as 20 are wanted. The regular price is about \$2.00. Simply send your back numbers to the writer along with the cost of binding and cost of return mail, 8c. If there are any issues missing, the Society will supply them. The January, 1936, number, however, is not available and the March, 1939 number will cost 15c. The book will be bound in cloth with title printed in gold. It will be thoroughly stitched so as to lie open at any page.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, 135 *Peachtree Way, Atlanta.*

Editor's note—Publication of the pictures in this issue of *The Oriole* was made possible by a donation from two of our loyal members.

Additional copies of this issue may be secured from the editor at 25c each.



# THE ORIOLE

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## EDITORIAL

"We feel a sense of keen pleasure, as we introduce you to this, our first number of *The Oriole*. Through its pages we want bird lovers everywhere to meet—and talk—and be friends. We have no desire to convert these pages into a strictly scientific journal, but we do hope they will contribute just a little toward helping to create a general, wide-spread interest in birds, and in preserving valuable notes and records which may come to us from time to time."

These are the words of the first editors of *The Oriole*, Norman Giles and Don Eyles, and after five years they still express the purpose and ideals of this magazine and its sponsor, the Georgia Ornithological Society.

On this fifth birthday we review with interest a few accomplishments. Every year has seen the four issues appear, a total of twenty—representing sacrificial loyalty on the part of each contributor. Further, the 236 pages have received the imprint, of not only the observations of our own state-wide members, but have been fortunate in being able to publish contributions of nationally known ornithologists such as Harry C. Oberholser, Arthur H. Howell, Thos. D. Burleigh, Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Ivan R. Tomkins, Francis Harper, Herbert L. Stoddard, and in the current number Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Albert F. Ganier.

To balance the more scientific articles, notes and news intended to stimulate all, have helped to keep alive the desire for more and more accurate knowledge of birds and their ways in this section.

It seems unusually fitting in rounding out this first half-decade to dedicate this number to the three Georgians whose work merits recognition by the American Ornithologists' Union, evidenced by election to fellowship in that learned society. Their activities are portrayed elsewhere in this issue but the editors would like, in behalf of the G. O. S. to express sincerest congratulations to each of these, our deservedly honored members, Herbert Lee Stoddard, Ivan R. Tomkins, and Eugene E. Murphey.

With full knowledge of the many imperfections, this number celebrates, none-the-less, the achievements of *The Oriole's* first five years and expresses the hope that each succeeding anniversary may witness a still wider circle of readers. HUGH HARRIS, *Emory University, Georgia.*

## SPECIES INDEX TO THE ORIOLE

Vols. 1 to 5, Years 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1940

*The Oriole* has now gone through five volumes and the time has come when all of your *Orioles* should be collected and bound into a book. It seems appropriate to devote the last pages of this issue to a species index of these first five volumes. With its aid you can find all the information we have gathered during these years on any species of bird. As a reference book *The Oriole*, Vols. I-V will make a valuable addition to your library. The contents contain the best efforts of the contributors and the material will always be readable and interesting.

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