

# THE ORIOLE

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



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## THE SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER OF SOUTHEASTERN GEORGIA

By FREDERICK V. HEBARD

STATUS AND HABITAT.—The great Pileated Woodpecker (*Ceophloeus pileatus pileatus*) is an abundant bird in southeastern Georgia. Its population peak is probably reached in the Okefinokee and descends as one approaches the coast, except in limited concentration areas. Found by Wright and Harper in 1913 (1) to be next in abundance to the Red-bellied of the Okefinokee woodpeckers, it still seems in winter next in abundance to the Red-bellied and the Flicker within the Okefinokee. At Coleraine, twenty miles to the east, it seems next in abundance to the Flicker in winter and the Red-bellied in spring. Except for periods of extreme cold or heat, hardly a day ever passes the year around that its familiar call will not be heard. I believe that Coleraine is the home of at least 100 individuals and probably more, or one bird to 100 acres of land. This, I believe, is "saturation" or close to limit of the carrying capacity of the area. I know the birds of the Huron Mountains in Marquette County, Michigan, said by Bayard H. Christy (2) to be the saturation point of the northern form, and I have no hesitation in saying that one will note Pileateds twenty-five times and probably more at Coleraine to once in the Huron Mountains.

The affinity of the Pileated in southeastern Georgia for the deep woods is clearly marked, but it often can be seen swinging from pine head to pine head, crossing a prairie within the Okefinokee, crossing the lawn at Coleraine, or calling from the woods between the rice fields and the plantation house at Refuge Plantation on the Satilla river, just west of the coastal highway in Camden county.

It is found both in light and heavy growths of timber unlike the case in South Carolina (3) and is not entirely confined to the wilder country only as in Texas (4). I believe this species frequents the wilder regions of this country because there it finds its food, not because of inherent shyness. The Coleraine birds cross the lawn frequently both winter and spring while the house is inhabited and the Refuge birds do not seem to have been routed from their chosen habitat by the presence of 25 to 100 workers in the rice fields during the past two years.

BEHAVIOR.—The daily rounds of the Pileated are quite regular, and their movements seem guided by their quest for food. Both in the Oke-



finokee and at Coleraine they are late risers, not as late as the Turkey Vultures, to be sure, but still late in comparison with waterfowl and doves. About sunrise or somewhat later they leave their roost and sally forth across a prairie or through a bay in the Okefinokee or across a field or road or through a branch at Coleraine. Not so long thereafter they return by almost exactly the same route they came. Then they sally forth again in the same manner when the sun is high and again towards evening. Generally one will see but one or two traverse the same route, but more than one pair may feed on the berries of the same batch of black gums. This I observed on January 1, 1941 when I noted at least 17 different individuals feeding on black gum berries in Gum Pond in eastern Charlton County.

When not feeding or traveling Pileateds may remain comparatively motionless near the top of a tall tree. On February 28, 1936 in Floyd's Island Hammock my sister and I noted one near the top of a tall slash pine. It had a particularly light colored bill and much white on one side of the back since the left wing was spread much as the wing of one of Audubon's Pileateds. Three slash pines nearby had large chunks of bark at their bases. We returned to the cabin twice, once for the bird books and once for the camera, and our subject did not move his position although we twice left and returned to a spot not twenty-five feet from the tree on which he was perched. His mate flew a very short distance when we passed right under the tree upon which she was perched.

The Pileated's flight seems not as undulating as that of a Flicker or of a Red-bellied Woodpecker but in much less direct than that of a Crow. Its flight is more undulating if the terrain is more open.

The usual notes of the Georgia birds seem the same as those of the northern form which I have heard in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maine. They resemble those of a flicker but are louder and less musical. Some of those heard on January 1, 1941 had a short amorous sounding note, less musical than the copulative calls of the flicker, but more musical than the "kent" of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker. My considerable observation of the species on this date was due to hearing this note which I at first mistook for that of the Ivory-bill.

**BREEDING.**—The only nest of the southern form I have seen was about 40 ft. up in a dead slash pine similar to those described from South Carolina (3), Tennessee (5), and Florida (6). It opened towards the north-east. The parents were seen digging on this nest on April 20, 1942. The nesting pine was on the bank of the old channel of Mill Creek in western Camden County just below the old dam. The surrounding woods were mostly black gums and other deciduous trees and the nesting hole faced the most open part of the forest canopy.

One can have no fear of the extermination of the Southern Pileated as long as some of the tall pines of Southeastern Georgia remain uncut. This

seems assured by government purchase of the Okefinokee.

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Coleraine Plantation, Folkston, Ga.

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

By J. FRED DENTON

##### PART II

American Pipit, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*—A flock of approximately 40 birds noted in the same field on November 25 and 26.

Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*—W. R. Observed regularly from January 24 to May 16.

Loggerhead Shrike, *Lanus ludovicianus ludovicianus*—P. R. Common.

Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*—P. R. Abundant.

White-eyed Vireo, *Vireo griseus griseus*—S. R. Abundant, observed to October 11 and from March 30.

Yellow-throated Vireo, *Vireo flavifrons*—S. R. Fairly common, recorded to October 4 and from April 12.

Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius* subsp.—Small numbers observed between Feb. 14 and March 20.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*—S. R. Common, observed to October 5 and from April 12.

Philadelphia Vireo, *Vireo philadelphicus*—A single bird seen in deep woods on October 4.

Black and White Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*—Surprisingly scarce, being seen only in the fall until October 5.

Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*—S. R. Common, first recorded on April 10.

Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivorus*—Observed only in the fall on September 12 and 14.

Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*—My only record is of two birds seen on September 24.

Southern Parula Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana americana*—S. R. Fairly common, observed to October 5 and after April 4.

Eastern Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica aestiva aestiva*—Transient, uncommon, ob-



served from April 26 to May 15.

Magnolia Warbler, *Dendroica magnolia*—Fairly common in the fall, being observed to October 21, not recorded in the spring.

Cape May Warbler, *Dendroica tigrina*—Transient, common, noted only in the spring from April 10 to April 25.

Myrtle Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*—W. R. Abundant, observed from October 21 to April 26.

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*—My only record is a bird seen on October 4.

Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica dominica*—S. R. Fairly common, observed to September 17 and after April 6.

Black-poll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*—Noted only in the spring on April 25 and May 6.

Northern Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus pinus*—P. R. Common, apparently becoming more numerous in winter.

Northern Prairie Warbler, *Dendroica discolor discolor*—S. R. Fairly common in suitable habitat, observed to October 4 and from April 10.

Western Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*.

Yellow Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*—Palm Warblers were common winter residents being recorded from October 4 to May 9. A male taken April 20 is referable to *D. p. palmarum*.\*

However, both forms were observed during the winter.

Water-Thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis* subsp.—Transient, common both in spring and fall, observed to October 11 and from April 25 to May 6.

Louisiana Water-Thrush, *Seiurus motacilla*—Rare. My only definite record is that of a bird seen on May 24, which may possibly have been breeding.

Athens Yellow-throat, *Geothlypis trichas typhicola*—P. R. Fairly common.

Northern Yellow-throat, *geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*\*—A male of this form was collected on March 20.

Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens virens*—S. R. Common, observed from April 22.

Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*—S. R. Fairly common. Observed to September 17 and from March 23.

American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*—Abundant migrant in spring and fall, uncommon permanent resident. Observed to October 5 and from April 25. An almost completed nest was noted on May 16. (See Oriole 7:35.)

English Sparrow, *Passer domesticus domesticus*—P. R. Abundant.

Bobolink, *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—Noted only in the spring when large flocks were seen on May 2 and 9.

Southern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna argutula*—P. R. common.

Eastern Redwing, *Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*—S. R. Common, observed to November 13 and from March 10.

Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spurius*—S. R. Common, noted from April 10.

Stone's Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula stonei*.

Florida Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*.

Purple Grackles were common permanent residents breeding in colonies in tall pines at the edge of town. Of two males, presumably breeding, collected at that same place, one taken on April 22 is *Q. q. quiscula*, while the other taken on May 6 is *Q. q. stonei*. Apparently Americus is near the intersection of the breeding ranges of the two forms.

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra rubra*—S. R. Fairly common, observed to Oc-

tober 4 and from April 12.

Eastern Cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*—P. R. Abundant.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Hedymeles ludovicianus*—My only records are a female seen on October 9 and a male and female together on April 22. The male was collected.

Eastern Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea caerulea*—S. R. Fairly common, observed from April 20.

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*—S. R. Common, recorded to October 18 and from April 25.

Eastern Goldfinch, *Spinus tristis tristis*, W. R. Abundant, observed from November 13 to May 6.

Alabama Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*—P. R. Common.

Eastern Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichiensis savanna*.

Labrador Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichiensis labradorius*—Savannah Sparrows were common winter residents, being observed from October 11 to April 20. A female collected on March 12 was identified as *P. s. labradorius*\* while another female taken on April 20 was determined as *P. s. savanna*.\*

Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum australis*\*—W. R. Common, a male of this species was collected on March 7 and a female on March 12.

Eastern Vesper Sparrow, *Poocetes gramineus gramineus*—W. R. Common, observed from November 13 to April 25.

Bachman's Sparrow, *Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*—S. R. Uncommon, noted from March 23.

Junco, *Junco hyemalis* subsp.—W. R. Uncommon, observed from November 10 to March 14.

Eastern Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina passerina*—P. R. Uncommon as a breeder but abundant in winter.

Eastern Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla pusilla*—P. R. Fairly common as a breeder, abundant in winter.

White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*—W. R. Common, observed from October 25 to May 6.

Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*—W. R. Common, recorded from October 11 to May 6.

Eastern Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia melodia*\*—W. R. Common, observed from October 19 to April 25. A female was collected on March 20.

(\*—indicates sub-specific determination by Thomas D. Burleigh)

1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Ga.

## AN ADAPTABLE CAROLINA WREN

By MARY M. GRADY

A few months ago we noticed that the wire screen on our back porch had become so worn with age it had broken through in a number of places and it would be necessary to replace it with a new screen before the hot weather arrived. Therefore, we put in a bid with a local firm and were promised that they would do the work for us in the early spring.

One morning, about a week before the men came to do the job, a tiny bird perched upon the milk bottle shelf outside of the screen threw



back his head and let flow from his throat a bubbling, rippling sound that cascaded through the air like a small clear brook that had been suddenly released from its winter freeze. Then he cocked his head, peered into one of the holes in the screen, hopped through and began to investigate the back porch. Hanging on a nail near the kitchen door was an empty small basket in which we kept garden gloves and twine in the summer time. During his investigation Mr. C. Wren,—for the inquisitive visitor was a Carolina Wren,—must have found this basket for the next day he returned with a few twigs, and we heard his happy bright song all day. The next day he brought his mate and the both of them worked earnestly bringing in nest material through the holes in the screen to the basket. In a few days they had built the neatest nest we had ever seen.

Then one morning we had a call telling us the men were on the way to fix the porch. Well, this was fine for us, but what was to become of the wrens? When the new screen was in place there would be no holes for the birds to get through. This was indeed a tragedy; but then this is a day of priorities and this total war has touched every living thing even the small wren. Not wishing to destroy the nest we took the basket and hung it up under the porch which stands high on brick pillars. We did not dare hope that they would find the basket or, if they did, they would like the change; but it was the only thing to do and besides as yet there were no eggs in the nest.

Late that afternoon when the men had completed their work and left, the wrens returned to the milk bottle shelf. They seemed to take in the situation; Mrs. Wren chattered and scolded and Mr. Wren seemed to console, but at last they gave up and flew away. This was the end, we thought, and felt sorry that it had to be like this.

Imagine our delight two days later when we found the wrens had re-discovered their basket and were busy with house-keeping again. In a short time there were four pinkish chocolate-spotted eggs in the nest and Mrs. Wren set out to hatch them. By Easter, we had four little wrens which owed their existence to their adaptable parents who were not easily discouraged. — *Atlanta Bird Club, Atlanta, Ga.*

### SOME POSSIBLE RANGE EXTENSIONS IN NORTH GEORGIA

By EUGENE P. ODUM

The concept of orderly change or "evolution" has had a tremendous influence on the theory and organization of biology, but too often we come to regard evolution as a thing of the past and give too little attention to the present or future. There is no reason to suspect that evolution is finished. The "balance of nature" as we observe it today is actually a dynamic equilibrium with orderly changes occurring all the time ranging

from spectacular seasonal turnovers to slower, more subtle annual changes. Right here in Georgia if we are not careful to keep accurate records we may "miss the boat" in regard to interesting distribution changes which, in time, might result in new morphological varieties. Since Georgia lies at the end of the Appalachian chain, which is a potent influence on speciation of many animal groups, we should be especially on the lookout for invasion attempts from this direction.

During July 12-13, 1942 Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur Duncan, Frank Fitch, and myself made a trip along the high curved ridge which culminates in Brasstown Bald the highest point in the state (El. 4768). We traveled the ridge forest service roads whenever possible and made frequent stops at a variety of altitudes and habitats. A special attempt was made to note the altitude and habitat limits of species which reach their southern breeding limits in the northern part of the state. Even though such observations are necessarily fragmentary it was interesting to compare our data with that recorded by Howell (Auk, 26:129-137, 1909) and Burleigh (Auk, 42:70-74, 1925 and 44:229-234, 1927) who covered the same area 35 and 20 years ago. Of 12 common or easily observed species which approach their southern breeding limits in the higher mountains 8 species have apparently changed little in distribution in the past 35 years. These are (with our lowest altitude observed): Whippoorwill (1900), Bewick Wren (1900), Veery (4300; as far as recorded still breeds only on Brasstown Bald?), Cairns Warbler (2800), Canada Warbler (4300), Ovenbird (2200), Scarlet Tanager (2800), and Carolina Junco (4000). Such species as Raven (which we observed above Hawk Mt. el. 3600) and Ruffed Grouse (2800) probably have decreased in abundance if not in actual range. The following four species, on the other hand, appear to have extended or to be extending their breeding ranges:

Mountain Solitary Vireo. Howell did not record this species below 3500. Burleigh did not give lowest altitude observed but found them lower, "at foot of Brasstown Bald." We observed this species singing vigorously near Dahlonega in upland pine woods at only 1500 feet altitude. The Solitary Vireo in North Carolina now nests all the way across the piedmont to the edge of the coastal plain and seems to be found always in pine woods; consequently we should watch for it in our upper piedmont pines. The change from cool deciduous mountain forests to hot pinelands is an especially interesting feature of this species' habitat selection.

Song Sparrow. There seems to be little doubt but that this species has extended its range in Georgia. Howell did not list it at all and Burleigh noted that it was definitely increasing during his two years of observation. Now it is one of the commonest birds of mountain valleys being observed down to 1800 feet in the area covered.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Howell observed it at Young Harris (No altitude given) and Burleigh recorded 3600 as lowest seen. We observed several families (parents and juveniles) at between 2500 and 2800 feet in oak-chestnut woods.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. Howell did not list this species at all, Burleigh found



it common above 4000 and found down to 3500. It now seems common down to 3500 as far as Brasstown Bald area is concerned. The large amount of second growth scrub resulting from blight, fire, and cutting has greatly increased the habitat of this bird.

Much of the above is, of course, conjectural. I merely wish to point out some possibilities and to emphasize the need for careful local records and, especially in the future, for more quantitative data.

The robin is our most spectacular recent invader. Until only a very few years ago it nested only in the extreme northern part of the state, but now has spread almost the length of the state. The House Wren is another bird to watch as it has made rapid advances through the North Carolina piedmont. Other species which may be pushing south are: Henslow Sparrow, Horned Lark (have reached North Carolina), and Barn Swallow. We should also watch the west; the increasing number of Western or Arkansas Kingbird records may forecast an eastward push. Not all invasions are necessarily successful, or produce a uniform occupation; isolated "islands" may be formed. The Dickcissel, for example, has established breeding colonies in several seaboard states, few of which appear to be more than locally successful.

It is interesting to note that our most successful invaders (Robin, Song Sparrow, House Wren, not to mention the English Sparrow and Starling) are birds which live in early successional or man-made habitats which have been tremendously increased in extent by white man's civilization. Indeed, white man tends to convert deciduous forest, coniferous forest, and prairie alike into a sort of "forest edge" habitat of a more or less uniform nature. The sharp differences between the primitive areas are thus reduced giving those "forest edge" birds which can adapt to wide variety of climate (so far man has not changed the climate much) a chance to spread.

Perhaps, therefore, the most interesting feature of bird invasions is that they give us an opportunity to examine critically the interaction of climate and habitat (by habitat I am including food, cover, enemies and other biotic factors) which are generally the two big factors that determine the limits of a given species' range. If our present ideas are at all correct, in order for a species to successfully take over new territory it must first adapt physiologically and behavioristically. If the new environment is sufficiently different, morphological changes may then occur in time. In that event ornithologists will recognize a new sub-species and duly record it in big black type in their "check-list." *Dept. of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens.*

[After writing the above I note that the Prairie Horned Lark has already reached northern Alabama as a breeding bird (Auk: 60:105. 1943)]

## GENERAL NOTES

*Arkansas Kingbird at Waycross, Georgia.*—An example of this kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was collected a few years ago, the identification of which has only recently been made. The following circumstances tend to completely validate this record:

In January 1938 the writer shot a strange, unnamed bird at Waycross, Georgia. Although its skin was not prepared, a careful pencil sketch was made of the specimen's head. The size and shape of this "mystery bird," along with the main coloration, were committed to memory. Dorsally, the ashy gray tone, and underneath the lemon yellow wash, were vividly recalled. In December 1941 the drawing was shown to Herbert L. Stoddard of Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, Georgia, who remarked that it could have been nothing but an Arkansas Kingbird, regardless of the greenish tint which may not have been noticed. He added that the color and the head sketch absolutely barred the possibility of anything else. As to locale, this flycatcher was in a deciduous wooded strip (main trees: water oak, sweet bay, red maple, sassafras, and black cherry, with a touch of longleaf pine), bordered by plowed land and by a broomsedge field, and within the city limit.

The first known occurrence of *Tyrannus verticalis* in Georgia is that of a bird noted in the Okefenokee Swamp by a Georgia Ornithological Society field group (*Oriole*, 3:35, 1938). However, Thomas D. Burleigh added the species to our State Check-list on November 13, 1941, by collecting a specimen near Montezuma, Georgia (*Oriole*, 7:6, 1942).—*Robert Norris, AS, USNR, 1st Reg., Co. 199, Barracks 123, U. S. N. Training Station, Bainbridge, Maryland.*

*Spring Occurrence of the Redhead Duck at Decatur.*—On April 10 (1943) a Redhead Duck was observed from a distance of about 30 feet by George Lamb in Decatur. The red head and blueish bill were noticed. The bird, remarkably enough, was in an outdoor swimming pool about 100 feet square called Eagle "Lake." It was at the shallow end when flushed and was forced to patter half the length of the pool before getting under way. The pool is in use only during the summer and was about half filled with rain water at that time.

On April 25 two redheads (male and female) were seen by Lamb and myself at Candler Lake, which is about one-fourth mile from the swimming pool. The bluish bill as well as the red head were very noticeable with binoculars. Griffin (*Oriole*, 6:18, 1941) lists the Redhead as a rare winter visitant in the Atlanta region with extreme dates of November 13 to January 18. *Branch Howe, Jr., 111 Church St., Decatur.*

*Partial Albinism in a Field Sparrow.*—On March 3, 1943, in my yard I secured a field sparrow which upon skinning I found to have four pure white feathers on the right wing visible from above. The bird is now in



my collection; it is the only bird that I have found to possess any albinism.—*Willard Gaulding, Jr., Tifton, Ga.* (Albino mutations or gene changes which prevent production of normal pigment occur in many groups of plants and animals, including human beings. Partial cases especially asymmetrical one like the above are probably "somatic mutations," that is, mutations which occur late in development and affect only a few of the body cells. Such mutations do not affect the germ cells and hence are not inherited unlike complete albinos which are often inherited as simple recessives.—E. P. O.)

*Henslow Sparrow in the Atlanta Region.*—On March 13, 1943, the writer observed closely and carefully a Henslow Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowi*) at South River. The bird left a broomsedge field and flew into a thicket where it was tame and easily observed with field glasses within seven feet. Its short tail, light breast markings, yellowish tinge on head and nape, small size, and other points were noted. There are few recent records of this species in the Atlanta region. *David Johnson, 1037 St. Charles Ave., Atlanta, Ga.*

*One of Jack Miner's Geese Reaches Georgia.*—While gunning in the fall of 1942 on Lake Blue Ridge, Celie Pinson of Blue Ridge brought down a Canada Goose which was tagged with a leg band that read: "No. 36—F. C.—Write Jack Miner, Kingsland, Ont., Canada. Have Faith in God. Mark 11:22."

For many years Jack Miner has operated a remarkable sanctuary for waterfowl in Ontario tagging all his birds with his own brands on which he prints quotations from the scriptures. The Georgia record is an interesting check on the migration route of the Canada Goose and another confirmation of the valuable work in banding done by Jack Miner. And, too, this bird bore a message of faith and trust from a friendly allied country over many hundreds of miles.—*Ray C. Werner, 758 Wildroad Road, Atlanta, Georgia.*

#### NEWS AND COMMENTS

In the absence of a general meeting election of war time officers of the G. O. S. was conducted by mail. Both nominees for president, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Oliver, feel that they cannot accept so that this office is still open, pending further action by the Society. Other officers were elected as follows:

First Vice-President: Mrs. Lucille Rotchford, Milledgeville  
Second Vice-President: Miss Annie Reddy, Savannah  
Executive Secretary: Miss Blanche Tait, Milledgeville  
Treasurer: Mr. Ray C. Werner, Atlanta  
Historian-Librarian: Dr. Beatrice Nevins, Valdosta

Editor of *The Oriole*: Dr. J. Fred Denton, Augusta

[As this issue goes to press it has been arranged for Dr. Eugene P. Odum to serve as President until regular meetings can be held.]

\* \* \* \*

Birds have many odd habits which seem puzzling to their human observers. It is perhaps only natural that we should try to ascribe a purpose to every thing we observe even when our explanations are decidedly naive. The Crested Flycatcher, for example, often places a piece of snake skin or similar bit of material in its nest, supposedly to frighten away enemies. Nobody has ever shown that the object accomplishes such a purpose; indeed it seems very unlikely that a piece of dead skin would have any effect whatsoever on an enemy intent on making a meal out of the nest contents. The Purple Martin places fresh green leaves in its nest allegedly to increase the humidity, but no one has shown that it actually does, or that if it did, it increases the hatchability of the eggs. Mr. Chas. C. West of Tryon, N. C. (see CHAT, 7:27, 1943) has recently observed Downy Woodpeckers placing bits of suet among its breast feathers, perhaps the observer suggests, to hoard food for future use or to make the feathers water-repellant. Much comment has appeared in recent issues of the Auk and Wilson Bulletin on the curious habit of "anting" which has been observed in a variety of species. Many explanations have been advanced to explain why birds place ants in their plumage, most explanations either being pretty far-fetched or they ascribe unjustified reasoning power on the part of the bird. While there are many remarkable adaptations in nature which are clearly of survival value, the more we learn about genetics and selection, the more apparent it becomes that not all characters need be adaptive. Thus, would it not be logical to suppose that some bird behavior is either like the buttons on a man's coat sleeve in that it once had a purpose but no longer does, or that it never did have any function or survival value at all, just like John Doe's mannerism of scratching his nose!

\* \* \* \*

The following recent books and monographs are recommended as excellent additions to everyones ornithological library.

"*The Ivory-billed Woodpecker*," by James T. Tanner. "*The Roseate Spoonbill*," by Robert P. Allen, (\$2.50 each from National Audubon Society, 1006 5th Ave., N. Y.). The story of two of America's rarest birds makes good reading.

"*The Wild Turkey in Virginia: its Status, Life History, and Management*," by Henry S. Mosby and Charles O. Handley (\$1 from Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries of Virginia, Richmond). This is result of six years study by Virginia Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (supported by both state and federal funds) published in attractive book form



with colored plates and many illustrations. It contains not only information which will help increase our noblest game bird, but also readable life history accounts of interest to the bird lover and non-sportsman.

"*Birds Around New York City. When and Where to Find Them.*" by Allan D. Cruikshank (\$1.84 from American Museum of Natural History). Here is a model for "local lists" covering an area which has literally been combed for birds. Not only are species listed in the conventional manner but good attempts are made at ecological, seasonal, quantitative, and past-compared-to-present analysis.

"*Nesting Birds and the Vegetation Substrate.*" by William J. Beecher (\$1 from Chicago Ornithological Society). A detailed breeding population study of a limited area which contains some good ecology and one of the first attempts to measure the "edge effect" as related to bird density.

"*Systematics and the Origin of Species. From the Viewpoint of a Zoologist.*" by Ernst Mayr (\$4 from Columbia University Press). Students seriously interested in distributional and taxonomic problems should read this book written by one who has an unusually wide viewpoint.

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We would like to welcome Mr. Thomas F. Davis, Jr., as a new resident in our state and a new member of the G.O.S. Mr. Davis is a former president of the Florida Audubon Society and has recently moved from Florida to 109 7th St., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. He has generously offered his services to the Society and is especially interested in keeping our organization going through the difficult war times.

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The Atlanta Bird Club is having an active season reports Mrs. Claire M. Gordon. Regular meetings and weekly field trips in the spring have been held. Two features have been colored movies shown by Dr. Charles A. Mohr, Philadelphia Academy of Science and Mr. Thomas Davis, Atlanta.

The Milledgeville club reports on five April field trips; a total of 97 species were recorded by Mabel T. Rogers, Lucile Rotchford, Thomas Bivins, Mary Bivins, J. C. Copeland, Blanche Tait, Katherine Weaver, Albert Martin, and Bonner Jones. First dates include: March 29—Gnatcatcher, Hooded Warbler; March 31—Redstart, Purple Martin, Chuck-wills-widow; April 2—Wood Thrush; April 9—Yellow-throated Vireo, Prairie Warbler; April 18—Kingbird; April 21—Blue Grosbeak, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow, Kentucky Warbler; April 25—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

# THE ORIOLE

Editor—J. FRED DENTON\*, 1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Ga.  
Business Manager—RALPH RAMSEY, JR., 1174 Greenwich Ave., Atlanta, Ga.  
Treasurer—RAY C. WERNER, 758 Wildwood Road, Atlanta, Ga.  
Department of Education—MISS MABEL ROGERS, Milledgeville, Ga.

THE ORIOLE is mailed to all members of the Georgia Ornithological Society not in arrears for dues. Classes of membership are as follows:

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## EDITORIAL

With this issue your temporary editor turns over *The Oriole's* papers to Dr. Denton, editor-for-the-duration. Material for publication or communications thereon should be sent to him at 1314 Meigs St., Augusta, Ga. We are indeed fortunate in having such an active and capable ornithologist in charge, and the rest of us should make it our special duty to keep him supplied with material and encouragement.

Much of the material in this issue was gathered by former editor Bobby Norris before he went on active duty with the Navy in March. Bobby is now with the Hospital Corps School, Naval Training Station, Charleston, S. C. and has recently been awarded a certificate for honor man of his company.

If you have not yet paid your 1943 dues please do so immediately. Send your remittance to Mr. Werner, 758 Wildwood Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga. While we may not be able to have general meetings for what we hope will be a short time, we feel that you will still get your money's worth of *Oriole*.

In order to best serve our membership which consists of professional and amateur bird students and just plain bird lovers I believe *The Oriole* should strive to maintain a good balance between three types of material, (1) accurate distribution and migration data on species and subspecies, and local lists; (2) contributions to life history; (3) material which will stimulate and encourage interest and study. There is no reason why the latter two fields can not be made scientifically sound and at the same time retain the human interest feature. I believe we particularly need to run more material in the third category.—EUGENE P. ODUM.

\*This issue edited by Eugene P. Odum