

THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology : Official Organ of the
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THE ORIOLE

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SUMMER RESIDENTS OF THE HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA, REGION

By HENRY M. STEVENSON, JR.

INTRODUCTION

Description of the Region

Highlands is located in the southern part of Macon County, North Carolina, at latitude 35° 03' and longitude 83° 11'. It is only a few miles from the Georgia state line.

The business district of Highlands is 3,835 feet above sea level, but the Highlands region, as circumscribed by a fifteen-mile radius from the town, has an altitude range of from 1,400 feet, in the direction of Walhalla, South Carolina, to 5,145 feet, at the summit of Yellow Mountain. The extreme altitudes at which field trips were taken in 1941, however, were 2,000 feet, at Franklin, and 5,054 feet, on Shortoff Mountain.

The greater part of the region under consideration lies in the Transitional, or Alleghenian, Life Zone. The Upper Austral Zone is represented at Franklin and to a lesser degree in some of the coves; and the Canadian Zone by a large moist tract of uncut white pine, hemlock, and deciduous growth known locally as the Primeval Forest. Hemlock is easily the dominant tree in this forest.

Ornithological History

The first scientist known to have visited Highlands is William Brewster, who passed through in May, 1885. In his book, "A World of Green Hills," Bradford Torrey mentions some of his ornithological observations made at Highlands in May, 1896. C. S. Brimley and F. Sherman, Jr. were in the Highlands region in May, 1908, and F. M. Weston worked in Cashiers Valley in August, 1907. A. H. Howell and T. D. Burleigh made observations on birds around Highlands, June 20-26, 1930.

Charles Ogburn incorporated facts from the published works of these observers into his unpublished check list of the summer birds of the Highlands region. Other source materials for his paper were "The Birds of North Carolina" (Pearson, C. S. Brimley, H. H. Brimley, 1919), and the unpublished notes of Miss Marie Huger and Mrs. Mary H. Young.

Ogburn's own field notes at Highlands were made in July, 1928, and June to August, 1929.

The present writer has found Ogburn's paper invaluable and has also gone over the private notes of Miss Mary J. Crosby, who has been visiting or residing in Highlands almost annually since 1893. The writer has also made field notes on birds at Highlands from June 15 to September 6, 1937, and from June 1 to July 4, 1941. All records given below which fall within these periods are his own.

Acknowledgements

The writer's field work in 1941 was made possible by the financial assistance of Vanderbilt University, in collaboration with the Highlands Biological Laboratory. Thanks are also due to Dr. E. E. Reinke, former director of the Laboratory, for helpful criticism and suggestions.

Methods

In this paper the relative abundance of each species is often treated under three brackets of altitude. These are: 2000-3100 feet, 3100-4000 feet, and 4000-5054 feet, respectively. The only exception is that the Primeval Forest, which averages about 4000 feet in altitude, is placed in the third division, because its flora and fauna are largely Canadian.

The letters used in describing the relative abundance are: A (abundant), C (common), FC (fairly common), U (uncommon), and R (rare). Thus "C, FC, R" in succession mean: common below 3100 feet, fairly common from 3100 to 4000 feet, and rare above 4000 feet. The terms "abundant," "common," etc., are based upon the actual number of individuals counted per hour of field work in 1941 only. Quantitative records were not kept in 1937.

In general, no 1941 field trips were repeated, with the result that the same individuals of a species probably were never counted twice.

By the term "summer residents" is meant only those species which probably breed in the region; thus the summer visitant herons are omitted.

The ranges listed in the 1931 edition of the A. O. U. Check List have been consulted to determine the probable subspecies breeding in the region. Thus *Bonasa u. umbellus* is used for the Ruffed Grouse, despite a recent revision of this species.

ANNOTATED LIST

1. Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias herodias*.—Found near Highlands in June, 1926 (Crosby), and in July, 1928 and 1929 (Ogburn).
2. Eastern Green Heron, *Butorides virescens virescens*.—Franklin, June 21, 1929 (Ogburn), June 26, 1937, and June 28, 1941.
3. American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*.—Franklin, June 21, 1929 (Ogburn).
4. Lesser Scaup, *Nyroca affinis*.—Male on lake at High Hampton Inn, Cashiers, July 19 and August 11, 1937 (Mrs. R. V. Ingersoll and the writer). Possibly a cripple.

5. Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*.—Fairly common throughout.
6. Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter velox velox*.—Found rarely below 3800 feet.
7. Cooper's Hawk, *Accipiter cooperi*.—One near Lake Sequoia, June 17, 1937. Ogburn mentions the species without listing definite records.
8. Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis borealis*.—Frequently recorded at higher altitudes (above 3500 feet), but probably occurs throughout.
9. Northern Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus lineatus*.—A bird of this species flew low across the highway at Pine Mountain, Georgia, July 4, 1941. The altitude there is 1650 feet.
10. Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus platypterus*.—Occasionally seen near Highlands, and probably occurs at lower altitudes. [Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*.—Doubtless nested in the region formerly. A specimen said to be the last survivor in Macon County is in the Highlands Museum.]
11. Duck Hawk, *Falco peregrinus anatum*.—One seen at Whiteside Cove "early in August," 1929 (Ogburn).
12. Eastern Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius sparverius*.—Occasional below 4000 feet.
13. Eastern Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus umbellus*.—U, R. U. Apparently not limited by altitude in the region.
14. Eastern Bob-white, *Colinus virginianus virginianus*.—FC, U, U. Does not occur in the region above 4200 feet, probably because of a lack of suitable habitat.
15. Eastern Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*.—According to natives a few birds still persist in some of the coves.
16. King Rail, *Rallus elegans elegans*.—One killed and others seen by L. Rice, at Shortoff (altitude 3950 feet), June, 1937. The specimen was identified by the writer.
17. Black Rail, *Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*.—Fairly common in meadows east of Franklin, June 21, 1929, according to Ogburn.
18. American Woodcock, *Philohela minor*.—One near Primeval Forest, June 15, 1929 (Ogburn and others). Probings seen near Franklin, June 26, 1937.
19. Eastern Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*.—C, U, U. Not recorded above 4100 feet.
20. Eastern Screech Owl, *Otus asio naevius*.—Probably fairly common throughout, but recorded only from Highlands. [Great Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus virginianus*.—Probably occurs in the region, but has been overlooked because of its secretive habits.]
21. Northern Barred Owl, *Strix varia varia*.—The only records are near Highlands.

22. Eastern Whip-poor-will, *Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*.—Recorded by Ogburn, Reinke, and the writer. Ranges up to 4100 feet.
23. Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*.—FC, U, U. Not recorded above 4200 feet.
24. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*.—FC, FC, U. Recorded up to 4200 feet.
25. Eastern Belted Kingfisher, *Megaceryle alcyon alcyon*.—Recorded only between 3600 and 3800 feet, but doubtless occurs at lower altitudes.
26. Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus luteus*.—FC, FC, FC. Not recorded above 4200 feet.
27. Southern Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus*.—Uncommon, ranging up to 4100 feet.
28. Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.—A few of these birds were found nesting in dead trees on Billy Cabin ridge (4000 feet), June 22, 1937. They were absent on subsequent trips in 1937 and 1941, and have not been found at lower altitudes.
29. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius varius*.—Found only between 3500 and 4300 feet, where it is fairly common.
30. Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus villosus*.—FC, FC, U. Recorded once at 5000 feet.
31. Southern Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens pubescens*.—U, U, FC. Recorded up to 4400 feet.
32. Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*.—Fairly common at Franklin (2000 feet).
33. Southern Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus crinitus*.—U, FC, U. Not recorded above 4100 feet.
34. Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*.—Probably fairly common below 4200 feet, but my data do not show its true distribution at the lower altitudes.
35. Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virens*.—C, U, absent. Highest record, 3800 feet.
36. Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*.—U, C, R. Altitudinal range 2950 to 4000 feet.
37. Eastern Wood Pewee, *Myiochanes virens*.—C, C, FC. Up to 4200 feet.
38. Olive-sided Flycatcher, *Nuttallornis mesoleucus*.—Two records are found in Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley: Boynton records its breeding at Highlands without citing a definite date; Brewster records it at the same town in "late May."
39. Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*.—FC, FC, U. One record at 4560 feet.
40. Purple Martin, *Progne subis subis*.—One at Franklin, June 26, 1937. Ogburn mentions the species, giving no definite records.
41. Northern Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata cristata*.—FC, C, FC. Up to 4200 feet.
42. Northern Raven, *Corvus corax principalis*.—Bred on some of the

- higher mountains until at least 1937, and probably still does so. Four were seen during the summer of 1937, but it was not found in 1941.
43. Southern Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*.—Fairly common below 3100 feet.
44. Carolina Chickadee, *Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*.—C, C, FC. Not recorded above 4300 feet.
45. Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*.—C, FC, FC. Ranges up to 4300 feet.
46. White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*.—U, U, R. Not known to range above 4000 feet.
47. Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*.—Fairly common from 3700 to 4000 feet, including the town of Highlands.
48. Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana*.—Uncommon, ranging from 3600 to 4000 feet.
49. Eastern Winter Wren, *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*.—Found singing in the Primeval Forest, June 23, 1930 (Howell and Burleigh).
50. Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*.—Highlands, late May, 1896 (Torrey). One at Franklin, July 26, 1937, and a family of five there on June 28, 1941. Family of four on Billy Cabin ridge (4000 feet), June 12, 1941.
51. Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*.—C, U, R. Probably does not occur above 4000 feet.
52. Eastern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*.—One at Franklin, June 26 and July 15, 1937.
53. Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*.—A, A, FC. One record at 4600 feet.
54. Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*.—C, C, FC. One record at 4500 feet.
55. Eastern Robin, *Turdus migratorius migratorius*.—C, A, C. Ranges as high as cleared land can be found.
56. Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*.—C, C, C. Ranges up to 4400 feet.
57. Veery, *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*.—Fairly common from 3600 to 4000 feet, common from 4000 to 4950 feet.
58. Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis sialis*.—FC, U, U. Not recorded above 4100 feet.
59. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*.—Four birds (two localities) at Franklin, June 28, 1941.
60. Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa satrapa*.—Recorded only from the Primeval Forest, June 23, 1930 (Howell and Burleigh), and August 9, 1937.
61. Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*.—R, FC, FC. Not recorded above 4100 feet.
62. European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*.—Found to be established in Franklin in 1937. The first record for Highlands was that of a bird seen flying over town on June 10, 1941. A flock of eight was seen June 15, and a single bird July 4.

63. White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus griseus*.—Common below 3000 feet, occasional up to 3800 feet. Not recorded prior to 1937.
64. Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*.—Fairly common at Franklin. One was found in full song at 3900 feet near Highlands, June 24, 1937. Not recorded before 1937.
65. Mountain Vireo, *Vireo solitarius alticola*.—FC, C, FC. Altitudinal range, 1600 to 4100 feet.
66. Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*.—C, C, C. Ranges up to 4200 feet.
67. Black and White Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*.—FC, C, C. Highest record 4800 feet.
68. Swainson's Warbler, *Limnithlypis swainsoni*.—Two records of birds in song near Highlands, June 20, 1937 (3800 feet), and July 3, 1937 (3700 feet). So far as I am aware, this species has not previously been recorded in summer any higher in the mountains of North Carolina than 2300 feet, at Tryon (see "The Auk," LII, pp. 458, 459). The birds near Highlands, unlike those at Tryon, were frequenting typically swampy areas, but of small extent. The trees were chiefly hemlocks, with *Rhododendron maximum* and *Leucothoe catesbaei* making up the greater part of the undergrowth. In this habitat were also found Cairns's Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, Brown Creeper, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. It seemed strange to find the last two species, characteristic of the Canadian Zone, associated with an Austral species.
69. Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*.—FC, U, U. Recorded as high as 4200 feet. Found only in 1937 and 1941.
70. Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*.—Highlands, July 1912, and June, 1920 (Crosby). Shortoff, one singing at 3950 feet, June 7, 1941. Another on Flat Mountain (4200 feet), June 12, 1941.
71. Southern Parula Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana americana*.—FC, C, U. Up to 4100 feet.
72. Eastern Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*.—Common at Franklin. One in song in Horse Cove (3000 feet), June 5, 1941. Another between Highlands and Shortoff (3700 feet), June 12, 1941.
73. Cairns's Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi*.—Absent, A, A. Lowest record, 3200 feet. The second most abundant bird in the region.
74. Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens virens*.—Found sparingly near Highlands by Miss Crosby, Howell and Burleigh, Ogburn, and the present writer, but it seems to be absent before June 15. Altitudinal range, 3150-3900 feet.
75. Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*.—U, C, FC. Found from 2900 to 4100 feet. The abundance of the species appears to be cyclic. Early ornithologists (before 1900) found it quite common, but Ogburn, in 1928 and 1929, found it very rare. It has now become common again.
76. Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica dominica*.—Two at

- Franklin, June 28, 1941. One in song at Mirror Lake, near Highlands, at 3750 feet, June 19, 1937. Ogburn states that he has seen this subspecies in the region.
77. Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*.—R, A, A. Ranges from 2000 feet upward. The most abundant bird in the region.
78. Northern Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus pinus*.—Found in white pines on the streets of Highlands from June 24 through August, 1937. Males, females, and immatures were recorded.
79. Northern Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor discolor*.—Two heard singing near Dillard, Georgia (2200 feet), June 1, 1941.
80. Oven-bird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*.—C, A, A. Not limited by altitude in the region.
81. Louisiana Water-thrush, *Seiurus motacilla*.—Uncommon, ranging up to 4000 feet.
82. Kentucky Warbler, *Oporornis formosus*.—All of the records come from far down the Horse Cove road. They are: late May, 1896 (Torrey); July 8, 1937; and June 5 and 17, 1941. These birds were probably all between 3150 and 3250 feet.
83. Maryland Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas trichas*.—Fairly common below 3100 feet, uncommon from 3100 to 3950 feet.
84. Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens virens*.—Fairly common below 3100 feet. Casually recorded at 4000 and 4400 feet.
85. Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*.—Fairly common up to 3100 feet, uncommon to 3950 feet.
86. Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*.—Fairly common from 3400 to 4800 feet.
87. American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*.—Two seen at Franklin, June 28, 1941, one immature male and one adult female.
88. English Sparrow, *Passer domesticus domesticus*.—Abundant at Franklin. Several appeared at Highlands "a number of years" prior to 1929, but they were shot. It has not been recorded there since.
89. Southern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna argutula*.—One singing in Horse Cove (3000 feet), July 8, 1937.
90. Eastern Red-wing, *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*.—Abundant at Franklin, uncommon up to 3800 feet.
91. Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*.—Two adult males, one female seen at Franklin, June 28, 1941.
92. Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*.—Formerly bred at Highlands (Torrey, Crosby), but not recorded there in the breeding season since 1911. A pair feeding young out of the nest was found two miles west of Franklin, July 26, 1937.
93. Purple Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*.—Abundant now at Franklin, but less common there in 1929 (Ogburn) and 1937.
94. Eastern Cowbird, *Molothrus ater ater*.—Three recorded at Franklin, June 28, 1941. Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley list no summer records for North Carolina, and I do not know of any records of it since then.

95. Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga erythromelas*.—FC, C, C. Present up to 4500 feet.
96. Eastern Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*.—C, FC, U. Not recorded above 4000 feet.
97. Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Hedymeles ludovicianus*.—Abundant from 3500 to 4000 feet.
98. Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*.—A, C, FC. Highest record, 4900 feet.
99. Eastern Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis tristis*.—FC, FC, FC. Not recorded above 4200 feet.
100. Red Crossbill, *Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*.—A flock of six flew over the trail to Blackrock, near The Bowery (4000 feet), June 17, 1941. The dominant conifer there was the table mountain pine (*Pinus pungens*). It is interesting to note that a Yellow-breasted Chat, an Austral species, was singing within fifty yards of this spot. A large flock of Crossbills was heard flying over Highlands on June 23, but could not be seen for the low-hanging clouds.
101. Red-eyed Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*.—FC, C, A. Not limited by altitude in the region, but one of the commonest birds on the brushy mountain tops.
102. Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum australis*.—Franklin, June 21, 1929 (Ogburn), and July 26, 1937. [Bachman's Sparrow, *Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*.—Observed near Franklin in 1885 (Brewster), but it is not stated whether the record was made in the breeding season.]
103. Carolina Junco, *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*.—Common from 3500 or 3600 to 4000 feet, very common above 4000 feet.
104. Eastern Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina passerina*.—C, FC, U. Not recorded above 4050 feet.
105. Eastern Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla pusilla*.—C, C, C. Ranges up to 4560 feet (Torrey).
106. Eastern Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia melodia*.—C, A, FC. Altitudinal range, 2000-4050 feet. The first Highlands record was in May, 1896 (Torrey). Since then the species has increased rapidly.

SUMMARY

The summer residents of the Highlands, North Carolina, region are listed and found to number at least 106 species. Of these, 18 species are listed definitely for the first time in the region, either in the summer of 1937 or of 1941. One of these species, the Cowbird, may be a new summer resident for North Carolina.

The relative abundance of widely distributed species is given under three altitudinal brackets, i. e., 2000 (about)-3100, 3100-4000, and 4000-5054 feet. These do not exactly coincide with the Upper Austral, Transitional, and Canadian Life Zones, but they do approximate them.

Forest Home,
Ithaca, New York.

GENERAL NOTES

FALL SEASON IN TIFT COUNTY.—No cold weather set in until late November. Conditions generally were dry except during the windstorm with accompanying torrents on October 7, 1941, a portion of the Florida hurricane.

The more interesting bird records are here listed: Common Tern, September 12 (im. plumage); Blue-winged and Swainson's Warblers, 20th (males of each taken); Least Bittern, 24th (2 noted—1 coll.); Philadelphia Vireo (separate note); Grasshopper Sparrow, October 20 (coll.); Black-throated Green Warbler, 22nd and 24th (females coll.); Baldpate, November 2 (also 27th).

Lingering dates of occurrence are: Snowy Egret, October 8; Prairie Warbler, 22nd; Blackburnian Warbler, November 2; Greater Yellow-legs, 27th (possibly to winter). Pine-woods Sparrows, noted throughout October, may prove resident. The writer was absent the larger part of November.

A juvenal Ground Dove taken October 31, having left the nest within a week or perhaps less, indicates a late nesting record.

ADDENDA: Golden-winged Warbler, Irwin County (across Alapaha River from Tift), September 21. Sharp-tailed Sparrow of "New Year's Notes from St. Simons" confirmed as *caudacula* by Dr. Oberholser.—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Georgia.

CANADA GEESSE IN THE ATLANTA AREA.—On Sunday, October 26, 1941, while in the company of Mr. J. O. Conoly, I witnessed the passage of a flock of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) containing seven birds. The geese were flying parallel to the Chattahoochee River at West Paces Ferry Road north of Atlanta. These birds were flying about 150 feet high, rather slowly, and kept up a musical honking as they passed directly overhead in bright sunlight. Since that time I have been reliably informed that two more flocks of geese were seen the same day passing over Ridgewood Road about one half mile from the above location. A third record of geese migrating and being seen over Lakewood Park on this date has just been given me by a friend, indicating that a considerable flight of geese passed over our territory on the date mentioned.—RAY C. WERNER, 758 Wildwood Road, Atlanta, Georgia.

A GANNET ON ST. SIMONS ISLAND.—On November 16, 1941, I saw a Gannet (*Moris bassana*) in the white adult plumage fishing over the ocean near the mouth of the Blackbanks River on St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia. Due to the paucity of records for this species from Georgia, it would be well to record all occurrences.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, Emory University, Ga.

SNOW GOOSE FROM THE SAVANNAH AREA.—A single Snow Goose was seen on the Savannah River Migratory Bird Refuge, in Beaufort Co., South Carolina, on November 16, 1941. It is assumed that this was a Greater

Snow Goose (*Chen hyperborea atlantica*), as all previous specimens from South Carolina and Georgia have been referred to that subspecies, to the best of the writer's knowledge.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 513 East Duffy St., Savannah, Ga.

A RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IN ATLANTA.—On October 11, 1941, Thomas Hill and the writer observed a Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) in West End, Atlanta, Georgia. This constitutes the fourth published record for this species from the region, others having been seen on September 24, 1903, December 24, 1927, and January 11, 1940.—RALPH RAMSEY, JR., Biology Department, Emory University, Georgia.

A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE FROM THE ATLANTA AREA.—A rather unusual occurrence record was brought to my attention recently. Mr. Raymond Barth, while hunting, shot a Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) near Conley, Georgia, on September 3, 1941. The bird, rather badly injured, was given to me by Mr. J. M. Caldwell, and the preserved skin now remains in my collection. It was evidently an immature male, the total length being 19 inches, wingspread approximately 39 inches, and tail length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The tail was rather worn with one side of the fork being about three inches longer than the other. The feathers on the neck have a brown streak down the center.

As far as the writer knows this is the first record for the Atlanta region. No mention is made in the literature of this species having been recorded in the State any farther north than Augusta.—CHARLES H. WHARTON, Georgia State Museum, Atlanta, Georgia.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO IN SOUTH GEORGIA.—On October 8, 1941, soon after the margin of the tropical storm had swept lower Georgia, the writer, with his brother Charles, made a check-up on two ponds slightly northwest of Tifton, Georgia. Although no suspected littoral species occurred at these locations, a few interesting land birds were noted in mixed woods near the smaller pond. Most noteworthy was a small vireo some thirty feet up, which slightly flitted its tail. Due to the faint superciliary line, it was considered one of the two species rare or accidental in the deep south-east and hence was collected, proving *Vireo philadelphicus*. The skin, a male, remains in my possession, bearing serial number 195. From personal knowledge, this species appears to have been recorded from the State on but two previous occasions, as follows: Dr. Eugene E. Murphey in his monograph "Observations on the Bird Life of the Middle Savannah Valley," gives one specimen collected by the late George P. Butler in Richmond County, September 17, 1890; Thomas D. Burleigh, "Birds of Athens, Clarke County, Georgia," reports a male collected by him, on October 7, 1933, in that area.—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Georgia.

THE STILT SANDPIPER IN GEORGIA.—On Labor Day a Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) was seen at close range and photographs made. This was on Long Island, just west of Cockspar Island, and about thirteen

miles east of Savannah, Ga. On September 3rd, Gilbert R. Rossignol and I searched the locality again, and finally collected a specimen, probably the one seen before. It bears my number 688. Walter J. Hoxie is said to have collected a Georgia specimen in 1911. I have found no mention of any other records from this state. Two short notes in the Auk (1936, 80 and 1936, 329) cover three specimens and several sight records from the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, about seven miles east of Savannah.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 513 E. Duffy St., Savannah, Ga.

SIGHT RECORD OF EUROPEAN CORMORANT IN GEORGIA.—On April 20, 1941, one of several cormorants perched on pilings and sills of the old "South Atlantic Quarantine Station," at the north end of Blackbeard Island, Georgia, was so very much whiter all over the underparts that I believe it was the European Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) in immature plumage. It should have been larger, of course, but there is some overlapping in measurements between this species and *P. auritus*, and it is not at all certain that the larger size would be noticeable. The field mark of a white belly in the immature *P. carbo*, as contrasted with a whitish breast in the immature of the other species, has always seemed unsatisfactory to me, unless there was a chance for comparison.

Since taking an adult *carbo* on the north jetty at the Savannah River Entrance on October 19, 1930, I have watched carefully for cormorants that appeared larger or had whiter underparts. A couple of times a bird that had some whitish underneath has been collected, only to prove to be *auritus*. Only one other time, on February 14, 1932, have I seen a cormorant that was white on practically all the underparts. This bird, with several others, flew directly overhead. This one too, I believe to have been *carbo*.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 513 East Duffy St., Savannah, Ga.

SOME NESTING DATA ON THE ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Two details in the life-history of *Empidonax virens* have been observed and occur to the writer as being noteworthy.

Return to nest-site: Old nests of this species have been noted very close to one another. Mr. George A. Dorsey of Bert Adams Scout Camp, near Vinings, Georgia, told me of once finding three nests only a matter of inches apart. One was comparatively fresh, another older, and the third a remnant. Again, two were seen within one foot's distance by me, along a creek at this camp, on July 9, 1941. Both were remnants, though distinctive. Our best conjecture is that the same individuals, or at least one of the original pair, remained at the sites to raise second broods, or even returned to breed the following year.

Usage of Spanish moss: Within the range of Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) Acadian Flycatchers adapt it to their need. A few other birds have this tendency, two of the warblers exclusively nesting in the *Tillandsia*. Although Howell (Florida Bird Life, p. 324) mentions certain nests consisting of moss, no special account of this habit has come to my

attention. Two occupied flycatcher nests, from Little Otter Creek, Ben Hill County, Georgia (May 21, 1940; July 2, 1941), were almost wholly made of moss. Both were situated over the water and were simply depressions, with scant lining, in the tops of little festoons. Incidentally, these two nests were only several yards apart.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Tifton, Georgia*.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

SAVANNAH AUDUBON SOCIETY CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY.—On the evening of May 9, 1941, the members of the Savannah Audubon Society met at a banquet at the DeSoto Hotel. The occasion was the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Society's birth.

The banquet was most delightful, and, though not as largely attended as the more ambitious among them had hoped, there were present two of our finest authorities on bird-life, Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach of Statesboro and Dr. Edwin P. Creaser of the Savannah River Refuge. Dr. DeLoach's address dealt largely with the growing awareness by the public of the economic value of birds. Given in easy conversational style it created much interest. Dr. Creaser spoke of birds in the natural habitat, and expressed the wish that Savannah might become a bird refuge. This was made into a motion by Mrs. J. E. Wingo, seconded by Mrs. W. A. Pigman and adopted by a unanimous vote. Mrs. Pigman spoke on the factors leading to the founding of the Society in 1916, and related some of the good times had by members since that time.

Mr. Hugh Gallant, long a friend of the late H. B. Skeele, spoke in words of affectionate regard for the man and of the services given by him during his long and efficient term as president of the Society. It was the club's honor to be able to present Mrs. Skeele as a guest.

In her vigorous style Mrs. Victor Bassett gave way to tell of that early pioneer in the field of bird-study, Professor Walter Hoxie. It was told in true heart fashion.

It was, perhaps, in Mr. James Copps' humorous sketch of those bird walks taken by a small group of Audubon members that the high point of the evening's entertainment was reached. After the guests had left the banquet room, word came by telegram from the National Audubon Society of congratulations.—EDNA A. PIGMAN, 117 E. 54th Street, Savannah, Georgia.

THE WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB held its annual meeting at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, November 21-23; the attendance was the largest in the history of the organization. The affiliation of the Georgia Ornithological Society, the Virginia Ornithological Society and the Inland Bird Banding Association with the W. O. C. was formally acknowledged and a special welcome given to members of these state and regional groups. The G. O. S. was represented at the meeting by Eugene Odum of Athens and A. F. Ganier of Nashville, Tenn.

Besides many interesting papers the meeting was featured by an all day field trip to waterfowl sanctuaries on the Illinois river, beautiful colored

motion pictures of birds, an auction of original bird paintings by George M. Sutton, and a symposium on problems of bird distribution. Speakers at the symposium were Eugene Odum, John Aldrich, Roger T. Peterson, O. A. Stevens, and Joseph J. Hickey.

The 1942 meeting will be held in Ithaca, N. Y. There is a good possibility that the 1943 meeting will be held somewhere in the South.

ACTIVITIES OF OUR MEMBERS IN 1941.—*Bird banding*: An increasing amount of bird banding was carried on during the year. Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood of Round Oak again led in total number of individuals banded. 7,265 swifts were banded by him in Macon and Atlanta and 102 Bluebirds. Other species were not banded in large numbers. In all Mr. Fleetwood has banded 21,523 chimney swifts in Georgia since January, 1939. Sciple, Paxton, and Griffin banded nearly 1,000 swifts in Atlanta on October 14, and Sciple and Paxton are continuing banding activities on backyard species in Atlanta. Sciple is doing some very interesting parasite study along with his banding. A blood smear of every bird captured is made and parasites infecting the blood are recorded. Other banders in the Atlanta area are Mrs. H. M. Daniel, Mrs. Alice M. Waters, and Charles Wharton.

In Milledgeville an eager group of banders are doing fine work under the leadership of Miss Mabel Rogers. Paul Thompson continued his banding and his study of blood parasites at Statesboro. Mr. Thompson has found many interesting facts concerning malaria and infection incidence in wild birds, particularly the *Icteridae*. Fred Hebard also did banding work at Coleraine during his stay there last winter. It is hoped that this important phase of bird study will continue to gain following in Georgia.

Life history work: Dr. Odum at the University of Georgia has started a file on life history information in order to determine what is known and what needs to be known about Georgia species. He is continuing his comparative study of the titmice and has just received a grant enabling him to continue his studies with the heart beat instrument, the cardio-vibrometer. During the year his important study of heart rate in birds appeared in *Ecological Monographs*, vol. 3, pp. 299-326. He also had two papers on the Black-capped Chickadee in *Bird-Banding* and *The Auk*. Dr. E. E. Byrd of the University of Georgia represents the entire southeastern region in the cooperative disease study project on birds. This project, designed to find out more about bird diseases, is steadily growing. It is hoped that many members of the G. O. S. will cooperate by sending dead birds that they find to Dr. Byrd so that he may continue his pathological studies.

Ivan Tomkins kept busy as always studying various life history problems on the Least Tern and the Florida Nighthawk. His paper on the Seaside Sparrow appeared in the January number of *The Auk*. Robert Norris began an interesting study of the nest life of the Towhee and Bill Griffin started a similar study of the Wood Thrush.

Other phases of ornithology: During the year six new forms for the State were added through the pages of *The Oriole*. First specimens for Georgia of the Gray Kingbird, Leconte's Sparrow, Iceland Gull, Western Grasshopper Sparrow, Harlan's Hawk, and Stilt Sandpiper were recorded for the first time. Norris, Tomkins, Burleigh, Stoddard, Hebard and a host of others have added to our knowledge of distribution. In the field of game management Herbert Stoddard has continued his work with the Co-operative Quail Study Association at Thomasville. Athos Menaboni has continued with his superb painting of Georgia birds while Robert Norris is still making a name for himself in this field also.

During 1942 we should all try to do even more. In face of the war let us not forget ornithology for the pleasure it affords us and the inspiration it gives us to lead a better life.

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS this year will be taken on any one day from December 21 through December 28. We urge all of you to participate. *The Oriole* will again present all Georgia censuses in tabulated form in the March number. Send in your censuses to us and also to *The Audubon Magazine*.

THE FALL MEETING OF THE G. O. S.—The tenth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at Pine Mountain, Georgia on October 4 and 5, 1941. Facilities were excellent in the new Pine Mountain State Park, and a representative crowd of ornithologists took advantage of them.

At the evening session, Dr. Allen M. Pearson presented his pictures of the Mourning Dove and described his work at Auburn, Alabama, with this important game species. A round-table discussion of ornithological activity from all parts of the state followed.

Officers elected for the year 1942 were as follows:

President: Dr. Harold C. Jones, Mt. Berry.
First Vice-President: Dr. Eugene P. Odum, Athens.
Second Vice-President: Dr. Sam Anderson, Milledgeville.
Regional Vice-Presidents: Dr. Eugene E. Murphey, Augusta; Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Atlanta.

Executive Secretary: Miss Blanche Tait, Milledgeville.
Treasurer: Mr. Ray C. Werner, Atlanta.
Librarian: Mrs. Victor Bassett, Savannah.
Editor of *The Oriole*: William W. Griffin, Atlanta.
Business Manager: Ralph Ramsey, Jr., Atlanta.

The spring meeting for 1942 was discussed and the society voted to accept the invitation of the Milledgeville club to hold the next meeting in Milledgeville on the weekend of April 18 and 19.

The field trip on Sunday was most successful. Warblers of many species were seen in large numbers and characteristic Piedmont avifauna proved interesting to members from the southern part of our state.

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