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THE ORIOLE

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CONTENTS

PARADISE IN GEORGIA, By Claire M. Gordon	12
BIRD FRIENDS ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, C. A. By J. Fred Denton	13
RECENT NOTES FROM ATHENS, CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA, By Thos. D. Burleigh	17
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GEORGIA BIRDS?	18
GENERAL NOTES: Long-eared Owl, White-throated Sparrows, and (Prairie) Horned Larks at Athens, 20; A Fall Specimen of the Black-poll Warbler from Augusta, 20; The Wilson's Warbler at Atlanta, 21; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Milledgeville in Winter, 21; The Mississippi Kite in Richmond County During 1943, 21; The Swallow-tailed Kite at Augusta, 22; Ring-billed Gull at Augusta, 22; A Probable Record of the Sage Thrasher in Georgia, 22; Warbler Caught in Soldier's Web, 23; A Nighthawk-Kingbird Incident, 23; Fall Notes from Atlanta, 24; Corrections, 25.	
NEWS AND COMMENTS	25
OBITUARY	27
G. O. S. SPRING MEETING	27
EDITORIAL	28

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PARADISE IN GEORGIA

By CLAIRE M. GORDON

I went to Paradise a day ago;
I walked a path with green pines on each side,
Myrtle Warblers flew about my head,
Great peace and beauty 'round me did abide.
A Titmouse, loud and clear as any boy,
Did whistle in a pine tree up so high,
A Marsh Hawk flew across the fen near by,
I knew, within my heart, the Lord was nigh.
The beauty of the red clay and the greens
Of pines and willow were before my eyes.
Dear God, I thank Thee for these gifts of Thine,
They make my world an earthly Paradise.

29 Walker Terrace, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

BIRD FRIENDS ENCOUNTERED IN THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, C. A.

By J. FRED DENTON

As the excitement of making my first trip to Honduras in Central America, died away, a feeling of forlornness and dejection at finding myself among strange people in an alien land settled over me. Lying half asleep in a hammock on the porch of the dwelling that was to be my home for three weeks, the only audible sound was the continuous chattering in Spanish, which I neither spoke nor understood, by a group of natives gathered under a palm near by. Suddenly I became aware of a familiar but unrecognized bird call. I arose from the hammock and looked in the direction from which the note came, and there, busily gathering tropical insects from the trunk of a small tree not six feet from the porch, was a Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). I watched him

intently as he systematically covered this tree and then flew to one in the corner of the yard. Already a feeling of elation at meeting this "friend" from home had enveloped me. From that moment I knew I was going to enjoy my stay in Honduras, for I realized that it was October, the month of migration, which would offer many opportunities for meeting other avian friends from home. Such proved to be the case, as evidenced by the account that follows.

Most of my observations were made in the immediate vicinity of Tela, a small port on the North (Caribbean) Coast, where I was located from October 1-21 (1943). From Tela I moved inland about sixty-five miles to the little village of La Lima where I remained for a week. Later (October 28-30), I made a trip by automobile from Tegucigalpa to Choluteca on the Pacific Coast. A few observations were made along the road and after arriving in Choluteca.

Following the order of the A.O.U. Checklist, Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus o. occidentalis*) were constant hunters of the beach at Tela. From 15 to 20 of these birds were observed daily as they fed in the edge of the surf or as they flew in characteristic line and V formations along the beach. Their tameness in letting people pass within a few yards of them while feeding was surprising.

On two occasions I witnessed the effortless soaring on apparently motionless wings of Man-o'-war birds (*Fregata magnificens*). One was at Tela on October 15, when three birds soared over the town for nearly an hour; the other at San Lorenzo, near Choluteca, where five birds were observed on October 30.

Five familiar species of the heron family were encountered during my visit in Honduras. Single American Egrets (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) were observed at Tela on October 9 and 12. This species also constituted a considerable part of a large flock of herons flushed from a lagoon at Choluteca on October 29. The Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) was less common than its larger cousin, being observed only once at Tela on October 12. The same day (October 12) two Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*) were detected perching motionless in low trees in a marsh near the town. The Little Blue Heron (*Florida c. caerulea*) was the commonest of the herons observed. Single birds were seen frequently along the river at Tela, while at Choluteca on October 29, a flock of at least 30 birds, mostly in immature plumage, were observed. A single Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) was noted stalking around in the grass beside the bridge at Tela on October 9.

Although several species of our ducks visit Honduras during the winter, only the Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*) was observed by me. I examined two birds which had just been killed by a native hunter at Choluteca on October 29.

The most conspicuous, if not the most abundant, bird in Honduras is the Black Vulture (*Coragyps a. atratus*). These birds were unusually common in towns where, without the slightest fear, they mingled with the children and dogs in the streets, pillaged the garbage cans, and robbed the chickens at feeding time. The large numbers of these birds lining the roofs of large building in Tegucigalpa was reminiscent of conditions in former days in some of our southern seaports. Turkey Vultures (a race of *Cathartes aura*) were less common, although a number of them roosted with Black Vultures in the coconut palms along the beach at Tela.

At La Lima Bobwhites (*Colinus sp.*) resembling our native species except for their smaller size and darker colouration were fairly common. There, as in the Southern United States, these birds are prized as game birds and are hunted frequently.

I was disappointed at finding shorebirds uncommon on the beach at Tela, where only a few individuals were seen. Single Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) were noted on the beach on October 7, and along a small creek near town on October 12. Along the beach a single Sanderling (*Crocethea alba*) was observed on October 1, and four birds on October 9. Two Wilson's Snipes (*Capella delicata*) were noted as they probed for earthworms in a wet meadow near Tela on October 12.

Ruddy Ground Doves (*Chaemepelia rufipennis*) with habits similar to those of our native species were very common about the gardens and streets of Tela. These tame little doves were common in and around La Lima also. Large flocks of Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) flushed from the road and bordering trees as we drove along the Pan-American Highway near Choluteca. Some of these flocks were estimated to contain more than 1000 birds.

Woodpeckers seemed uncommon in the lowlands bordering on the north coast of Honduras. At Tela I made the acquaintance of one small species (*Centurus rubricapillus*) whose habits plus its bright red cap and black and white barred back suggested its close relation to our common Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Flycatchers constitute a large element of the native Honduran bird fauna. In the fall it is supplemented by many North American species which pass through in migration or remain to winter. Being unfamiliar with the native species as well as those from Western North America, the writer was perplexed by the many species observed and could identify only a few with certainty. An Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was observed at Tela on October 7, perched atop a wire fence in its characteristic manner. Frequently at Tela, Wood Pewees (*Myiochanes sp.*) were heard and seen giving their familiar call. Along the road from Tegucigalpa to Choluteca numerous Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*)

were observed. Birds singly or in groups of three or four were passed every few hundred yards as they perched on the telegraph wires or in dead trees. In the marshes near Choluteca several flocks of more than 50 birds were observed.

The only familiar Swallows were large flocks of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythogaster*) which were feeding over Choluteca and the surrounding plains on October 29.

More North American Warblers were seen than members of any other family. These birds, encountered only at Tela, seemed to be migrating through a narrow area bordering the Caribbean Coast. Black and White Warblers, mentioned above, were observed several times during the three weeks period. Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica aestiva*) which were so numerous at times as to fill the trees and shrubs all over town, were noted continuously from October 1-15. On October 19, an exhausted Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) was found crouching at the base of a palm on the beach. This bird, which was quite emaciated, died while being carried to the house. On the afternoon of my arrival at Tela, a Yellow-throated Warbler (presumably *Dendroica dominica*) was observed in a tree in our front yard; no others were seen. Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) made their appearance on October 9, when a bird was seen walking around under the shrubbery in the front yard. On October 12, three of these birds were observed among the bamboo bordering the golf course. In their preferred haunt along a small creek, five Northern Water-thrushes (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) were found on October 12. Yellow-throats (*Geothlypis trichas*), first noted on October 12, increased in number until on October 16 they seemed to be everywhere. When I left Tela, they were still present in considerable numbers. On October 12 three Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria v. virens*) by means of their eccentric notes made known their presence in a thicket near town. Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*), one of the first birds to appear in our yard, were noted throughout my first two weeks at Tela. On October 8 as many as 10 of these beautiful little birds were noted feeding in the yard at one time.

The Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) is a regular migrant and winter resident in Honduras. This bird was already common at Tela when I arrived, and was still common when I left. This bird, at home among the coconut palms, was in striking contrast to the habitats one knows it in in the United States. The Great-tailed Grackle (*Cassidix m. mexicanus*), a Texas acquaintance of mine, was abundant in all of the towns visited. Flocks of these quite fearless birds were characteristic inhabitants of the lawns and gardens. At Tela they were partial to the seashore, where they fed among the litter washed up by the tide.

I probably would have encountered other bird "friends" from home had there been more time and opportunity for more extensive observations.

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RECENT NOTES FROM ATHENS, CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

By THOS. D. BURLEIGH

From July 21 through August 17, 1943, I had the opportunity to carry on a limited amount of field work about Athens, and it was of interest to me then to note what little effect unusually hot weather was having on the normal southward movement of the earlier migrants. Almost without exception the days were clear and hot, with the temperature in the nineties, and a humidity that was unique in so far as my experience with this part of the state was concerned. It was the sort of weather when one would anticipate little movement among the birds, and yet each day brought its changes. By the last of July the Yellow Warblers and Orchard Orioles were gone from the Sandy Creek bottoms, and migrants from the north were appearing in increasing numbers in the thickets and scattered stretches of woods. The following brief notes concern those species observed at this time, whose occurrence is of sufficient interest to warrant comment.

Coccyzus americanus americanus, Yellow-billed Cuckoo—A rather late breeding record is that of a nest found August 9, that held two slightly incubated eggs. It was eight feet from the ground in a crotch of a small water oak in underbrush fringing the Oconee River, and was the usual shabby structure of dead twigs and fragments of leaves.

Empidonax virens, Acadian Flycatcher—On August 16 and 17 there was a perceptible southward movement of small flycatchers that was apparently limited to this one species. Individuals were frequently noted in open dry woods where Acadian Flycatchers never occur in the breeding season, and as there was obviously a question as to their identity an occasional specimen was taken. Without exception they proved to be *virens*, although it must be confessed that an occasional bird was suspected of being *traillii*, until it was in the hand.

Dendroica cerulea, Cerulean Warbler—First observed on July 31, a single bird in immature plumage being seen feeding with other warblers. Although I have recorded this species here as early as July 28 (1939) it normally does not appear until after the first week in August.

Dendroica fusca, Blackburnian Warbler—Two individuals, both in immature plumage, were seen August 15. In 1939 this species was first noted here on August 4, but otherwise it has not been observed earlier than August 31.

Dendroica pensylvanica, Chestnut-sided Warbler—One bird in immature plumage seen August 15 represents the average date of arrival of the Chestnut-sided Warbler here in the fall.

Wilsonia citrina, Hooded Warbler—To my mind the Hooded Warbler is unique among all other warblers because of its persistent singing during the summer months. Once the breeding season is over the average bird becomes silent, and for an interval at least is silent and only infrequently seen. Such is emphatically not the case with the Hooded Warbler. After the first of August, when the intense heat had apparently subdued even such irrepressible birds as the Red-eyed Vireo, male Hooded Warblers were frequently heard singing throughout the day. One that was collected on August 8 was in moult, and rather ragged in appearance, but its song was as unrestrained and vigorous as during the spring months.

Wilsonia canadensis, Canada Warbler—A female taken August 16 is my earliest record by two weeks for the occurrence of this species at Athens in the fall, my earliest previous record being September 1 (1929). It was noted again the following day, a male in immature plumage being seen feeding with other warblers.

Setophaga ruticilla, American Redstart—Although this species has been recorded here in the fall migration as early as July 18 (1926) it is the first of August before it is usually of more than casual occurrence. This past hot summer, however, it was plentiful almost at once, and was one of the warblers most frequently observed in late July. Its relative abundance is indicated by the fact that five were seen on July 26 during the course of an hour spent at the edge of the Sandy Creek bottoms.—Fish and Wildlife Service, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GEORGIA BIRDS?

The following questions submitted by Eugene P. Odum are designed to interest the amateur student and beginner. Some of them can be answered, others cannot. In the latter case, the solution may be provided by some energetic beginner who keeps his eyes open. Readers are invited to send in their queries.—The Editor.

Which Woodpecker species damage trees? Of the six common woodpeckers of Georgia, only one, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, is known to damage living trees in any way. Other small black and white woodpeckers, especially the Downy, Hairy, and Red-bellied, are commonly called "Sapsuckers," but this is entirely false. These species do not dig holes for sap or girdle trees, although they have been known to feed at sap holes made by the real sapsucker. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is only a winter visitor in Georgia, sometimes damaging trees in the spring before migrating north. It is easily recognized by the large vertical white wing patch (the Downy and the Hairy have a white stripe down middle of back); a closer view will show characteristic red and black head pattern, as well as yellowish underparts.

Which Warblers winter in Georgia? Since most members of the second largest family of small birds (finch family the largest) return to their

ancestral tropical home for the winter, warbler identification in winter is greatly simplified for the beginner. Only three species winter commonly in the state, the Myrtle, the Pine, and the Palm Warblers (it is safer for the beginner not to attempt to distinguish between the two sub-species, the Yellow Palm and the Western Palm). All three species are relatively dull colored and variable in winter, but each has very characteristic field marks and notes (see Peterson's *Field Guide*). In extreme south or coastal Georgia, several other warblers (Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated, Black-and-White, possibly others) apparently winter in small numbers.

How many broods does the Starling raise? Dr. Hicks finds that contrary to the general impression, the Starling in Ohio raises only one brood per year. Is this also true for Georgia? We can not answer this question.

In how many of Georgia's 150 odd counties does the White-breasted Nuthatch nest? This is another question which cannot be answered satisfactorily. As pointed out in the December 1942, *Oriole*, the distribution of this species in the state seems unexplainedly spotty. The bird breeds in a number of North Georgia counties and again in some South Georgia localities, with many gaps in between. Does it nest in your county?

Does the Cowbird breed in Georgia? Thomas Burleigh tells us that there is some evidence to indicate that Cowbirds may deposit eggs in other birds' nests during migration, thus leaving the foster parents to raise the young Cowbirds, whose mother might be several hundreds miles north in the regular summer range of the species (which does not include Georgia). Burleigh has found eggs and young in North Carolina where adults are not known in summer. If this "breeding during migration" turns out to be the case, it will be something new in ornithology. Georgia students should be on the lookout for Cowbird eggs in other species' nests, especially the Vireos, which are favorite hosts.

Can the economic value of Georgia birds be estimated? Probably the greatest value of birds, the esthetic value, cannot be expressed in dollars and cents, but an estimate of strictly economic value can be made, especially if we knew more accurately how many birds we have (here is where census studies come in). Dr. McAtee has estimated that birds on the average have a net value of at least 10c each per year to the farmer. If there are 5 birds per acre on the average (this is a rough guess), there are approximately 180 million birds on Georgia's 38 million acres, which would be worth 18 million dollars annually. In addition, game birds are probably worth at least a dollar each (probably more, considering the large sport and sporting goods industry) which would add several million dollars more. There is no doubt that birds are worth conserving as a natural resource!

Does the Tufted Titmouse remain mated the year round? Most passerine birds mate only for the nesting season, but Titmice are often observed

in pairs throughout the year. Only by marking can we be sure that pairs stay together from one breeding season to the next. Titmice are relatively easy to band since they come readily to feeding stations and commonly nest in bird boxes.

Is the Wood Duck increasing in Georgia? This bird is still all too infrequently seen in many parts of the state, despite the fact that the species over the country has increased. The use of artificial nesting boxes has been very successful in Illinois and other places; this might help in Georgia, even though natural cavities would seem to be more available here. Does this beautiful duck breed in your region?

GENERAL NOTES

LONG-EARED OWL, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, AND PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS AT ATHENS.—On November 21, 1943, in a honeysuckle-covered thicket growing on the bottom of a gully, Dr. Spencer Brown and I flushed a dark-colored, medium-sized owl which alighted again only a short distance away in full view. The very long ear tufts placed towards the center of the small-appearing head, the bright yellow eyes, and the vertically streaked underparts were immediately discernible. The owl was reluctant to leave the gully so we were able to chase it back and forth several times, getting an accurate idea of its size, which was much too small (appearing about the size of a crow) to be a Great Horned Owl; there could be no doubt that our species was a Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*). This seems to be a first record for Athens, since Burleigh did not record it during his extensive observations here. The Long-eared Owl is fairly well known on its northern breeding grounds but is rarely seen in the South. This is understandable since it winters over a wide area, is strictly nocturnal, and apparently does not make any noise in winter.

White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) are in the habit of appearing here in the fall, and apparently moving elsewhere for winter—at least we have not found them so far in winter. This year White-crowns were first noted on November 13, by George Petrides, National Park Ornithologist, stationed at the Navy Pre-Flight school here.

Horned Larks (presumably *Otocoris alpestris praticola*) have been common so far this fall, first being noted flying over the campus on November 14.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia*.

A FALL SPECIMEN OF THE BLACK-POLL WARBLER FROM AUGUSTA.—Fall records of the occurrence of the Black-poll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) in the interior of Georgia are exceedingly rare. Apparently the only au-

thentic records are those of two specimens collected at Athens and reported by Burleigh (1938). The writer wishes to report a third specimen collected at Augusta on October 10, 1942. The bird, a female, was feeding alone in a wooded lot at the edge of the city when discovered. She was rather unsuspecting and continued feeding in spite of the close approach of the observer. While feeding about the trees, her movements were quite deliberate. Frequently she "flipped" her tail in a characteristic manner, somewhat resembling that of the Palm Warbler, though it was a slower and less vigorous flipping.

The writer is indebted to Thomas D. Burleigh for identification of this specimen.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

THE WILSON'S WARBLER AT ATLANTA.—Early on the morning of May 26, 1943, I observed a Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*) while it fed in my backyard and the immediate vicinity. The bird, though not particularly shy, seemed to prefer the tops of the trees. Several times it sang, its song being a loud, clear *wee-chee-chee-chee-chee*, rising toward the middle. The bird also gave a *chuck* similar to the note of the Hooded Warbler.

Again on September 18, 1943, a Wilson's Warbler was observed by John Outler and the writer in lower Piedmont Park. This bird was attracted by scolding to within six feet of us. We especially noted the black cap and the absence of any white in the tail.

Griffin (1941, *Oriole* 6:23) lists only two records for the occurrence of this bird in the Atlanta area, September 20, 1930, and April 26, 1940. It is probable that this warbler is not so rare here as it seems.—DAVID JOHNSTON, 1037 *St. Charles Ave., Atlanta, Georgia*.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER AT MILLEDGEVILLE IN WINTER.—On December 31, 1942, Miss Mabel Rogers and I observed a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, (*Polioptila c. caerulea*) at Milledgeville. The bird permitted a very good view of itself for quite a little time so we were certain of its identity. Although Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers winter in small numbers in Southeastern Georgia, it is very unusual to see one here at this season of the year.—MARY BURNS, *Milledgeville, Georgia*.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE IN RICHMOND COUNTY DURING 1943.—Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) which for many years have inhabited the Savannah River Valley a few miles south of Augusta returned again this summer. The first kite was noted by Thomas and C. Belger on May 20. In the same vicinity in which this bird was seen Denton and M. Robinow noted four birds on May 23. The kites continued to increase in number during the next four days until on May 27, twenty-five birds were seen by Thomas, Belger, and Evans. These birds had congregated at a large hay field adjoining the river over which they soared and circled, frequently diving for grasshoppers. This was indeed a rare scene of grace and beauty to thrill any bird lover's heart.

During the next week the birds dwindled in number, either migrating to other areas or pairing off to nest in the adjacent cypress swamps. No birds were seen after the first week in June, though they were looked for on several occasions, until September 22, when two birds were noted by Thomas. This was the last date on which Kites were observed. It is probable that some of the birds nested in this general area but because of the tire and gasoline shortage no intense search for nests could be made.—BILL THOMAS AND J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

THE SWALLOW-TAILED KITE AT AUGUSTA.—On May 26, 1943, a single Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus forficatus*) was observed circling over the Savannah River Valley in company with Mississippi Kites (see separate note). The following day the writer, accompanied by C. Belger and S. Evans, returned to the vicinity and again noted the bird. The next day the area was visited again with Dr. J. Fred Denton but this Kite could not be found, nor was it noted on any subsequent date. This is the first time the Swallow-tailed Kite has been observed in the Augusta area since two birds were seen by Murphy (*Oriole* 3:36) on July 19, 1938.—BILL THOMAS, 2131 McDowell St., *Augusta, Georgia*.

RING-BILLED GULL AT AUGUSTA.—A single Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*) in adult plumage was seen by the writer on April 25, 1943. When first noted, this bird was resting on a small mud mound which protruded from the water in a partly filled clay-pit. By using a steam shovel as a blind the writer was able to approach within 25 yards of the bird and study it carefully before it was purposely flushed to permit a view in flight.

This constitutes the second record for the occurrence of this gull in the Augusta area, the only other record being that of a bird collected by Murphy (*Oriole* 3:18) on April 9, 1938.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

A PROBABLE RECORD OF THE SAGE THRASHER IN GEORGIA.—While looking over some old field notes I discovered the following notation: "Cochran, Georgia, January 12, 1934, Mockingbird-Thrasher Hybrid. Bird observed at 8 feet on dead tree bordering limesink pond—possessed orange-yellow eye like Thrasher, bill slightly longer than in Mockingbird, top and sides of head darker than in Mockingbird, breast streaked as in Thrasher, less white in wings and tail than in Mockingbird, although there was a definite white spot in wings and some white in tail—"

At the time this observation was made, the writer's ornithological knowledge was very limited. For the want of a better interpretation of the facts observed, the bird was recorded as a Mockingbird-Thrasher Hybrid. However, since hybridization between the Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher is not known to occur, a more likely interpretation has been arrived at. It seems probable from the brief description above that

the bird observed was a Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), a bird which has been recorded several times from the Atlantic Seaboard. Members of the C. O. S. should be on the lookout for this bird so it can definitely be added to the state list.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

WARBLER CAUGHT IN SPIDER'S WEB.—On August 29, 1943, the writers were observing a flock of warblers feeding in the trees bordering a railroad cut through a swamp near Augusta. The attention of one of us was attracted to a seemingly lifeless bird hanging by its feet among the branches of a tulip tree. On closer approach by us the bird began to flutter and struggle, and it was evident that its feet had become entangled in the web of a large spider. While the observers moved about trying to get a better view of it and debating how to free it, the bird continued to struggle. Finally, at the close approach of one of us, the bird made an ultimate effort to free itself and was successful. It flew away into the swamp, apparently no worse for the experience. The bird, as best we could determine, was a Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana*) in immature plumage.

In tropical countries it is not unusual for small birds to become entangled in spiders' webs. However, in North America there are few spiders which spin webs sufficiently strong to hold even our smallest birds. Incidents of this kind must be very rare, but the writers wonder if they may not occur more frequently than have been observed. It is interesting to speculate also as to whether the bird could have freed itself without the extra strength resulting from fear at our close approach.—J. FRED DENTON AND TOM HALL, *Augusta, Georgia*.

A NIGHTHAWK-KINGBIRD INCIDENT.—Sunset of the afternoon of May 29, 1943, caught the writer crossing a sandy hillside devoid of vegetation except for a few scattered bunches of grass and a lone persimmon tree which stood near the center of it. Suddenly a female Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor chapmani*) flushed almost from beneath my feet and fluttered along the ground feigning injury in order to attract my attention. As the Nighthawk fluttered along approximately 10 yards ahead of me a Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*), which had been perching quietly in the top of the persimmon tree, suddenly attacked it. The Nighthawk took to flight, circled the hillside at a radius of about 150 yards, and returned to settle on the ground approximately 10 yards in front of me and resumed its injury feigning. The Kingbird, which in the meantime had returned to its perch in the top of the persimmon tree, again dived to attack the Nighthawk. A second time the Nighthawk took to flight, circled the hillside, and then settled to the ground 25 yards in front of me to continue its acting. Still a third time the Kingbird, which had returned to its lookout, attacked, and the Nighthawk was forced to flee. This time it circled the hillside three times before again returning to attempt to distract my attention. As it was getting dark, I departed for home, leaving

the Nighthawk crouched on the ground and the Kingbird perched atop his tree. The Nighthawk had led me approximately 100 yards from the place where it first flushed.

Such injury feigning by nesting Nighthawks as well as other birds has been noted many times. Ornithologists in an attempt to explain such behavior have become involved in a controversy as to whether it is a purposeful act on the part of the bird to lure the intruder from its nest or a spontaneous emotional reaction resulting from fear. The fact that this Nighthawk returned three times to perform its injury feigning act after being driven away by the Kingbird seems to indicate that at least in this case it was a purposeful attempt to decoy rather than just an emotional reaction.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

FALL NOTES FROM ATLANTA.—Conditions this fall were most unusual, the weather being warm and dry. Severe freezing conditions prevailed several times, but the weather usually turned warm immediately. As a result many birds arrived early and others remained longer than usual.

The lingering records are listed here; the first number indicates the number of birds seen while the second number represents the number of days late according to Griffin (*Oriole*, 6:18, 1941).—Wilson's Warbler (Outler, J., Johnston), September 18 (1, fourth regional record); Worm-eating Warbler (Outler), September 21 (1, 1); Blue-winged Warbler (Outler, Johnston), September 24 (1, 17); Blue Grosbeak (Johnston), September 28 (1, 12); Little Blue Heron (Outler), October 2 (1, 1); Golden-winged Warbler (Outler), October 9 (1, 8); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Howe), October 10 (1, 7); Nighthawk (Howe), October 10 (1, 1); Black and White Warbler (Johnston), October 10 (1, 1); Red-eyed Vireo (Outler, Howe, Johnston), October 16 (1, 4); Wood Pewee (Johnston), October 23 (1, 1); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Outler), October 30 (1, 10). A Blue-winged Teal (probably the same one) has lingered at Candler's Lake since October 16; the bird was last seen on November 27 indicating that the bird may remain for some time.

Early fall dates are as follows with the number of birds followed by the number of days early (Griffin): Marsh Hawk (Dorsey), July 22 (1, 31); Coot (Johnston), September 18 (1, 25); House Wren (Outler, Green), October 3 (1, 4); White-throated Sparrow (Johnston), October 5 (1, 7); Swamp Sparrow (Outler, Johnston), October 9 (1, 6); Baldpate (Johnston), October 14 (this date represents the second fall record and the bird has lingered on Piedmont Park Lake, last seen on November 30); Herring Gull (Johnston), October 27 (1, 14); Golden-eye (Johnston), November 23 (1, 3); Pine Siskin (Howe), November 22 (1, 29) (large flocks were seen on the 27th); Red-breasted Nuthatch (Johnston), November 27 (2, twelfth regional record).—DAVID JOHNSTON, 1037 St. Charles Ave., *Atlanta, Georgia*.

CORRECTION: In my recent article entitled "Notes on the Birds of Americus, Sumter County, Georgia—Part 1," *The Oriole*, 7:29-31, there appeared an error which I wish to correct. On page 30, lines 22 and 23 should read, "Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Centurus carolinus*—P. R. Abundant both in the city and in the creek bottoms." Omitted entirely was part of the next two lines which should read, "Red-headed Woodpecker, *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*—P. R. Abundant. Most conspicuous bird in Americus."—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

CORRECTION: In my paper on "Some Possible Range Extensions in North Georgia" in *The Oriole* 8:6-8, the lowest altitude for the Ovenbird was given as 2200 feet. This should be 1000 or lower, as Ovenbird breeds at least as far down as Atlanta.—E. P. ODUM, *Athens, Georgia*

NEWS AND COMMENTS

The following G. O. S. members have been appointed regional vice-presidents, and typewritten instructions have been sent out to them by the president: Atlanta, Mr. Thomas Davis; Augusta, Dr. J. Fred Denton; Dalton, Mrs. R. E. Hamilton; Milledgeville, Miss Mary Burns; Statesboro, Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach; Savannah, Miss Annie Reddy; Valdosta, Dr. Beatrice Nevins.

* * *

Members should begin thinking about a spring meeting which is being tentatively planned for next April. The Atlanta Bird Club has invited the Society to meet there, and this seems most logical at the present time. Any suggestions should be sent to Mrs. Lucile Rotchford, 111 Jackson Street, Milledgeville, who, as first vice-president, will be in charge of arrangements, if it is possible to hold a meeting.

* * *

Opportunities for taking Christmas censuses probably will be reduced this year, but it is hoped that all who can will take a day off to make an official count. Much of the value of these annual counts is lost if they are not repeated each year, since year-to-year comparisons are most interesting. Rules are similar to those of former years (see Sept.-Oct. *Audubon Magazine*), and counts must be made between December 19-26, inclusive, to be eligible for publication in *Audubon Magazine*. The *Oriole*, however, will be interested in censuses taken at any time.

* * *

"Valley of the Birds" is the title of an interesting article by Mrs. Sara Menaboni appearing in the July-August issue of *Audubon Magazine*. In this article Mrs. Menaboni reveals in a charming manner her personal experiences in converting seven acres of North Georgia landscape into a bird sanctuary. Possibly there are members of the G. O. S. who have had similar experiences which, if shared with others, would be enjoyed and appreciated as much as that of Mrs. Menaboni.

Attention is called to another account entitled "Hospital Sanctuary" by Lt. Louis C. Fink, appearing in the May-June *Audubon Magazine* which describes how interest in birds was aroused among patients and staff of the Oliver General Hospital in Augusta. Lt. Fink has become a member of the G. O. S. and is anxious to become better acquainted with Georgia birds and bird students.

* * *

Another ornithologist whom the war has brought to Georgia is Ens. George A. Petrides, formerly of the National Park Service in Washington. Ens. Petrides studied at Cornell and has published many papers in ornithology and wildlife management (see July-August *Audubon Magazine* for example). He is now located at the University of Georgia Pre-Flight School where he makes use of his woodcraft knowledge in teaching aviation cadets how to live in woods and jungles should they be forced down during combat.

* * *

The first item in the July 1943, issue of *Ebba Nus*, the monthly news sheet of the Eastern Bird Banding Association, is entitled, "Banding in Georgia." This account concerns the activities of Raymond J. Fleetwood who, from July 1, 1942 to July 1, 1943, banded 4,850 birds, of which 4,320 were Chimney Swifts. We hope that Mr. Fleetwood will be as successful with his banding during the next year period.

* * *

In addition to Lt. Louis C. Fink mentioned above, the following became members of the G. O. S. during 1943:

Mr. Jack Barrett, Athens, Ga.

Mr. Thomas F. Davis, Jr., 109 7th St., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Willard Gaulding, Jr., 1002 N. College Ave., Tifton, Ga.

Mr. Edward H. Moeran, 541 Bronx River Road, Yonkers, N. Y.

Mr. Henry M. Stevenson, Jr., University, Miss.

Dr. Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, 1416 Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.

Mr. Roy Ward, Watkinsville, Ga.

The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.

The Society welcomes these new members and encourages those who can to participate actively in the endeavors of the Society.

* * *

The article on "Technics in Life History Study" by Eugene P. Odum which appeared in the September 1941, *Oriole* has been reprinted with some additions and corrections in the *Jack-Pine Warbler*, official organ of the Michigan Audubon Society. Reprints of the paper bound in an attractive cover may be obtained from the author (Dept. of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens) at the cost of 10c.

The treasurer has 50 or more copies of *The Birds of Athens, Clarke County, Georgia* by Thomas D. Burleigh of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This valuable bulletin, representing about fifteen years of observation while Mr. Burleigh lived in Athens, is the only published record giving reliable data on birds in the general area of Clarke County. It should be in the hands of all interested observers and bird students in Georgia. The bulletin (Occ. Paper No. 1, G. O. S., 35 pp.), as long as the supply lasts, can be obtained from the treasurer at a cost of 50c.

G. O. S. SPRING MEETING

The Spring Meeting of the G. O. S. will be held in Atlanta on the dates of April 29-30, 1944—Saturday and Sunday. This is good news. The meeting will be in the nature of a joint undertaking of the Atlanta Bird Club and the G. O. S.

Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Manager of Southern Sanctuaries of The National Association of Audubon Societies, will be the main speaker at the Saturday evening dinner meeting. It is hoped that we can have several more notable speakers for the meeting and the time will be just right for a field trip on Sunday morning. Make a point of assembling your field notes for a round table talk on interesting experiences.

Let every club and every locality in the state be sure to send one or several delegates and an interesting report of its activities. Plan now to attend.

OBITUARY

George Seth Guion, a member of the G. O. S. since 1937, died in his home city of New Orleans in July, 1943, and was interred in Metairie Cemetery there. Mr. Guion, a lawyer by profession, was for many years an ardent bird-lover and active conservationist. The G. O. S. greatly regrets the loss of this loyal member.

EDITORIAL

With the publication of this issue of *The Oriole* your new editor makes his debut. After looking it through, you probably exclaimed, "Well!" or some similar prolation. If any displeasure is felt at the editor's usurping so much of the journal, don't blame him—make an effort to prevent its happening again. One certain way to accomplish this is to supply him with sufficient material for publication. Your editor accepted this responsibility for the duration, with the promise that he would keep *The Oriole* going. If he is to keep that promise, he must have the assistance and cooperation of the whole Society.

It has been the aim, from the beginning, of those responsible for the publication of *The Oriole* that it be a journal of the Society and not of a chosen few with a willingness to supply material for its pages. That this aim has not been realized is no fault of theirs. The fault lies with those members of the Society who have failed to avail themselves of the privilege of making the journal theirs.

For those that are mercenary minded, it costs approximately two dollars and fifty cents to print a page of *The Oriole*. When you subscribe to the G. O. S., you buy one or more pages in the journal. Had those of you who never used these pages realized that some one else was appropriating what was rightfully yours?

Some of you may feel that because you aren't accomplished ornithologists you have nothing to contribute—but is this true? The opinion has been repeatedly voiced that more space in *The Oriole* be devoted to non-technical material. What about those observations and experiences which thrilled you so, but which you felt weren't worth reporting because they were not "scientific?" Why not send in accounts of these interesting experiences so they can be enjoyed by other members of the G. O. S.?

The editor expresses his appreciation to those who contributed material for this issue of *The Oriole*.