

THE ORIOLE

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THE ORIOLE

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GEORGIA'S NATIVE PHEASANT, THE RUFFED GROUSE

By CHARLES N. ELLIOTT

Whether you are an ornithologist, a hunter, or just an ordinary guy in old clothes who has a soft spot in his heart for the wilderness, you will never forget your first good look at a Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) in his forest home. You might see him standing on the trail, or walking the mossy backbone of a log. You might get a glimpse of him through the full-bosomed trees, or hurtling the tip of a laurel bush before he is swallowed by the vastness of the mountain woods.

You are amazed by his pomposity as he strides the earth, by his power and confidence in flight. No dignified old turkey gobbler ever strutted through his domain with more assurance. In men they call it brass. In a cock grouse it is symbolic of the solitudes and of the harshness of the land where he survives.

The mountain counties make up the home of the Ruffed Grouse in Georgia. He is not one of the enigmas of our state. He belongs in the mountains, and the southernmost individuals are found at the tip of the Appalachian Range, where the ranges come to an abrupt end. His nearest relative lives a thousand miles to the north, in the spruce and fir thickets of the border states and territories.

The Ruffed Grouse, or "native pheasant" as the mountaineers call him, is a little known game bird to the average Georgian. The terrain is too rough, the hunting too rugged, and so the hunters pass him up for quail in the valleys, or for wild turkeys which fill a bigger platter on the table. The few grouse killed each year in this state are by accident rather than design. Many a hunter, startled by the roar under his feet, pulls his gun into position too late for a shot at the bird that melts into the trees before his very eyes.

The rangers say that Ruffed Grouse follow a population cycle in the state, just like all other species. They do not know how long this cycle runs. This would be an interesting study for some ornithologist or naturalist to make. But for several years this cycle has been on the upswing. It is especially noticeable where the Wildlife Rangers assigned to the Management Areas within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee National Forest have put on a program of trapping wildcats, foxes, and other predators which live on small game.

To the mountain man, the "booming" of the grouse in the spring and fall is a familiar sound. This muffled beating together of the wing across the breast can be heard for long distances. One of the mountaineers described how "a pheasant booms on a log."

"I come up on him," he said, "a-settin' thar. The black collar around his neck

was poked out and tremblin'. He stood as strict at attention as my youngest boy does before his first sergeant, and his chest looked like he'd swallowed that little pot ma boils sour-belly in. He raised his wings back, and quicker'n a trout ketchin' grasshoppers, he slammed 'm together like it was gonna throw him backward over th' log. Bein' so loud when I was on th' other ridge, I thought that boom would split my eardrums up close, but I couldn't har'ly hear it. He beat 'm ag'in quicker, and then quicker ag'in until it was like my sister's boy beatin' on his Christmas drum. Hit's such a powerful sight that I didn't shoot, but left th' pheasant settin' thar on th' log."

The average north Georgia grouse weighs up to one and one-half pounds. The meat, as in all gallinaceous birds, is a meat to set before royalty. Where the northern range of this bird is generally clothed in ice and snow throughout the winter months, and the birds must resort to a diet of spruce buds and twigs of trees, the southern Blue Ridge is open throughout most of the year and provides the mast of trees, berries, and other foods which build succulent tissues of meat.

The next time you are on a mountain trail, keep your eyes open for this native pheasant of the mountains. He blends so perfectly with his surroundings that you may pass him by, where he sits quietly on a log or rock. But if you do see him, the picture is one you will not forget.

Game and Fish Commission
Atlanta, Georgia

MIGRATION OF BIRDS IN THE MILLEDGEVILLE REGION

By BLANCHE TAIT

The Milledgeville Audubon Society has been recording migration data since 1936. A compilation of migration extremes in this region is presented as a preliminary report on winter residents, summer residents and transients. A few records previous to 1936 are included from the notes of Miss Mabel T. Rogers, Dr. and Mrs. Sam Anderson, and the compiler. In some cases only the earliest arrival dates are given since no departure dates have been recorded.

- HORNED GREBE: *Colymbus auritus*. One record, Mar. 16, '45.
PIED-BILLED GREBE: *Podilymbus podiceps*. Oct. 31, '42-Mar. 16, '45.
GREAT BLUE HERON: *Ardea herodias*. Mar. 27, '36-July 5, '39.
AMERICAN EGRET: *Casmerodius albus egretta*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
LOUISIANA HERON: *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*. One record, Mar. 24, '41.
LITTLE BLUE HERON: *Florida cerulea*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
GREEN HERON: *Butorides virescens*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
AMERICAN BITTERN: *Botaurus lentiginosus*. One record, Apr. 12, '40.
AMERICAN PINTAIL: *Anas acuta taitzihua*. One record, Mar. 17, '41.
BLUE-WINGED TEAL: *Anas discors*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
RING-NECKED DUCK: *Aythya collaris*. One record, Oct. 31, '42.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: *Elanoides forficatus*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
RED-TAILED HAWK: *Buteo jamaicensis*. Oct. 31, '42-Apr. 19, '42.

- BROAD-WINGED HAWK: *Buteo platypterus*. Two records, Apr. 1, '41 and Apr. 19, '42.
GOLDEN EAGLE: *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*. One record, Jan. 7, '44.
MARSH HAWK: *Circus cyaneus hudsonius*. Oct. 8, '40-Apr. 14, '43.
OSPREY: *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
DUCK HAWK: *Falco peregrinus anatum*. One record, Feb. 27, '42.
COOT: *Fulica americana*. Two records, Mar. 17, '41 and Apr. 11, '36.
WILSON'S SNIPER: *Capella gallinago delicata*. Dec. 26, '36-Mar. 29, '43.
UPLAND PLOVER: *Bartramia longicauda*. One record, Apr. 12, '41.
SPOTTED SANDPIPER: *Actitis macularia*. Mar. 29, '41-Apr. 25, '43; no fall records.
GREATER YELLOW-LEGS: *Totanus melanoleucus*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
LESSER YELLOW-LEGS: *Totanus flavipes*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: *Coccyzus americanus*. Mar. 21, '41-July 9, '35.
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Apr. 3, '36-Aug. 4, '41.
NIGHTHAWK: *Chordeiles minor*. April 14, '41-Oct. 11, '43.
CHIMNEY SWIFT: *Chaetura pelagica*. Mar. 24, '29-Oct. 15, '43.
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: *Archilochus colubris*. Apr. 4, '43-Aug. 15, '35.
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER: *Sphyrapicus varius*. Oct. 26, '40-Apr. 21, '44.
RED-CKKADED WOODPECKER: *Dryobates borealis*. Dec. 12, '42; Mar. 1, '36; June 9, '46 and July 5, '39.
EASTERN KINGBIRD: *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Mar. 27, '36-Oct. 3, '42.
CRESTED FLYCATCHER: *Myiarchus cinerascens*. Apr. 9, '29-Aug. 22, '35.
PHOEBE: *Sayornis phoebe*. Oct. 14, '44-Mar. 12, '41.
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER: *Empidonax virescens*. Apr. 28, '43-?.
WOOD PEWEE: *Myiochanes virens*. Mar. 12, '41-Oct. 3, '42.
TREE SWALLOW: *Iridoprocne bicolor*. Apr. 6, '41-Apr. 21, '43.
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis serripennis*. Mar. 14, '37-May 2, '41.
BARN SWALLOW: *Hirundo rustica erythrogaster*. Apr. 9, '38-Apr. 25, '43.
PURPLE MARTIN: *Progne subis*. Mar. 16, '45-?.
FISH CROW: *Corvus ossifragus*. One record, Apr. 4, '37, by G. O. S. members.
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH: *Sitta canadensis*. Oct. 16, '33-?.
BROWN CREEPER: *Certhia familiaris americana*. Oct. 26, '44-Mar. 16, '46.
HOUSE WREN: *Troglodytes aedon*. Mar. 24, '41-Apr. 23, '38.
BEWICK'S WREN: *Thryomanes bewickii*. Aug. 30, '39-Mar. 16, '38.
CATBIRD: *Dumetella carolinensis*. Feb. 22, '36-Oct. 13, '43.
WOOD THRUSH: *Hylocichla mustelina*. Mar. 25, '38-Oct. 7, '42.
HERMIT THRUSH: *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*. Nov. 25, '19-Apr. 26, '38.
OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH: *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. One record, May 13, '45.
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: *Hylocichla minima*. One record, May 12, '45.
VEERY: *Hylocichla fuscescens*. Two records, May 3, '45 and May 7, '39.
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: *Poliopitula caerulea*. Mar. 8, '42-Oct. 26, '42; also one winter record, Dec. 31, '42.
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus satrapa*. Oct. 29, '42-Mar. 17, '41.
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET: *Regulus calendula*. Oct. 22, '42-May 3, '45.
AMERICAN PITIT: *Anthus spinoletta rubescens*. Nov. 13, '38-Feb. 6, '35.
CEDAR WAXWING: *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Nov. 23, '42-May 13, '45.
WHITE-EYED VIREO: *Vireo griseus*. Mar. 15, '38-Aug. 15, '35.
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: *Vireo flavifrons*. Mar. 18, '40-?

- BLUE-HEADED VIREO: *Vireo solitarius*. Two records, Jan. 26, '38-Mar. 24, '37.
 RED-EYED VIREO: *Vireo olivaceus*. Mar. 16, '45-July 2, '39.
 BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER: *Mniotilta varia*. Mar. 29, '40-Oct. 24, '42; also Nov. 30, '44 and Dec. 31, '42.
 PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: *Protonotaria citrea*. Apr. 12, '42-July 5, '39.
 WORM-EATING WARBLER: *Helminthos vermivorus*. One record, Apr. 19, '42.
 GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: *Vermivora chrysoptera*. Apr. 12, '41-Apr. 19, '42.
 BLUE-WINGED WARBLER: *Vermivora pinus*. One record, Apr. 12, '42.
 PARULA WARBLER: *Compothlypis americana*. Mar. 17, '40-Aug. 7, '41.
 YELLOW WARBLER: *Dendroica petechia*. Mar. 17, '42-Oct. 27, '42.
 CAPE MAY WARBLER: *Dendroica tigrina*. Apr. 17, '40-May 2, '42; no fall records.
 MAGNOLIA WARBLER: *Dendroica magnolia*. Apr. 14, '35-May 14, '45; no fall records.
 BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: *Dendroica caerulescens*. Apr. 12, '42-May 11, '45.
 BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: *Dendroica virens*. One record, Oct. 26, '41.
 MYRTLE WARBLER: *Dendroica coronata*. Oct. 22, '42-May 5, '42.
 BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: *Dendroica fusca*. Two records, Apr. 6, '40 and Apr. 27, '38.
 YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: *Dendroica dominica*. Mar. 15, '38-May 13, '45.
 CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER: *Dendroica pensylvanica*. May 2, '40-May 3, '45.
 BLACK-POLL WARBLER: *Dendroica striata*. Apr. 11, '36-May 16, '26; no fall records.
 PRAIRIE WARBLER: *Dendroica discolor*. Mar. 31, '36-May 5, '42; breeding status undetermined.
 PALM WARBLER: *Dendroica palmarum*. Oct. 24, '42-Apr. 1, '43.
 OVEN-BIRD: *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Two records, May 8, '37 and May 13, '45.
 NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH: *Seiurus noveboracensis*. One record, Mar. 18, '45.
 LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH: *Seiurus motacilla*. Mar. 29, '43-Apr. 23, '44.
 KENTUCKY WARBLER: *Oporornis formosus*. Apr. 17, '41-May 5, '39.
 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: *Icteria virens*. Apr. 14, '42-Sept. 28, '35.
 HOODED WARBLER: *Wilsonia citrina*. Mar. 27, '28-July 5, '39.
 WILSON'S WARBLER: *Wilsonia pusilla*. One record, Apr. 13, '41.
 CANADA WARBLER: *Wilsonia canadensis*. One record, Apr. 7, '42.
 AMERICAN REDSTART: *Setophaga ruticilla*. Mar. 16, '45-Oct. 26, '42.
 BOBOLINK: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Apr. 3, '39-May 10, '43.
 ORCHARD ORIOLE: *Icterus spurius*. Apr. 3, '40-July 5, '39.
 BALTIMORE ORIOLE: *Icterus galbula*. One record, Apr. 5, '41.
 RUSTY BLACKBIRD: *Euphagus carolinus*. One record, Nov. 5, '42.
 SCARLET TANAGER: *Piranga olivacea*. Apr. 11, '41-May 9, '46.
 SUMMER TANAGER: *Piranga rubra*. Mar. 30, '29-Sept. 3, '45.
 ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: *Hedymeles ludocianus*. Two records, Apr. 21, '45 and Sept. 21, '42.
 BLUE GROSBEAK: *Guiraca caerulea*. Apr. 11, '29-?.
 INDIGO BUNTING: *Passerina cyanea*. Mar. 16, '45-Aug. 5, '35.
 DICKCISSEL: *Spiza americana*. Two records, Mar. 16, '45 and May 11, '26.
 PURPLE FINCH: *Carpodacus purpureus*. Jan. 8, '38-Apr. 15, '41.
 NORTHERN PINE SISKIN: *Spinus pinus pinus*. Two records, Mar. 6, '43 and Apr. 6, '39.

- SAVANNAH SPARROW: *Passerculus sandwichensis*. Two records, Jan. 15, '38 and Feb. 23, '41.
 GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: *Ammodramus savannarum pratensis*. Two records, Feb. 11, '41 and Mar. 14, '42.
 VESPER SPARROW: *Poocetes ramineus*. Dec. 3, '40-Apr. 21, '44.
 BACHMAN'S SPARROW: *Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*. Feb. 11, '39 and Oct. 13, '43.
 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: *Junco hyemalis*. Nov. 13, '43-Apr. 10, '38.
 CHIPPING SPARROW: *Spizella passerina*. Oct. 22, '42-May 10, '43; also July 5, '39, so possibly breeds.
 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Oct. 12, '38-June 13, '40.
 FOX SPARROW: *Passerella iliaca*. Oct. 25, '37-Mar. 17, '41.
 SWAMP SPARROW: *Melospiza georgiana*. Three records, Jan. 24, '42-Mar. 22, '41 and Apr. 19, '42.
 SONG SPARROW: *Melospiza melodia*. Oct. 17, '42-Apr. 2, '41.

G. S. C. W.
 Milledgeville, Ga.

GENERAL NOTES

SONG SPARROW BREEDING AT DALTON, WHITFIELD COUNTY, GEORGIA—A Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) nest containing two young was found just outside Dalton on June 3, 1946. The nest was located by observing an adult with food in its mouth. The adult bird refused to go to the nest as long as the two observers were close to the spot where the nest was eventually found. A second Song Sparrow with food was seen within a few yards of the nest, but it remained quiet and was lost to sight feeding in the grass and weeds.

As observers walked away, the first bird flew directly to the nest and then flew away with feces in its mouth. The flight to and from the nest was observed through 6-power glasses at a distance of less than 50 yards, after which the observers went straight to the nest.

The nest was in a clump of grass growing on a bank along an infrequently used road. It was almost covered by grass, with blackberries and weeds helping conceal it. The nest would have been found only accidentally if the adult bird had not been seen visiting it.

Song Sparrows have been noted around Dalton in June and July for several years, but this is the first nest found with eggs or young. The nest will be collected as soon as the young leave it.—R. E. AND ANNE HAMILTON, Dalton, Ga.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER DEFINITELY BREEDING ON PINELOG MOUNTAIN—It can now be definitely stated that there is a breeding population of the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) on Pinelog Mountain, the isolated ridge lying in Cherokee and Bartow counties about 22 miles southwest of the end of the main Blue Ridge (Burnt and Oglethorpe Mountains) and

barely 40 miles north of Atlanta. As far as we are aware George A. Dorsey, now teaching at the Darlington School in Rome, was the first to find this species on Pinelog in the summer of 1936. On July 5, 1939, Griffin observed it near the top of mountain, and on July 29, 1945, Denton and Odum found an adult feeding several juveniles in scrub oaks not far from the fire tower (see *Oriole*, X:54). These observations would certainly seem to indicate a breeding population, but since the Black-throated Green Warbler is known to be an early migrant sometimes appearing by mid-summer in places where it does not nest, we were determined to visit the mountain earlier in the season this spring. Accordingly, on May 25, 1946, we drove to the fire tower on top and worked down a likely looking ravine to the southeast. Not far from the top at about 2000 ft. elevation we began to hear the Black-throated Green's song, and in a group of pines found a pair feeding fledglings so immature that there could be no doubt that they were hatched in the ravine. One of the youngsters was collected to substantiate the record and also the male which was obtained by accident. These specimens are in the University of Georgia collection. The female continued to feed the other young as if nothing had happened and several other males could be heard singing from the opposite slope.

Pinelog Mountain may well be the southern-most point in Georgia where *Dendroica virens* breeds, although a few ridges and hills to the southwest which reach 1500 ft. or more in elevation may possibly harbor a few breeding pairs. On Pinelog as well as on Burnt Mountain the species seems to occur during the nesting season on steep-sided slopes or in ravines where there usually is at least a scattering of scrub or Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) or other pine species. In their feeding activities the birds seem partial to the pines and might be expected to nest in them, but an actual nest is yet to be found in this area.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, *Atlanta* and EUGENE ODUM, *Athens, Ga.*

UPLAND PLOVER OVER ATLANTA—At 9:00 P. M. on April 16, 1946, two Upland Plovers (*Bartramia longicauda*) were heard as they flew over Lawson General Hospital in the North Atlanta area. It was raining at the time and the birds were flying low. They were easily identified by their bubbling notes. I am familiar with the notes, calls and eerie whistle of this species since I have observed it many times on its breeding grounds in Maryland and Pennsylvania.—BROOKE MEANLEY, *Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.*

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH AT AUGUSTA—Murphey (1937. Bird Life of the Middle Savannah Valley, etc.) states that during a half century of activity only three specimens of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) have been taken by him in that region. All were secured in hilly eroded country covered by dense growth of stunted pine. Therefore, three recent records of the occurrence of this species in Richmond County, Georgia, and the type of habitat it was frequenting is of particular interest. The first record is of a female collected on November 16, 1945, the second of a male observed on November 25, 1945, and the third of a male observed on April 23, 1946. On the second and third occasions the birds "squeaked" to within three feet of me after which I did not

have the heart to shoot them. All of these birds were encountered in moss-draped gum-cypress swamps in the Savannah River bottom and all seemed to be lone birds attached to mixed winter flocks consisting of Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Myrtle Warblers and Blue-headed Vireos.—J. FRED DENTON, 1510 Pendleton Rd., Augusta, Ga.

THE STARLING AT FOLKSTON, GEORGIA—Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) first appeared at Folkston, the county seat of Charlton County, in the fall of 1940. I saw them carrying food to a hole in a telephone pole at the station there on May 15, 1942. That same year I saw a lone Starling on Grand Prairie in the Okefinokee Swamp on October 3. The next year the Folkston colony increased to about 100, at which level it seemed to have remained. This year they nested in the same telephone pole but earlier. On April 22 I saw young with their head out of the hole in the pole. Two flew away at separate times and were fed by one of the parents. The other parent brought food to another and then entered the hole and seemed to force a young bird to leave. After that one young remained with its head and body showing out of the hole. Formerly Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) could always be found in Folkston, whether or not they remained nearby to winter. I have not seen one at Folkston since the Starlings arrived.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER AND RED-TAILED HAWK NESTING IN SAME TREE—A Red-tailed Hawk nested in the flat top of a large cypress located in an open pine flat in southeastern Camden County this year (1946). Nest-building was observed late in January and brooding was observed February 28 and March 21. By April 26 the two young were fairly well grown. That day they refused to be closely observed so I tapped the tree. A Red-bellied Woodpecker flew southwest toward a nearby stand of hardwoods. The woodpecker's hole faced northeast and was about 10 feet below the hawk nest, which was over 50 feet up. My companion, John W. Burch, said he had never found the remains of a Red-bellied or a Red-headed Woodpecker in the vicinity of any hawk nest.

Once before I saw a woodpecker and a hawk nesting in the same tree. They were a Flicker and a Sparrow Hawk in a sycamore tree near Flourtown, Montgomery County, Pa., on May 30, 1936. In this case the flicker hole was just above the branch on which the Sparrow Hawk nested.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

WINTER ROOSTING SITE OF PHOEBE—Our knowledge of the roosting habits of birds, particularly migrants in winter, is far from complete. Therefore, this note describing an incident which made the observers aware that the Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), when such is available, uses the same sort of sheltered site for roosting in winter as it does for nesting in summer should be of interest to others. At dusk on December 30, 1945, Thomas D. Burleigh and the writer were resting, awaiting supper on a bench in the clearing before the cabin on Floyd's Island in the heart of the great Okefinokee Swamp. Suddenly our attention was attracted to a Phoebe as it flew in and lit on the bare floor near one

end of the porch. After hesitating a moment on the floor to glance about the bird flew up to a point just inside the eave and settled down to roost. Later, before we had a chance to observe the exact location in which the bird was roosting, the guide entered the cabin and frightened it out into the night. Subsequent examination of the place where the bird apparently went to roost and the position of the pile of droppings on the floor indicated that the bird was not roosting on the rafter as we supposed but on a nail driven into the side of the rafter just inside the eave. Judging from the size of the pile of droppings the bird had used this roosting perch for a number of nights.—J. FRED DENTON, 1510 Pendleton Rd., Augusta, Ga.

ABNORMAL ALBINO WHITE-THROATED SPARROW TAKEN AT ATLANTA—For some time preceding February 6, 1946, there had been a sparrow of unusual plumage and seemingly different habits from the usual White-throats that fed in winter at my feeding-station. The general color was light tan, brownish and a gray, sandy color with no distinctive pattern with which I was familiar.

In checking the plates and descriptions in Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts and New England* I was impressed with the similarity of the bird in question to the Ipswich Sparrow—one that I had never seen. The terms used in Forbush led to my confusion in the matter. "Large, pale and robust," "bill slenderly conic," "outlines nearly straight," "tail nearly even or slightly forked," "feet slender," "legs and feet pale brownish or pinkish straw-color" are some of the terms used. Many similarities were noted and the measurements will be found to be very similar.

In my original notes I wrote: Color, pale with tan or light brown markings. Head and checks blackish. Top of head with lighter grayish median line. Checks and upper throat appeared fuscous and distinctly blackish. No distinct dark patches or areas. Under parts quite light sand color. I saw no distinct streaks or spots on the breast, but I was above the bird then and winter plumage might have made some differences in my identification.

This bird was seen again on February 18, 25, 28, and on March 4 I fired at it with a .22 rifle and small dust shot. The bird was not killed, and on March 5 the same experience was repeated as the load seemed inadequate. So I prepared a .410 shotgun shell by removing some of the load, saw the bird on March 6, and finally took it at 8:45 A. M. on March 7. A skin was prepared by William W. Griffin and the bird was later sent to Athens, Ga., after Griffin had identified it as an albino White-throat. It is in the Museum, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia. Robert A. Norris then sent it to Dr. Alexander Wetmore at Washington for checking and his comments are interesting. Under the date of May 14, he wrote to Norris as follows: "Your letter of May 5, with the specimen of sparrow came to hand yesterday. The bird is an interesting one and is the White-throated Sparrow as you have identified it. It is an abnormal specimen that differs from the ordinary partial albino in having the color pattern partly obliterated, particularly the white patch on the throat, and to a less degree on the crown and on the back. It is interesting that the yellow pigment persists to

a fair amount on the bend of the wing, but it is partly obliterated in front of the eye."

The measurements as taken by Griffin are: Tail, 2.85"; wing, 2.83"; bill, .40"; tarsus, .92" length, 6.20".—RAY C. WERNER, 758 Wildwood Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

ERRATA FOR INDEX TO VOLUMES VI-X.—Members and subscribers to *The Oriole* are urged to make immediately the following corrections in the recently published cumulative index: page 1, line 34, insert volume IX; page 9, column 2, line 22 should read 40; X, 28, 34, 47; page 10, column 1, line 3, insert volume VI for I; page 10, column 1, for line 5 substitute Red-cockaded, VI, 10, 20; IX, 8, 28.—J. FRED DENTON, EDITOR.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

SPRING MEETING—The 1946 spring meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at the Sheraton Bon Air Hotel in Augusta on April 27 and 28 with 50 members and guests present.

The business session was opened by President, Dr. Eugene P. Odum, with an expression of appreciation to Dr. J. Fred Denton for arranging the meeting. Dr. Odum then presented for consideration and discussion later the following needs of the Society: 1, a more definite program; 2, more members participating in program; 3, a larger membership; 4, some method of improving the financial condition of the Society. The minutes of the 1945 meeting held in Athens April 21-22 were read and approved. Mr. Ray Werner presented the Treasurer's report, explaining that the small balance of \$116.63 was due to the increased cost of printing *The Oriole*. Dr. Odum announced that approximately 700 copies of *Birds of Georgia* had been sold thus enabling the Society to reimburse Mr. Stoddard. All returns from future sales of this publication will be added to the Publications Fund. The President also reported that Mr. T. D. Burleigh was making progress on his extensive work on Georgia birds. Dr. Denton reported briefly on the state of *The Oriole*. The President then extended a cordial welcome and presented to the Society the following members recently returned from service in the Armed Forces: William W. Griffin, R. E. Hamilton, Branche Howe, Jr., Robert Norris, Richard A. Parks and Ralph Ramsey, Jr. Attention was directed to the exhibits of journals and books from the G. O. S. library and the excellent bird paintings by Richard Parks.

The meeting adjourned for a period at this time while the following committees appointed by the President met to formulate recommendations: NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris, Chairman, Mrs. Lucile Rotchford, Ray C. Werner; MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—William W. Griffin, Chairman, Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Mrs. Arthur Tufts, Miss Blanche Tait; PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—Dr. J. Fred Denton, Chairman, Lucien Harris, Frederick V. Heb-

ard, Ralph Ramsey; POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE—Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Chairman, Miss Mary Burns, Raymond Fleetwood, R. E. Hamilton, Robert Norris.

On reconvening reports were received from two of the committees. The PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE recommended that: 1, the dues of regular members be increased to \$3.00; 2, the price of back numbers of *The Oriole* be increased; 3, the membership be increased to at least 300; 4, a publicity committee or chairman be appointed. The MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE offered the following suggestions: 1, the printing of application cards and letters explaining the purpose and activities of the Society; 2, the distribution of these cards and letters by G. O. S. members; 3, the writing of a personal invitation for membership by the Second Vice-president to each local club in the state; 4, the contacting of local garden club leaders, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, and public school and college teachers. All recommendations of these committees were accepted with the exception of the proposed increase in dues. On motion by Mr. Werner the question of increasing the dues was tabled until the fall meeting and a special committee was appointed to assist the Second Vice-president in launching an aggressive membership campaign.

Reports of the other two committees were presented at the evening meeting. The NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE in reporting called attention to Article IV, section 2, in the by-laws which requires that "officers be elected annually at the October meeting", then presented the following slate of temporary officers to serve until October 1946:

President—Miss Mabel T. Rogers.

First Vice-president—William W. Griffin.

Second Vice-president—Mrs. Hugh H. Harris.

Secretary—Mrs. Lucile Rotchford.

Treasurer—Ray C. Werner.

Historian-Librarian—Robert Norris.

Editor of *The Oriole*—Dr. J. Fred Denton.

Regional Vice-presidents—Mrs. J. E. Boyd, Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Dr. Eugene P. Odum, Dr. J. Fred Denton, Ivan R. Tompkins, Miss Blanche Tait.

On motion by Dr. Hugh H. Harris these officers were accepted unanimously. The POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE recommended that: 1, two meetings per year be resumed; 2, the 1946 fall meeting to be held at Cockspar Island and that the spring meeting be held at some site in north Georgia; 3, members make more extensive observations and report their findings in papers at the meetings; 4, the time devoted to field trips be extended; 5, more educational work be done.

The banquet was held at 7 p. m. in the Blue Room of the Sheraton Bon Air with Mr. Lucien Harris serving as toastmaster. Mr. Harris expressed pleasure at the presence of Dr. Eugene E. Murphey in whose honor the meeting was held at Augusta. Dr. Murphey with his scientific viewpoint and aesthetic ap-

preciation of birds has contributed greatly to Georgia ornithology. Telegrams were read from several absent members after which Miss Mary Burns read a tribute to Dr. Frank M. Chapman, the dean of ornithologists, who died November 15, 1945.

The feature event of the evening program was an illustrated lecture on the White-winged Dove by Mr. Phil Goodrum, Regional Biologist of the Fish and Wildlife service. Following Mr. Goodrum's lecture Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood gave an account of his banding activities on the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge. Mr. Thomas Odum of Chapel Hill, N. C., then discussed some of the interesting projects of the North Carolina Bird Club.

On Sunday morning 36 members and guests assembled at 6:30 a. m. for the field trip to the Savannah River bottoms. The group after dividing into three parties thoroughly combed the area and found a total of 107 species, the largest ever observed on a G. O. S. field trip. Swainson's Warbler, Dickcissel, and Painted Bunting were birds of particular interest observed on the trip.

FALL MEETING—Tentative plans are for the 1946 fall meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society to be held at the University of Georgia Biological Station on Cockspar Island near Savannah on Friday through Sunday, October 11-13. Lodging for out of town members will be available in the Marine barracks at the Biological Station where meals also will be served at cost. All members are urged to make plans now to attend this meeting which promises to be the best in years. If you will be unable to attend for the entire period plan to come for part of it. The emphasis at this meeting will be on field observations and most of the time will be spent in the field studying the sea and shore birds which are abundant at this season. A brief business session will be held Saturday evening following dinner. Detail announcements with blanks for reservations will be mailed to members at a later date.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN—On Sunday, December 13, 1936, 22 would-be ornithologists gathered at breakfast in Atlanta for the purpose of forming a State Association of persons interested in bird study. Of these 14 were from Atlanta; 3 from Milledgeville; 1 from Athens; 1 from Dalton; 1 from Union City; and 2 from out of the State. Before the end of that year there were 112 charter members.

Since then the number of members has fluctuated between 100 and 200 according to our zeal and enthusiasm. Lapses during the war brought the paid membership to 119 in April of this year: Atlanta, 37; Savannah, 5; Milledgeville, 8; Dalton, 4; Augusta, 6; Athens, 4; State at large, 22; out of State, 22; Life Members, 8; Library, 3.

It seems unusually fitting that on this tenth anniversary we dedicate our efforts to increasing the membership, thus extending our activities and improving the quality of our work. At the Spring Meeting each officer dedicated himself to this project. The slogan adopted was "2 for 1". The plan is:

1. Each member is to send names of prospects to the Second Vice-president.
2. Letters are then to be sent to each prospect by the Second Vice-president.
3. Each member will follow up his prospects by letter or personal interview.

This plan has borne fruit already to the extent of 30 new members, bringing the total to 149.

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS FUND—A check for \$115.33 representing royalties from *Birds of Georgia* for past six months has been turned over to the Treasurer for deposit in the Publications Fund separate from general funds of the Society. Mr. Herbert Stoddard has notified the Society that although the full amount of his underwriting has not been returned he is well satisfied with results to date and wishes this check and all subsequent royalties to go to the G. O. S. Publications Fund. With this splendid contribution our Publications Fund is now a reality. It is up to the Society to see that the fund grows to take care of the expanded needs of the future.

GREENE'S BOOK OUT—As we go to press notice has just been received that *Birds of the Lower Florida Keys* by Earle R. Greene has been released. This interesting monograph of 67 pages with 11 illustrations presents Earle's observations on the birds of this region made while he was stationed there from 1939-1942. This monograph can be purchased from Dr. G. G. Scott, 460 Henkel Circle, Winter Park, Fla., for \$1.00.

PUBLICATION DEADLINE—The next issue of *The Oriole* goes to press September 15. All short notes and news items for inclusion in this issue must be in the hands of the Editor by this date.