

# THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology : Official Organ of the  
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# THE ORIOLE

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## IN MEMORIAM—WILLIAM HENRY LAPRADE

BY EUGENE E. MURPHEY

Doctor William Henry LaPrade was born November 20, 1875, at Cedartown, Georgia, and from his earliest boyhood was keenly interested in the study of birds and everything pertaining to them. His first schooling was received in the Tulane High School in Louisiana, where he was actively interested in the bird life of that section and had access to the many excellent collections which were to be found in that part of the country. He was a keen student of ornithology long before he entered upon his more serious work in the ministry.

Immediately following his graduation from Tulane High School, Dr. LaPrade entered Emory College where he remained for his classical education, graduating in 1897 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Later, Emory conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. After leaving Emory, he spent one year in graduate work at Vanderbilt University.

In 1899, having been ordained a minister, Dr. LaPrade was appointed to a church in St. Louis, Missouri, and there he had the great stimulus of falling under the influence of Ludwig Kumlein, the eminent ornithologist, which association continued as long as Dr. LaPrade remained in St. Louis. Subsequently, he was transferred to another Conference and was stationed at a church in Kirkwood, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. Here he made the acquaintance of Mr. Robert Windsor Smith, who was an ornithologist living then in Kirkwood. They did considerable ornithological work together, and the fine collection of skins now in Emory College is the outcome of their joint labors. At this time Dr. LaPrade, Dr. Wallace Rogers and Lucien Harris were all greatly interested in the study of Oology, and particularly in preparing specimens of the native birds and eggs of Atlanta and the surrounding territory. These three men accumulated collections of skins and eggs, which also found their way eventually into Emory College, where they are to permanently remain. Dr. LaPrade wrote but little and apparently left few notes, but he was a devoted collector—not for himself, but for his beloved Alma Mater, Emory.

Modest and unassuming, as becomes a minister of the Gospel, he was



large matter has been separated. They are watered every thirty minutes for the first ten days and after that three times daily. At the end of the fourth week a small quantity of grain is mixed with the mash and the quail continue on this diet until matured. Green food, such as lettuce, is fed when obtainable.

Quail reared artificially are susceptible to a variety of internal and external diseases, the most common of which is the dreaded coccidiosis. This particular disease becomes prevalent under unsanitary and overcrowded conditions. It has been successfully combatted at the Game Farm by frequent and regular cleaning and disinfecting of the pens. The food trays and water jars are also washed and disinfected each day.

Another highly fatal disease is the "Quail disease." The microorganism causing this malady is usually present in the intestines of all quail and is absolutely harmless under normal conditions. However, if the quail are subjected to over-crowding, lack of proper food, unregulated temperature or any other abnormal influences, the germ immediately attacks and is often the victor due to the lowered resistance it encounters.

Cannibalism often causes a high percentage of fatalities among artificially reared quail. It usually begins by the pecking of a particle of food that has become adhered to the nostril or beak and usually the attack is so frequent and violent that blood is drawn. Once the birds get the taste of blood they apparently go "berserk" and pick each other unmercifully. This undesirable trait is best deleted by clipping the upper mandible of each quail and keeping a very close watch over the birds at all times. Any that have become bloody should be removed and placed in a pen excluded from the light. An application of pine tar is helpful in healing the injured places.

In view of the many difficulties confronting the quail breeder, a 60% loss of birds is considered normal. This makes the cost of hand reared birds very high. At the Georgia State Game Farm, constant experiments are being conducted with such equipment as is available. It is believed that these experiments are aiding materially in the successful propagation of quail in this state. Quail hatched during the last two months of the past season suffered only a 17% loss and with this experience, it appears that the next season will be a very successful one. Tentative plans call for 500 pairs of laying birds which will mean an average egg production of 2,000 eggs per week.

Artificial propagation of quail can be accomplished on a large scale. However, the birds will be of very little value for general restocking purposes, for reasons stated earlier in this article, unless a better method of release can be found. What is needed is a medium through which the quail can become adapted to the new way of life in the woods. A possible

medium would be to release a number of female birds within a protected, fenced area just at the beginning of the breeding season. A certain amount of food would have to be provided at first. It is quite possible that the wild Bob-whites would soon find their way to the hens and mating would naturally follow. By this method the hen would very soon become adapted to the habits of her mate and the young hatched from her eggs would be wild with no traits of the hand-reared mother. Also, a certain number of the male birds released within a designated area would no doubt heed the call of nature and mate with the wild hens.

The Bob-white is a noble bird. Year after year the area of its ranges has been steadily lessened through machine farming and the growth of cities and suburban districts. Its numbers have been depleted also by hunting and natural enemies. To preserve this game of all birds, restocking is an absolute necessity and restocking can result only from artificial propagation on a very large scale. Much research remains to be done before ultimate success can be achieved, but success is definitely in the offing and can be accomplished.

*State Game Farm  
Chamblee, Georgia*

## SUMMER BIRDS OF A COASTAL PLANTATION

BY ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR.

Between May 18 and May 24, 1945, the writer, accompanied by E. B. Chamberlain and E. A. Williams of Charleston, S. C., made a survey in the interest of the National Audubon Society of the wildlife of Altama Plantation in coastal Georgia. This plantation is situated on the South Altamaha River at the northern edge of Glynn County adjoining McIntosh County. It is about eight miles south of Darien and 16 miles north of Brunswick, lying west of U. S. Highway 17, the main gate being about a mile from the highway, and fronting on Georgia State Road 99 to Sterling.

At present Altama is owned by the Brunswick Pulp and Paper Company, of which Alfred W. Jones is president and owner of the ante-bellum house and grounds. In pre-Confederate War days Altama was a typical rice plantation such as occurred along the coasts of Georgia and South Carolina. The house, built in 1857, is the only ante-bellum residence remaining in Glynn County today, according to Mrs. G. V. Cate of Sea Island, Georgia.

The plantation embraces some 6,700 acres of highland, swamp and river ricefields. The timber, of which there is a great deal of commercial value, includes cypress, pine, gum, and oak. There are extensive ricefields along the Altamaha River and Hammersmith Creek, an arm of the river which runs for some distance along the plantation boundary. Heavy swamp



growth occurs in many sections, some areas being excellent habitat for the more seclusive animals. Penetration of these swamp areas was possible because of the many banks which formerly surrounded impounded water areas (rice era) and which run out through the open ricefields to the river and creek. Without them, one would be obliged to bog through the roughest sort of going. A good system of sand roads runs over the plantation and one shell road proceeds from the main gate to the house grounds.

The plantation is made up of what were once three such areas, Elizafield, Altama, and Hopeton Plantations. The Elizafield tract was given to the State some years ago by Mr. Cater Woolford of Atlanta, then owner and established as the Santo Domingo State Park. It lies immediately to the east of the line of present Altama. Its outstanding attraction is a very well preserved ruin of what is considered by most to be an old Spanish Mission, but is really what remains of an elaborate sugar mill. These mills were quite frequently found in this section many years ago, and there is another, in far less state of preservation, on present Altama.

Present inhabitants of Altama are few. There is a resident caretaker, Charles Westbrook, who was long in the employ of Mr. Woolford in Atlanta, and who has been on Altama now for five years. He was of great assistance to us in showing us about and in taking us on a truck to various places about the plantation. He has a family and is well up on gardening and general supervision of such an estate. Julia Sinclair and husband, and one or two other negroes live on the place, and have done so all their lives.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Cate primarily for making all arrangements for staying at Altama; rendering transportation thereto from Brunswick and return; securing groceries and many other essential and thoughtful attentions. To Mr. Jones for his generous hospitality of the plantation, and to Mr. Westbrook for many aids on the place.

#### NOTES ON BIRDS

A total of 80 species of birds was observed. Considering the type of country, this may not appear to be a large list but it should be noted that the great preponderance were land birds. There were some very peculiar and interesting gaps or lacks, in the avian population which puzzle us considerably. All observers are fully acquainted with southern bird-life and with the type of country involved, and comparing it with coastal South Carolina, some differences were outstanding. In a cypress-ricefield area which all of us are accustomed to, we would confidently expect such species as Anhinga, Black-crowned Night Heron, American and Snowy Egret, Louisiana Heron, Wood Ibis, Purple and Florida Gallinule, Least Bittern and Florida Cormorant. *Not one of these birds was seen.*

We had also hoped to find Wayne's Warbler, an inhabitant of cypress areas, as well as Swainson's and a bare chance of Bachman's Warbler. None were found. The conditions were ideal for the former two, and even the last would not have been surprising, except for the lack of confirmed South Atlantic records recently.

By far the most important finding was the observance of a pair of Limpkins on May 22, which increased the summer range of this species about 75 miles northward. This species is listed as, "Rarely found in the southeastern part of the State" in the recently published *Birds of Georgia*, Greene et al, 1945. It appears to have been found only in the Okefenokee Swamp and parts of Camden and Charlton Counties. This observation includes it as occurring now in Glynn County and practically in McIntosh, as the birds were within half a mile of the line.\* The reason is probably because of the presence of the favorite food of the Limpkin, the freshwater snail of the genus *Pomacea*, which we discovered on the plantation a few days prior to seeing the birds. This may be the northern limit of the snail's range, and though effort was made to discover the nest of the Limpkins, we were not successful. However, that the birds must have been breeding seems certain; the location was ideal, favorite food was present, and time of year fitting.

A complete list of species observed is presented below, with notations indicating their status of abundance or scarcity.

#### LIST OF SPECIES

Ward's Heron. Uncommon.	Limpkin. Two seen on May 22.
Little Blue Heron. Common.	King Rail. Uncommon.
Eastern Green Heron. Common.	Solitary Sandpiper. One seen on May 19 (A. S., Jr.).
Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Common; four nests found.	Mourning Dove. Common.
American Bittern. Uncommon.	Ground Dove. Uncommon.
White Ibis. Uncommon; seen three times.	Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Abundant.
Wood Duck. Fairly common.	Great Horned Owl. One heard on May 22.
Turkey Vulture. Common.	Barred Owl. Common.
Black Vulture. Common.	Chuck-will's-widow. Abundant.
Cooper's Hawk. Uncommon; one bird seen on May 19.	Florida Nighthawk. Uncommon.
Red-tailed Hawk. Uncommon.	Chimney Swift. Abundant.
Red-shouldered Hawk. Abundant.	Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Common.
Bald Eagle. One seen on May 18.	Southern Flicker. Uncommon.
Osprey. One seen on May 22.	Pileated Woodpecker. Abundant.
Bob-white. Common.	Red-bellied Woodpecker. Abundant.
Wild Turkey. A hen with 6-8 young flushed on May 22, another with three young seen on May 24.	Red-headed Woodpecker. Common.
	Hairy Woodpecker. Uncommon.
	Downy Woodpecker. Common.
	Red-cockaded Woodpecker. One seen on May 20.

\*This is very near, possibly within a mile or so, of the location where William Bartram observed the Limpkin in 1773. It is interesting to surmise whether the species has survived in the vicinity unnoticed for 172 years or whether its presence there now represents a reinvasion of its former territory. — EDITOR.



Eastern Kingbird. One seen on May 20.  
 Crested Flycatcher. Abundant.  
 Acadian Flycatcher. Abundant.  
 Wood Pewee. Common.  
 Tree Swallow. Four seen.  
 Purple Martin. Uncommon.  
 Blue Jay. Abundant.  
 Southern Crow. Fairly common.  
 Fish Crow. Uncommon.  
 Carolina Chickadee. Common.  
 Tufted Titmouse. Common.  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch. Abundant.  
 Carolina Wren. Abundant.  
 Mockingbird. Abundant.  
 Brown Thrasher. Common.  
 Wood Thrush. Uncommon.  
 Eastern Bluebird. Fairly common.  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Abundant.  
 Loggerhead Shrike. Uncommon.  
 White-eyed Vireo. Abundant.  
 Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant.  
 Black and White Warbler. One seen on May 18 (A. S., Jr.).  
 Prothonotary Warbler. Abundant.  
 Parula Warbler. Abundant.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. One female seen on May 20 (E. A. W.).  
 Yellow-throated Warbler. Abundant.  
 Black-poll Warbler. Uncommon, late.  
 Pine Warbler. Abundant.  
 Palm Warbler. One seen on May 18 (E. A. W.).  
 Oven-bird. One seen on May 20 (E. A. W.).  
 Northern Water-Thrush. One seen on May 20.  
 Yellow-throat. Abundant.  
 Yellow-breasted Chat. Uncommon.  
 Hooded Warbler. Uncommon.  
 Redstart. Uncommon; two seen on May 17 and three on May 20.  
 Bobolink. Common, late.  
 Southern Meadowlark. Uncommon.  
 Eastern Red-wing. Abundant.  
 Orchard Oriole. Abundant.  
 Florida Grackle. Common.  
 Summer Tanager. Common.  
 Eastern Cardinal. Abundant.  
 Painted Bunting. Common.  
 White-eyed Towhee. Abundant.  
 Pinewoods Sparrow. Common.

*The Crescent*  
 Charleston, S. C.

#### NORTHERN SPECIES SUMMERING AT THE END OF THE BLUE RIDGE \*

By EUGENE P. ODUM

The Blue Ridge, which forms the end of the Appalachian Mountains in Georgia, enters the State in Rabun County and runs diagonally southwest to the northeastern corner of Pickens County, where it turns abruptly northwest, forming a great V-shaped wall enclosing the high peaks (cross-ranges) and valleys (plateaus) of Fannin, Union, and Towns counties (Fig. 1). Presenting a nearly continuous wall rising above the Piedmont (the only low gaps are near the towns of Blue Ridge and Clayton at opposite ends of the V-wall), the Blue Ridge was an effective barrier to human travel and settlement until the recent era of automobiles and good roads. At the very tip of the "V" a prominent ridge projects out into the Piedmont like a great finger or salient. Burnt Mountain, elevation 3,300 feet, in the northeast corner of Pickens County, and Oglethorpe Mountain (Grassy Mountain on old topography maps), elevation 3,290 feet, on the Pickens-Dawson county line, are the high points on this salient (Fig. 1). The latter peak is the southernmost 3,000 foot mountain in eastern United States and forms a very abrupt ending of the main Blue Ridge (south-

\* Published with the aid of a grant by the author.

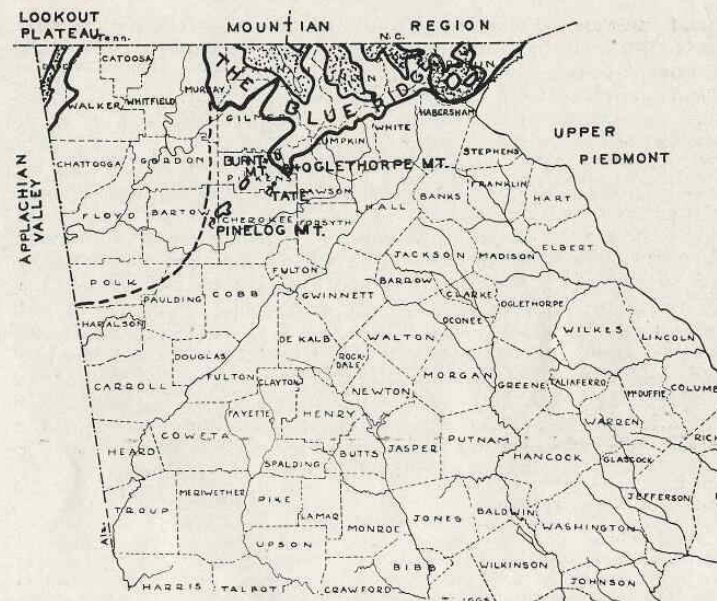


FIG. 1.—The extent of the Blue Ridge in northern Georgia. The stippled areas represent plateaus.

westward from this point there are a few isolated ridges of which Sharp and Pine Log Mountains reach about 2,300 feet in elevation).

In 1909 Arthur H. Howell spent July 4-6 on Oglethorpe (Grassy) Mountain but found little of interest there (*Auk*. 26:129-137). Except for the Scarlet Tanager and Ruffed Grouse, he found none of the northern species which he recorded on Rich Mountain and Brasstown Bald further north and northeast. Apparently this early negative report discouraged Georgia ornithologists from visiting the salient, despite the fact that its position at the end of the chain and its direct connection with higher peaks to the northeast make it potential breeding ground for northern species. In 1945 I became interested in Burnt-Oglethorpe Ridge, making three visits in late Spring and Summer. Observations made on the first visit, May 30-31, in company with Thomas D. Burleigh, have already been recounted in the *Oriole*, 10:15-19. On June 23rd I visited the area alone, spending an entire day from dawn to dark on Burnt Mountain and Oglethorpe ridge. This proved to be one of those red-letter days when all the luck seems to favor the observer with a sequence of interesting discoveries. Finally, on July 28-29, Dr. J. Fred Denton and I visited the area. Weather



conditions were very unfavorable, but two additional discoveries were made. All in all, the region proved much more interesting than Howell's early report had indicated, since seven northern species were found summering on the ridge and another at Tate a few miles from the foot of the mountains. Good evidence (nests or young) was obtained for actual breeding of seven out of eight of these species. I am inclined to believe that most of these species were here at the time of Howell's visit, his failure to find them being due to lateness of his visit, his preoccupation with other observations, and lack of good roads which today enable one to drive to the top of Burnt Mountain and all along the ridge in a very short time. Also, some species may be cyclic, breeding on this extremity some years and not in others. However, there is good evidence that the Chestnut-sided Warbler and perhaps one or two other species now present were actually not there in Howell's time but have recently invaded along the ridge to its very end. The Oglethorpe salient, therefore, not only represents the southernmost known point in breeding ranges of most of the species listed below, but also is a region that should be watched for additional invaders from the north and for possibility that some of the species may invade beyond the salient into the Piedmont Plateau. For convenience, the 1945 observations will be summarized by species:

**RUFFED GROUSE:** Howell recorded Ruffed Grouse from Mt. Oglethorpe in 1909. Hunters in Tate said they did not think that many Grouse occurred on Burnt or Oglethorpe Mountain at present, although fairly common a few miles northeast along the Blue Ridge. Denton and I saw one individual near the top of Burnt Mountain on July 28th. The bird ran out from some blackberry bushes onto the road in response to our "squeaking." Originally, the Ruffed Grouse probably occurred locally at least well into the Piedmont, but Burnt Mountain may be about as far south as it occurs today. U. S. Game Management Agent Parker B. Smith has recently informed me that the Ruffed Grouse breeds locally in Stephens County (he has a photograph of a nest) which is south of the main mountains but about the same latitude as Burnt Mountain (see Fig. 1).

**CEDAR WAXWING:** On May 30th we observed a Waxwing flying over Tate. On June 23rd I heard but was not able to locate the bird near an artificial lake on Tate Mountain Estates, just north of Burnt Mountain. Finally, on July 29th, Denton and I watched a group of four juveniles being fed by one, perhaps two, parents at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Bryce (el. 1400 ft.) one mile north of Tate railroad station, several miles from the mountain ridge. The birds were feeding on poke berries and seemed to be moving slowly through cut-over woods. While such a family group does not indicate a nest in the immediate vicinity, there can be no doubt that species nested somewhere around base of Burnt-Oglethorpe salient.

**SOLITARY VIREO:** We missed the mountain Blue-headed Vireo on the May 30th trip, but on June 23rd it proved to be not uncommon, two individuals being observed carefully and several more heard singing on distant slopes. One individual was in Virginia Pines at only 2000 ft. elevation, but it was not observed at Tate.

**GOLDEN WINGED WARBLER:** On May 30th we observed one singing male near the summit of Oglethorpe and on June 23rd I watched a beautiful male feeding two bob-tailed youngsters, thus proving that species breeds in the region. In each case, birds were in dense scrub thickets near summits of ridges. The chestnut blight has

increased this habitat and should therefore benefit the Golden-wing as well as the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

**BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER:** Apparently not uncommon on Burnt Mountain, breeding in ravines around the base or part of the way up the mountain. The first individual was found and collected on May 30th in a deciduous ravine not more than 2200 ft. altitude. On June 23rd two singing males were patrolling territories in the same ravine. Another male was observed on a steep slope almost at the very foot of the mountain, not more than 1600-1800 ft. elevation. This individual, in full song, showed a preference for a row of Virginia pines but moved freely in deciduous trees as well. A fourth individual was heard on another slope among a scattering of Virginia pine further up the mountain. Finally, on the top of the ridge at 3000 ft., a male was observed feeding two young with tails half grown. This family probably nested in a ravine lower down and then moved up to the top of the ridge to feed. Although previous summer records of the Black-throated Green in Georgia are few and the only previous definite breeding record is from Lookout Mountain in Dade County, it probably nests commonly throughout the Appalachian Mountains region as well as Lookout Plateau and probably even is found at some isolated points to the southwest, since Denton and I found it on Pinelog Mtn. in late July, 1945. It is also possible that this species is increasing or extending its range in Georgia. In Dade County and in Alabama the species shows preference for ravines or ridges where there is a scattering of Virginia pine, although pairs may be found in pure deciduous woods. The "partial partiality" of pines is interesting in view of the fact that the Black-throated Green Warbler is so often associated with conifers further north.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER:** This species is apparently a much more common breeding bird in north Georgia than is generally realized. Like the Black-throated Green Warbler and unlike the Chestnut-sided, the Blackburnian apparently breeds in ravines and coves rather than on dry, scrubby peaks and ridges. In the north, the Blackburnian is extremely partial to tall conifers, rarely being found except in this habitat. In Georgia, Burleigh and I found them in ravine hemlocks and white pines in Gilmer County, a typical northern habitat, but since such conifers are very local in Georgia, the great majority of Georgia Blackburnians appear to choose tall, mature deciduous timber. On Burnt Mountain we found two or three singing males in a mature stand of oaks and tulip poplars; the birds ranged in the tops of trees where they were easy to hear but hard to see despite their brilliant coloration. On June 23rd I found a pair at the head of a cove several hundred feet below the summit of Burnt-Oglethorpe ridge and was lucky enough to find a nest 45 feet up in a giant white oak, apparently the first nest of this species found in the state (see separate note). By this date, however, most pairs had brought off their broods and moved upwards to the top of the ridge. This is evidenced by the fact that on May 30th we did not find any sign of Blackburnians on the ridge-top, while on June 23rd in a mile walk I counted five families feeding in the scrub on the ridge, a parent feeding bob-tailed young in each case. Evidently the species must breed in nearly every suitable moist cove on the side of the mountain.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER:** This beautiful warbler, known to most Georgians only as a migrant, proved to be very common on top of both Burnt and Oglethorpe Mountains and along the entire four-mile ridge connecting them. On the road up Burnt Mountain, the species put in its appearance at about 2800 feet. Along the knife-like inter-mountain ridge, which is 3000 feet or more most of the way, the Chestnut-sided proved to be the commonest bird in the scrubby vegetation and thickets sprouting under the gaunt, dead chestnuts. Fourteen singing males were counted in a mile walk along this ridge on June 23rd, even outnumbering the Oven-bird, commonly the most frequently heard songster on these mountain slopes. A female feeding bob-tailed young but a few days out of nest proved the species was breeding there. It hardly seems possible that Howell could have missed so conspicuous a bird now swarming over the top of Oglethorpe which he visited, and this coupled with the fact that he



did not find the species *anywhere* in Georgia seems clear evidence of a spectacular invasion during the past thirty years. Oglethorpe thus appears to be the southern terminus of the breeding range of the Chestnut-sided Warbler in 1945. Will it invade further or will the end of the Blue Ridge prove to be a natural stopping place?

**SCARLET TANAGER:** Scarlet Tanagers proved to be among the most abundant birds on this mountain, being found from the very foot of Burnt Mountain, at less than 2000 feet, to the very top wherever forest growth was sufficiently developed. Beautiful males were often observed on dead chestnuts and the species seemed equally at home in advanced second growth and more mature forest. Around Tate, several miles from the base of the mountain, (elevation 1200-1400 feet), the Scarlet Tanager seems not to occur, being replaced by the Summer Tanager.

**SUMMARY:** These observations extend the present known breeding ranges of the Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Golden-winged Warblers, the Cedar Waxwing, and the Solitary Vireo southwestward of previously recorded points in the Georgia Mountain Region. Conclusive breeding evidence (nest or young) was obtained for the first five of these species. The Ruffed Grouse, another northern species observed, undoubtedly ranged more extensively before settlement, but Burnt Mountain is about as far south as it is known to occur at present. Additional observation will probably show that the Black-throated Green Warbler and probably the Scarlet Tanager (first recorded from this region by Howell in 1909) breed in isolated places still further south in Georgia, as they do in Alabama. For the rest of the species listed above, the Burnt-Oglethorpe salient appears to be the present southern limit of breeding range in Eastern United States. There is good evidence that the Chestnut-sided Warbler did not originally occur in this very end of the Blue Ridge, but has only recently invaded the area. Some of the other species may also be recent invaders or they may nest at this extremity only during favorable years. The Solitary Vireo has invaded the Piedmont from the mountains in North Carolina and might do the same in Georgia. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Cairns Warbler were not observed on the salient, but both species may breed here since I found both breeding (adults feeding young) at Cooper's Gap, only fifteen airline miles from Burnt Mountain in 1942.

In a word, the Burnt-Oglethorpe mountain salient should be studied more fully and watched in the future, since it is an unusually favorable place to observe the behavior of birds at the extremities of their range and to watch for extensions and retractions of ranges, whether temporary yearly adjustments or more extensive permanent changes.

University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia

## GENERAL NOTES

**A NEST OF THE BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER IN PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA.** The beautiful Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*), aptly called by one young observer a "living firebrand," is apparently a much more common summer resident in the Georgia Mountain Region than is generally realized; undoubtedly it breeds throughout the Mountain Region from Rabun County southwest to Pickens County and north to Fannin and probably Murray Counties. However, there is no published record of a nest having been actually found within the State. On June 23, 1945, I was fortunate enough to locate a nest of the Blackburnian Warbler on Burnt Mountain in the northeast corner of Pickens County very near the extreme southernmost limit of the species' breeding range in eastern United States. After spending all morning near the summit of Burnt Mountain and the ridge which connects this mountain with Oglethorpe Mountain four miles to the south, I decided to descend from the ridge to the head of a cove in order to get water to go with my lunch. After walking about a mile through thick scrub I came to a fine spring located in a mature stand of oak-chestnut forest at an estimated elevation of 2,600 to 2,800 feet. The chestnuts, of course, were all dead, some of them fallen, but large chestnut oaks, red and white oaks, tulips, and hickories were present; there were no conifers whatsoever. While eating my lunch by the spring I noticed a pair of Blackburnians hanging around and after some watching discovered their nest almost directly over my head in an enormous white oak. The nest was nearly out to the end of a long limb at least 30 feet from the trunk and about 55 feet above the stream over which it swung. The nest appeared compact but was easily visible from below as were four young birds. Both parents fed the young, but the female much more frequently. The female did all her food getting in vicinity of the nest, favoring especially a large hickory tree. The male seemed to range much further in quest of food.

Over most of its range the Blackburnian Warbler is very partial to tall, mature stands of conifers rarely nesting in any other habitat. In Georgia, the species may be found summering in hemlock and white pine stands where such are available, but the majority of individuals have become adapted to mature stands of deciduous trees, thus retaining their partiality to tall timber even though choosing broad-leaved trees instead of conifers.

Observations on Burnt Mountain indicate that pairs choose coves and moist ravines on the sides and base of the mountain for nesting in May and early June. When young have left the nest, the families apparently move up the slopes to the scrubby forests on the ridge tops for feeding.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.*

**BACHMAN'S SPARROW AND BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER SUMMERING ON PINELOG MOUNTAIN, CHEROKEE COUNTY.**—Pinelog Mountain is one of two large "monadocks" or isolated mountains lying southwest of the end



of the Blue Ridge and in line with its main axis. Sharp (or Sharptop) Mountain in southwest Pickens County is about 11 airline miles from the summit of Oglethorpe Mountain at the end of the continuous Blue Ridge, and Pinelog is an additional 11 miles from Sharp, or 22 miles from the real mountain region. Both Sharp and Pinelog are long ridge-like peaks with several points reaching 2,300 feet in elevation while the intervening country is only 1,000 to 1,400 feet above sea and forms part of the Dahlonega Plateau of the Piedmont region. Pinelog Mountain lies mostly in Cherokee County but partly in Bartow County and is 5 miles west of Waleska, 15 miles northeast of Cartersville, and barely 40 miles northeast of Atlanta. The CCC has built a road to a fire tower on the highest point (2,300 feet elevation) where an unobstructed view can be obtained in all directions.

On the afternoon of July 29 we drove partway up the mountain and walked the rest. Although both the time of day and season was too late to expect much bird activity and a thundershower gave us a good drenching we did make two observations of interest. At about 2,000 feet elevation in an open stand of scrubby oaks we found a pair of Bachman's Sparrows (*Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii*) acting very much as if a nest or young were near. The male was eventually collected and the subsequent skin resides in the Zoology Department's collection at University of Georgia. Bachman's Sparrows are not common in north Georgia and the occurrence at this high altitude is interesting. The habitat, apparently burned over in recent past, was very similar in appearance to favorite haunts of this species in the Coastal Plain except the overstory trees were oak instead of pine.

Of even greater interest was our observation of an adult Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) feeding two juvenile birds on a dry oak-covered slope near the top of the mountain. We tried to collect one of the young birds in order to establish a possible breeding record, but three shots failed to have the desired effect. However, there could be no doubt as to the correct identity since both of us had ample views of adult and young. Since the Black-throated Green in Georgia apparently breeds in ravines or along steep slopes either deciduous or coniferous (no one has yet actually found a nest of this species in Georgia!), it is probable that the bird nested in one of the ravines or coves in the side of Pinelog Mountain below the point of observation. Of course, it could have nested on the main ridge 20 miles or so northeast where Burnt Mountain is the southernmost known point of breeding (see account in this issue of *Oriole*), but it seems unlikely that a family group with young still being actively fed by a parent would move so far through the low intervening territory. Certainly, these isolated ridges as well as the lower ones around Tallapoosa still further to the southwest should be searched earlier in the season for Black-throated Greens and also Scarlet Tanagers, since both species are known to breed quite far south on similar, even if much more

continuous, ridges in Alabama (see Howell, *Birds of Alabama*).—J. FRED DENTON, *Augusta*, and EUGENE P. ODUM, *Athens, Ga.*

**RUFFED GROUSE BREEDING NEAR TOCCOA, STEPHENS COUNTY.**—In May 1937 I found a nest of the Ruffed Grouse on a small "mountain" 4 miles from Toccoa in Stephens County, some 20 miles south of the main mountain (Blue Ridge) area. A photograph of the nest and eggs was made which I now have in my possession. The nest was watched until the chicks were brought off successfully.

Originally, the Ruffed Grouse probably occurred, locally at least, in various parts of the Piedmont, but in recent years it has been largely restricted to the mountains. In Georgia, Grouse are most abundant in the northeast corner, Rabun County, and decrease in abundance proceeding southwest along the Blue Ridge to Dawson and Pickens Counties [Denton and Odum observed one Grouse in latter county in July 1945]. The occurrence in Stephens County may well represent a relic of a once more extensive range.—PARKER B. SMITH, *U. S. Game Management Agent, Elberton, Ga.*

**CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW AND WHIP-POOR-WILL IN DADE COUNTY.**—In the Georgia *Check-list* the Chuck-will's-widow was listed as a "summer resident over the entire state," but the phrase "except in the Mountain Region" which should follow was inadvertently omitted. We have no record of the "Chuck" in the mountain valleys north and east of the Blue Ridge. However, in the upper part of the Piedmont, the Allapachian Valley, and the Lookout Plateau Region, apparently both the "Chuck" and the Whip-poor-will occur although the exact distribution and relative abundance of the two species are not known.

Early in the evening of June 9, 1945, I listened to a Chuck-will's-widow calling at the foot of Lookout Mountain near Trenton, Dade County, in the extreme northwestern part of the State. The elevation of this valley, which is completely cut off from the rest of Georgia by the long ridge of Lookout Mountain, is about 1,200 feet. No Whip-poor-wills were heard in the valley, although the observation was brief. On top of Lookout Mountain, elevation 2,200 feet, where I spent the rest of the night, Whip-poor-wills were common, but no "Chucks" were heard.—EUGENE P. ODUM, *University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.*

**ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF MOUNTAIN WARBLERS.**—In connection with Dr. Odum's recent article (*Oriole* 10: 15-19, 1945) concerning the breeding warblers of the Georgia mountains I would like to add my experiences.

The nest of a Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) was found at Neel's Gap by John Outler and myself on June 7, 1945. The nest was in a small tree about three feet off the ground and contained three young birds. This nest was photographed in color by Robert Johnston.



Other species seemed to be nesting, such as Cairn's and Blackburnian Warblers, but no nests were found. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in song.—JIMMY MAJOR, 984 Forrest Road, N. E., Atlanta.

NOTES ON A LEAST BITTERN'S NEST AT ATLANTA.—On May 6, 1945 I flushed a Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) from a marshy lake near Atlanta. At this same location last year this species was found nesting for the first time in the Piedmont section of Georgia (*Oriole*, 9: 36, 1944).

I waded out into the marshes on May 19 hoping to find a nest. There were three platforms of dead rushes a few inches off the water, similar to the nest observed last year, but no eggs or young were found.

On May 26 I revisited these nests and found that one contained four white eggs. The other platforms were empty. The nest still contained eggs on June 9.

I was unable to observe the Bitterns further until July 7, at which time the nest was not occupied. One Bittern was seen.—JIMMY MAJOR, 984 Forrest Road, N. E., Atlanta.

COOPER'S HAWK BREEDING IN JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA.—Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) is a permanent resident in the county and can be considered as a fairly common breeding bird. Although I have several summer records of the species, only one nest has been found. This nest was discovered June 2, 1939 in a sweet gum tree one-fourth mile southwest of Five Points on the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge. The nest was twenty-five feet from the ground and contained three nestlings when discovered. The nestlings were banded twelve days later.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Round Oak, Georgia*.

PRAIRIE WARBLER NESTING IN JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA.—The Northern Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor discolor*) is a fairly common migrant through the county in the spring and a rare summer resident. I have several records of this species during the breeding season but have found only one nest. This nest was discovered in a briar patch one-half mile north of Five Points on the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge June 30, 1942, and contained three young which were banded five days later.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Round Oak, Georgia*.

TWO ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE WHISTLING SWAN IN GEORGIA.—I would like to report two unpublished records of the occurrence of the Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) in Georgia.

The court records (Federal Court) at Savannah will reveal that on May 31, 1940, one, Frank McKenzie, appeared to answer to charges of

having killed a Whistling Swan at Blue Mud near Savannah on November 22, 1939.

On or about January 22, 1945, an article written by Ethel Osborne appeared in the Cordele newspaper telling of a Whistling Swan that had been killed by two duck hunters on nearby Lake Blackshear. The skin was donated to the Georgia Game and Fish Commission for mounting and putting on display at the State Museum.

In both instances cited above, positive identification of the birds was made.—PARKER B. SMITH, *U. S. Game Management Agent, Elberton, Ga.*

THE BARN AND LONG-EARED OWLS AT TIFTON, GEORGIA.—While observing birds in the swamp along Little River on March 5, 1945, I noted two medium sized owls sitting in a small oak tree. One bird flew so I immediately collected the other, which proved to be a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus wilsonianus*). This is the first record for the occurrence in Tift County of this species which is listed in *Birds of Georgia* as a rare winter resident.

On July 6, 1945, while observing birds in a stretch of woods bordering Fulwood's Pond, a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba pratincola*) was flushed from a large oak tree. It flew silently through the woods alighting in a nearby tree. I succeeded in collecting the specimen which proved to be a male. This constitutes the first record of this species for Tift County.—WILLARD GAULDING, JR., 1002 College Ave., Tifton, Ga.

SPRING AND SUMMER NOTES FROM SOUTHEASTERN GEORGIA.—After a comparatively dry Spring, Coleraine has been deluged all Summer. Fortunately the Wild Turkeys nested early so we will have a crop sufficient for the abbreviated season. More young Mourning Doves are reported than in four years, but many of the early Bob-whites did not survive. Second nestings of this species may improve the situation. The wet weather caused such late nesting that the quiet period occurred the last half of July.

Particularly late nesting records were three Downy Woodpeckers just out of the nest August 17, and two Pine-woods Sparrows scarcely able to fly August 24. The Limpkin was recorded in its usual haunt June 16 after an absence of 16 months. A young Louisiana Heron well able to fly was seen July 7, our second Coleraine record, the first being a young bird July 3, 1942. A pair of Ground Doves, whose young left the nest July 9, commenced a new nest July 15. Green-winged Teal were first seen September 10. The last local Nighthawk was observed September 11. Kingbirds and Purple Martins had departed by September 16, however, a few Crested Flycatchers were still present on that date. An unusual occurrence



was a Chuck-will's-widow calling on September 13 (cf. Harper, *Oriole* 3: 10).

Although it is stated in *Birds of Georgia*, 59, that the Cape May Warbler is rare in the Coastal Plain of Georgia, such is not the case every year. I have been in southeast Georgia to do birding only during the Spring migrations of 1942, 1943 and 1945, but have the following to record concerning the species.

Dr. Gabrielson and H. A. Carter found it at Camp Cornelia about April 20, 1941. A male and female were collected in western Camden County April 26, 1943, and numbers noted across the county line the day before and after. At least three were seen on the Coastal Highway in Glynn and Camden Counties May 13, 1943. This year (1945) it was first noted in western Camden County April 12; Burch reported it common after my departure on April 20. These records are not surprising in view of the abundance of the species in Florida (see Howell, 1932, p. 396).—FRED-ERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

#### BREEDING RECORDS FOR 1945

G. O. S. members were requested to collect breeding records of Georgia birds during 1945. Now that the breeding season is over, you are urged to send your records as soon as possible to the Editor so that they can be tabulated for publication in *The Oriole*. Remember it is imperative that every individual breeding record of every species be reported if the tabulated list is to be complete.

The data necessary for each record and the form in which it should be recorded is as follows: species, date, contents of nest or number of young birds observed, locality—city or county, and name of person responsible.

#### NEWS AND COMMENTS

**REPORT ON CHECK-LIST**—Reviews of *Birds of Georgia: A Preliminary Check-List and Bibliography of Georgia Ornithology* which have appeared in eight or nine journals so far have all been very favorable. Sales have been good although not as rapid as might be hoped. A complete financial report will be sent to members in a fall newsletter. It is highly desirable that we sell all or most of the edition within the next year or so, not only to pay back the underwriter but also to make a start on the badly needed publication fund. Every G. O. S. member should put in a good "plug" for our book whenever possible. Christmas is coming up and the book will make an excellent gift. For a young person interested

in birds but needing some real encouragement a copy of *Birds of Georgia* plus a year's membership in the G. O. S. would be ideal. A copy of the *Check-List* plus a Peterson's "Guide" or set of colored plates would make an ideal combination for someone whom you would like to see become interested in birds. Furthermore, orders are easy to make; simply write the University of Georgia Press, Athens. If you want to arrange a special gift combination as suggested above, write your president (E. P. Odum, University of Georgia, Athens). There should be a copy of the *Check-List* in every public and high school library in the State. If you cannot succeed in selling the library a copy, then donate it one. Both mimeographed and printed descriptions of our book are available free to anyone who wants to distribute them.

**MORE MEMBERS NEEDED**—It was agreed, at the Spring meeting in Athens that we needed to increase the membership of the G. O. S. Certain specific recommendations for attaining this increase were made by the membership committee. Nevertheless, after a lapse of six months, our membership has increased very little. The needs of more members still exists. For the first time since a list of the charter members was published in 1936, the membership of the G. O. S. is published in this issue of *The Oriole*. Please check the list carefully and if you know of anyone who should be a member but is not, try to persuade him to become one.

**SPECIAL NOTICE—PRIZES!!** In the March issue of *The Oriole*, Dr. Odum announced that he would award a prize to the person who sends in the best original observations on the nesting habits of Georgia birds for the 1945 season. The nesting season is over now, so prepare your manuscripts as soon as possible and send them to Dr. Odum. Although some members may not be interested in the prize, all who can are urged to participate in the contest. The papers that you submit should make excellent copy for *The Oriole*.

**FALL MEETING**—It does not seem desirable to attempt resumption of fall meetings this year, but members should be thinking about a spring meeting. Where shall it be held? Augusta has been proposed as a possible meeting place. Are there other suggestions?

**BURLEIGH BACK**—After an absence from the State of approximately 15 years, Mr. T. D. Burleigh returned to Georgia in August to live. He is residing temporarily in Athens while a home is being built in Atlanta. The G. O. S. welcomes "Tom" back to the State and wishes him the greatest success in his present undertaking.

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



## NEW STATE BOOKS—CALIFORNIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

Two other states have brought out works on birds contemporary with the Georgia *Check-List*, one considerably more elaborate, the other somewhat less elaborate in scope. *The Distribution of the Birds of California* by Joseph Grinnell and Alden H. Miller (Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 27, 608 pp., frontisp. (col), Figs. 1-57, 1945. Cooper Ornithological Club, Berkeley, California. \$10.00) is the fruit of long planning and many years field work by many able bird students who have been attracted to California by both its varied avifauna and the progressive policies of its institutions. A comprehensive study of distribution was begun many years ago by the late Dr. Grinnell and continued unabated under the leadership of Dr. Miller, one of the ablest of present day taxonomists. The distribution of each species and subspecies is treated in considerable detail, without, however, creating a bulky volume. For each species having more than one subspecies within the state, there is a detailed map, the only really satisfactory way to handle the problem of the distribution of subspecies, and their intergrades. A concise but excellent paragraph on habitat selection is also included. Material on life histories is largely reserved for a subsequent volume, which we hope will not be too long in appearing.

*A Check-List of West Virginia Birds* by Maurice Brooks (Bulletin 316, 56 pp., 1944. West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Morgantown, W. Va.) is similar in scope and purpose to our Georgia *Check-List*, although paper-bound and with less extensive historical and bibliographical material. The list is fully annotated and a brief discussion of natural features, suggestions for bird study, a map, and a list of selected references are included. West Virginia, like Georgia, did not have a recent summary of its avifauna, hence the present work is very welcome, especially since it is the result of many years of field work and planning and may be accepted with confidence as the latest word on distribution from the "Mountain State."

It is interesting to note that all of the southeastern states now have either a state book or a recent check-list of some sort (even if preliminary) with the exception of Mississippi. However, in none of the southern states is distribution as completely known as in California; there is much to be done, state book or no state book!—EUGENE P. ODUM.

## INDEX

An index for volumes VI-X of *The Oriole* has been in the process of preparation for several months but is not yet ready for distribution. In all likelihood this index will be ready for distribution with the January 1946 issue of the journal.

LIFE MEMBERS, MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE  
GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
SEPTEMBER, 1945\*

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\* A list of the charter members of the G. O. S. appeared in the *Oriole*, 2:17-19, and a list of our exchange in the *Oriole*, 9:21-22.



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