

THE ORIOLE

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



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THE ORIOLE

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THE STATUS OF WATER-BIRDS AT MOUNT BERRY, GEORGIA

By HAROLD C. JONES

The Berry Schools occupy a portion of the lower Appalachian Valley, between the union of the Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers which forms the Coosa River, and the long ridge of Lavendar Mountain, to the North. The region lacks natural ponds, but the Schools have made conditions more favorable for water-fowl by impounding water in a few areas. The fifty-five acre reservoir in the mountain valley above Mount Berry School for Boys is a favorite haven for migrant ducks, but is too inaccessible for convenient study. The pools at the Boys' School have contributed some interesting records, but are too small and too close to school buildings to attract many species.

Most of the water-bird records of the area were obtained at Victory Lake, which was made several years ago by dredging a creek bottom and damming up the creek's outlet. Victory Lake is about one mile from Berry College, close enough for careful study, and has many features which suit the needs of waders, swimmers, dabblers and divers. It is about one mile in circumference, is surrounded by thickets of willow and a woodland of pines and oaks. Near one end is a small wooded island, which gives added shelter and privacy to the migrants that pause in their flight along the valley. A trip from the College, around this lake and return, leads through a fine variety of habitats. A total of fifty species in two hours time is not uncommon in my records, and some very unusual species of water-birds have been seen here. At the height of water-fowl migration, in March, Victory Lake is sometimes nearly covered with ducks, of several kinds. Over 500 birds, of around eight species, have occurred there at a time.

The writer, ably assisted by his wife, Alice D. Jones, and by members of the Mount Berry Bird Club and students, has recorded observations of bird-life at Mount Berry since October, 1934. Depending upon the season and degree of migration activity, bird trips have been taken as often as from twice a week to several times a day, generally to the Victory Lake region.

Important contributions to these records have come from the active investigations of three other bird-students. Mr. Glenn W. Bell, banded several hundred birds, and recorded many observations, including an intensive study of bird-song, which led to the M.A. degree granted by

Peabody College in 1931. His notes cover the area around the Boys' School and somewhat around Victory Lake during his four years on the staff of that School (1928-1931). Mr. Bell has visited the Campus regularly since then, usually in May, and conducted a census of nesting birds, in company with the writer. Dr. Lynds Jones, retired professor of ornithology, of Oberlin, Ohio, has added valuable bird records during his visits in the winters of 1936-'37, 1938-'39, and 1941-'42. Hoyt Cragg, a graduate of Berry College in 1941, carried on intensive study and banding operations between 1938 and the time of his graduation. He added many new records to the local list.

Of the 190 species and subspecies of birds recorded at Mount Berry during the twelve years between 1928 to 1931 and 1934 through 1941 forty may be considered as water-birds—waders, dabblers or divers. The present list includes thirty-two of these aquatic species, leaving such species as the Coot and Florida Gallinule, for inclusion in a later account.

Sixteen of the thirty-two species listed below have the local status of winter visitant or winter resident. Twelve species are transients, occurring for a time in spring or autumn, or both. Two species (American Egret and Little Blue Heron) are late summer visitants, and only one species (Great Blue Heron) has occurred in the area at every season, and is given the status of permanent resident. No nesting records for the species have been found here.

Common Loon. *Gavia immer immer*. A rare transient: one in checkered plumage at Victory Lake, October 8, 1934; single birds in eclipse plumage at Victory Lake, May 21-22, 1939 and December 27, 1941. Two birds in eclipse plumage stopped at the mountain reservoir October 29, 1939.

Horned Grebe. *Colymbus auritus*. A rare winter visitant: One at Victory Lake, November 23-24, 1936; One, November 23, November 26, and December 24, 1939; Two, March 24-27, and April 15, 1941. All individuals seen have been in winter plumage.

Pied-billed Grebe. *Podilymbus podiceps podiceps*. A frequent but not common, transient; flocks of more than five are rare. It has been recorded nine years: extreme dates in spring are March 3 (1940) and May 21 (1939), and in autumn, September 23 (1939) and December 28 (1940).

Double-crested Cormorant. *Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*. An uncommon transient; recorded five years; between March 15 (1939) and April 16 (1939), in spring, and between November 16 (1941) and December 26 (1940). Individuals usually occur singly.

Great Blue Heron. *Ardea herodias herodias*. Permanent resident, but does not nest in this area. Recorded eight years; frequent, but usually occurs singly.

American Egret. *Casmerodius albus egretta*. Rather rare summer visitant: The earliest spring record is April 16 (1941); Between one and four individuals have been seen during July and August at Victory Lake. Four were reported from the River Farm, November 29, 1935.

Little Blue Heron. *Florida caerulea caerulea*. Summer visitant; irregular and rather rare: Five, in white plumage, perched in the tree tops on Victory Lake's island July 22, 1937; during the summer flood, June 9 to July 15, 1941, several remained to feed around the flooded fields and, while the water-level was low enough to expose shores, frequented Victory Lake also. On July 6 twenty-one birds of this species were seen together, and three were in the adult (blue) plumage.

Eastern Green Heron. *Butorides virescens virescens*. Uncommon summer resident; probably breeds: Earliest spring arrival, March 14 (1939); latest departure, September 21 (1941).

American Bittern. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Rare transient: One bird was flushed from a marshy ditch in an open field behind Oak Hill (Miss Berry's residence), April 10, 1935.

Canada Goose. *Branta canadensis canadensis*. Fairly common winter V.; recorded seven years: Earliest fall arrival, October 29 (1935); the latest transient flock record in spring is March 14, 1936. One individual, although able to fly, stayed at either Victory Lake or with the swans at Martha Berry's home from April 17 until May 23, 1941. It was very tame.

Greater Snow Goose. *Chen hyperborea atlantica*. A rare transient: a flock of 39, in "V" formation flew over Victory Lake toward the Southwest at 9:00 A.M., October 26, 1941. The flock made no sound audible to the observer.

Mallard. *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*. Uncommon, but regular winter visitant: earliest fall arrival, October 17 (1940); the latest spring departure, April 18 (1938). Twenty-seven is the most in a flock recorded here; a pair is usual.

Common Black Duck. *Anas rubripes tristis*. Common and regular winter visitant; recorded eight years: earliest fall arrival, October 22, 1939; latest spring departure, April 18, 1938. A female was captured some distance from water above Victory Lake, and banded, November 3, 1940, by Hoyt Cragg.

Red-legged Black Duck. *Anas rubripes rubripes*. A regular and fairly common winter visitant; probably overlooked previous to 1939: earliest autumn record, November 19 (1939), and latest spring departure, March 16 (1941). Twenty-five or thirty in a flock occur.

Gadwall. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. A rare winter visitant: Allan Cruickshank identified two at Victory Lake, December 6, 1940, in company

with six other kinds of ducks. Single birds of this species were seen by the writer at Victory Lake December 15, 1940, and February 3-4 and March 16, 1941.

Baldpate. *Mareca americana*. A fairly common but irregular winter visitant; recorded five years, in flocks containing up to thirty-two individuals: earliest date in autumn, October 22, 1939; latest departure in spring, June 18, 1941.

Pintail. *Dafila acuta tzitzihua*. Fairly regular, but uncommon, winter visitant; recorded seven years: November 6 (1941) until June 23, 1940. Six is the most seen at a time.

Green-winged Teal. *Nettion carolinense*. A rather rare winter visitant; recorded three years, in groups of two to eight individuals: seen as early as October 25 (1940), and as late in the winter as December 26 (1940). Two females were seen April 8, 1939, at Victory Lake.

Blue-winged Teal. *Querquedula discors*. An irregular transient, occurring usually in pairs or alone; recorded six years: in autumn, between September 29 (1941) and October 8 (1940); in spring, between March 20 (1938), and May 1 (1940). A flock of forty-eight was seen October 8, 1940.

Shoveller. *Spatula clypeata*. A rare transient, occurring in groups of not over five individuals; recorded four years: October 8 (1940) until December 2 (1934); March 24 (1941) until April 9 (1941).

Wood Duck. *Aix sponsa*. A rare transient; recorded four years: Two pairs, November 16, 1935; one, November 26, 1939; one, March 17, 1940, and two, December 12, 1940; a male, March 27, 1941; three males in full plumage, October 26, 1941, and one immature, November 19, 1941.

Redhead. *Nyroca americana*. An irregular and rare spring migrant; recorded three years: Ten, at Victory Lake, March 10, 1938; ten, March 16, 1941; two, March 23, and thirty-two (both sexes), March 24, 1941.

Ring-necked Duck. *Nyroca collaris*. A common winter resident; recorded seven years: the earliest autumn date is October 26, 1939, and the latest spring departure, April 29, 1941. This is the most abundant duck species; flocks of over 100 individuals are frequent during March.

Canvasback. *Nyroca valisineria*. An uncommon winter resident; recorded five years: the earliest arrival was November 9, 1935, '39, and the latest departure was March 25, 1940. Flocks of four individuals are usual, and both sexes occur.

Lesser Scaup Duck. *Nyroca affinis*. A common winter resident; recorded eight years: earliest autumn arrival, October 8 (1934); the latest departure in spring, June 15, 1941. Maximum numbers are reached in March, when up to fifty occur in a flock.

American Golden-eye. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. An uncommon transient; recorded six years, in small groups of both sexes: between November 11 (1939) and November 28 (1936); and between February 26 (1940) and April 5 (1938).

Bufflehead. *Charitonetta albeola*. A rare winter visitant; recorded three years, never more than three birds together; extreme dates of arrival and departure: November 28, 1936, and March 24, 1940.

Old Squaw. *Clangula hyemalis*. A very rare spring migrant; recorded two years: An individual in winter plumage, March 10, 1938 (Lynds Jones); a male in winter plumage, and a female, March 23, 1941 (H. C. Jones, et al.). Both records were made at Victory Lake.

Ruddy Duck. *Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*. A rather rare transient, occurring in groups numbering up to seven birds; recorded four years: Occurs in spring between March 10 (1938) and April 22 (1940). In autumn the extreme dates are, November 7 (1940) and December 14 (1941). Both sexes and plumages occur.

Hooded Merganser. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. A fairly common winter visitant (permanent?); recorded seven years, frequently, but in very small numbers: arrives as early as October 29 (1939), and leaves as late as April 4 (1941). Both sexes occur.

American Merganser. *Mergus merganser americanus*. A very rare winter visitant; recorded three years: extreme dates of occurrence: November 16, 1935, and February 16, 1936. Two males and two females were seen at Victory Lake February 11, 1940.

Red-breasted Merganser. *Mergus serrator*. A scarce winter visitant, occurring usually in fours or fives; recorded six years: the earliest arrival in autumn is November 11, 1939; the latest departure in spring is April 29, 1941.

A comparison of the seasonal occurrences recorded here for some of these species with data obtained for the same species at Atlanta and Athens indicates striking differences. It remains to be seen, through continued study, if the area around Rome and the Berry Schools really does differ from the other stations.

Biology Department

Berry Schools, Mt. Berry, Georgia

February 27, 1942

GENERAL NOTES

THE ARKANSAS KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*) IN GEORGIA.—On November 13, 1941, while enroute from Macon to Thomasville, an Arkansas Kingbird was seen on a telephone wire at the side of the highway four miles north of Montezuma, Macon County. Its size and characteristic appearance readily identified it at first glance, but as this species had never before been taken in the state it was collected, and found to be a female just completing its fall moult. There is one previous record for the occurrence of this species in Georgia, a bird being seen on Billy's Island, in the Okefenokee Swamp, on October 9, 1938, by various members of the Georgia Ornithological Society (see *The Oriole* for December, 1938, page 35). In view of the increasing number of records in recent years in the southeastern states it would appear that this western kingbird is, at the present time at least, a not uncommon fall transient in this part of the country.—THOS. D. BURLEIGH, *Gulfport, Mississippi*.

OSPREY OCCURRENCE IN JANUARY.—On January 18, 1938, as Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*) was seen on the Savannah River about three miles east of Savannah, and about a half mile from the South Carolina line.

The species generally withdraws south of northern Florida in winter, though Sprunt and Chamberlain (Second Supplement to Wayne's "Birds of South Carolina," 1931, p. 20) state that there are (South Carolina) records for every month but January.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 513 *East Duffy St., Savannah, Ga.*

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*) IN WINTER.—I have long suspected that several species of small birds, which are supposed to winter south of the United States, remain in Florida and southern Georgia the year round. On December 31, 1941, in western Camden County, along the high bank of the St. Mary's River, separating it at this point from Mill Creek, John W. Burch called my attention to a Vireo perched in a deciduous tree about 10 feet from the ground. He negatived my first suggestion that it was a White-eye but approved my suggestion that it was a "Fish Sparrow"—the local name for the Yellow-throated Vireo. Before I could collect the bird, it had flown into a branch overhanging the river. Here it gave its entire repertoire for about five minutes, ending with the slowly enunciated and slowly repeated "Whit—worry—wheeu," with which I am familiar in the North.

Burch reported seeing another bird of the same species the same day nearby. He does not regard it as common in winter but believes that it is easily overlooked. The broad yellowish stripe from the eye to the bill is much more conspicuous than the somewhat similar stripe in the White-eye and the throat in the male I saw was decidedly yellow. I believe that I collected a female while with Lucien Harris, Jr. nearby,

on February 24, 1936, but the specimen has disappeared.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 *Walnut Street Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*.

AN INVASION OF THE RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IN GEORGIA.—The Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) has generally been considered a scarce and erratic winter resident in Georgia. Previous to this winter the species had been recorded from Athens by Burleigh (*Birds of Athens. Occ. Papers of the G. O. S.*, No. 1, 1938) as an irregular winter resident. There were three records from Atlanta, 3 from Augusta, 1 from Fitzgerald, and a number of unpublished records from extreme northeastern Georgia.

This winter an invasion occurred over most of the South. In southern Louisiana and Mississippi Thomas D. Burleigh recorded them in abundance as early as October 11 and in November as many as thirty were recorded in a day. They were still present in late December.

The Georgia invasion was rather light. The first record was that of Ralph Ramsey of a bird in Atlanta on October 11, 1941 (*Oriole*, 6: 50, 1941). Other Atlanta records are as follows: November 12, one seen near Stone Mountain by Thomas D. Burleigh; December 21, 3 birds seen by Ramsey and Hill; December 24, 2 birds by Griffin; December 29, several birds at Emory by Paxton; January 1, and 16, single birds by Griffin; and February 5, several birds at Emory by G. W. Sciple.

Mrs. R. E. Hamilton observed one at Dalton in Whitfield County in November. In her Christmas census in Screven County on December 26 she observed 3 birds of this species.

The invasion evidently did not reach southern Georgia, for none of the more active ornithologists there found them.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Emory University, Georgia*.

SEASONAL NOTES FROM ATLANTA.—The winter was rather mild during the months of November and December, with little precipitation. January brought the first real cold weather, however there was very little snow. Precipitation during February was rather heavy, temperature about average.

A Greater Yellow-legs was noted by Paxton as late as November 3, 1941. Paxton also observed a Green-winged Teal (uncommon here) on December 26, 1941. On January 3, 1941 W. Cordes observed a Black-bellied Plover at East Lake, the second winter record and the third occurrence for this species in the region. Mrs. Hugh H. Harris observed a Black and White Warbler in December, the third winter record for this species. A mild invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches (described in another note) produced eight records for Atlanta. An Orange-crowned Warbler remained as an integral part of a bird wave, being seen by Griffin on a number of occasions from November 29 through January 2 with Kinglets, Titmice and Nuthatches. Pine Siskins were noted on the Christmas Census on December 21 by Griffin. Griffin and Sciple saw one

on February 9 and numbers on February 13. Two Horned Larks, the only record for the year, were taken by Wharton and Griffin near Covington on January 3. A dark hawk similar in appearance to Harlan's Hawk was observed closely by Paxton at South River on December 31, 1941.

Notable was the lack of Juncos and Killdeer. Apparently these species have not recovered sufficiently from the extremely cold weather of January, 1940.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Emory University, Georgia*.

WINTER NOTES FROM TIFT COUNTY.—The weather in general, from early December until mid-February, was of normal and consistent temperature. Precipitation also was as usual, except in being somewhat forward in February, which would indicate slightly heavier rainfall for the entire late winter.

In December, duck of seven species, including one Golden-eye, were found in small numbers on the Experiment Station Pond. A female Red-breasted Merganser remained there from December 1 to 23. Three Hooded Mergansers were noted December 11.

On December 19, I noted a Lincoln's Sparrow near town in a brushy thicket. The next morning, this same spot of habitat was worked over and a specimen of this species was collected. A White-eyed Vireo, taken January 2, two miles west, is the only record of its wintering in the region. Four Fish Crows were seen on the 5th (Experiment Pond). Robins were noticeably scarce until early February, when a scattering could be seen every few days.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Tifton, Georgia*.

THE WINTER OF 1941-42 IN INTERIOR SOUTHEAST GEORGIA.—The warm wet fall seems to have resulted in a numerous and varied avian winter population. A Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) remained near the Big Bend of the Okefinokee Canal for two months, and a pair of Water Turkeys (*Anhinga anhinga*) wintered on Mill Creek in western Camden County. Ducks, except for Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*), were scarcer than at any time during the past 20 years. The New Years Day storm drove three Blue Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) inland to Mill Creek where they remained a week. The first cold snap beginning the night of November 23 brought my first personal regional records of the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) on November 26 and the Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*) on November 25, December 3 and December 5. A hen quail (*Colinus v. virginianus*) killed on November 25 had an egg almost ready to lay. The storm on January 3 drove four Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) over eastern Charlton County, and a Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*) was observed above Owen's Ferry on the Great Satilla River on December 30. Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), according to John W. Burch, were more numerous than ever. They certainly seemed to be everywhere, several being observed in second growth pines on February 5. A Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo*

solitarius) taken February 3 was evidently both on measurements and coloration *solitarius* rather than *alticola*, the usual wintering form. Bachman's Sparrows, the wintering form of *Aimophila aestivalis*, which could not be found by Francis Harper or by me in the winter of 1935-36 and were not observed by me between November 30, 1940 and February 13, 1941, were very common, not only in the pine-woods but around the fields. Specimens taken December 29 and 31 were clearly *bachmani* and John W. Burch noted that "they were redder in winter than in summer."—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut Street Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CORRECTION: In as much as I have received several letters pointing out the fact that the photographs accompanying the article "The Least Flycatcher Breeding in Northeast Georgia," *The Oriole*, 6: 36-37, 1941, were actually photographs of the Mountain Vireo (*Vireo solitarius alticola*) rather than of *Empidonax minimus*, and in view of my failure to collect a specimen, I would like to place the record upon hypothetical ground until further work can be done in the region, and the breeding Least Flycatchers can actually be taken.—GLENN W. BELL, *Atlanta, Georgia*.

CORRECTION: The Red-tailed Hawk mentioned in *The Oriole*, 6: 24, 1941 as *harlani* has been identified by Josselyn Van Tyne as the Western Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis calurus*) and this identification has been accepted by James Bond, who made the tentative identification heretofore published. A dark Red-tail which could have been either race was seen near Woodbine in Camden County on November 24, 1941 and three light Red-tails which could well have been *krideri* were seen in western Charlton County on Feb. 3, 1942.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut Street Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

CORRECTIONS: "SUMMER RESIDENTS OF THE HIGHLANDS, NORTH CAROLINA REGION."—In my recent article in *The Oriole* (Vol. 6, No. 4: 41-48, 1941) appeared the statement that the Cowbirds seen at Franklin, North Carolina, on June 28, 1941, may constitute the first state record for this species in the summer. In *The Auk* (Vol. 58: 101-102) appear several records which had escaped my observation. These birds were recorded by Rev. F. H. Craighill, at Bodie Island, June 27, 1936; and at Roanoke Island, in June, 1936, 1937, and 1938.

Two typographical errors appear on page 41. In line 6, "altitude range" should have read "altitudinal range." In line 23, for "Charles Ogburn" read "Charlton Ogburn."—HENRY M. STEVENSON, JR., *Forest Home, Ithaca, New York*.

NEWS AND REVIEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING.—The eleventh semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held at Milledgeville, Georgia on April 18 and 19, 1942. Details of the meeting, with program and suggestions for lodging and meals will be mailed to all members at a later date.

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- Hebard, Frederick V. Winter Birds of the Okefinokee and Coleraine. *Georgia Society of Naturalists*, Bulletin No. 3, pp. 1-84 plus x, 3 maps.
- McAtee, W. L. Unidentified Bird Names. *Auk*, 58: 134. Pig Thrasher, an unidentified vernacular name from Georgia, is mentioned.
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- Tomkins, Ivan R. Notes on MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow. *Auk*, 58: 38-51, 2 plates. Broken-wing Performance by the Eastern Willet. *Auk*, 58: 95. Foot-washing by the Black Skimmer. *Auk*, 58: 96.
- Wharton, William P. Twelve Years of Banding at Summerville, S. C. *Bird-Banding*, 12: 137-147. A Cedar Waxwing was recovered at Riceboro, Georgia.

In addition to the above, *The Oriole* carried some 35 contributions to Georgia ornithology in volume 6. The Christmas Census reports from Georgia were carried in *The Audubon Magazine*, January-February Supplement, pages 105-107 and were reprinted in *The Oriole*.

WINTER BIRDS OF THE OKEFINOKEE AND COLERAINE.—By Frederick V. Hebard. Georgia Society of Naturalists, Bulletin No. 3, Dec. 1941, 84 plus x pages, 3 maps. \$1.25 from P. W. Fattig, Emory University, Georgia.

"Winter Birds of the Okefinokee and Coleraine" by Frederick V. Hebard is the third publication by the Georgia Society of Naturalists and it is hoped this will eventually become one of a series of such bulletins written by various members of this organization on the wild life and other natural features of the State of Georgia. Although much additional information has been secured on the bird life of the Swamp since these notes were made by the author, this work deserves special study by ornithologists and bird students and is of particular interest to many who have visited this fascinating area in recent years. In reading this bulletin it must be borne in mind that emphasis should be placed on the word "winter" as well as on the fact that the area eastward in the Coleraine section is included. As the bird life of the swamp itself is quite different in many ways from the surrounding country it may be questioned as to the wisdom of this inclusion in one volume. The introduction gives us an idea of the extent of the author's visits and studies as well as the sources of much of his information. Although apparently great portions of the swamp were not visited or notes made of the birds found, the canal, eastern prairies, Floyd's Island and surrounding territory received considerable attention and the notes on these and some other areas show careful study and painstaking determinations. Approximately 160 species and certain subspecies are dealt with. Probably the shooting record 1926-1935 shows to some extent the comparative number of ducks, snipes, and woodcocks found in part of the area during those years and may serve as a guide for comparison with later records. Subsequent counts would change some of these figures. As it is always easier to criticize than to produce something worthwhile and as much information on the winter bird life of these areas is given in this volume, the author is to be congratulated on its publication and it is urged that every serious bird student secure a copy.—EARLE R. GREENE, *Key West, Florida*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In what way are the activities of the G. O. S. vital, in this time of international disturbance, when we all must do our very best with as little as possible? Our loyalty to the Society and our awareness of the far-reaching effects of present-day decisions and present-day activities should encourage us to carry on as conservationists, as bird-lovers, and as scientists.

Alone, we can enjoy the birds we attract to our feeding shelves and bird-baths; we can be exhilarated by the sight of rare or colorful migrants seen on bird-walks. But how much more satisfying these experiences become when they are shared, and how much more effective are attempts to give bird-life a square deal, and to inspire other people with the love of birds, when we combine our enthusiasms and our efforts, and keep them before the public eye. Cooperation in the pursuit of

our common interest will continue to accomplish ends that are both enjoyable, and important to the general well-being.

It is said that war is bred by selfishness and bad-neighborliness. Surely, the common interests and constructive efforts of scientists and nature-lovers thruout this country and all countries must be a powerful influence against war. But now that we are dedicated to dissolving those forces of selfish conquest which confront us, we should strengthen every possible bond of fellowship among us, and nature-study is an important bond. It is at the same time an effective source of relaxation and recreation from war-time strain.

The editor has raised several questions concerning the state of our Society, in the September issue of *The Oriole*. Let us all give them serious thought, and together may we put our answers into action, without delay. Of course, we want *The Oriole* to be the organ of expression for the entire Society. Let us, then, support it and help to build it into an ever better, more representative publication by contributing notes and articles, and by adding to our paid membership. And we do want our meetings to help us grow—in knowledge of bird-life, in effectiveness as conservers of our natural resources, and in fellowship with one another. Good meetings depend upon everyone doing his share well, and not just upon the hard work of a few officers.

In support of *The Oriole*, some of us have found a way to accomplish three desirable ends, by giving subscriptions to worthy students and interested friends. We help *The Oriole*; we help our friends, and we take personal pleasure in bringing them together.

Dr. Eugene Odum's inspiring article (*The Oriole*, September, 1941) about life-history studies should encourage us to maintain our back-yard sanctuaries and to give our leisure time—left over from war-efforts—to the careful study and recording of bird habits and development. We, in the South, have a virtually untouched field for this type of investigation. It is much-needed, also, and can be ever so much more interesting than the simple field lists that usually satisfy us. Here is a challenge and an invitation.—H. C. J.