

THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. IX, NOS. 3-4

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER, 1944

THE ORIOLE

Editor—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Ga.
Business Manager—RALPH RAMSEY, JR., 1573 N. Decatur Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
Treasurer—RAY C. WERNER, 958 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:

Associate	{	\$1.00; Regular, \$2.00; Sustaining, \$5.00; Life, \$25.00
Library		
Out-of-State		

CONTENTS

GEORGIA'S FIRST BIRD CLUB, By Earle R. Greene	23
D. C. PEACOCK—PIONEER IN FIELD WORK FOR G. O. S.— AN APPRECIATION, By George R. Mayfield	24
A REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN GEORGIA, By Branch Howe, Jr.	26
RECORDS WITH COMMENTS ON THE STATUS OF CERTAIN WARBLERS IN RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA, By J. Fred Denton	30
OBSERVATIONS AT A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER'S NEST, By Ray C. Werner	32
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GEORGIA BIRDS?	33
GENERAL NOTES: Summer Occurrence of the Oven-bird at Athens, 35; The Stilt Sandpiper at Augusta, 35; Least Bittern Breeding near At- lanta, 36; Royal Tern at Augusta, 36; The Mississippi Kite at Macon, 37; The Golden Eagle in Northeast Georgia, 37; The Lincoln's Sparrow at Augusta, 37; Chimney Swift Banded in Georgia Recovered in Pere, 38; Odd Mannerism of Indigo Bunting, 38; Notes from Richmond County, 38; The Golden-winged Warbler in Ocmulgee River Bottom, 39; The 1944 Fall Season at Augusta, 39; Summer and Fall Notes from Dalton and Whitfield County, 40; Correction, 41.	
NEWS AND COMMENTS	41
NEW LITERATURE	43

THE ORIOLE

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

Vol. IX September-December, 1944 Nos. 3 & 4

GEORGIA'S FIRST BIRD CLUB

By EARLE R. GREENE

This title might be changed to the "Awakening," as it was in 1899 that the writer first became aware that birds are classified and have really definite names, both scientific and common. Also, this may start an argument in regard to other early organizations of this type. If so, let's have it. Here's the story.

When I was a kid we were very fortunate to live in a home on the outskirts of Atlanta, with woods, fields, swamps, and farmlands near by, so that I became familiar with "mud thrushes," "wild canaries," "chimney swallows," "redbirds," "brown thrushes," Catbirds, "mockers," "jorees," and Redheaded Woodpeckers, and, of course, "jay-birds." I had, as most boys do have, the collecting spirit and soon filled our attic with birds' nests, bottled snakes, and various other natural history specimens, for all of which I had my own names or those garnered from other boys in the area.

In the early spring of 1899, Mrs. H. B. Wey, living on Forrest Avenue near Jackson Street, asked a number of young people and a few elders to come to her home and meet a Mrs. Van Wyck from Wisconsin, who knew about birds. Of course I was there on the dot. Mrs. Van Wyck asked a number of questions and stated that she was forming a bird study club which would meet once a week at her home on Jackson Street, and take one field trip a week, preferably on Saturday. I immediately joined and became one of twelve or fifteen members engaged in the most fascinating sport or hobby known—that of identifying birds in the field.

Mrs. Van Wyck taught us from Chapman's *Handbook*, the first edition, and although this volume looked formidable to me at that time, I was told that I would "grow into it," and subsequently received a copy on the following Christmas as a present from my mother and older brother.

During that memorable spring we were taken on a number of interesting trips—to Sisson on the Decatur carline, Lakewood, Grant Park, West View Cemetery, Ponce de Leon Springs, and many other "birdy" places. We made records of what we saw, and then on the following class night we went over our notes, learning families, species, etc. Ponce de Leon, one of

my favorite areas, was a wild, wooded place then, with two streams, a high hill, and a lake or pond where the ball park is today.

Only one event marred these wonderful days and that was the accidental death of Herbert Peters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Peters, living at the corner of Forrest Avenue and Jackson Street. Herbert was a school companion and great friend of mine, and his loss was greatly felt by the members of our little bird club.

After Mrs. Van Wyck left Atlanta, the organization ceased as such, but a few members continued in this most fascinating of all hobbies.

22 Virginia Court
New Orleans, La.

D. C. PEACOCK—PIONEER IN FIELD WORK FOR G. O. S.— AN APPRECIATION

BY GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

Dr. George R. Mayfield, of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, is a native and former resident of Georgia who has taken an active interest in the G. O. S. He is one of Tennessee's best known ornithologists, one of the founders of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and for the past few years an influential member of the Conservation Commission, that group of non-salaried, non-political men responsible for operation of the Department of Conservation of that state. Dr. Mayfield has one of the best ears for bird calls and songs of any field man in the country, and has repeatedly located rare birds by ear where other experts have failed by eye or gun.—Ed.

It was my privilege to teach in Peacock School for boys from 1900 to 1903, my first position as instructor after graduating from Emory College with the class of 1900. At that time D. C. Peacock, Headmaster, showed no interest in birds except as game and as means of training his bird dogs at Pavo, Georgia. Returning to Atlanta in the summer of 1914, I was delighted to find that we both were recent converts to the joys of field work in bird study. For the next twenty years people in Collier's Woods often saw with some degree of wonderment two strangely-acting men as they chased after unseen objects with their binoculars. It was here that I received new inspiration for continued efforts as Professor Peacock opened up new vistas and pointed out new bird calls in this once paradise for migrant species. His keenness of eyes and of ears, his patience and persistence and his following through on all doubtful recognitions were unsurpassed. But I could never prevail upon him to keep records of dates, places and species. Consequently he carried with him to the grave some of Georgia's most valuable data. And I trust every young (or old) bird student will take an object lesson in Professor Peacock's failure to make available his vast store of knowledge in bird migration.

On April 10, 1921 he wrote me:

"I thank you for your letter and for the page of N. Tennessean. I have read it with great interest. I see from the record that Georgia has a greater number of winter birds by the following: Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Palm Warbler, Yellow Palm W., Pine Warbler, Am. Gold Finch, Redwinged Blackbird, Md. Yellow Throat, Brownhead Nuthatch, American Pipit,—with possibly the Bachman's Sparrow and Piney Wood's Sparrow. Tennessee has the Horned Lark more commonly, but they have been seen here."*

Two more paragraphs are of interest to Georgia students:

"I have never seen the Wood Thrush here before April 10th. Your letter was dated April 7th and said, I think, that it had appeared there."

"We have never seen a Warbling Vireo in this State. I don't know whether you have it or not."

But my chief aim in writing this tribute was to tell of his discovery of the Cerulean Warbler in Collier's Woods in 1915. When he wrote me of this discovery I turned to that Bible of Warbler students, Chapman's *Handbook* on those challenging species. Surely Peacock was mistaken! But they were there singing in the tops of sycamores and sweetgums and other tall trees along the banks of a little stream near its confluence with Peachtree Creek. For I heard them with my ears and later saw them with my eyes as they bathed at midday in pools of cool clear water. Returning to Tennessee I amazed Ganier, Curtis, Webb and other field men by pointing out this species in many different wooded coves of Middle Tennessee. Two or more males proved the presence of Ceruleans by falling victims to Ganier's sure aim before he would believe my ears were true.

Professor Peacock taught me the call of the Yellow-throated Vireo and pointed out the difference between the songs of the Red-eyed Vireo and the Yellow-throat. On our first trip two years earlier, he introduced me to a White-eyed Vireo and his call note; also to the noisy Brown-headed Nuthatch, as well as many other species new to me.

It was a constant source of astonishment when he would recognize and name any given bird as soon as it opened its mouth whether it was a chip, a cheep, a chirp, a cluck or click or the "blurb" of a chat. He knew the walk, the flight, the wingbeat, the tailwag, the arrow-dart and the many other movements which characterize certain species. And his sense of color was equally effective in spotting a bird as it flashed by in forest or field. Since those early years I have taken many walks with the experts in field

*Footnote to letter. American Goldfinches and Red-winged Blackbirds, of course, are winter residents of Tennessee, but were not on the day's list I sent him in early 1921.

identification and I know of none superior to him in accuracy and swiftness of recognition.

In closing let me repeat what I said before: It is too bad that a man whose accurate and comprehensive knowledge of bird life in Georgia should have failed to keep written records during the busy years when he was making bird records almost every day during the season when both common and rare migrants were passing through. Georgia stands in need of many such enthusiastic students and especially of the records which they can contribute to the sum total of knowledge about birds in the Empire State of the South.

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

A REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN GEORGIA

By BRANCH HOWE, JR.

The Christmas Bird Count, known until 1941 as the Christmas Bird Census, sponsored by *Audubon Magazine*, has become one of the most popular field activities of bird students throughout Georgia. Started nationally in 1900 and in Georgia in 1903, Christmas Bird Counts have been taken in 19 Georgia localities in 33 years. A total of 169 species and approximately 300,283 individuals have been tabulated in the state on 99 counts by 177 observers.

The totals for Christmas Bird Counts in Georgia through 1943 are tabulated below. Following the year in which each count was taken, the first figure represents the number of species; the second figure the number of individuals. Averages are given for localities with five or more counts. Rules now allow only one count per year from any locality.

Counts which may have been taken in Georgia during the Christmas season but which were not published in *Audubon Magazine*, the source of the author's data, are not included in this review.

Atlanta (A)—1903: 30; 556. 1911: 42; 1250. 1912: 50; 1225. 1913: 51; 960. 1914: 59; 1387. 1915: 55; 906. 1916: 64; 1985. 1917: 32; 299. 1921: 43; 1105. 1923: 27; 117. 1926: 32; 152. 1927: 36; 171. 1927: 41; 1500. 1929: 17; 251. 1930: 38; 879. 1932: 67; 2920. 1933: 43; 1142. 1934: 45; 731. 1935: 51; 1180. 1936: 63; 1518. 1938: 62; 1845. 1939: 79; 6031. 1940: 74; 12236. 1941: 71; 9272. 1942: 58; 2460. 1943: 70; 14677. Av: 50; 2568.

Augusta (Au)—1943: 68; 1563.

Brunswick (B)—1930: 52; 389. 1931: 81; 1858. 1940: 60; 3859.

Camp Gordon, present site of Lawson General Hosp., DeKalb Co. (Ca.)—1917: 20; 230.

C. B. Pfeiffer Farm, Screven Co. (Cb.)—1940: 50; 610.

College Park (Co.)—1905: 25; 206. 1928: 44; 450. 1929: 34; 360. 1930: 38; 490.

1931: 42; 487. 1933: 54; 638. 1934: 48; 785. Av: 41; 488.

Dalton (D)—1942: 29; 3277. 1943: 47; 4842.

Fitzgerald (F)—1939: 62; 997. 1940: 58; 926. 1941: 66; 1314. 1942: 75; 726.

Lumber City (L)—1929: 50; 475.

Macon (Ma.)—1921: 31; 400. 1922: 30; 272. 1922: 28; 384. 1923: 33; 314. 1924: 33; 418. 1925: 33; 267. 1925: 29; 289. 1926: 33; 268. 1933: 41; 389. 1934: 46; 894. 1943: 55; 747. Av: 36; 422.

Mt. Berry (Mt.)—1938: 41; 359. 1939: 54; 913. 1940: 41; 1823. 1941: 49; 664. 1943: 40; 892. Av: 45; 930.

Okefinokee Swamp, area around Billy's Island (O)—1916: 49; 432. 1937: 37; 342.

Piedmont Nat'l. Wild Life Ref., Round Oak (P)—1939: 56; 1811. 1940: 61; 2368. 1941: 63; 2513. 1942: 64; 1262. 1943: 55; 813. Av: 60; 1753.

Savannah (Sa)—1913: 25; 865. 1914: 45; 861. 1924: 50; 1410. 1927: 48; 1210. 1929: 57; 4437. 1930: 47; 2230. 1931: 58; 5731. 1932: 86; 5344. 1933: 61; 2050. 1934: 63; 3822. 1935: 78; 4344. 1936: 50; 1586. 1938: 66; 3393. 1940: 65; 37963. 1941: 72; 47709. 1942: 61; 5464. 1943: 54; 2054. Av: 58; 7675.

Sherwood Plantation, Grady Co. (Sh)—1937: 64; 2103. 1938: 63; 1921. 1939: 57; 1303. 1940: 62; 1222. 1941: 60; 1096. 1942: 61; 1591. 1943: 58; 2279. Av: 61; 1645.

Sterling, Glynn Co. (St)—1918: 41; 493.

Tate (Ta)—1929: 29; 300. 1930: 27; 240.

Tifton (Ti)—1941: 52; 452. 1942: 64; 1936.

Vinings, Cobb Co. (V)—1934: 30; 403.

Species recorded on Christmas Bird Counts in Georgia through 1943, are listed below together with localities which are indicated by the abbreviations which follow them in parentheses in the preceding list. The members of the following list are divided into three groups: 1. Full species of regular or undoubted winter occurrence. 2. Specific records made by experienced observers of subspecies which are readily distinguishable in the field. These are indicated by indentation. 3. Species of casual, accidental, or hypothetical occurrence which together with the locality involved, are placed in bold-face.

Red-throated Loon. B.

Horned Grebe. Mt., P.

Pied-billed Grebe. A, Au, B, F, Ma, Mt,
O, P, Sa, Ti.

Brown Pelican. B.

Gannett. B, Sa.

Double-crested Cormorant. B, Mt., Sa.

Water-Turkey. O.

Great Blue Heron. A, Au, B, Cb, F, P,
Sa, Sh, Ti.

Ward's Heron. *Ardea herodias wardi*. O.

American Egret. B, O, Sa, Ti.

Snowy Egret. Sa.

Louisiana Heron. B, Sa.

Little Blue Heron. B, F, Sa, St, Ti.

Green Heron. A, Sa.

American Bittern. Au, Sa.

Canada Goose. A, B, Ma, Sa.

Mallard. A, Au, F, Ma, Mt., O, P, Sa, Sh.

Black Duck. A, Au, Ma, Mt., O, Sa.

Gadwall. Au, Sa.

Baldpate. A, Sa.

Pintail. A, O, P, Sa.

Green-winged Teal. Mt., O, Sa.

Blue-winged Teal. F, Sa, St.

Shoveller. Sa.

Wood Duck. B, F, O, P, Sa, Sh.

Redhead. A, Mt., Sa.

Ring-necked Duck. A, Au, Mt., Sa, Sh.
 Canvas-back. A, Sa.
 Greater Scaup. Sa.
 Lesser Scaup. A, Au, B, F, Mt., P, Sa, Ti.
 Bufflehead. A, F, Sa.
Old-Squaw. Sa.
 Ruddy Duck. P, Sa.
 Hooded Merganser. A, B, Mt., P, Sa.
 American Merganser. A, B, Sa.
 Red-breasted Merganser. B, Sa, Ti.
 Turkey Vulture. All except Ca.
 Black Vulture. All except Ca, D, O, V.
 Sharp-shinned Hawk. A, Cb, Co, F, Mt., P, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Cooper's Hawk. A, B, F, P, Sa, Sh, St, Ti.
 Red-tailed Hawk. A, Au, B, Cb, Co, F, Ma, Mt., P, Sa, Sh.
 Red-shouldered Hawk. All except Ca, Sc, St, Ta, Ti, V.
Broad-winged Hawk. A.
 Bald Eagle. B, Sa.
 Marsh Hawk. All except Ca, Co, L, O, Ta, V.
 Osprey. B, Ti.
 Duck Hawk. A, Sa.
 Sparrow Hawk. All except Ca, St, V.
 Bob-white. All except Ca, D, St, V.
 Turkey. Sa, Sh.
 Sandhill Crane. O.
 King Rail. B, Sa.
 Clapper Rail. B, Sa.
 Virginia Rail. B.
 Florida Gallinule. Sa.
 Coot. A, Sa.
 Oyster-catcher. B.
 Semipalmated Plover. B.
 Wilson's Plover. B.
 Killdeer. All except Ca, Sc, Ta.
 Black-bellied Plover. B, Sa.
 Ruddy Turnstone. B.
 Woodcock. A, F, Sa.
 Wilson's Snipe. A, B, Co, F, Ma, O, P, Sa, Ti.
 Spotted Sandpiper. B.
 Willet. B, Sa.
 Eastern Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*. B.
 Greater Yellow-legs. B, Sa.
 Least Sandpiper. B, Sa.
 Red-backed Sandpiper. B.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper. B, Sa.
 Western Sandpiper. B.
 Sanderling. B, Sa.
 Herring Gull. B, Sa.
 Ring-billed Gull. B, Sa.
 Laughing Gull. B, Sa.
 Bonaparte's Gull. B, Sa.
 Forster's Tern. B, Sa.
 Common Tern. B.
 Royal Tern. B.
 Caspian Tern. B, Sa.
 Black Skimmer. B, Sa.
 Mourning Dove. All except Ca, L.
 Ground Dove. B, Sa, St, Ti.
 Barn Owl. Sa.
 Screech Owl. A, Mt., P.
 Great Horned Owl. Ma, P, Sh.
 Barred Owl. B, F, Ma, O, Sa, Sh.
 Short-eared Owl. A.
 Belted Kingfisher. All except Ca, D, Sc, St, Ta, V.
 Flicker. All except Ca, St, V.
 Pileated Woodpecker. All except Ca, D, Sc, St, Ta, Ti, V.
 Red-bellied Woodpecker. All except Ca, Ta.
 Red-headed Woodpecker. All except Ca, L, O, Sc, St, Ti, V.
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. All except Ca, Ta, V.
 Hairy Woodpecker. All except B, Mt., St, V.
 Downy Woodpecker. All except O.
 Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Au, Cb, F, Mt., P, Sa, Sh, St.
 Phoebe. All except Ca.
 Horned Lark. A.
 Northern Horned Lark, *Otocoris alpestris alpestris*. A.
 Prairie Horned Lark, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. P.
 Tree Swallow. B, Sa.
 Blue Jay. All localities.
 Crow. All except L, O.
 Fish Crow. B, Sa, St.
 Carolina Chickadee. All except L.
 Tufted Titmouse. All except Ca, O, St.
 White-breasted Nuthatch. All except B, Ca, O, P, Sa, St, Ti.
 Red-breasted Nuthatch. A, Ma.
 Brown-headed Nuthatch. A, Cb, Co, F, Ma, Mt., O, P, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Brown Creeper. All except B, Ca, St.
 House Wren. A, B, Co, F, L, O, P, Sa, Sh, St, Ti.
 Winter Wren. A, Au, Co, F, L, Ma, P, Sa, Sh, Ta.
 Bewick's Wren. A, B, Cb, Co, D, F, P, Sa, V.
 Carolina Wren. All except Ca.
 Long-billed Marsh Wren. P, Sa.
 Worthington's Marsh Wren, *Telmato-dytes palustris griseus*. Sa.
 Short-billed Marsh Wren. A, F, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Mockingbird. All localities.
 Catbird. B, Co, F, Ma, O, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Brown Thrasher. All except Ca, V.
 Robin. All except Sc, Ta, V.
 Hermit Thrush. All except Ca, D.
Veery. Cb, Sa.
 Bluebird. All except Ta.
 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. Au, F, Sa, Ti.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. All except B, Ca, St.
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet. All localities.
 American Pipit. A, Au, B, Co, F, L, Ma, Mt., Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Cedar Waxwing. A, Au, Co, F, Ma, Mt., O, P, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Loggerhead Shrike. All except Ca, D, O, Ta, V.
 Starling. A, Au, Co, D, F, Ma, Mt., P, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 White-eyed Vireo. B, F, Sa, Sh.
 Blue-headed Vireo. A, Cb, D, F, L, Ma, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Black and White Warbler. F, L, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Orange-crowned Warbler. A, Au, Sa, Sh.
 Myrtle Warbler. All except Ta, V.
 Yellow-throated Warbler. B, F, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Pine Warbler. All except D, O, St, V.
 Palm Warbler. All except Ca, D, Mt., O, Sc, Ta, V.
 Western Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*. B, Co, Sh.
 Yellow Palm Warbler, *Denroica palmarum hypochrysea*. Ma, O, Sa, Sh.
Water-thrush. Sa.
 Yellow-throat. All except Ca, Co, Mt., Sc, Ta, V.
 English Sparrow. All except Ca, O, St, Ti, V.
 Meadowlark. All except Ta.
 Redwing. All except Ca, St, Ta, V.
 Rusty Blackbird. A, D, F, L, Ma, Mt., P, Sh.
Brewer's Blackbird. A.
 Boat-tailed Grackle. B, Sa, St.
 Grackle. All except Ca, L, Ma, Sc, Sh, Ta, V.
 Cowbird. A, Co, D, F, Mt, O, Ti.
 Cardinal. All localities.
 Purple Finch. A, Ca, Co, D, F, Ma, O, P, Sa.
 Pine Siskin. A, O.
 Goldfinch. All except Ca.
 Towhee. All localities.
 White-eyed Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus alleni*. B, Sa.
Ipswich Sparrow. Sa.
 Savannah Sparrow. A, Au, B, F, L, Ma, Mt, P, Sa, Sh, Ti.
 Grasshopper Sparrow. F, Sa, Ti.
Leconte's Sparrow. A, Sa.
 Henslow's Sparrow. A, Co, F, Ma.
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Sa.
 Nelson's Sparrow, *Ammodramis caudata nelsoni*. B.
 Seaside Sparrow. Sa.
 Vesper Sparrow. All except B, Ca, D, Mt., St, Ta, V.
 Bachman's Sparrow. Ma, P, Sh.
 Junco. All except B, O, St, Ti.
 Chipping Sparrow. All except D, O.
 Field Sparrow. All except Ca, St.
 White-throated Sparrow. All localities.
 Fox Sparrow. All except Ca, F, Mt., O, Ta, Ti.
Lincoln's Sparrow. Ti.
 Swamp Sparrow. All except L, Ta.
 Song Sparrow. All localities.

Total: 160 full species; 9 subspecies readily distinguished in the field; 9 species of casual, accidental, or hypothetical occurrence.

Thanks are due to Dr. Eugene P. Odum for his helpful suggestions in the preparation of this article and to Morton H. Perry, G. C. Lantrip, and T. F. Davis, Jr., for their help in the gathering of data.

414 West Ponce de Leon Avenue,
 Decatur, Georgia.

RECORDS WITH COMMENTS ON THE STATUS OF CERTAIN WARBLERS IN RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY J. FRED DENTON

Since arriving in Augusta, and particularly during the past summer and fall, the writer has devoted considerable time to a study of the warblers. The observations made thus far indicate that the status of several species in Richmond County is somewhat different from that recorded for them in the rather comprehensive work of Murphey (1937, *Contributions from Charleston Museum*, IX: 1-61) on the birds of the Savannah River Valley. Records of the species in question with such comments as seem warranted are presented in the following notes.

Observations, necessarily confined to the immediate vicinity of Augusta because of transportation difficulties, were made in three stretches of territory which seemed particularly suitable for warblers. These areas were: 1, King Woods, a stretch of mixed woods surrounding a branchhead on the slope of the "Hill" at the western edge of the city; 2, Phinizy Swamp, a gum-cypress swamp bordering the clay-pit area just south of the city; 3, the upper edge of the swamp bordering the Savannah River two miles southeast of the city.

Vermivora chrysoptera. Golden-winged Warbler. — This species was first recorded and an adult male collected when the bird made its appearance in Richmond County this fall on August 30 (1944). Following this initial record, the bird was observed on September 2 (one bird), September 3 (three birds), September 5 (one bird) and September 16 (one bird). All of the individuals, with the exception of one observed in King Woods on September 2, were encountered in stretches of second-growth thickets within the river swamp. On no occasion was more than one individual found attached to any single flock of birds.

Murphey (p. 43) reported the bird as "Rare" in the Augusta area and gave only one record, April 28, for its occurrence in Richmond County. The above records establish this bird as a fall migrant in this county and suggest that it may be a far more common transient than supposed.

Vermivora pinus. Blue-winged Warbler. — The writer observed this species for the first time in the river swamp on September 3, 1944, when a bird in immature plumage was seen. During the afternoon of the same day Bill Thomas observed an adult in King Woods. Other occasions during the fall on which the species was noted were September 5, when an immature male was collected, September 16 (one bird) and September 26 (one bird). The Blue-winged Warbler was found frequenting the same habitats, and on three occasions occurred in the same flocks as the Golden-winged Warbler.

Murphey (p. 42) also reported this species as "Rare" in the Augusta area and gave only two records, both of them in the spring, of its occurrence. The records cited establish the Blue-winged Warbler as a fall migrant in Richmond County and suggest that it, like the Golden-winged

Warbler, may be more common than available records indicate.

Dendroica virens virens. Black-throated Green Warblers. — Murphey (pp. 44-45) recorded this species as "Rare" in the Augusta area. He gave no definite record of its occurrence in Richmond County although he mentioned certain possible sight records, some of which may have been in this county. Three definite records of the Black-throated Green Warbler in Richmond County are now available.

Late in the afternoon of April 6, 1943, Bill Thomas observed a male in full song in an elm in the yard of his home in the "Hill" section of Augusta. The next morning the same bird or another was observed by him in that neighborhood. On May 7, 1944, the writer observed a male with other warblers in Phinizy Swamp. Then on September 28, 1944, the writer collected an immature male in King Woods. It is the writer's opinion that this species is a scarce but regular migrant in Richmond County both in the spring and in the fall.

Dendroica cerulea. Cerulean Warbler. — A female of this species was collected on September 16, 1944, in the river swamp. The bird, contrary to its usual habits of remaining in the tops of the higher trees, was feeding with other warblers in a dense second-growth thicket consisting mainly of maple and sycamore saplings, the tallest of which were only 10 feet high. This constitutes the first record for Richmond County and the first specimen from the Augusta area. (see Murphey p. 45).

Dendroica striata. Black-poll Warbler. — Although an abundant migrant in the spring in Richmond County, the status of this species in fall is uncertain. A single bird was observed and collected (*Oriole* 8: 20-21) in the fall of 1942. During the fall of 1943 when this species would have been expected to pass through, no observations were made as the writer was away from Augusta. This fall the Black-poll was first noted in King Woods on September 23 (1944), when a male was collected. Again on September 28, in the same vicinity, two birds of this species were observed at close range and definitely identified. Several birds which were thought to be of this species were observed during October after the arrival of the Bay-breasted Warbler. It is probable that further collecting will prove the Black-poll Warbler to be a scarce but regular migrant in Richmond County in the fall.

Wilsonia canadensis. Canada Warbler. — Although the writer has never collected this species in Richmond County, he has observed it on two occasions at close range, too close to collect. A male was observed in Phinizy Swamp on May 7, 1944, and a bird in immature plumage in King Wood on August 19, 1944. Both birds were encountered in dense second-growth thickets within larger stretches of woods.

Murphey (p. 49) recorded this species as "Casual" in the Augusta area and gave a single record, May 8, 1925, for Richmond County. It is probable that further observation will establish this species as a scarce but regular migrant in Richmond County.

1314 Meigs Street
Augusta, Georgia

OBSERVATIONS AT A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER'S NEST

By RAY C. WERNER

A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*) was seen and heard during the week of June 24, 1944, excavating a large hole in a diseased white oak tree beside the drive at our home in Atlanta. The tree is about 35 feet high, the top having been cut off. The nesting hole was about five feet down from the sawed-off top facing south. It was approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 inches long by 2 inches wide, being roughly elliptical.

The birds (male and female) worked regularly on June 25 and 26 and a great quantity of fine material was thrown out, seemingly a beakful at a time. Though the tree was alive and had leaves all around the top, the chips were cork-like and soft. The pieces, which were mostly from 1/16 to 3/16 inches long, almost covered the ground in places. The male bird was seen several times in the act of bringing out the excavated chips.

The birds were first heard tapping in the hole on June 20 or 21 when they worked continuously during 90° weather. They were seen to mate on the afternoon of June 27. Between 7:15 and 8:15 A. M. on the 28th the nest cavity seemed completed. The male was first noted actually inside with his head out of the hole at that time. A little later he hung on the outside with his claws in the opening. He was alternately preening and giving the "rolling" call note; not the "chad, chad" often used by this species.

On June 28 (6:30-7:15 P. M.) the male was frequently resting at the nest hole or in it. He occasionally went inside and rested, looking out of the hole. Every few minutes he repeated the rolling call *Kr — r — r*. I could not see whether he went to roost in the hole at dusk.

On June 29 at 6:15 A. M. no activity was noted. However, about 8:30 the male was again seen resting and calling. The female may have been laying or incubating at this time. Unfortunately I had no means of climbing the slender tree to examine the cavity or the eggs laid.

On July 4 and 5 both birds were seen about the nest. The female seemed to remain mostly inside the cavity. She was seen frequently during the day with her head protruding for several minutes at a time. The birds did not seem to be active until 8 or 8:30 A. M. By this date there was every evidence of nesting and incubation.

On July 7 in the early morning both birds were seen around the nest occasionally calling. On the 8th the female was seen entering the nest at 7:45 A. M. Again on the 9th (8:45 A. M.) both birds were seen in the morning and many times during the afternoon. The male, especially, was going and coming often. He frequently rested outside the hole for 2 or 3 minutes, giving occasional calls (rolling call). The calls were not given very loud at this time.

Apparently both birds were incubating now for they seemed to "change

watches," the emerging bird flying away, the other entering the hole promptly. As a bird approached, it gave a kind of hurried talking note, probably to warn the mate. This occurred at 9:10 A. M. on July 9. The male came out of the nest and flew away when relieved by his mate.

The young birds were first heard giving food calls on July 15. On the 16th both parents appeared to be feeding the young. At dusk on the afternoon of the 18th, both birds were feeding the young regularly and the young called often for food. This continued during the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th. Although both birds came to the nest silently, the young heard them at once and set up a clamor for food.

I checked the nest fairly early on July 25, but nothing was to be seen. I assume that the young were taken out rather early that morning. I was disappointed at never seeing the young. Since that date the old birds have visited the nest on several occasions, but the immature birds have not been seen.

758 Wildwood Road, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GEORGIA BIRDS?

(Continuing questions of interest to the beginner, compiled by Eugene P. Odum)

Since the forthcoming *Check-List* of Georgia birds will bring up-to-date the recorded information on one particular phase of ornithology, i.e. distribution, it might be appropriate to discuss in a general way some of the things that are not yet known. In working over the manuscript of the *Check-List*, I was impressed with the fact that there are four large "gaps" in our knowledge of bird distribution in the State, as follows:

1. The distribution of numerous subspecies is very incompletely known or understood. This is a problem for the collector and requires the aid of a specialist in one of the large museums. While boundaries between races can never be established as hard and fast lines (the very nature of the subspecies prevents this. The beginner, by the way, should familiarize himself with the different concepts of subspecies. I have found that few amateurs have any idea of what the subspecies category actually is intended to be), the determination of subspecies has many values. For example, the study of these geographical variations throws light on the problem of speciation, or how new kinds of animals are produced in nature. Also, accurate subspecific identification of migrating birds is the next best thing to banding, since the approximate geographical origin of the individual can often be determined thereby. Thus the finding of a Labrador Savannah Sparrow in Georgia in winter indicates that some individuals of this species migrate from the Labrador region.

2. A number of species, for example, the Nashville Warbler and others listed in the hypothetical list, undoubtedly occur in Georgia, but they

cannot be definitely recorded as Georgia birds because of the lack of specimens or other good records.

3. Many species are undoubtedly more common than published records would indicate. Observers have been so few and scattered that it is amazing sometimes how few records there are for species that ought to be around.

4. The distribution, especially the breeding ranges of many common, easily recognized species can be but vaguely defined at present. This is the "knowledge gap" which any good observer, even the beginner, may help fill. Here are some examples.

In the northern part of the State the limits of the breeding ranges of the Black-throated Green, Blue-winged, and Cerulean Warblers, Cedar Waxwing, Baltimore Oriole, and Scarlet Tanager are very poorly known. The number of nests reported for all of these species can be numbered on the fingers of one's hand.

For two of our commonest species, the Goldfinch and the Chipping Sparrow, the southern nesting limits in the State are unknown. This is also more or less true for the Black and White Warbler, Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, and many others. These species nest in the northern part of the State and not in the southern, but how far south?

Likewise, the northern breeding limits of such southern species as the Ground Dove, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Anhinga, Limpkin (if it occurs at all nowadays), Chuck-will's-widow (whole State?) and others is not well known.

Many species, such as the Mississippi Kite, Pied-billed Grebe, and Swainson's Warbler appear to have a "spotty" distribution—common locally. There are undoubtedly many spots not yet reported where these species occur.

Some few species, such as the Parula, Yellow-throated, and Prairie Warblers have a "split" range in the State, occurring in northern and southern but not in some intermediate regions of the State. It should be especially interesting to be able to plot accurately the range of these forms.

The distribution of many winter birds is vague. Examples are the White-crowned, Leconte's, and Henslow's Sparrows, Whip-poor-will, House Wren, Gnatcatcher, and numerous warblers and water birds.

The inland distribution and migration of shore and other water birds needs to be studied, especially in view of the increasing number of artificial lakes and the general rise in population levels over the country.

As I pointed out in a recent article in *The Oriole* (8: 6-8), the distribution of some species, for example, the Robin, may be changing. There

is a good chance that the House Wren, Prairie Horned Lark, and others, not yet known to breed, may some day nest in the state if they are not already doing so!

Problems for observers along the coast are too numerous to mention. Does the Barn Swallow or Wood Ibis now nest along or near the Georgia coast?

Only a few localities have even reasonably complete migration records. We tried to draw up a migration table for the State, but it was impossible because of the scarcity of data.

Large areas of the State have scarcely been touched ornithologically, for example, extensive areas between Macon and Savannah and territory along the Alabama line.

Many other possibilities for worthwhile observation and exciting discoveries will be unfolded to you when you get your copy of the preliminary *Check-List*.

GENERAL NOTES

SUMMER OCCURRENCE OF THE OVEN-BIRD AT ATHENS.—On June 10, 1944 George Petrides and I located a singing Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) in a tract of fairly mature but partly open upland deciduous woodland on holdings of the University near Whitehall village. Evidence of only the one bird could be found; it appeared to be patrolling a territory since it moved about between different singing posts within a prescribed area. This is apparently the first summer record although the species is a regular breeder at Atlanta and in foothills but a few miles north of Athens. Subsequent visits to the area one and two weeks later failed to reveal any trace of the bird; perhaps it gave up the effort to attract a mate to the territory and moved on. Since Athens is literally on the southern edge of breeding range of this species the occurrence of invaders and possible establishment of breeding pairs is of more than passing interest. Occurrence of occasional individuals outside of a known breeding range, of course, is not evidence of an extension of range, but marginal areas bear close watching both from standpoint of determination of limiting factors and detection of significant changes in normally fluctuating "boundaries."

Another point of interest is that song of the Athens bird and others I have heard in Georgia is rather different from individuals further north; the phrases tend to be more uniform in volume (like the Carolina Wren) rather than increasing in volume as in typical "teacher" version of New York birds, for example.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *Athens, Ga.*

THE STILT SANDPIPER AT AUGUSTA.—The morning of September 8, 1944, was dark and generally unsuitable for birding. A light rain, inter-

rupted occasionally by heavier showers, fell throughout the morning. Nevertheless, Tom Hall and the writer ventured out in search of birds. Noon caught us trying to puzzle out the identity of some 20 sandpipers feeding on the mud flats at the edge of a clay-pit pond. Six birds feeding together near one end of the pond held our attention. We were certain that one bird was a Lesser Yellow-legs but the other five, though they resembled the Yellow-legs, were somewhat smaller. Their heads seemed darker and the superciliary lines lighter, contrasting more sharply with the crown than in the Yellow-legs. Their proportionately longer bills seemed to have a distinct droop near the tip. Being unable to decide on the identity of these five birds, one of them was collected. It proved to be a male Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*). This constitutes the first record of the Stilt Sandpiper from the Augusta area and also the first record from the interior of the state.

The writer expresses his appreciation to Dr. E. E. Murphey for confirming the identification of this bird and for comparing it with specimens in his collection. The skin is now preserved in Dr. Murphey's collection.—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Georgia.

LEAST BITTERN BREEDING NEAR ATLANTA.—According to Griffin (*Oriole*, 6: 18) the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus e. exilis*) has been found only twice in the Atlanta region; June 10, 1928, and August 29, 1932. The writers wish to mention a third record at which time a nest and young were found.

On June 24, 1944, Jimmy flushed an adult bird from the cattail marsh at Candler Lake near Emory University. The weak flight, conspicuous wing patches, and the typical notes identified the bird.

On June 26 the writers, accompanied by Robert Adams, returned to the lake and again flushed a bird from the edge of the marsh. By wading in the waist-deep water for a while, three young birds were found near the adult bird. The young birds were covered with down and were about six or eight inches in length. Although they could not fly, the young were very difficult to photograph because they could swim, climb and hide so well. All the time another bird could be heard calling in the marsh some distance away.

The young were near what we thought was the nest. It was a platform of decaying and dead grasses and stems which rested directly on the water. It was about a foot in diameter and two inches thick. This was the only indication of a nest in the locality.

The next day, June 27, Jimmy and Russell Adams returned to the lake and again located the young and adults. Least Bitterns were seen on the following days by Johnston: July 8, July 15, and last on July 22.—JIMMY MAJOR, DAVE JOHNSTON, Atlanta Georgia.

ROYAL TERN AT AUGUSTA.—A Royal Tern (*Thalasseus m. maximus*) was observed by Captain Louis C. Fink and the writer near Augusta, Georgia, on October 28, 1944. The bird was first noted early that morn-

ing circling over one of the shallow clay-pit ponds. During the ten minutes that the bird was under observation the size, red bill and deeply forked tail were noted and then compared with the field marks given in Peterson's *Field Guide*.

In the afternoon the writer returned to the clay-pit area for the purpose of collecting the bird. It was located immediately resting on a small mud island in the same pond at which it was seen in the morning. The writer managed to approach within 20 yards of the bird, again noting its distinguishing field marks, including the length of the wings and the crest of the crown. The writer then fired at the bird but the load was too light and only annoyed it. Although the writer remained in the area the rest of the afternoon, he never succeeded in collecting the bird.

Apparently Royal Terns had been present in the vicinity of Augusta for more than a week. Several days previously (October 23) two Boy Scouts saw four terns, which they identified as Royal Terns, at the Fifth Street bridge in Augusta. Also, a hunter to whom the bird at the clay-pit pond was pointed out confessed to the writer that he had killed a similar "gull" on October 21, to see what it was.—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Georgia.

THE MISSISSIPPI KITE AT MACON.—While on a short trip to Macon this past summer the writer made a search for the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in territory where it seemed likely this species might be found. The territory searched was the hay fields adjoining the levee along the west side of the Ocmulgee River just south of the city. At about 10:30 A. M. on June 18, 1944, the first Kite was glimpsed as it soared up from a hay field and disappeared over a strip of woods.

Almost immediately a second bird arose from the same field and circled over me for several minutes before disappearing behind some trees. This bird was carrying a stick approximately 10 inches long in its talons. About 15 minutes later both birds appeared together from behind some trees and passed directly over me at an altitude of 30-40 feet. They flew directly across the river from me and disappeared in the swamp where I presume they were preparing to nest. This is the first record of the Mississippi Kite at Macon.—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs Street, Augusta, Georgia.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA.—On June 8, 1944, a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*) was seen circling the peak of a mountain above Lake Rabun near Lakemont, Georgia. The bird flew over us and gave several piercing screams (none of my books describes such a sound). When the bird wheeled a white and black-banded tail was noted. The bird was seen on three other occasions. On April 20, 1940, a similar bird was seen 30 miles west of this place.—GLENN W. BELL, 115 Willowood Circle, Atlanta, Georgia.

THE LINCOLN'S SPARROW AT AUGUSTA.—On October 22, 1944, Tom Hall and the writer observed a Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza l. lin-*

colni) just south of Augusta. The bird was inhabiting a dense thicket of blackberry bushes, weeds, and locust saplings, bordering the upper edge of the swamp which lies between the levee and the river. The observers first noted the bird while studying a flock of sparrows which were "working" across a pathway through the thicket. The bird flew out of the thicket and into a small dead locust hardly 10 yards from the observers. In the bright morning sunlight the buffy breast band and fine markings characteristic of this species were noticed immediately. The flock to which this bird was attached consisted of White-throated, Song, and Swamp Sparrows. Unfortunately, the bird was not collected, since this is the first record of the occurrence of Lincoln's Sparrow in Richmond County, Georgia.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia*.

CHIMNEY SWIFT Banded in Georgia Recovered in Peru.—Raymond J. Fleetwood, refuge manager of the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge, Round Oak, Georgia, has been notified by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., that a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) bearing his band No. 38-169645 was killed by Indians in December, 1943, on Yanayaco River, Peru, South America. The recovery of this bird was reported to the Service by the American Embassy, Lima, Peru, through the State Department.

This bird was trapped and banded from the Grand Lodge Building, Macon, September 17, 1939, and is the first individual out of 29,000 swifts banded by Mr. Fleetwood in middle Georgia since 1939 to be recovered south of the United States, and is one of the few recoveries of this species in South America.—EDITOR.

ODD MANNERISM OF INDIGO BUNTING.—On May 6, 1944, I visited a bushy woodland area about one mile west of Tifton and observed seven Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) feeding on some oats which bordered the woods. All of these Indigo Buntings were females except one, and this one male would perch on the top of the oats in a Bobolink fashion and deliver his song, then drop back on the ground, hidden from view, and continue eating oats. I observed this bird for an hour and a half, and he repeatedly did this over and over again. This is the first time I have ever seen an Indigo Bunting act in this manner.—WILLARD GAULDING, JR., 1002 College Ave., Tifton, Ga.

NOTES FROM RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA.—The following recent records are of interest.

Baldpate, *Mareca americana*. A full plumaged male was noted June 6, 1944, on one of the brick yard ponds. This is an unusually late record for this species.

Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*. A bird observed May 20, 1944, on the Washington Road about three miles above Augusta. This was the only specimen observed during the current season.

Northern Pine Siskin, *Spinus p. pinus*. This species was quite common here for many years but recently has become rather rare, so that it is

worth while to mention its occurrence on March 9 (one bird), and on March 11, 1944 (three birds), both within the city limits of Augusta.—E. E. MURPHEY, *Augusta, Georgia*.

THE GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER IN OCMULGEE RIVER BOTTOM.—The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivoca chrysoptera*) is a common fall migrant in the Ocmulgee River bottom just south of Macon, Georgia. The influx of this species probably reaches its height during the early part of September, since it was especially numerous on the 9th and 12th of that month.

Every wave of warblers in which the writer has observed this species this fall has contained a single individual. However, nearly every large flock of migrants seen since September 1 has had a Golden-wing in it.

They usually work within ten to twenty feet of the ground and along with the Redstart, Black and White Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler, are the first members of the wave to be picked up.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Camp Wheeler, Georgia*.

THE 1944 FALL SEASON AT AUGUSTA.—The late summer and fall were unusually dry. This resulted in swamps, which in the spring contained 3 or 4 feet of water, becoming dry and easily accessible. Apparently the dry weather had no adverse effects on the fall migration which, taken as a whole, was very good.

The first dates, though not necessarily the arrival dates, on which various species were recorded are as follows: Parula Warbler (birds, presumably migrants, observed in dry second-growth woods on "The Hill") July 4; Spotted Sandpiper, July 9; Cowbird, July 16; Yellow Warbler, July 18; Solitary and Least Sandpipers, July 19; Pied-billed Grebe and Redstart, July 23; Black and White Warbler, July 30; Worm-eating Warbler, August 6; White Ibis, Semipalmated Plover, Barn and Bank Swallows, August 13; Black-throated Blue Warbler (bird collected—very early) August 16; Canada Warbler, August 19; Chestnut-sided Warbler, August 20; Louisiana Heron, Osprey, Greater Yellow-legs, Sanderling, Black Tern, and Northern Water-Thrush, August 23; Bobolink and Golden-winged Warbler (collected) August 30; Veery and Blue-winged Warbler (collected) September 3; Wood Ibis, Cooper's Hawk and Pectoral Sandpiper, September 4; Snowy Egret and Blue-winged Teal, September 5; Oven-bird, September 7; Lesser Yellow-legs and Stilt Sandpiper (separate note) September 8; Shoveller and Palm Warbler, September 13; Broad-winged Hawk and Cerulean Warbler (collected) September 16; Olive-backed Thrush, Black-poll Warbler (collected), and Magnolia Warbler, September 23; Black-throated Green Warbler, September 28; Savannah Sparrow, October 1; Cape May Warbler (collected) October 6; Black-billed Cuckoo and Bay-breasted Warbler (collected) October 8; Brown Creeper, October 10; Phoebe, October 14; and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, October 21.

The last dates, approximating their departures, on which certain species were recorded are as follows: Mississippi Kite, August 13; Louisiana

Water-Thrush, August 26; Dickcissel and Purple Martin, August 30; Yellow-breasted Chat, September 3; Orchard Oriole, September 7; Prothonotary Warbler, September 8; Black Tern (collected) September 13; Golden-winged Warbler, September 16; Crested Flycatcher, September 19; Least Sandpiper, Swainson's Warbler (collected) and Blue Grosbeak, September 22; Prairie Warbler, September 23; Wood Ibis, September 24; Blue-winged Warbler, September 26; Eastern Kingbird and Veery, October 1; Little Blue Heron, Lesser Yellow-legs and Indigo Bunting, October 6; Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler and Hooded Warbler, October 8; Redstart, October 10; Chestnut-sided Warbler and Scarlet Tanager, October 11; Parula Warbler, October 14; American Egret, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Painted Bunting, October 21; White-eyed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Water-Thrush and Oven-bird, October 22.—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs St., Augusta, Georgia.

SUMMER AND FALL (1944) NOTES FROM DALTON AND WHITFIELD COUNTY.—The summer and fall have been unusually dry, causing Longley Lake to recede and leave extensive mud flats.

First records for the area are: Least Bittern, 1 observed July 16 flying from one clump of buttonwood bushes to another, then watched at close range as it rested in a buttonwood bush a few inches above the surface of the lake; 2 others observed standing motionless at the base of a tall clump of cattail reeds. Two observers with 6x30 glasses waded along the muddy shore to within 60 feet of the birds. The pair was flushed at this point, flying to the opposite bank of the lake (A. Hamilton, F. McLellan). Pectoral Sandpipers, small flocks of them, were seen August 13, 20, and 27, in company with Semipalmated, Solitary, and Spotted Sandpipers, Yellow-legs, Killdeer, and Semipalmated Plovers. Four Pectoral Sandpipers were seen October 8, with the same number of Killdeer. Two stocky brownish herons, which were apparently immature birds and which observers believe to have been Yellow-crowned Night Herons, were watched weekly from July 16 to September 5.

Early fall arrivals include: Little Blue Heron (flocks of from 3 to 11 immatures present to early September), Coot (also seen July 23 and August 20) and Solitary Sandpiper (2) July 16; American Egret, (2 on July 23, 1 on August 6 and 20) July 23; Sora, August 10; Lesser Yellow-legs (2), Semipalmated Sandpiper (10 birds, also seen on August 20 and 27) and Black Tern (1 in mottled plumage) August 13; Chestnut-sided Warbler, August 15; Blue-winged Teal (1 bird) and Redstart, August 20; Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1) September 22; Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler (present in some numbers until first week in November) and Magnolia Warbler (last seen about October 23), September 30; Myrtle Warbler, October 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow, October 15.

The Black-throated Green Warbler was last seen on October 15.—MR. AND MRS. R. E. HAMILTON, BILLY MITCHELL, WARREN HERRON, AND WARREN SIMS, Dalton, Georgia.

CORRECTION.—In my report on the birds of the Savannah Valley (1937, *Contributions from Charleston Museum*, IX:12) a Florida Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis umbrinus*) was reported as having been collected in Burke County, Georgia, in 1909. When this specimen was sent recently to Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the U. S. National Museum for identification, he pronounced it a small and darker than normal form of the common Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*) rather than the Florida subspecies.—E. E. MURPHEY, Augusta, Georgia.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

The greatest news is that the long-awaited *Check-List* of Georgia birds will soon be ready for distribution. At the last report the type had been set and the compilers were busy at the laborious task of checking the proof. Unless some unforeseen delay occurs, the *Check-List* will be ready for distribution some time in December, before Christmas, as announced in the recent *News-letter*.

Not only should each member of the G. O. S. have a copy of this publication for reference, but each one is expected to purchase at least one copy, since its publication is being sponsored by the Society. Remember that this publication belongs to you; you have largely contributed the information in it and you have pledged to support it.

In addition to your personal copy of the *Check-List* you are urged to purchase additional copies if possible. These extra copies will make excellent Christmas gifts this year when desirable things are so scarce and hard to find. Why not give a copy to that Boy or Girl Scout friend of yours, who has shown an embryonic interest in nature? Possibly a copy presented to some hunting or fishing companion, to the high school teacher, or to some garden club member will win another convert to our cause.

Remember that orders for your copies of the *Check-List* should be placed now before it is offered for general sale. The edition is limited.

* * *

The Oriole, following the trend of the times, has been doing some planning for post-war reconversion. Tentative plans have been made to issue *The Oriole* quarterly in March, June, September, and December. The dead-lines for sending in material for publication will be the fifteenth of the month in which the journal is published. If these plans are to succeed, the entire membership of the G. O. S. must cooperate in supplying the editor with sufficient material. So remember to send in your articles, notes, and news items for inclusion in the next issue by MARCH 15. If war conditions make it impossible to carry out these plans, changes will be made later next year and will not affect the March issue.

We are glad to welcome home to Georgia the first of our G. O. S. members serving in the armed forces of our country to be discharged from duty. He is Daniel W. Henderson, formerly of Augusta. On his return Mr. Henderson accepted a position with the Georgia Game and Fish Commission, and at present is in charge of Bobwhite propagation at the state game farm near Chamblee. We hope that we will have the pleasure of welcoming "home" the remainder of our members before very long.

* * *

Our president, Dr. Eugene P. Odum, recently received notice of his election to full membership in the American Ornithologists Union. This honor resulted from recognition of Dr. Odum's original investigations in avian physiology and ecology.

* * *

Mr. Raymond Fleetwood, director of the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge near Round Oak, continues our most active bird-bander. During the past fall he banded several thousand more Chimney Swifts, bringing his total of this species to 29,000. Early in the summer, before the Chimney Swifts began flocking, Mr. Fleetwood concentrated on Bluebirds, banding 501 of this species.

* * *

The Milledgeville Audubon Society reports concerning the activities of two of its members. Miss Rena Junkins spent two weeks during the past summer at the Audubon Nature Center at Greenwich, Connecticut, while Miss Blanche Tait, Secretary of the G. O. S., is spending two quarters in graduate study at Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee.

* * *

Following is the list of persons who became members of the G. O. S. during 1944.

- Mr. Clarence Belger, 1543 Gwinnett St., Augusta, Ga.
- Miss Ruth Bryant, Lake View, S. C.
- Mr. H. B. Cantrell, Box 325, Bremen, Ga.
- Mr. Ed Collum, 1070 Lucile Ave., Atlanta, Ga.
- Mr. Tom Collum, 1070 Lucile Ave., Atlanta, Ga.
- Mr. H. J. Dann, 810 N. Jefferson St., Albany, Ga.
- Rev. C. C. Davison, Greensboro, Ga.
- Miss Fannie Funderburke, Mortgage-Guarantee Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.
- Mr. Warren Herron, Dalton, Ga.
- Dr. Thelma Howell, Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.
- Miss Rena Junkins, G. S. C. W., Milledgeville, Ga.
- Miss Manilla B. Land, Box 96, Marietta, Ga.
- Cpl. Brooke C. Meanley, Camp Wheeler, Ga.
- Mr. Billy Mitchell, 500 Fairview Dr., Dalton, Ga.

- Mr. John M. Outler, III, 2865 Hills Dr., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.
- Dr. David M. Potter, 1557 Timothy Dwight College, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn.
- Ens. George A. Petrides, U. S. Navy Pre-flight School, Athens, Ga.
- Mr. Warren Sims, Jr., Dalton, Ga.
- Mr. William Thomas, 2131 McDowell St., Augusta, Ga.
- Miss Isabella Thorburn, Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.
- Mrs. O. J. Willoughby, 1796 Ponce de Leon Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

The Society welcomes these new members and encourages those who can to participate actively in the endeavors of the Society. Also, the editor of *The Oriole* invites them to submit manuscripts, notes, or news items for publication in the journal.

Each person listed above is urged to please read and check the print of his name and address. If it is not correct, send a postal card giving the correct spelling and the correct address to Mr. Ray C. Werner, Treasurer, 758 Wildwood Rd., N. E., Atlanta, Ga. If any new member failed to receive recognition in the above list, please notify the editor of *The Oriole*.

* * *

Members of the G. O. S. are urged to pay their dues for 1945 as promptly as possible. If you will send your dues to the Treasurer now, it will save the time and expense of sending you a bill.

NEW LITERATURE

A Preliminary Check-List and Bibliography of Georgia Ornithology. By Earle R. Greene, William Griffin, Eugene P. Odum, Herbert L. Stoddard and Ivan R. Tomkins. In press. Georgia Ornithological Society, Occasional Paper, No. 2. 150 pp. (approx.), 1 plate, 1 map. Price \$2.00.

This book, not intended to be a complete work on the birds of Georgia, is quite thorough as far as it goes. Since Georgia has never had a state work of any sort, this publication fills the long-felt need for one.

The book, which will be attractively bound in cloth, contains the following parts: 1, an attractive cover design of the Brown Thrasher drawn by Martha H. Odum; 2, Frontispiece of the Great Blue Heron, reproduced in black and white from a painting by Athos Menaboni; 3, Introduction; 4, a brief historical account of Georgia Ornithologists from Catesby to the present, by Eugene E. Murphey; 5, Annotated Check-List of Georgia Birds, consisting of a concise but complete account of the occurrence and distribution of all species and subspecies recorded from the state; 6, Hypothetical List, giving species of uncertain status; 7, Annotated Bibliography of Georgia Ornithology, including over 700 titles; 8, Appendix, giving a brief account of the bird clubs of the state and several local lists of selected publications covering specific locali-

ties in the state; and 9, an ornithological map of Georgia with a brief descriptive legend.

Advance orders may be placed with The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.

Poisonous Snakes of the Eastern United States with First Aid Guide. By Harry T. Davis and C. S. Brimley. 1944. North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina. 16 pp., 4 plates, 13 figs. Price 10 cents.

The authors point out that of the 60 kinds of snakes occurring in the eastern United States, just eight are classed as dangerous and poisonous to man. They include the coral snake of the cobra family, and seven forms of the pit viper group—two moccasins: highland moccasin (copperhead) and water moccasin (cottonmouth); and five kinds of rattlesnakes: massasauga, pigmy rattlesnake, diamond-back rattlesnake, banded rattlesnake and canebrake rattlesnake. Appearance, behavior, and food habits of the reptiles are described briefly, and data on size and distribution are included. All eight forms are figured, four in fairly good colored plates and the others in excellently reproduced photographs.

This excellent little booklet is recommended not only to those who go "birding" but to all, hunters, fishermen, Boy and Girl Scouts, who work or play in the out-of-doors.