

# 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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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF AMERICUS, SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA

By J. FRED DENTON

The writer resided at Americus from September 1, 1941, to June 1, 1942. During this period he was able to devote considerable time to the study of birds. Being restricted as to transportation, observations were necessarily confined to the vicinity of the city and the number of species recorded was relatively small. In spite of their incompleteness, the paucity of knowledge of the birds of southeastern Georgia seems to warrant the publication of the records that follow.

In order to conserve space the following abbreviations are used to denote status: P. R. (permanent resident), S. R. (summer resident), and W. R. (winter resident). The year dates are omitted and all dates from September 1 to December 31 refer to the year 1941, while those from January 1 to June 1 refer to the year 1942. The names of collected specimens marked with an asterisk (\*) were identified by Thomas D. Burleigh, to whom the writer is duly grateful. The other species listed in trinomial are based on geographic probability.

### PART I

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* subsp.—My only record is a bird observed on April 29.

Little Blue Heron, *Florida caerulea caerulea*—An adult was seen on April 12.

Eastern Green Heron, *Butorides virescens virescens*—S. R. Common, observed from April 22.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*—P. R. Common.

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus atratus*—P. R. Abundant.

Eastern Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis borealis*—Fairly common in winter, breeding status not determined. A male and female were collected on January 9.

Florida Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus alleni*—P. R. Common, breeds.

Marsh Hawk, *Circus hudsonius*—W. R. Fairly common. Last noted on April 12.

Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius* subsp.—P. R. Fairly common.

Eastern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus virginianus*—P. R. Common.

Florida Gallinule, *Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*—A specimen which was captured alive in a back yard in the city on May 7, 1941, and mounted by Billy Kobs was seen by the writer.

Killdeer, *Oxyechus vociferus vociferus*—P. R. Uncommon, more common in winter.

Wilson's Snipe, *Capella delicata*—W. R. Common, observed from October 18 to April 22.

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*—Two birds noted on May 6.

Eastern Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria solitaria*—Two birds seen on April 22.



Eastern Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—P. R. Abundant. A nest containing eggs noted on April 10.

Eastern Ground Dove, *Columbigallina passerina passerina*—P. R. Fairly common. A nest with two young birds found on May 6.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus americanus*—S. R. Common, observed to October 11 and from May 6.

Florida Barred Owl, *Strix varia alleni*—P. R. Common in the Muckalee Creek Swamp.

Chuck-will's-widow, *Anrostomus carolinensis*—S. R. Fairly common in heavily wooded bottoms.

Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor* subsp.—Common in fall, being last seen on September 27. My only spring record is a bird seen on May 26 which might have been breeding.

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*—S. R. Common, observed to October 23 and from April 2.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*—S. R. Common, observed to October 18 and from April 29.

Eastern Belted Kingfisher, *Megasceryle alcyon alcyon*—P. R. Fairly common.

Southern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus auratus*—P. R. Common.

Southern Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus*—P. R. Three or four pairs found in the Muckalee Creek Swamp within half a mile of the city.

Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus*—P. R. Abundant. Most conspicuous bird in Americus.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius varius*—W. R. Common, noted from November 22 to April 2.

Southern Hairy Woodpecker, *Dryobates villosus auduboni*—P. R. Fairly common in larger wood lots.

Southern Downy Woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens pubescens*—P. R. Abundant.

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*—S. R. Common, observed to September 24 and from April 2.

Southern Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus crinitus*—S. R. Common, especially in the city, present to September 15 and from April 12.

Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*—W. R. Fairly common, noted from October 11 to March 10.

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*—S. R. Fairly common. First noted on May 3.

Eastern Wood Pewee, *Myiochanes virens*—S. R. Common, observed to October 19 and from April 20.

Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*—S. R. Fairly common. First observed on April 2. On April 10 a pair was noted entering a hole in a railroad embankment in which they nested.

Purple Martin, *Progne subis subis*—S. R. Uncommon. First seen on April 10.

Florida Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata florincola*—P. R. Abundant, particularly in the city and neighboring pecan orchards.

Southern Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*—P. R. Common. On April 29 a nest with fully feathered young was noted in a pine tree which stood at the edge of the fairway of the municipal golf course.

Carolina Chickadee, *Penthestes carolinensis carolinensis*—P. R. Fairly common.

Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*—P. R. Fairly common.

Florida Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*—A single bird observed in the Muckalee Creek Swamp on May 3. This bird's behavior indicated that it was probably breeding.

Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla pusilla*—P. R. Common.

Brown Creeper, *Certhia familiaris americana*—W. R. Uncommon, noted from November 22 to March 7.

Eastern House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon aedon*—

Ohio House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon baldwini*—House Wrens were uncommon winter residents from October 11 to April 25. A specimen taken on March 20 proved to be *T. a. baldwini*.\*

Eastern Winter Wren, *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*—W. R. Fairly common, present from October 25 to April 20.

Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*—P. R. Abundant.

Eastern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*—P. R. Abundant.

Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*—S. R. Common, observed to October 25 and from April 16.

Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*—P. R. Abundant.

Robin, *Turdus migratorius* subsp.—W. R. Robins were fairly common during the fall and winter, becoming abundant in late February and March. Noted from November 12 to April 12. Not known to breed.

Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*—S. R. Common, first seen on April 12.

Eastern Hermit Thrush, *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*—W. R. Common, present from October 25 to April 12.

Olive-backed Thrush, *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*—My only record is a bird seen on October 5.

Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Hylocichla minima aliciae*—Observed only in the fall from September 20 to October 16.

Veery, *Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*—Only one record, a male collected on May 9 while feeding on mulberries in a deserted farm yard.

Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis sialis*—P. R. Common, more abundant in winter.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*—S. R. Common, noted from March 20.

Eastern Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa satrapa*—W. R. Fairly common, observed from November 22 to March 18.

Eastern Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *Corthylio calendula calendula*—W. R. Common, recorded from October 4 to April 25.

1314 Meigs Street  
Augusta, Georgia

## OBSERVATIONS AND COUNTS FROM ABOUT STATE

### IN OCTOBER, 1942

In the absence of a fall meeting it was urged that from October 15-31, inclusive, field work be conducted by members and local clubs of the C. O. S. Lists or records from eight areas, all inland, were received. Due to space limitations only a brief summary including totals, unusual occurrences, and comparison of localities, with final discussion of the whole, can be published. The complete lists, however, will be kept on file for comparison with future autumn censuses.

DALTON. Oct. 18 (10 hrs.), 46 sp., 297 indiv.—This list closely resembles the winter population except for four transient warblers,—the Tennessee, Black-throated Blue and Green, Blackburnian Warblers, and



one summer resident,—the Summer Tanager.—Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Fannie McLellan.

Oct. 30 (6 hrs.), 40 sp., 390 indiv.—Tennessee Warbler, a late migrant.

Additional notes of earlier in the month: Green Heron, 11th; Cape May Warbler, 5th and 14th (scarce in autumn over State); Gray-cheeked Thrush, 11th and 14th (singing softly on first date). From mid-September to mid-October Tennessee Warblers were numerous in fall groups.—(One to three of the foregoing observers.)

MOUNT BERRY, Oct. 25 (7 hrs.), 40 sp., 254 indiv.—Common Loon, 1; Florida Gallinule, 1 (observed with two Coots with 8x binoculars within twenty-five feet, being second record for the area during the past fifteen years).—Harold C. Jones.

Oct. 31 (1½ hr.), 17 sp., 169 indiv.—Land birds recorded, all permanent resident species.—Electra A. Moore.

ATHENS, Oct. 18 (3½ hrs.), 35 sp., 172 indiv.—Blue-headed Vireo, some ten birds seen and heard in song; Cape May Warbler, male collected, second fall occurrence for area.—R. N.

Oct. 24-25 (2 hrs.; 7 hrs.), 16 sp., 354 indiv.; 38 sp., 1230 indiv.—Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1 (Sandy Creek).—E. P. O., T. H., D. J., R. N. (On the 26th, a Ruddy Duck was noted on Lake Kirota, earliest for the region.)

Oct. 30 (2½ hrs.), 28 sp., 514 indiv.—Green Heron, 1 (Lake Kirota, latest for region by three weeks).—E. P. O., R. N.

Note: Initials refer to Eugene P. Odum, Thomas Hall, David Johnston, Robert Norris.

ATLANTA, Oct. 24 (5 hrs.), 35 sp., 439 indiv.—Green Heron, 1 (latest for region).—Branch Howe, Ralph Ramsey.

Oct. 31 (8 hrs.), 31 sp., 380 indiv.—Land species recorded.—George Lamb, Ramsey, and Howe. (1½ hrs.), 25 sp.—Henslow's Sparrow observed, very rare.—Mesdames Louise Girardeau, Hugh Harris, B. N. Wilingham. (4 hrs.), 30 sp., 432 indiv.—American Pintail, 2 (earliest for region by nearly a month).—David Johnston, Fred Weems, Ray C. Werner.

AUGUSTA. Observations from field notes on various dates, as follows. American Egret, No. 1 (Denton); Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Nov. 7 and 3, respectively (Denton, Thomas); Pectoral Sandpiper, Nov. 1 (eight seen by Denton); Red-backed Sandpiper (separate note); Northern Parula Warbler, Oct. 21 (collected by Thomas).—J. Fred Denton, and Bill Thomas. (These late migrants or summer species are treated even though the prescribed period is exceeded.)

ROUND OAK, Oct. 29 (7½ hrs.), 34 sp., 490 indiv.—Bob-white, 56 (5 coveys).

Nov. 1 (5 hrs.), 36 sp., 290 indiv.—Sandhill Crane (see separate note).—Raymond J. Fleetwood.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Oct. 24-31 (approx. 2 hr. average for 8 trips); totals, 49 sp., 700 indiv.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oct. 26 and 29; Yellow Warbler, 27th; Redstart, 26th. Late records, particularly for Yellow Warbler.—Dr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson, Ann Anderson, Mary Burns, Dr. T. M. Hall, Blanche Tait, Katherine Weaver.

FITZGERALD, Oct. 25 (4 hrs.), 56 sp., 3307 indiv.—Scaup and Blue-winged Teal (five of each species), first records for October; Coot, 25 (usually but few at any time); Grackle, 3000 (est.); Barn Swallow, 4; Purple Martin, 2 (last two latest by over two weeks).—Milton Hopkins, Jr.

## DISCUSSION

In ascertaining percentage relations of late October bird populations for each locality, it was found that *permanent resident* composed the great majority throughout, *winter residents* forming the secondary contingent. The former ranged from 77.3% (Atlanta) to 60.2% (Dalton); the latter, from 32.8% (Dalton) to 22% (Atlanta). The percentage relations thus were surprisingly uniform, with no trend indicating a higher percentage of winter species in south Georgia at this season. Augusta was not used in any computation owing to records of scattered nature. May it be understood that these data are necessarily general, since some species (as grackles and towhees), considered permanent, might actually have been largely or wholly from farther north. Consequently, for *individuals* a different set of curves would exist, but for convenient *species groups* we have a fairly accurate picture. Finally, of *summer residents*, *transient visitants*, and *accidentals*, one to five species occurred for each region, the highest being 10.9% of the total (Dalton) and the lowest (one species), shared by three localities. As to numerical density, extremes of 25 to 827 individual birds were recorded per hour, with a mean of 142 per hour.

One noticeable trend in viewing the period as a whole is the predominance of transient wood warblers in extreme northwest Georgia, as compared with weak evidence from other regions. These north Georgia warblers probably migrate southwestward through Alabama to the Gulf Coast, rather than through middle or south Georgia. While transient and summer resident species formed but a very small percentage of this year's late October bird life, several localities reported unusually late records for particular species (see above). White-breasted Nuthatches were reported from only three areas and appear more numerous about Atlanta; this species' statewide distribution proves amazingly uneven. Definitely much more needs be known of concentration and dilution of given species at all seasons, in Georgia, for so far the bulk of the problem looms vaguely ahead. It is elating how a little cooperation can furnish raw material for clarification and realization of natural schemes. Let us by all means con-



tinue such observation and in the future look forward to systematized field study and its true interpretation.

[My thanks go to Dr. Eugene P. Odum for his critical reading of the foregoing account as well as the entire contents of this issue.—Ed.]

#### GENERAL NOTES

**LITTLE BLUE HERON ROOKERY NEAR FITZGERALD, GEORGIA.**—On June 3, 1942, during a bird trip ten miles north of town, long lines of adult Little Blue Herons (*Florida c. caerulea*) were seen passing over a large field near Bowen's Mill pond and were later traced to a smaller pond about two miles westward. We estimated the number of nests to be about fifty with approximately 200 immature white herons in the trees near them. None of the herons were yet able to fly, but, as we approached, the old birds would push the young from the nests. About fifty yards from shore, the nests were in a small clump of trees and varied in height from four to twenty feet. Many Little Green Herons were nesting on the edge of trees and also a few Grackles. This was the first nesting record of the Little Blue Heron in the region.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., *Fitzgerald, Georgia*.

**SANDHILL CRANES IN JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA.**—On November 1, 1942, my wife and I were gathering pecans at Five Points on the Piedmont National Wildfire Refuge, Jones County, Georgia. Just as we were preparing to leave, I perceived a flock of fifteen large birds flying toward us from the north. At a distance, I thought they were Canada Geese, but as they passed overhead in a regular V-formation at an altitude of approximately 600 feet, I noticed the large size, the extended necks, legs, and the red bare head parts which identified them as Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis tabida*.)

None of the birds called while under observation, but they appeared wary because as I ran under them they increased their speed, and when last seen they were flying south with the alternate flapping of wings and gliding.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Refuge Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Round Oak, Georgia*.

**THE RED-BACKED SANDPIPER AT AUGUSTA.**—On November 1, 1942, a Red-backed Sandpiper in winter plumage was seen by the writer at Augusta. The bird, in company with eight Pectoral Sandpipers, was feeding on the mud flat created by the partial draining of a lake in the clay-pit region. The bird was observed also by Clarence Belger on the same day. On November 5, Belger was in the clay-pit region and again saw the sandpiper at the same lake. The next day, November 6, Bill Thomas, another bird student, found the bird still present at the lake. The writer and Thomas went to the lake with a gun on November 7 to attempt to collect the sandpiper, but it could not be found. On November 8 Belger found the bird dead and somewhat decomposed. The remains, however, were

carried to Dr. E. E. Murphy who confirmed its identification as a Red-backed Sandpiper (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). So ended the week of excitement over the presence of the "unusual" sandpiper.

This constitutes the first record of the occurrence of the Red-backed Sandpiper in the Augusta area, and, with the exception of Hebard's (1941) records from the Okefinokee, the only record from the interior of the State.—J. FRED DENTON, *1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Georgia*.

**THE REDSTART BREEDING AT AMERICUS, SUMTER COUNTY, GEORGIA.**—On May 16, 1942, an almost completed nest of the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was discovered in the dense wooded swamp along Muckalee Creek four miles northwest of Americus. The nest was located in the fork of two small upright limbs of a black gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) approximately fifty feet above the ground level. The tree leaned out over the creek so that the position of the nest was almost directly above the center of the creek. Attention was first attracted to the nest as the female Redstart flew upstream to it with building material. The bird was watched through the binoculars as she put in place that particular bit of material and set off for more. Trips to gather material, which required from two to three minutes, were made regularly during the thirty minutes that the nest was under observation. During this time no male Redstart approached the nest although two birds were singing in the vicinity. It is regrettable that there was no opportunity to visit the nest at a later date.

The present record adds to our knowledge of the breeding range of the Redstart in southwestern Georgia. Howell (*Oriole*, 1: 29-32, 1936) records the collection at Blakeley of a pair of birds which were probably breeding, and the hearing of a bird at Montezuma, thirty miles north of Americus, which might have been breeding.—J. FRED DENTON, *1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Georgia*.

**GIANT RED-WING IN SOUTH GEORGIA.**—Among three female Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) taken in January 1942, a mile northwest of Tifton, Georgia, one has proved the giant race, *aroiologus*, and the others, the common eastern race, *phoeniceus*. The more northerly bird, shot on the 17th, is characterized by larger size (wing, 106 mm.) and darker coloration, the ventral stripes being noticeably broader and blacker. It was in a group of some 300 Red-wings and Cowbirds inhabiting a pecan grove. Although upon more collecting this subspecies might prove to intermingle regularly with winter flocks, the present specimen seems the first secured this far south and east and consequently within the State. The writer is indebted to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for the subspecific diagnosis.—ROBERT NORRIS, *Division of Biological Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia*.

**TWO ADDITIONAL SPECIES FROM THE FITZGERALD REGION.**—On May 11, 1942, a gallinule was seen crossing a railroad embankment about a mile south of town. I later returned and after sitting for nearly an hour saw the bird silhouetted against the sky about fifteen feet up in a small tupelo



tree, near the same spot where it previously had been observed. It was collected and skinned, proving to be an adult Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*), first regional record.

On March 28, 1942, in a thicket near home a small warbler that could not be identified was observed and later collected. It was identified as a female Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*), which constitutes the first occurrence of this bird in the Fitzgerald area.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., *Fitzgerald, Georgia*.

#### NEWS AND REVIEWS

*BIRDS OF NORTH CAROLINA*, by T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley. North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh. 448 pages, 177 illustrations by Rex Brasher, R. B. Horsfall, and Roger T. Peterson. 1942. (Price \$3.50, obtainable from the State Museum, Raleigh.)—Review by Eugene P. Odum.

The first edition of the "Birds of North Carolina," published in 1919, was one of the pioneer state bird books in the South. The handsome 1942 edition, which is almost completely rewritten and more fully illustrated, takes its place along with Howell's "Florida Bird Life" as the best in regional works now available in the Southeast. When I first became interested in birds at Chapel Hill, N. C., the original book was a constant source of stimulation at a time when my boyhood interest might have lagged. No doubt the present book will foster even more interest in birds, and (what is perhaps more important) open more unseeing eyes to man's natural surroundings which must become of increasing concern to him as the world rapidly "grows smaller."

As in the earlier volume, the present one owes much to the readable style of T. Gilbert Pearson (who began his world-renowned career in bird protection in the state), the carefully record-keeping and wealth of original observations contributed by C. S. and H. H. Brimley (both lifelong students of Carolina natural history) not to mention the contributions of numerous local observers. Extensive use is made of recent taxonomic studies by Wetmore, Burleigh, and others. Much credit should also go to the North Carolina Bird Club, particularly editor John Grey and museum director Harry T. Davis. In addition to the portraits appearing in the old book, a wealth of new illustrations by Peterson have been added so that nearly every species is pictured. The book is well printed and seems to be generally free of mechanical errors, although, technically speaking, most of the scientific names are incorrectly listed because of the omission of the parentheses which should enclose names of the authorities.

"Birds of North Carolina" is of special interest to Georgia students for several reasons. Even though parts of the two states differ considerably in latitude, the bird life in gross aspect is similar, since both states have the same three major physiographic regions,—namely, Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont Plateau, and Coastal Plain. Hence the book is a useful

reference for the beginner in this state, as well as for the more experienced student who will want to make frequent comparisons. Finally, at \$3.50 the book is an outstanding bargain considering its size and illustrations alone.

Despite the high quality of this work there are three criticisms of a constructive nature which I should like to make. I want to stress that the following remarks are concerned not so much with the present book or its authors of whom I have highest regard, but rather with the question of the best function and makeup of the elaborate state work in general. In the first place there is a tendency to overemphasize the technicalities of subspecies. For a popular book of this sort I believe it is a mistake to attempt to discuss each little subspecies separately, especially when so many are poorly known or not yet universally accepted. I do not mean to imply that problems of nomenclature and geographical variations are not important; these problems should be thrashed out in the technical journals rather than in popular books; the purpose of the latter is to interest people in and inform them about birds, not the intricacies of classification! I honestly believe it would be much more satisfactory to the majority of users of the book and just as *scientific* (considering the large amount of guess work involved in delimiting ranges of many forms, I would even venture to say,—*more scientific*) if the binomial rather than the trinomial were emphasized; that is, each species (about which there is virtually no disagreement) treated as a whole *first*, then recognized varieties with proper diagnoses, known specimens, etc. listed secondarily. Ultimately, of course, a map showing the ranges of different races including the inevitable areas of intergradation would be the ideal solution. Overemphasis of the subspecies has had effects on both layman and prospective ornithologist. The layman is unnecessarily confused by minute variations which he can not hope to recognize, while the young student is prone to get the idea that the only way to be a "scientific" ornithologist is to shoot all his birds and study a few superficial external characters. This is hardly a fair representation of the field of ornithology considering the fundamental problems of internal biology, ecology, and life history which also need attention!

My second criticism partly hinges on the first. So much space is devoted to the subspecies problem and to elaboration of individual distribution records that material on habits (i. e.—behavior), habitat, and general life history is badly slighted and poorly organized. There is no uniformity of presentation, the write-up of some species being relatively complete, whereas in other cases almost nothing is told of habits. Three full pages, for example, are devoted to towhees, of which only two short paragraphs concern habits. The authors have also frequently selected unusual or irrelevant observations from other regions instead of making use of more pertinent and equally interesting home-grown material.

Finally, I was disappointed not to find a single map in the book. Since the emphasis is on distribution, at least a general reference map would

be extremely helpful. Likewise, there is no analysis of avifauna of the state as a whole. Physiography, life zones, biomes, vegetation, climate, agricultural practices in relation to bird life are scarcely mentioned, even though the state offers singular advantages for such analyses. It would be highly interesting and important to have a summary of changes in bird life since the first edition, for example, the well-marked southward and eastward extension in breeding ranges of a number of species. There is an excellent account of contributions of old-time naturalists but nowhere can I find a concerted mention of present problems needing attention. Surely the prospective ornithologist of today has not been born thirty years too late!

Realizing that there is plenty of room for difference of opinion regarding the content of a state bird book, I would like to hear what others think (pro and con) about the above comments.

## EDITORIAL

It was with regret that our fall meeting could not be held because of transportation difficulties. In response to Dr. E. P. Odum's timely notice, the October field activity of various members has in a way filled what might have seemed an ornithological hiatus, and at the same time these contributions when pooled offer a significant result. Many thanks for your interest and effort.

Probably you wonder how the state list is progressing. Our seasoned birdmen, Herbert Stoddard and Ivan Tomkins, have been working over and amplifying Bill (now Lieutenant) Griffin's splendid first draft. The bibliography has been typed into final form from Earle Greene's tirelessly complete card title. The authors and collaborators want to urge all members of the G. O. S. to act "pronto" and send Mr. Stoddard any desiderata bearing on the distribution and migration of Georgia birds. Up-to-date-ness is an important part of the game.

Your editor is wondering whether any of you wish to check out literature from the G. O. S. library, now the University, for bear in mind that our exchanges are available on request. Briefly, we have some few issues of *Audubon Magazine*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Florida Naturalist*, *Migrant*, *Bird-Banding*, and other periodicals, as well as reprints and government and state bulletins.

As much reciprocal benefit as possible falls among the aims of our organization, and calling upon one another relative to various problems and affairs, with resulting growth of fellowship and mutual contact, cannot be over-encouraged. At least our group aspires to carry on for the duration, after which a vernal pod-burst shall obliterate wartime impediments and, in our ornithological studies, make way for "revival of the fittest."