

# THE ORIOLE

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



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# THE ORIOLE

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## IN QUEST OF GEORGIA MOUNTAIN WARBLERS

By EUGENE P. ODUM

The wood warblers, family COMPSOTHYLPIDAE, always favorites with the bird lover, are generally believed to have originated in the tropics. However, when these seemingly frail birds invaded North America, they scorned the sunny South as possible nesting grounds and pushed relentlessly north, bringing bits of tropical color, as it were, to the dark boreal forests. Today, although many warblers return to their ancestral home for the winter, the number of nesting species increases rapidly as one proceeds north towards the evergreen forests of Canada. Inside Georgia itself we find that 21 species of warblers are definitely known to breed in the mountain region as compared to only about 10 in the Okefinokee region. The Georgia mountains are of unusual interest since they represent the southern-most point in the breeding ranges of a number of warblers as well as other species. In order to check up on the exact present-day limits of the breeding ranges of warblers and other mountain species, Thomas D. Burleigh and I made a three day trip into the mountain fastness, May 28-30, 1945. We particularly wished to work the high peaks in Pickens County (just northeast of Tate and Jasper) which are on the very southern-most ridge that exceeds 3000 ft. in altitude.

Starting at Athens we drove leisurely northwest, stopping at intervals to listen for newcomers. At Dawsonville, Dawson County, we heard the first Yellow-throated Warbler, which for some reason does not breed in a considerable area around Athens, although common enough both to the north and south. From Dawson County on we found this species common, favoring mature pine or mixed pine and hardwood slopes and ravines. Near Marble Hill, Pickens County, we made an interesting stop at about 1400 ft. elevation. A pair of Yellow Warblers with nest and eggs 8 ft. up in a sweet gum and a pair of Phoebe's with nest and eggs 3 ft. down in an abandoned well were interesting contrasts. On a nearby slope Ovenbirds sang, another species not yet known to nest at Athens. High above the same ridge a pair of Broad-winged Hawks circled, giving their characteristic *Chick—eee* cry. Near Tate, home of the famous Georgia Marble, a Cedar Waxwing flew over, but this individual probably represented a late migrant rather than a breeding bird since the species does not breed until nearly two months later. At Jasper we turned right on a



well graded but rocky road and began to climb Burnt Mountain, El. 3300, the highest peak in Pickens County. We intended to drive to the top and work down, but the Fish and Wildlife truck which was our conveyer, had spent most of its life in Louisiana and was no lover of mountains. At about 2600 ft. the radiator began to boil. However, we had hardly stepped out of the car, when we made our first important discovery. From the undergrowth beneath the power line running up the mountain filtered the soft, sweet song of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. Later we found the species common in the scrub growth which formed tangled thickets under blighted chestnut trees on this mountain, and on Mt. Oglethorpe (Dawson Co.) and the ridge connecting them. Two male specimens in full breeding condition were taken to insure scientific acceptance of the occurrence. There can be little doubt but that the Chestnut-sided has extended its range southward in Georgia in the last decade. Howell in 1909 (see *Auk*, 26: 129) did not find the species at all in his careful field work on Brasstown Bald and other high points. Burleigh in 1927 (see *Auk*, 44: 229) found them nesting for the first time on Brasstown Bald but only above 3500 ft. The occurrence in Pickens and Dawson Counties extends the breeding range many miles further south; how long they have been here we have no way of knowing unless some ornithologist, unknown to us, has visited the region during the past 30 years. The Chestnut-sided Warbler "push" is especially interesting because it demonstrates how a wholesale change in habitat may change the range of a species, even though the climate remains the same. Thus, before the blight and lumbering operations by white man, there was probably little suitable habitat for the Chestnut-sided in the Georgia mountains other than the isolated "balds." With the destruction of the overstory trees, however, the bushy second growth became the dominant habitat, forming a continuous broad highway into formerly unoccupied regions. Birds, of course, are not always able to take advantage of such windfalls, but species which are able to build up large populations and are tolerant of the climatic conditions often do take advantage of such large scale changes as apparently the Chestnut-sided and the Song Sparrow have done (not to mention the Robin). Maurice Brooks describes a similar increase and spread of the Chestnut-sided in West Virginia (see *Wilson Bulletin*, 52: 249, 1940).

Scarlet Tanagers proved to be common on Burnt Mountain. In a tract of mature forest of tall oaks, maples, and tulip poplars, we located two, perhaps three, singing male Blackburnian Warblers, a species generally breeding in conifers but known to breed in deciduous woods especially at the periphery of its range (see Brooks, *l.c.*).

That night we enjoyed the kind hospitality of my aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Bryce, of Tate, Ga. They being already hardened to the quirks of naturalists, we were even allowed to put our birds in the refrigerator and to use the back porch for specimen preparation. Before the evening was over, neighbors gathered to observe Burleigh's expert and my not so expert efforts at putting up skins. The Bryce home is located in a natural paradise for birds with well tended feeding stations supplying a continuous

procession of species. After dark we had the unusual pleasure of hearing at the same time the breathless call of the Whip-poor-will and the much more leisurely drawl of the Chuck-will's-widow, the former apparently being more common. This observation is important since the northward and upward limit of the "Chuck" is unknown; it thus occurs in Pickens County at least to 1600 ft. elevation.

The following day, May 29, we drove north to Blue Ridge, stopping every few miles for observations. We especially wanted to see exactly where the first Song Sparrow would put in its appearance. One mile north of Ellijay (Gilmer County) we were rewarded by finding adults and several juveniles not long out of the nest, collecting one of the latter. The Song Sparrow, like the Chestnut-sided, has pushed south as I have previously pointed out (see *Oriole* 8:6, 1943). It will be very interesting to see if the species will follow the valley from Ellijay, apparently the present "front," down to Tate and perhaps eventually to Atlanta. Or perhaps the "front" will become stabilized at its present location, who knows!

About 6 miles north of Ellijay almost on the main highway we found a lovely ravine with large hemlocks and white pines, a bit of New York and New England in Georgia. Here there were at least 3 singing male Black-throated Green Warblers and as many pairs of Blackburnian Warblers. Although we were unable to collect a specimen or find direct evidence of breeding, there could be little doubt that the Black-throated Greens were nesting; the habitat was perfect. The only recorded nest of this species is away over in Dade County, but I am convinced that it must breed in many spots such as this in the mountain region (see below). Near the ravine but in a different habitat, of course, a Blue-winged Warbler was heard, although we were unable to observe it in the thickets.

The rest of the day was spent west of the town of Blue Ridge climbing to the top of Flatop Mountain, El. 3610 ft. Cairn's Warbler, the mountain Black-throated Blue Warbler, was added to our list, being first noted at about 3000 ft. Also, the Mountain Solitary Vireo, which we had expected to find in Pickens County, but didn't. Chestnut-sideds were common on Flatop, thus extending the known range westward in Fannin County.

During our last day out (May 30) we returned to Burnt Mountain and continued over the ridge road to Mt. Oglethorpe on the summit of which stands the monument marking the end of the Maine to Georgia Appalachian Trail. Starting up Burnt Mountain, our truck decided to boil this time at a mere 2000 ft. Again we had barely stopped when an unexpected song was heard, this time our friend the Black-throated Green Warbler. It was in a moist ravine dominated by tall tulip poplars, oaks and a few Virginia pines, not the favored coniferous habitat but one that the Black-throated Green is known to breed in further north. If the bird does breed here, it is quite an extension in respect to both altitude and latitude. The bird was collected and the testes proved to be as large as



those of other breeding warblers. By this time we had concluded that our truck was psychic and definitely could smell unusual birds.

Our trip to Oglethorpe did not yield anything startling, but we did add the Golden-winged Warbler to our list, when one was observed just below the summit at about 3000 ft. Crested Flycatchers were common along the ridge between the two mountains; undoubtedly this species has profited by the chestnut blight since the dead chestnuts proved to be ideal lookouts and nesting sites. Two specimens were collected for later subspecies determination. Presumably, mountain birds belong to the northern race (*boreus*) but only one specimen had been previously collected. The top of Mt. Oglethorpe, like so many Georgia peaks, is covered with a "bald" or scrub vegetation consisting of stunted oaks, chestnuts, and various heath plants and herbs. Towhees, Catbirds, Chats, Indigo Buntings, along with Chestnut-sided Warblers are the characteristic birds breeding on these "balds."

As one can see from the foregoing accounts, there is plenty to be learned concerning the birds of the northern counties. In less than three days we observed in only 4 counties 17 of the 21 species of warblers known to nest in the mountain region of Georgia (missing only Worm-eating, Louisiana Water Thrush, Canada, and Redstart), and made a number of interesting additions to recorded knowledge as summarized below:

Summary.—Dawson County: Yellow-throated Warbler occurs.

Pickens County, Tate vicinity (El. 14-1600 ft.): Both Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will; Oven-bird; White-breasted Nuthatch.

Pickens County, Burnt Mt. and Dawson County, Oglethorpe Mt. (2000-3300 ft. el.): Chestnut-sided Warbler, 2600 ft. and up; Blackburnian Warbler at 2600 ft.; Black-throated Green Warbler, deciduous ravine at 2000 ft.; Scarlet Tanager common about 2800 ft., one individual at 2000 ft.; Golden-winged Warbler at 3000 ft.

Gilmer County, Ellijay vicinity: Song Sparrow, adults and juveniles; Blue-winged Warbler; Orchard Oriole; Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, 3 pairs each, estimated, in hemlock-white pine ravine.

Fannin County, Flattop Mountain (El. 3610 ft.) and vicinity: Chestnut-sided Warbler common; Cairn's Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler; Solitary Vireo; Scarlet Tanager; White-breasted Nuthatch.

Throughout the region: Oven-bird, and Black and White, and Yellow-throated Warblers common on slopes; Yellow Warbler and Yellow-throats common in valleys; Yellow-breasted Chats common from valley to summits.

Specimens taken were as follows (deposited permanently as indicated):

<i>Geothlypis t. trichas</i> , M	Marble Hill	May 28, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica a. aestiva</i> , M & F	Marble Hill	May 28, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica dominica</i> , M & F	Tate	May 28, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> , M	Burnt Mt.	May 28, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster</i> , M	Burnt Mt.	May 28, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Melospiza melodia euphonia</i> , im.	Ellijay	May 29, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica fusca</i> , M	Ellijay	May 29, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> , M	Blue Ridge	May 29, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica caerulescens cairnsi</i> , M	Flattop Mt.	May 29, 1945	Nat. Mus.
<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i> , M	Flattop Mt.	May 29, 1945	U. of Ga.

*Dendroica virens*, M  
*Dendroica pensylvanica*, M  
*Myiarchus crinitus*, M & F

Burnt Mt. May 30, 1945 U. of Ga.  
 Oglethorpe Mt. May 30, 1945 U. of Ga.  
 Oglethorpe Mt. May 30, 1945 U. of Ga.

University of Georgia  
 Athens, Georgia

## BIRDING IN FRANCE

By PFC. FRANCES HAMES

Last Sunday morning I took my binoculars and explored a large park area. It has been quite spring-like here for a month and I had passed there before many times, heard strange bird songs and had waited for this opportunity. Large barren trees, some evergreen, various bushes, shrubs and hedges cover the area and invite a variety of birds. If you had gone with me you would have seen these interesting birds.

Green Woodpecker. — A bird as large as our Pileated, a moss green with scarlet crown and yellow underparts. His call is typical of the woodpeckers, clear and loud; two were calling to each other some distance apart and I had to spy on them for some time before I was able to get close enough to identify them.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. — Somewhat similar to our Hairy but larger, in black and white, with red band on nape of neck and a very conspicuous red rump.

Song Thrush. — Has been in song now about two weeks. He sang on an exposed limb, about 50 feet from the ground, for some time and I observed that he was not shy but eager to show off; a mocker, with a repertoire equal to our Mockingbird. The English compare his song with that of the Nightingale and he, too, sings at night during nesting season. In appearance he is about the size and color of our Wood Thrush.

Titmouse family. — Great, Blue, Marsh and Longtailed; all are singers and while they are not the same all have the zip of the Chickadee. One of them seems to say *Peter, Peter, Peter* (no doubt it would be something else to the French), just like balls of feathers, in black and white, blue and white and black, with some yellow on sides, having caps always of contrasting colors. Evidently they nest here for one was cleaning out a hole in a tree.

Nuthatch. — Slaty blue, with yellow underparts and breast, reaching right up to the bill.

Treecreeper. — Brown and white and seems identical with our Brown Creeper.

Robin Redbreast. — Ever so often you would have heard a trill just over your head and there would be this, most loved of all English birds,



who sings every day in the year.

Chaffinch. — "Pinks," as they are called in England, are everywhere, singing constantly. A rosy finch with white wing bars and as common in England as the English Sparrow in your back yard. His song is more like the White-eyed Vireo than anything I can remember and has quite a loud voice for such a small bird.

Some blue Doves fluttered around high up in the trees; Blackbirds squawked, like frightened Robins (Am. Robins) and dropped behind the hedges. The Blackbird is one of the fine songbirds but so far I have not heard it sing. Down in the deep woods we heard a flock of Crows. Red Squirrels nibbled at buds and some searched the ground for food.

It just happens that I brought with me to France a field book on birds of the British Isles and it has color plates and descriptions of all the birds I've seen here. Nuthatches, the Titmouse and Creepers come to our "feeding shelf" on the office window sill, where we watch them every day. The English Robin or "Redbreast," as they call him in England, is warbler in size; light brown with "painted" breast. On the most dreary winter days when I've walked along the hedgerows I've never failed to hear his cheery song.

I have been unable to identify the trees here but some appear to be Sycamore, which by the way, line the Avenue Champs Elysees in Paris. The great trees I've been walking under here are similar to Oak but on the ground I find a fruit like Horsechestnut. Along the borders they are kept trimmed on top and sides like a hedge. During the winter some of these trees were removed for fuel but in every case a young tree was planted. These gardens, surrounding monuments, might have once grown flowers, but were in cabbages last year.

*Somewhere in France*

*1 March 1945*

#### BIRDING IN THE ARMY

BY WALLACE D. DREYFOOS

When Rudyard Kipling said, "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet," apparently from an ornithologist's point of view he had never visited Texas. For in Texas, the birds of the Eastern half of North America meet and mix with the birds of the Western half. Being from the Eastern Seaboard, I found the birds of the South Central part of Texas very interesting. I was stationed at Hondo Army Air Field some 40 miles west of San Antonio. If I had had the time, I undoubtedly could have enlarged my list of identified birds; however, I had to be satisfied with a few trips from Hondo to San Antonio, and a walking tour of Brackenridge Park in San Antonio for my bird studies.

The first bird I saw upon disembarking from the train at Hondo was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. This is a bird of the West and in my limited observation, the most colorful. The characteristic flight of these birds and their easily identifiable call make them one of the easiest and most interesting birds to study. In late August and September, on the electric wires running through the field, as many as 8 to 12 male Scissor-tails could be seen at once. While they were very common around Hondo, it was of interest to me that I saw only a very few in the San Antonio area.

In the middle of August, a flock of around 700 Brewer's Blackbirds arrived at the Field and stayed approximately two weeks. They would leave the Field early in the morning and in the evening would return in small flocks of about 30 or 40 birds. Every night they would roost in a large tree along the side of the Central Fire Station. The tree would actually be swarming with birds and flocks would continue to pour into it. I often wondered how so many birds could get into a single tree, even one as large as this.

Although there was plenty of bird life around Hondo, the Field was visited by only a few species and these often could not be found two days in succession in the same locality. On one of my few trips around the Field, I found three Lark Sparrows in some high grass but only saw them once more and that was near the South Gate some two miles from the previous spot. These were the most colorful sparrows I have had the chance to study in the field.

One of the most interesting of my observations was the large number of Mourning Doves in this part of Texas. These Doves were seen throughout the summer and fall with the numbers increasing during the middle of September. On one trip back from San Antonio, I saw over 75 on one strand of electric wire not over 100 yards long. I had heard a great deal of the speed at which these birds can fly but was very much startled when one flew past the car I was driving and easily cut in front of me. At the time, I noted my speed was a little over 45 miles per hour, so, in my opinion, the bird must have been flying around 60 m. p. h. Any day, close to 40 Doves could be seen by walking from the barracks area to the picnic grounds, a walk of about two miles. While not found on the Field, in the town of Hondo the small Inca Dove occurred in comparatively large numbers. Almost every back yard and vacant lot had one or two of these little birds.

Throughout the summer, I do not believe I saw a single Meadow Lark. However, during the last week in September, these birds could be seen on fence posts while driving into San Antonio, and a week later I saw the first of a group that was apparently making the Parade Field their winter home. I identified these birds as the Western Meadow Lark. They were somewhat paler with the yellow more restricted than on the Meadow Larks we know in Georgia.



On one of my trips into San Antonio, I made a walking tour of Brackenridge Park. There was a large flock of Mesquite Grackles that definitely made their presence known by their harsh calls. This Grackle is much larger than any other member of its family in this part of the country. The other new bird for me was the Golden-fronted Woodpecker. This Woodpecker is much like the Red-bellied of the Southeast, which it resembles both in appearance and in habits.

Although I was unable to identify the majority of Hawks I saw, this region of Texas is populated with a very large number of these birds. It was not uncommon to see a Hawk on the electric wire, sitting very close to a group of Mourning Doves. Apparently the Doves had no fear whatsoever of the Hawks, and it was the Hawks and not the Doves that would first fly off as I approached. In a few instances, while flying at very low altitudes, we would pass Hawks on the wing. Because of the speed of the plane, I could not tell what type of Hawk they were. I was able to identify a Red-tailed on one instance. The bird flew across the path of the plane and I was able to see the red tail. This was definitely the exception rather than the rule.

To many, my observations will appear as so much nonsense; however, for me it has been a happy escape, if only for a few moments, from the life I must lead in the Army.

Hondo Army Air Field

13 November 1944

## THE PARULA WARBLER IN SOUTHEASTERN GEORGIA

By FREDERICK V. HEBARD

The following notes on the life history of the Southern Parula Warbler (*Compsothlypis americana americana*) as observed in southeastern Georgia during the last five years are recorded.

**HABITAT:** This "fairly common summer resident over much of the State" (1) is "abundant (and) widely distributed in the (Okefinokee) swamp" (2) and wherever Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) abounds in southeastern Georgia. William Brewster remarked about the St. Mary's region (3):

"The local birds did not mingle with the strangers, the former being found in pairs, and only where the trees were hung with Spanish moss; while the latter occurred in all kinds of timber."

This statement seems true today over the entire region. When a Parula is found away from Spanish moss, it probably is a migrant.

**NESTING:** At Coleraine the resident birds usually arrive about the middle

of March, whereas I have noted them in the Okefinokee (4) and The Refuge (5) as early as February 28. I am inclined to believe that the birds are mated on arrival. Only one bird was heard singing in the patch of woods at The Refuge where the species was first heard February 28, 1945. A pair in this wood patch were already feeding young on April 19, 1945, when a nest was discovered in Spanish moss hanging from a Short-leaf Pine about thirty feet from the ground. These young were fed little green worms by their parents eight times in the space of two hours and a quarter. In the same tree at the same height above the ground was the nest of a Ground Dove (Cf. Grimes, 6). While studying these nests, a Hairy Woodpecker appeared nearby. Out scolding flew the Parula, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a White-eyed Vireo. I had witnessed a similar scene three years before on May 13, 1942 in front of the house in the moss-garlanded Live Oaks at Coleraine. There a Parula joined a pair of Carolina Wrens, whose young had just hatched, in scolding a Red-bellied Woodpecker.

The only other nest I have observed was at Coleraine in western Camden County where John W. Burch reported the commencement of a nest March 25, 1945 and its completion about April 10. It seemed to be made entirely of the "bloom" of Spanish moss. Laying commenced April 17 and was completed April 19 with three eggs. Burch reported the female still sitting on April 29. The opening was in the top of the nest.

If the singing of the Parula Warbler indicates usually a nesting bird and the species commences to nest immediately on arrival from the South, then it probably usually has two broods in the region. Burch reported that on May 20, 1945, at Mill Creek Ford in western Camden County he saw three young being fed by both parents when the female was seen to get the "bloom" of some Spanish moss and go across the road with it. He reported that she then alternated between feeding canker worms to her young and building her nest. Certainly the species is an early nester. Brewster reported a nearly finished nest at St. Mary's in southwestern Camden County on April 9, 1877 (3 and 7). His record of the breeding bird at St. Mary's (7) is confirmed by both nests I have seen. Each was at the end of a long streamer of Spanish moss, the one at Coleraine hanging from a Live Oak about eight feet from the ground. In each case the weight of the nest and the activity of the occupants had stretched dangerously the moss above so that the moss clump containing the nest reminded me of a gourd hanging by a string.

**VOICE:** I have heard them singing as early as February 28, 1945 and as late as July 2, 1942 at The Refuge and July 16, 1943 at Coleraine; although in 1944, whereas I heard them singing from June 18 to June 20, I did not hear them singing June 21 nor in the middle of the following month. I did see one on Mill Creek in western Camden County on July 18, 1944.

I am strongly under the impression that not only does the habitat of



the local birds differ from that of the migrants, but that their songs also differ. I have never heard the resident birds of Coleraine, Okefinokee and The Refuge utter any other song but the ascending, buzzing, abruptly ending trill which seems best rendered: *zee-ee-ee-ee-ee-ee-up*. A migrant *americana*, collected April 18, 1945, sang only that trill with much less of a blur, so as to remind one of the Black-throated Green Warbler's "murmuring trees" song. A *pusilla* male collected in mossless deciduous woods in eastern Charlton County on April 20, 1945 seemed to have that repertoire ascribed to the species by Chapman (8), Matthews (9) and Forbush (10). I only wish I had recorded all the songs of this bird before collecting it as it seemed to have several songs I have not seen recorded. I was first attracted to both birds collected by the difference in their voices from those of the resident birds. I had not then read Mr. Brewster's article written over three score years ago (3).

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1500 Walnut St. Bldg.

Philadelphia, Pa.

# NOTES ON SOME BIRDS OF COCHRAN, BLECKLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY J. FRED DENTON

The writer attended Middle Georgia College at Cochran, Georgia, from September 5, 1932 to May 20, 1934. On numerous occasions during this time he was able to observe the birds in the immediate vicinity of the school. Many interesting records were obtained, some of which are presented below. Unfortunately, the writer did not remain at Cochran during the summer of 1933 so is unable to furnish information on certain species whose breeding status in that vicinity is questionable.

Black Vulture: *Coragyps atratus*. A nest was found on the ground beside a

large rotting log in a small gum swamp on March 31, 1933. It held two fairly fresh eggs.

Killdeer: *Charadrius vociferus*. A pair of these birds nested in the pasture just behind the barn at the school during the spring of 1933. The nest was not found but on April 7 the adults were observed accompanied by a young bird which had recently hatched.

Upland Plover: *Bartramia longicauda*. Two birds noted in a wet pasture on March 27, 1933.

Solitary Sandpiper: *Tringa solitaria*. A rather early record was the presence of two birds at a wet weather pond in a pasture on March 27, 1933.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *Sphyrapicus varius*. This species arrived on October 8, 1933, an early fall record.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker: *Dryobates borealis*. This species was a common permanent resident in a stand of mature long-leaf pine near the school. On February 4, 1934, eight individuals were noted.

Eastern Phoebe: *Sayornis phoebe*. This species was first noted on October 8, 1933.

Bewick's Wren: *Thryomanes bewickii*. This species was a fairly common winter resident and was observed frequently during January, February, and March of both 1933 and 1934. My latest Spring record was March 21, 1934.

Catbird: *Dumetella carolinensis*. This species was fairly common during the winter of 1933-34. Four birds were observed on February 3, and three birds on February 17, 1934.

Cape May Warbler: *Dendroica tigrina*. This species, uncommon in the Coastal Plain, was observed on April 11, 1933.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: *Dendroica caerulescens*. A male was seen on October 3, 1932.

Western Palm Warbler: *Dendroica p. palmarum*. My earliest fall record for this common winter resident was September 22, 1932; my latest spring record May 7, 1934.

Orchard Oriole: *Icterus spurius*. This species arrived on April 8, 1933, a fairly early date.

Scarlet Tanager: *Piranga olivacea*. This species, uncommon in the Coastal Plain, was recorded three times. A male in breeding plumage was observed April 8, 1933, and another on April 17, 1933. On September 24, 1932, a male in fall plumage was observed at close range.

1314 Meigs St.

Augusta, Georgia

## GENERAL NOTES

SOME ADDITIONAL GEORGIA RECORDS OF INTEREST.—The following records of unusual species or of the occurrence of species at unusual seasons are reported.

Eastern Brown Pelican: *Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis*.—One



bird seen January 16, 1945, at Sea Island, Georgia, furnishes a definite January record. (Thomas).

Gannet: *Moris bassana*. — One seen January 13, 1945, at Sea Island, Georgia. Fairly common 25 miles off Brunswick, Georgia, January 18, 1945. (Thomas).

Water-Turkey: *Anhinga anhinga leucogaster*. — One bird seen September 16, 1942, near Augusta, Georgia, (Belger and Thomas) and shot two days later. (Murphey).

Eastern Glossy Ibis: *Plegadis falcinellus*. — One bird seen at the clay-pits near Augusta, Georgia, on May 17, 1945. (Thomas and Balk).

Old-Squaw: *Clangula hyemalis*. — One bird seen at Augusta January 7 and 8, 1945. (Clay, Thomas, and Ward).

White-rumped Sandpiper: *Erolia fuscollis*. — Six birds in full plumage seen June 12, 1942, at Augusta. (Clay and Thomas). One seen May 7, 1945, at Augusta. (Balk and Thomas).

Marbled Godwit: *Limosa fedoa*. — One seen June 27, 1943, at Sea Island, (Thomas and Clay) and eight seen at the same spot January 13, 1945. (Thomas).

Parasitic Jaeger: *Stercorarius parasiticus*. — One seen following Herring Gulls 20 miles off Brunswick, January 18, 1945. (Thomas).

Gray Kingbird: *Tyrannus dominicensis*. — One seen June 27, 1943, at Sea Island. (Clay and Thomas).

Brewer's Blackbird: *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. — Flock of from 20 to 75 seen near Augusta from January 8 to March 24, 1943. (Belger, Clay, and Thomas). — WILLIAM THOMAS, 2131 McDowell St., Augusta, Georgia.

BIRD NOTES FROM SOUTHEASTERN GEORGIA. — The following notes concerning the status of five species of birds in southeastern Georgia are presented.

American Egret: *Casmerodius albus agretta*. — *Birds of Georgia*: 29 seems from my experience to be in error in calling this an "uncommon winter resident in extreme southern Georgia." I have never noticed a seasonal increase or decrease in the Okefinokee. Between the great swamp and the coast I have never seen it in winter. A few may winter along the coast, but certainly the coast has a summer increase. Perhaps my use of the word "abundant" in characterizing the Okefinokee winter status of this species (Hebard, 1941:16) may be erroneous, as Earle R. Greene

(in lit.) suggests, when contrasted with their numbers in Florida or along the Gulf Coast, but anyone who saw them at their winter roost along the Okefinokee Canal, or flying over Floyd's Island in early morning or late afternoon in the early thirties could scarcely have considered them as merely "common," certainly not as "uncommon."

Gray-headed Nuthatch: *Sitta pusilla caniceps*. — This unquestionably is the breeding form of this species at Coleraine. A male collected February 24, 1936 in western Camden County was identified both by Lucien Harris, Jr., and myself as this form. A young male of the year, collected July 1, 1942, in eastern Charlton County, had its head entirely gray. A pair collected April 1, 1944, in western Camden County seemed to me clearly referable to this race. The female of this pair had already laid her eggs. It required the collection of a pair on April 18, 1945 in western Camden County, with the eggs of the female already laid, to establish this as the breeding form for the region. The identification of the pair was made by James Bond of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where the specimens can now be found.

Florida Prairie Warbler: *Dendroica discolor collinsi*. — The presence of this form on Amelia Island (Howell: 1932, 408) makes the discovery of this race at Coleraine no surprise. A pair apparently engaged in nest building on April 13, 1945 in western Camden County, seemed referable to this race, as the male had little or no red on the back and the chin of the female seemed grayish without yellow markings. A male collected nearby on April 18, 1945 clearly belonged to the northern race, but another bird, apparently a male, collected nearby on the same date, is surely the Florida race. The specimen is in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. John W. Burch, who drew the specimen, sexed it as a female, but I cannot see how the male and the female of this species can possibly be confused, particularly when the black markings through the eye and at the side of the throat and along the sides are pronounced.

Florida Cardinal: *Richmondia cardinalis floridana*. — A male collected in eastern Charlton County on Coleraine Plantation on April 20, 1945, identified by James Bond as this race, confirms the prediction in *Birds of Georgia*: 64 that this is "probably the breeding bird of the extreme southeastern part of the State." If Mrs. Laskey is correct in her conclusion that individual Cardinals rarely, if ever, wander more than four miles (*Wilson Bull.*, 56:27 at 37 and 42), then my identification of winter Cardinals at Coleraine as *cardinalis* must have been incorrect (Cf. Hebard 1941:76).

Seaside Sparrow: *Ammospiza maritima*. — Few species of birds have been recorded more closely confined to one habitat than this to the coastal salt marshes. Such to date is the record in Georgia (*Birds of Georgia*:68). I suggest that Seaside Sparrows may be found in suitable



marshes, whether salt, brackish or fresh, to the limit of tide water. The salt water line on the Great Satilla River is just below the Coastal Highway bridge in Camden County. Above the bridge are numerous abandoned rice fields, a number of which have in the past few years been reclaimed to raise vegetables. Here at The Refuge, where the water is brackish and occasionally salty, and the normal tide is about seven feet, I have recorded Seaside Sparrows on November 27, 1942 skulking in rail fashion in smartweed (*Persicaria* sp.) on a dyke, and on April 19, 1945 on the bank of a canal from which it flushed to a saw grass (*Zizania* sp.) blade where it sat in the sun for about 15 minutes before flying some distance away.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

LINGERING OF MIGRANTS. — One of the local problems which a field observer has opportunity to work on in the spring is the length of time that migratory birds linger in a given area en route to destinations further north. The lingering of migrants for a certain length of time during the course of their travels northward is natural. However, this lingering is governed to a certain extent by environmental conditions, the weather being of primary importance. Availability of food and maturing of plant life are secondary conditions affecting it. For instance, during the latter part of April, 1945, flood conditions in the Ocmulgee River bottom of Central Georgia played a vital part in holding Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers for several weeks in a partially inundated newly plowed field that presented the appearance of mud flats. When warmer weather dried up these flooded fields and pools, the birds left. These same floods, brought on by storms, reduced the local Swainson's Warbler population that had moved in for the summer, by causing some of them to move elsewhere. The aftermath of storms also brought in many waves of warblers from the heavily populated flyways eastward along the coast. The dripping foliage in the heavy deciduous forests of the river bottom during early May must have had a lot to do with the lingering of the Veery and Olive-backed Thrushes. The continued cool and windy weather through this same period brought on by heavy rains unquestionably played its part in keeping the Bobolinks in the fields of oats and vetch for more than two weeks. The maturing of the oats, which provided food and the swinging perch that Bobolinks love so much, undoubtedly had something to do with attracting them.

Three Unland Plovers remained for more than a week in an extensive closely cropped field because the field offered conditions suitable to their habits, viz., extensiveness of range, high winds and abundance of food supply.

The first half of the overall 1945 migration picture as compared to that of 1944 was advanced some two weeks; however, as a result of the critical weather changes in the latter half of the period (April and May) the picture in this area was retarded by approximately the same length of time.

Some examples of the lingering time of several species is as follows: Upland Plover, April 3-12; Solitary Sandpiper, April 9-May 13; Redstart, April 9-May 30; Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, April 30-May 7; Olive-backed Thrush, April 24-May 16; Veery, April 30-May 7; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, April 30-May 10; Scarlet Tanager, April 30-May 12.—BROOKE MEANLY, *Camp Wheeler, Georgia*.

WHISTLING SWAN IN THE ATLANTA AREA. — T. E. Dennington recently reported seeing two Whistling Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) on Pine Lake in a small suburban town about 10 miles southeast of Atlanta. The date was February 25, 1945. Both birds were seen at close range in flight and also feeding on the lake, where they remained for several hours. Size, shape, and close range made identification easy. Unfortunately, no other G. O. S. members had the opportunity of seeing the Swans.

There are only four previous Georgia records of this bird. — RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Ga.*

A LARGE "BLACKBIRD" ROOST AT ATLANTA. — For the past three winters (1942-45) at least, an enormous number of Grackles (*Quiscalus* sp.), Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) have roosted in a thicket of giant bamboo in a grove of native pines and tulip trees in the East Lake section near Atlanta. The property is a residential plot (Maddox) opposite East Lake School and is on the East Lake trolley line.

The birds have been seen by members of the Atlanta Bird Club (Bell, Oliver, Willingham, Brower, Werner, and others) on various occasions during the winter months. It is not an exaggeration to say there may be 50,000 individual birds roosting in about half an acre of the canes. They come in to roost just before dark, at which time many large trees are actually black with perching birds waiting to select favorite canes for their nights' rest. The circling and chattering masses suggest large groups of Chimney Swifts. Often several thousand will fly into view in a compact mass, and frequently a bare poplar seems suddenly to be taking flight as every bird will fly as though by a pre-arranged signal.

Although several dead grackles have been picked up in the grove, no specific identification has been made. The Starlings, by their shape and flight, are easily identified. The Cowbirds are more difficult to separate. I saw a sizeable flock just before dark in January, 1945, which I feel sure were Cowbirds, as shape, entirely different notes, and size in silhouette indicated this species. It was too dark to observe color. The ideal time to witness this phenomenal gathering is just about sunset. As dark approaches, the clatter of wings and the thousands of voices become silent and the birds find rest.

Glen W. Bell, a nearby resident, states that 10 or 12 grackle nests were built on or near his property this spring, some four or five blocks from the roost.—RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Ga.*



BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) IN ATLANTA. — For the first time in several years at least, there have been records this spring of this striking bird in the Atlanta area. On May 6, I saw a male about 7:30 A. M. and obtained fine views with and without 6X glasses. The bird was singing, some calls suggesting notes of the Chat. On May 20, my wife observed a female on our home property. This might indicate a nest nearby.

On April 27, and several times before and since up to about June 1, Gerard Spratt reported a male and female near Bobby Jones Golf Course (Woodward Way, N. W.). The female was noted carrying strings and giving every evidence of nest-building. There was a positively identified nest in the same section in 1944. The nest was seen by Norman Giles, Jr., and Nelson Spratt.

In addition to the above, there have been sight records in the Piedmont Park area (Harry Greene), at Avondale Estates (Mrs. O. H. Waters), and at East Lake (Glen W. Bell) this spring. I have never before identified the bird in Atlanta but have observed it once at Clarkesville, Georgia. Earle R. Greene (1933. *Birds of Atlanta, Georgia, Area*) gave one record, April 29, 1923, and recorded a nest taken by Wallace Rogers May 15, 1920. Burleigh recorded it as a "scarce migrant" with the dates of April 25, 1927 and May 22, 1926 at Athens, Georgia. The above recent records may indicate this species is becoming more common in North Georgia. Any other Georgia records during this spring would be of interest.—RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Ga.*

THE YELLOW WARBLER BREEDING AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. — Occasional reports of the occurrence of Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica a. aestiva*) in the vicinity of Augusta in late May and June led the writer to suspect that this species bred sparingly in this area. So, during the latter half of May (1945), a search was made of suitable habitats for Yellow Warblers which showed evidence of mating and settling on particular territories. One such pair was observed at frequent intervals in a group of small willows and cottonwoods growing in the borrow pit paralleling the levee just southeast of Augusta. These birds, observed regularly to June 6, were not found when looked for on June 9. However, on June 16, my latest visit to that area, the male was seen feeding in a locust thicket.

On May 25, a second pair of these warblers was found apparently mated and settled for the summer in a clump of willow and cottonwood saplings growing in a shallow clay pit two miles south of the city. When this area was visited again on June 11, the birds were located immediately. They became very excited at the invasion of their territory and showed every evidence of nesting. A short search was made for the nest but it was not located. Because of the lack of other acceptable evidence of breeding, both birds were collected and preserved. The female showed a distinct brood patch while the male possessed testes the size of those of a breeding bird.

The present record extends the known breeding range within the State to the fall line, approximately 100 miles south of its previously known range (Atlanta and Athens). The elevation of this area is approximately 130 feet above sea level.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Georgia.*

KENTUCKY WARBLER (*Oporornis formosus*) NEST IN ATLANTA. — On May 31, 1945, I found a nest on the ground in the rear of my home, 758 Wildwood Road, N. E. It was built up some 4-5 inches above the ground and supported on two sides by branches of a wild azalea bush. The location was thickly overgrown with shrubs and small trees.

The nest itself was clearly visible on close inspection. I had seen and heard the birds several days before—they are regular summer residents here—but I did not suspect a nest. There were four young birds on the above date, seemingly not over two days old. I was sorry not to have seen the eggs.

On June 2, at 8:30 A. M. I flushed the mother bird from the nest and she flew away with quivering wings simulating injury. The young then had mostly natal down. On June 3 both parents were feeding at about 10:25 A. M. and I heard no singing on that day. The young were apparently healthy and quiet in the nest. The parents kept close to the ground but occasionally rose to low shrubs, chipping when anything was disturbing them.

On June 4, 9 A. M., I watched at close range remaining for some 15-20 minutes as the female, then the male bird also, came with food. They circled the nest and came close constantly giving a kind of alarm "chip" (the note has a recognizable quality). The parents would not feed so I left for the day. About 4:30 P. M. the same day my wife inspected the nest and found it empty. The young must have fallen victims to snakes, squirrels or Jays. These birds and squirrels are numerous at my feeding shelf about 15 feet away. The old birds were heard again in the area around 6:30 P. M. that day and I have heard the song of the warblers several times since up to date (June 11).—RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Ga.*

FLORIDA NUTHATCH (*Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*) NESTING IN ATLANTA. — A pair of these birds nested in early April in a box on my home property, 758 Wildwood Road, N. E. I first saw the young in the nest with the aid of a mirror on April 8, 1945. The old birds had been active about the box for 10-12 days preceding this date. There were six young birds in the nest, apparently 3 to 4 days old. As the nest was deep in the hole I could not easily see inside and in about a week the young had gone. I believe they were successfully raised though I did not see them outside the nest.

The box was neatly made from natural material with the original bark outside and was roofed with composition roofing such as is used on



residences. It was placed on the trunk of a live white oak tree about eight feet off my driveway, facing due south. The box (bottom) was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from the ground level. The round hole was 2 inches in diameter and its center was 6 inches as measured on the outside (possibly one inch less depth inside) above the bottom. The body of the box was U-shaped with a gable roof. Two inches below the hole was a stout fork nailed crosswise as a perch—useless to the above species.—RAY C. WERNER, *Atlanta, Ga.*

EARLY ARRIVAL OF PURPLE MARTIN IN JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA.—While passing through the little village of Clinton, Jones County, Georgia on March 12, 1933, six Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) were noted resting on and fluttering around a rack of gourds in the yard of one of the residences. This is a rather early date for the arrival of this species in Central Georgia.—J. FRED DENTON, 1314 Meigs St., *Augusta, Georgia.*

WILD TURKEY IN THE OCMULGEE RIVER BOTTOM.—The Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) is rare in the Ocmulgee River bottom of Bibb County, Georgia, and in almost three years of observation I have seen only two birds and have had a report of one other. The first Wild Turkey was seen feeding at the edge of a newly plowed field in the bottom some 500 yards from the Ocmulgee River and approximately six miles south of Macon, on May 2, 1945. As the bird was approached, it disappeared into a nearby canebrake. A second bird was seen about a mile north of this point on May 17, 1945, in an alder thicket. A third bird was reported to me by a native two years ago in this same area.

Several Wild Turkeys were seen by the writer in the Ocmulgee Bottom in Ben Hill County, in March. Droppings found in this section at that time of the year revealed that the birds were feeding extensively on *Carpinus carolinianum* (Hornbeam or Blue Beech) seeds.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Camp Wheeler, Georgia.*

FLORIDA GALLINULE AND BEWICK'S WREN AT TIFTON.—While examining some Coots at Experiment Station pond on March 26, 1945, I identified a Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) wading near the back of the pond. It was not in company with the Coots but off by itself. The bird was collected and proved to be a female. The nail was missing from the middle toe of the right foot, apparently a deformity. This is the first record for Tift County since the early 1930's.

On March 8, 1945, while en route to Fulwood's Pond I flushed an unrecognized wren from the bushes along the roadside. It flew a few yards in front of me and lit near the ground at the base of a china-berry tree. It was immediately identified as a Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). The specimen was collected and remains in my collection. This is the second record for Tift County.—WILLARD GAULDING, JR., 1002 College Ave., *Tifton, Ga.*

HENSLOW'S SPARROW AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.—The writer, accompanied by Tom Hall, collected a female Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowii*) in Richmond County, Georgia, about five miles north of Augusta on April 8, 1945. The bird which was apparently alone was encountered on a relatively small damp area supporting a sparse growth of sedge within an otherwise dry pasture. As the observers slowly pursued it to obtain better views, the bird ran mouse-like between the bunches of sedge, keeping 8-10 feet ahead of us. The bird made no attempt to fly during the 10-15 minutes that it was under observation before it was collected.

This constitutes the first record for the occurrence of Henslow's Sparrow in the Augusta area. The specimen, unfortunately, was too badly torn up to be preserved for subspecific determination. However, before it was disposed of, it was examined by Dr. E. E. Murphey who confirmed the writer's identification.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Ga.*

HENSLOW'S SPARROW AT ATHENS, GEORGIA.—While participating in the G. O. S. field trip in the Sandy Creek bottoms at Athens on April 22, 1945, the writer "kicked up" a Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowii*). The bird was flushed from a patch of sedge from which it flew to a low plum bush. As it perched in the bush, it was very accommodating and, though jittery, remained stationary while 16 G. O. S. members formed a circle around the bush only 6 feet from the bird and studied it to their complete satisfaction. After much discussion of identification points, peculiarities of habits, etc., the little sparrow was left still perching in the plum bush.

\* This is the second record of the occurrence of this inconspicuous little sparrow at Athens. It is interesting to note that this record is only three days later in the month than Burleigh's previous record on April 19, 1933.—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta, Ga.*

SPRING (1945) NOTES FROM ATLANTA.—Purple Martin, one male seen on March 1; Bufflehead, a single female observed on March 12 both in the air and at rest on the water; Black-throated Green Warbler, male in spring plumage seen on March 25; Least Bittern, two adults, male and female, seen from May 6, and nest found on May 26 with four fresh eggs; Yellow-crowned Night Heron, an adult observed from May 6 to May 28; Short-billed Marsh Wren, one seen on May 9—Long-billed Marsh Wrens were nearby for comparison.—JIMMY MAJOR, 984 Forrest Rd., *Atlanta, Georgia.*

THE 1945 SPRING MIGRATION AT MACON.—The first dates on which various migrants were recorded in the Ocmulgee River bottom near Macon were as follows: American Bittern, March 7; Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall and Bachman's Sparrow, March 8; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, March 9; Northern Water-thrush, March 15; White-eyed Vireo, March 17; Black



and White Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush and Hooded Warbler, March 18; Purple Martin, March 20; Chimney Swift, March 21; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, March 24; Bank Swallow, March 25; Yellow-throated Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler, March 26; Crested Flycatcher and Prairie Warbler, March 30; Parula Warbler, April 1; Upland Plover, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Warbler and Summer Tanager, April 3; Eastern Kingbird and Red-eyed Vireo, April 4; Broad-winged Hawk, House Wren (few winter) and Kentucky Warbler, April 8; Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow Warbler and Redstart, April 9; Green Heron and Barn Swallow, April 11; Orchard Oriole, April 14; Wood Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Catbird, Black-throated Blue Warbler and Worm-eating Warbler, April 15; Indigo Bunting, April 16; Little Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Baltimore Oriole and Blue Grosbeak, April 18; Nighthawk and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, April 19; Pigeon Hawk, April 23; Olive-backed Thrush and Yellow-breasted Chat, April 24; Cape May Warbler and Bobolink, April 29; Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Veery, Black-poll Warbler, Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, April 30; American Egret and Chuck-will's-widow, May 2; Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 3; Mississippi Kite, Golden-winged Warbler and Canada Warbler, May 6; Connecticut Warbler, May 12; and Magnolia Warbler, May 24.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Camp Wheeler, Ga.*

THE 1945 SPRING SEASON AT AUGUSTA.—The first dates on which various migrants were recorded in Richmond County this spring are as follows: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, March 16; Solitary Sandpiper, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo (collected) and Black and White Warbler, March 24; American Bittern and Osprey, March 25; Hooded Warbler and Grasshopper Sparrow (numerous and in full song) March 27; Yellow-throated Vireo and Prothonotary Warbler, April 2; Wood Thrush, Swainson's Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Summer Tanager, April 3; American Egret, April 5; Crested Flycatcher and Henslow's Sparrow (collected) April 8; Kingbird, April 9; Indigo Bunting, April 14; Cormorant, Least Sandpiper, Wood Pewee, Ovenbird and Orchard Oriole, April 15; Yellow Warbler, April 17; Worm-eating Warbler, Redstart and Blue Grosbeak, April 21; Nighthawk and Cape May Warbler, April 24; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and Black-poll Warbler, April 26; Barn Swallow, Painted Bunting and Dickcissel, April 29; Veery, Olive-backed Thrush and Chestnut-sided Warbler, May 1; Scarlet Tanager, May 5; Mississippi Kite and Canada Warbler, May 6; Semipalmated Plover, May 12; Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers, May 14.

The last dates on which certain winter visitants and transients were observed are as follows: Fox Sparrow, March 4; Shoveller and Wilson's Snipe, March 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rusty Blackbird and Junco, March 11; Blue-headed Vireo, March 16; Brown Creeper and American Pipit, March 20; Phoebe, March 22; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, March 27; Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush, April 14; Worm-eating Warbler, April 26; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, May 1; Swamp Sparrow (collected), May 5;

Osprey, Greater Yellow-legs, Tree Swallow and Myrtle Warbler, May 6; Palm Warbler and Savannah Sparrow, May 8; Baldpate, Lesser Yellow-legs, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Black and White Warbler and Oven-bird, May 12; Cedar Waxwing, Black-throated Blue and Chestnut-sided Warblers, May 14; Marsh Hawk, Northern Water-thrush and Scarlet Tanager, May 16; Redstart and White-throated Sparrow, May 18; Bobolink, May 22; Barn Swallow and Black-poll Warbler, May 24.—J. FRED DENTON, *1314 Meigs St., Augusta, Ga.*

## EDITORIAL

BY LOUIS C. FINK

Georgia has a plan. The ornithologists of the State have banded together in G. O. S. and in the other bird clubs, and they have made remarkable progress. With the limited manpower and funds available, the bird-watchers of the State have pushed back the frontiers of knowledge. Real advancement has been made in the field of scientific research.

Georgia's plan is far-seeing; it embraces work already accomplished and progress yet to be made. To a rank outsider who has really no right at all to meddle, there seems to be just one flaw in the program, one item left out. Imposing on hospitality, this writer presents his own analysis of the situation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Odum, G. O. S. has made real strides. The *Check-list* is an accomplished advancement (and only those who worked on it know how great an achievement). A complete work on Georgia birds is being undertaken by Mr. Burleigh, and prospects are bright for its completion within a few years. The fact that Society members can argue so vehemently over the choice of an artist is proof of their interest.

A popular "book of birds" is also on the agenda. Maybe the details are not yet clear, but the project was certainly voted at the last Society meeting. Finally, the literature of Georgia birds finds itself expanded regularly and capably by the ORIOLE.

The written material, then, and the field work are being well done. In other fields, the Callaway Plan promises good things for Georgia agriculture. The State is planning to develop natural resources, and to attract tourists to pay the bill. State game management officials are forward-looking.

The present and the future of bird-study in Georgia are indeed bright. A unified plan is in operation. But there is one omission, one gap in the



scheme, and it came about as much as anything from the technical skill of the men and women who run G. O. S.

#### NOTHING IS BEING DONE IN GEORGIA TO POPULARIZE BIRD-STUDY.

The disappointment over the Check-list by many lay readers proves that a dormant interest exists. All over the State, people had been looking for a simple study of Georgia birds. It was no fault of the Check-list that they did not find it. But it was clear proof that work spent to popularize birds would be profitable.

The "popular" work which is projected will fill a gap. Yet it will do only that, and Georgia needs more than gap-filling. Georgia needs (mankind needs, if you like) an expanding interest in wild life. Here in Georgia, a program is needed to draw more people into the inner circle of nature-lovers. More amateurs are needed—amateur ornithologists, amateur ecologists, amateur foresters. For out of that public group will come support for conservation measures which can be truly effective.

The interest of the G. O. S. leaders has been scientific, and it is a tribute to their erudition and honesty. Someone in the Society who knows Georgia problems needs to be appointed to spread popular interest. The field of teachers and youth leaders needs to be cultivated. Press relations need to be developed. Motion pictures and the speaker's platform are crying for apostles.

G. O. S. needs one thousand members instead of a hundred. The Society needs to support itself in the work of popularizing nature study, in the task of conservation.

This is not the place for flag-waving, but it is true that the men in uniform are starting to come home. Now—while Georgia and the country are planning for a post-war world—is the time to plan for an increased interest in nature. The bird-men of Georgia have always been hospitable to visitors. Let's extend that hospitality with a vigorous and positive invitation. Let's ask hundreds more to join us in the crusade which is so much pleasure to march with.

#### NEWS AND COMMENTS

**SPRING MEETING**—The annual spring meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at the University of Georgia in Athens on April 21 and 22 with 22 members in attendance.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:30 P. M. by the President, Dr. Eugene P. Odum. After announcing that the meeting would be dedi-

cated to the members in service, Dr. Odum appointed the following three committees to meet during the afternoon and report to the body in session: **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Chairman, Miss Blanche Tait, Herbert L. Stoddard; **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**—Ray C. Werner, Chairman, Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Dr. Thelma Howell; **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**—J. Fred Denton, Chairman, Mrs. J. C. Oliver, Lucien Harris, Jr.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and approved, the Treasurer, Ray C. Werner, rendered a favorable financial report and announced the names of six new members, which brings to 138 the total active membership of the Society. Dr. J. Fred Denton, Editor, reported on the state of *The Oriole* and requested the cooperation of the membership in supplying material for the journal. Dr. Odum gave a report (see below) on sales of the *Check-List* and mentioned the many favorable comments received on it. He also pointed out the demand for a popular pamphlet on bird study for beginners, schools, clubs, etc., and asked the Society to consider the possibility of publishing such a work. Mr. T. D. Burleigh, Biologist of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and member of the G. O. S., discussed in detail his plans for preparing a two volume work on Georgia birds. The meeting was then recessed and the committees met to work out recommendations.

On reconvening, the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** presented the following slate of officers which was accepted as presented:

- President—Eugene P. Odum.
- First Vice President—Mrs. J. Connor Oliver.
- Second Vice President—Mrs. Lucille Rotchford.
- Secretary—Miss Blanche Tait.
- Treasurer—Ray C. Werner.
- Historian—Mrs. R. L. Hamilton.
- Editor of *The Oriole*—J. Fred Denton.

The **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE** made the following recommendations: (1) that a revolving fund be established from any profits that may result from the sale of the *Birds of Georgia* and future publications of the G. O. S. and that it be further increased from life membership fees and donations, the purpose of said fund to be financing future publications of the Society; (2) that this fund be kept separate by the Treasurer from the general funds and be administered by a Publications Committee consisting of the Treasurer, Editor of *The Oriole*, and members appointed by the President; (3) that the G. O. S. prepare and sponsor the publication of an inexpensive popular pamphlet on bird study and the more common birds of Georgia. The report was unanimously accepted.



The MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE recommended: (1) that the Regional Vice Presidents serve as Membership Chairmen; (2) that where two or more members are in a city or town, they be urged to form an active local club and promote meetings and field trips; (3) that the secretary invite the directors of privately owned summer camps for children to join the G. O. S.; (4) that a news story concerning the spring meeting be given to the bulletin of the Georgia Academy of Science, this to include an invitation for members to join the G. O. S. The report was accepted unanimously.

At 6:30 P. M. a delicious dinner was served in Dawson Hall by the Institutional Management Class of the Home Economics Department. Thirty-four members of the G. O. S. and guests were present. Following the dinner a technicolor movie entitled "Wild Life at Mt. McKinley, Alaska" was shown. This beautiful and instructive picture was secured by Lt. Petrides from the National Park Service.

The meeting was concluded on Sunday morning with a field trip to Sandy Creek Bottoms, led by Mr. Burleigh. Sixty-two species of birds were observed. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Odum for making such a pleasant and profitable meeting possible.

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REPORT ON CHECK-LIST — *Birds of Georgia: A Preliminary Check-list and Bibliography* was published March 15, 1000 copies being printed. By the first of June the following number of copies had been distributed:

Copies sold at list price (\$2) .....	245
Copies sold at discount (libraries, etc.) .....	142
Total .....	387
Total income .....	\$683.56
Amount payable to G. O. S. ....	\$478.49
Review and complimentary copies .....	30
Authors copies .....	7
Copyright copies .....	2
Total copies distributed .....	426

This means that about one-third of the edition has been sold, a good start but with two-thirds to go. While there has not been enough time yet for reviews in the *Auk* and other journals to appear, a number of very favorable comments have been received by the compilers, both from local and out-of-state persons. The following are excerpts of letters received from prominent ornithologists:

"Congratulations on the appearance of the *Birds of Georgia*. This supplies a rudder for your ship which will permit Georgia bird students definitely to direct their studies." (signed) F. M. Chapman, Coconut Grove, Fla.

"I like the Check-List of *Birds of Georgia* because of the people who made it as well as for its appearance and content. It is a neat and useful publication, evidently the work of loving hands." (signed) W. L. McAtee, Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago, Ill.

"The authors of the Check-List of the *Birds of Georgia* should certainly be congratulated in having brought to successful completion a basic and badly needed reference work for students of the birds of Georgia, under such extremely difficult conditions of the last war years. The authors are to be warmly commended for the conservatism they have used in their compilation of records and for their having avoided the easy pitfall of treating the whole state as one faunal or ecological unit. The success of the Check-List will probably best be measured in the long run by the stimulus that it will give to students of state avifauna, and the rapidity of which it will become out of date." (signed) Ludlow Griscom, Museum of Comp. Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

"P. S. Much surprised to note no State record of White-winged Scoter."

"I have looked it over fairly carefully, and in my opinion you and your colleagues are to be congratulated upon a fine piece of work. It shows a lot of hard painstaking and discriminating work." (signed) Frederick C. Lincoln, Division of Wildlife Research, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

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G. O. S. MEMBERS IN SERVICE — The spring meeting of the G. O. S. at Athens was dedicated to the 26 members serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. They are as follows:

Fred S. Barkalow, Marietta	Milton Hopkins, Fitzgerald
Thomas Bivins, Milledgeville	Branche Howe, Decatur
Clarence Belger, Augusta	David Johnston, Atlanta
Harris Clay, Augusta	Bonner Jones, Milledgeville
Wallace Dreyfoos, Atlanta	Albert Martin, Milledgeville
Louis C. Fink, Oliver General Hospital, Augusta	Brooke Meanley, Camp Wheeler, Ga.
Frank Fitch, Jr., Athens	Robert Norris, Tifton
Betty Floding, Atlanta	Richard A. Parks, Charlotte, N. C.
William Griffin, Atlanta	Roger T. Peterson, New York, N. Y.
Thomas Hall, Milledgeville	George A. Petrides, Athens
Frances Hames, Atlanta	Ralph Ramsey, Atlanta
Billy Hargrove, Milledgeville	George Sciple, Atlanta
	Nelson Spratt, Jr., Atlanta
	Roy Ward, Watkinsville



In addition to the members listed above, two have recently received honorable discharges from service; they are Daniel Henderson of Chamblee and William Thomas of Augusta.

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**BACK ORIOLES NEEDED** — The recent publication and distribution of the *Birds of Georgia* in which reference is made to numerous records originally published in *The Oriole* has resulted in demands by many libraries and ornithologists for complete files of the journal. Unfortunately, the supply of several numbers of the earlier volumes is exhausted and the orders cannot be filled until these are obtained. Any G. O. S. member having back numbers which he does not wish to retain is urgently requested to return them to Mr. Werner, Treasurer, who will pay cash for them or allow credit toward next year's dues. Also, if any member knows any former G. O. S. members who have copies of *The Oriole* which might be obtained, they are urged to communicate with Mr. Werner.

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**PUBLICATION DEAD-LINE** — The next *Oriole* goes to press September 15. It is imperative that you get your notes and articles to the Editor by this date.