

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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NOTES ON THE FALL MIGRATION OF 1946 IN THE ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AREA

By THOMAS D. BURLEIGH

The late summer and fall months of 1946 in northern Georgia were characterized by very little rain and noticeably warmer weather than is usually experienced. These favorable conditions had a perceptible effect on the fall migration for certain species that breed farther north and winter in this part of the state were rather late in putting in their appearance, and others that winter farther south were equally late in departing. No attempt will be made at this time to discuss the fall migration in any detail for a complete list of arrival and departure dates would in many cases be merely unnecessary repetition of facts already well known. However, it is thought advisable to place on record, for the benefit of those interested in the bird life of Georgia, the following dates of arrival or departure where such observations add to the present knowledge of these species in Georgia.

Coccyzus americanus americanus: Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—A female taken on October 25, in woods bordering the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta, represents a rather late date of departure for this species.

Chordeiles minor subsp: Nighthawk.—A single bird was seen in Decatur on October 27 feeding low overhead late in the afternoon. Being well within the city limits it could not be collected, so its subspecific identity could not be determined. This is considerably later than I have ever before noted this species in this part of the state in the fall.

Empidonax flaviventris: Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—A female taken at Decatur on August 26 is the first definite record for the occurrence of this species in the Atlanta area, and the earliest date that it has been recorded in the state in the fall.

Hylocichla minima minima: Gray-cheeked Thrush.—A female taken on November 7 in woods bordering the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta is my first November record for this species. It appears in the fall the latter part of September, and only rarely is noted after the middle of October.

Vireo philadelphicus: Philadelphia Vireo.—A female taken October 9 in willows fringing the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta is the first record for the occurrence of this rare transient in the Atlanta area, and is the fourth specimen to be collected in the state.

Helmitheros vermivorus: Worm-eating Warbler.—I found this species much scarcer as a transient than I had anticipated, relatively few being seen during the fall months. It was first noted on July 24 and recorded for the last time

on October 10, this latter date being rather late for its occurrence this far north.

Dendroica magnolia: Magnolia Warbler.—A female taken on November 4 in willows at the edge of the South River (in Fulton County) represents my first November record for this species in this part of the state.

Dendroica cerulea: Cerulean Warbler.—A male in immature plumage was taken on July 29 in woods bordering the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta, and is the earliest record for the occurrence of this species about Atlanta in the fall.

Dendroica fusca: Blackburnian Warbler.—What apparently represents the earliest record for the occurrence of this species in the Atlanta area in the fall is the appearance of a single bird, in immature plumage, in these same woods bordering the Chattahoochee River on August 22. It was feeding with other warblers in the upper branches of the larger trees, and while characteristically restless, was identified with little difficulty.

Dendroica pensylvanica: Chestnut-sided Warbler.—A surprisingly late record for the occurrence of this species in the fall is that of a female in adult plumage taken in underbrush bordering the Chattahoochee River on November 19. This is a month later than I have ever before noted it this far north and is unquestionably the latest record for the state.

Dendroica discolor discolor: Northern Prairie Warbler.—Another unusually late record is that of a female Prairie Warbler taken in willows at the edge of the South River (in Fulton County) on October 30. This is just two weeks later than I have ever before noted this species in this part of the state.

Seiurus aurocapillus aurocapillus: Oven-bird.—A female taken October 21 in woods bordering the Chattahoochee River represents a late date of departure for this species.

Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis: Grinnell's Water-thrush.—A female taken August 22 in underbrush at the edge of the Chattahoochee River represents the earliest date of arrival for this species about Atlanta in the fall.

Piranga erythromelas: Scarlet Tanager.—I have several records for the occurrence of the Scarlet Tanager about Atlanta the latter part of October, my latest being a male taken at Decatur on October 29. This is almost two weeks later than I had heretofore noted this species in the fall.

Piranga rubra rubra: Summer Tanager.—A female taken at Decatur on October 26 represents the latest date this species has ever been recorded in the Atlanta area. Normally very few are seen after the first week in October.

Hedymeles ludovicianus: Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—A late date for the occurrence of this species in the Atlanta area is that of a female noted October 21 in underbrush bordering the Chattahoochee River.

Aimophila aestivalis bachmanii: Bachman's Sparrow.—It is probable that this species winters at least sparingly about Atlanta, a male taken on Stone Mountain on November 11 representing an individual that would doubtless have remained at this spot throughout the winter.

Zonotrichia leucophrys subsp.: White-crowned Sparrow.—I recorded this rather uncommon transient but once in the fall, a single bird in immature

plumage being seen November 6 about a thicket at the edge of the South River (Fulton County).

Melospiza lincolni lincolni: Lincoln's Sparrow.—Although heretofore recorded but twice about Atlanta, I rather suspect that this shy and elusive sparrow is a regular, if uncommon, transient in this part of the state. I noted it twice in the fall, a male being taken at Decatur on October 24, and another individual seen along the South River on November 4.

Fish and Wildlife Service
Atlanta, Georgia

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE ROME, GEORGIA, AREA

By HAROLD C. JONES

Available records of the birds of this area date from 1928, when Glenn W. Bell began teaching science at Mount Berry School for Boys, some eight miles northwest of Rome, at the foot of Lavender Mountain. In 1931 Mr. Bell left the area, having incorporated his bird records in a Master's thesis while studying with Dr. Jesse M. Shaver of George Peabody College for Teachers. Mr. Bell has added to his earlier notes during visits to the Berry Schools campus since 1931. Intensive ornithology here was resumed in the autumn of 1934, when the present author joined the Berry College staff as biologist. His observations cover eleven years, 1935 to 1946. Important contributions of Dr. Lynds Jones, Hoyt Cragg, Electra Moore, and others, make the record more complete.

The Rome area lies close to the southern end of the Appalachian Valley. It is bordered by limestone ridges that rise some thousand feet above the valley floor. The Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers join at Rome to form the Coosa, and this joins the Alabama River to empty into Mobile Bay. Hence the region is transitional, and it is likely that subspecific ranges overlap at this point, making the collection and careful identification of specimens important. This has yet to be done as it should be.

Breeding sites for water birds are very limited here; except for a few artificial ponds (usually unprotected) only the rivers and their tributaries are available.

Nesting sites for land birds, however, are numerous and varied. These range from the rocky slopes of the ridges ("mountains"), forested with mixed hardwoods and pine, through the pine flatwoods, the moist hardwoods bottomlands, to the field margins, hedges and richly landscaped campus grounds. The protection given birds at the Berry Schools must be another important factor in making their 32,000 acres fruitful for the bird student.

A total of 184 species of birds have been recorded for this area. Of these fifty-seven are known to nest, and thirty more probably nest, although we can find no record of their nesting.

Following is an annotated list, with notes on sites, number of eggs and young, and time of nesting, hatching, and departure from the nest.

GREEN HERON.—Young seen in May, 1931 (Bell).

WOOD DUCK.—Eggs from stump, April 5, 1929; eleven young with adult female on creek, May 9, 1943.

TURKEY VULTURE.—Nest, 2nd week in April, 1930; two eggs, two young

(separate nests), June 16-18, 1939, cave and hollow log.

BLACK VULTURE.—Nest in April, 1930; 2 eggs, March 3, 1938.

BOB-WHITE.—Nest, April 23, 1929; three eggs May 1, 1942 (parent covered nest with leaves on departure—Gudger); young with parent, May 18, 1939.

KILLDEER.—Nest, middle of April, 1930.

WOODCOCK.—Four young, quarter-grown, among partridge berry, April 9, 1944; young running around May 2, 1929.

ROCK PIGEON.—Nests commonly in Rome and around barns.

CHINESE DOVE.—Four pairs released at Mt. Berry School for Boys in 1939. Several broods have been raised since among pines and junipers. Survival fair.

MOURNING DOVE.—Nest, March 23, 1945; two young in nest in Water Oak, nine feet up; fledglings April 23, 1942; nest, June 9, 1946.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Four young in muscadine thicket May 23, 1946; 1 egg, same nest, June 2, 1946; two young banded, July 14, 1940; nest, May 12, 1937.

BARN OWL.—Young, May 7, 1929 (Bell).

BARRED OWL.—Two eggs in tall stump, March 12, 1939; young, March 20, 1929.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—Two eggs in open pine woods on dead leaves May 15, 1946; young, third grown, May 25, 1939.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—Adult brooding, July 1, 1943.

FLICKER.—Nest, April 12 (Bell).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—Adults at nest in red maple stub, March 18, 1936; four fledglings in hollow sycamore felled April 20, 1942.

HAIRY WOODPECKER.—Nest, March 1, 1942, and April 26, 1942.

EASTERN KINGBIRD.—Nest in pine, April 20 (Bell).

PHOEBE.—Nest, March 4, 1941; four eggs, March 25, 1945; fledglings April 27, 1946.

WOOD PEWEE.—Nest in cornice, freshly abandoned, June 8, 1939.

BLUE JAY.—Four eggs in nest with mop yarn, top of fifteen-foot Douglas Fir, March 29, 1945; four young, May 14, 1945, in Black Oak, thirty feet up; also in five-foot holly.

SOUTHERN CROW.—Nesting, April 2, 1942.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Nesting, April 10, 1930 (Bell); May 22, 1938.

TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Nest, April 12, 1930 (Bell); four young, just hatched, May 13, 1942, in juniper, twenty feet up.

WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH.—Nesting in white oak knothole, April 16, 1942.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.—Nesting in stump, ten feet up, March 13, 1939.

CAROLINA WREN.—Nest April 15, 1930, in spring house (Bell); young, June 23, 1944; three eggs, July 15, 1944, in ivy.

MOCKINGBIRD.—Nest, March 25, 1945; fledglings, April 25, 1941, in white cedar, twelve feet up.

CATBIRD.—Nesting, May 2 (Bell); brooding, May 22 to June 2, 1946, six feet up in muscadine tangle.

BROWN THRASHER.—Nest, April 4, 1929; nest, April 12, five eggs, April 17, five young, May 1, fledglings, May 16, 1936; young in nest as late as June 9, 1946. Nests in several kinds of shrubs, vines (*Forsythia*, honeysuckle).

SOUTHERN ROBIN.—Nesting April 6, 1931; four eggs, April 16, 1936; young, April 29, 1936; nest and young in white cedar, May 14; often nest fifteen to twenty feet up in oaks and magnolias.

WOOD THRUSH.—Nest, April 21, 1931; four young left nests April 30, 1945, and July 7, 1940; nests in elms, pine, oak.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD.—Nesting March 7, 1930; young, April 12, 1945, in hollow oak; young hatched July 5, and flown, July 15, 1944. One late brood in iron post died of heat.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Four eggs, April 25 to May 3, 1942; young May 21, 1939, twenty feet up in white oak.

STARLING.—First nest recorded May, 1928, at Girls School (Bell); young, May 5, 1936, sixty feet up, in stub of Spanish Oak; nest Feb. 15, 1935, and April 3, 1941.

WHITE-EYED VIREO.—Nest, May 3, 1930; fledglings, May 28, 1941.

RED-EYED VIREO.—Nest, May 6, 1931; young, July 4, 1940.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER.—Young, May 25, 1941.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER.—Nest, April 16, 1941; young, May 26, 1941.

PINE WARBLER.—Nest, April 11, 1930; nest in loblolly pine, April 27, 1940.

KENTUCKY WARBLER.—Fledglings, July 7, 1940.

YELLOW-BREADED CHAT.—Eggs, May 21, 1939; three eggs, May 24, 1939, in three-foot bush among hawthorns.

ENGLISH SPARROW.—Nest and eggs, April 2, 1928; nest, April 27, 1942.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK.—Nest, four eggs, April 20, 1936; May 16, 1936.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—Nest near garden, April 25, 1929; nest and four young in cattail marsh, West Rome, June, 1944.

ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Nesting, May 3, 1929, and in white elm, May 22, 1938; nesting, June 4, 1941, three adults at nest.

SUMMER TANAGER.—Nest and young in post oak, May, 1938; young seen during 1945 (Bell).

EASTERN CARDINAL.—Nesting, April 8, 1929; young learning to fly, May 2, 1942; fledglings, August 6, 1939. Nests in fire-thorn, shining privet.

ALABAMA TOWHEE.—Nesting, April 5, 1930; three eggs, April 15, 1942, in four-foot Abelia bush; four young, just hatched, April 25, 1942; fledglings, May 29, 1936.

CHIPPING SPARROW.—Nesting April 8, 1930; eggs, May 2, 1943; nest, May 1, four eggs, May 10, young left nest, May 20, 1937, in boxwood.

FIELD SPARROW.—Nesting, April 10, 1929; four young in nest, May 8, 1941. The following species occur regularly during the nesting season, but no nesting dates are available:

PIED-BILLED GREBE	DOWNY WOODPECKER
GREAT BLUE HERON	RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	CRESTED FLYCATCHER (nests)
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	ACADIAN FLYCATCHER
COOPER HAWK	ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW
RED-TAILED HAWK	BARN SWALLOW
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	PURPLE MARTIN
BROAD-WINGED HAWK (nest reported)	CEDAR WAXWING
SPARROW HAWK (nests.—Bell).	LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE
COOT	YELLOW-THROATED VIREO
SPOTTED SANDPIPER	YELLOW WARBLER
SCREECH OWL	RAIRIE WARBLER
GREAT HORNED OWL	MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT
NIGHTHAWK (nests on roofs in Rome)	HOODED WARBLER
CHIMNEY SWIFT (nests collected)	BLUE GROSBEEK
BELTED KINGFISHER	INDIGO BUNTING
PILEATED WOODPECKER	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER	BACHMAN SPARROW (heard in May—Bell)

Mount Berry College
Mount Berry, Georgia

HOW I BECAME INTERESTED IN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

BY HORACE B. CANTRELL

Several years ago I became interested in amateur photography, and in due time, as one bitten by the amateur bug usually does, I passed through all the stages from the box camera to the Speed Graphic with all the gadgets I could get on it.

I made pictures of anything that struck my fancy and occasionally made what I thought was a good picture and would send it off to the editors of some photo contest. They would promptly send it back to me. This went on and on until a Catbird built her nest just outside my living room window and I decided to make a picture of her on the nest. At first it looked easy, but after looking the situation over, I saw complications arising. The shrub in which the nest was located was so close to the house it was impossible to use a tripod, so I built a small shelf on the side of the house just under the window and mounted my camera on it by means of a stove bolt and swivel head. I worked the shutter from inside the house with a cord. I worked with this bird for about two weeks before I got a picture (see photograph) that I was satisfied with. In the meantime the bird had become so accustomed to my working with her that she would no longer fly away when I appeared on the scene and finally she would take food from my hand.

I selected my best print, sent it to a contest editor, and it won a small place. Thus was born a bird photographer. This experience was enjoyed so much that I decided to try other birds. However, I was soon to learn that each setting has its own difficulties, and that birds are not the most co-operative subjects for photography. This serves to make the hobby even more fascinating because it tries one's ingenuity to the limit, and there is much satisfaction in knowing that you have outwitted so elusive a creature by photographing it in its own habitat without injuring it or disturbing its domestic life.

For the benefit of the readers who would like to try this fascinating hobby I will describe some of the equipment needed.

The thing you will need most is patience and without patience you may as well stop here. You must be willing to spend hours crouched in briar patches with big red ants crawling over you, and other discomforts too numerous to mention. Yet, one good picture always more than compensates for many hours of discomfort. A working knowledge of photography is a great help and will save a lot of film and disappointment. You will need a good camera of the film pack or cut film type with a ground glass for focusing and a double extension bellows for focusing close. I used a $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ Speed Graphic with a B & L tessar lens in a Compur rapid shutter. The average roll film camera will not focus closer than six feet and in photographing birds you will sometimes want to work as close as 18 inches. You will want your camera equipped with any good lens in a cocking type shutter such as a Supermatic or Compur. By cocking type we mean one that you cock just as you would cock the hammer on a gun, then by a very slight pressure on the trigger or release it snaps. You will need a good steady tripod with legs that can be adjusted to any height. A lens shade is very handy when you have to work against the sun. A very handy gadget can be made with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch leg bolt 2 inches long by cutting the head off and threading it back about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the end, then screwing this into an inexpensive swivel head.



Photo by H. B. Cantrell.

CATBIRD INCUBATING AT BREMEN, GEORGIA

This can be screwed into a tree or limb and the camera mounted in any position.

For a remote control system, I use a Speedgun synchronized flash gun which clamps to the side of the camera and has a flexible metal release cable which screws into the shutter. It also has a remote control connection to which I con-

nect one end of a 100 foot piece of green rubber-covered drop cord. When not in use, the wire is kept on a metal roll, such as the one on which it is shipped. Due to the resistance of the wire I have to use a booster on the other end, that is, the end from which I control the shutter. To make this booster I used a hand flash gun which is the same as a two cell flashlight except that it has an Edison socket for flash bulbs instead of the regular flashlight head. It also has a button switch on the side instead of the sliding switch. To this flash gun I connected the barrel of a three cell metal flashlight by cutting the end off the bottom cap from one of the flashlights. This makes a sleeve into which both barrels will screw, making a five cell unit with the Edison socket in one end, into which will fit a regular female plug such as is used on small electrical appliances. Then the male plug goes on the other end of the drop cord which plugs in only one way. If the plug is reversed it will not work, so I notched the two plugs in order to be sure they are right without having to test. I find that 100 feet of wire is usually long enough to reach a hiding place from which I can watch the birds through a pair of binoculars and at the proper moment press the button and snap the shutter.

One of the easiest ways to get a bird picture is to locate its nest and if the eggs haven't hatched, wait until they have, because sometimes birds will quit the nest if they are disturbed before the eggs are hatched. Then set the camera with leaves to make it as inconspicuous as possible. Be sure the shutter is cocked and everything is ready. Then start watching from the hiding place, and when the birds come to feed the young, just press the control button and the picture is made.

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GENERAL NOTES

GEORGIA RECORD OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND CROSSBILL FOUND TO BE ERRONEOUS.—*Birds of Georgia*, p. 65-66 records specimens of both the Eastern and Newfoundland forms of the Red Crossbill from Georgia. The single specimen of the Newfoundland Crossbill reported is an example of the Eastern Crossbill collected at St. Mary's by Isaac F. Arnow and erroneously recorded as this form in the Check-List. This error calls for brief explanation.

In seeking information about "the Arnow Crossbill" prior to the completion of the manuscript for *Birds of Georgia*, Mr. Herbert L. Stoddard in the summer of 1944 contacted the writer, then stationed at the Charleston Naval Hospital. The specimen in question had been borrowed by the writer from the Emory University Museum and sent, many months before, to Mr. Ludlow Griscom for subspecific identification. This had been promptly rendered, and Griscom had written that the bird was "an ordinary eastern crossbill" (no technical name given). When, however, the query arrived from Stoddard, the writer, lacking the Griscom letter did not quote from Griscom as above but utilized the revised edition of Peterson's "Field Guide" instead, finding therein the name *L. c. pusilla* for the Eastern Crossbill and *L. c. perna* for the Newfoundland form. Unfortun-

ately the name *pusilla* was used in his sending the identification to Stoddard. He was unaware that *perna* was becoming *pusilla* in name, and the "original" *pusilla* becoming *minor* (note Nineteenth Supplement to A. O. U. Check-List of N. Am. Birds, *Auk*, 61:461, 1944).

At present the place of the Newfoundland Crossbill on the state list rests on the findings of van Rossem (1934. *Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.*, (7), no. 30, p. 258-359) that the type of *pusilla* in the Berlin Museum is supposed to have come from Georgia.—ROBERT A. NORRIS, *University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia*.

BELLIGERENCY IN TREE SWALLOWS.—Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) had always seemed to me gentle, harmless birds except occasionally during the nesting season until January 30, 1937, on Coleraine Plantation in Charlton and Camden Counties, Georgia. All month they had been unusually abundant coursing overhead up to the thousands, with never less than hundreds being observed each day. Mourning Doves had had an excellent nesting season, but had almost disappeared soon after the arrival of the main body of swallows late in December. On January 30, 1937, I was dove shooting at a benne field in western Camden County when I saw a pair of swallows pursue a dove across the field pecking at its head as they flew. Lewis Higginbotham said he saw the same thing happen four or five times that day. I also saw a Tree Swallow pursue a male Redwing in the same manner that day and the following day a Robin in eastern Charlton County.

Tree Swallows recovered very quickly in southeastern Georgia from the freeze of January, 1940 (cf. Bent, 1942, pp. 397-8) if they ever suffered at all. On December 30, 1941, I counted at least 16,500 rising from their roost in the abandoned rice-fields studded with wax myrtles of Ivanhoe Plantation, just above Owen's Ferry on the north bank of the Satilla River, in Camden County, Georgia. The next day I saw hundreds at the Rice Pond on Coleraine Plantation and on January 4, 1942, saw several thousands near the Rice Pond which lies in a flat studded with wax myrtle bushes in Charlton County within 100 yards of the Camden County line. While common since, Tree Swallows were not again observed in thousands until January, 1947. On January 31, 1947 in eastern Charlton County just south of Georgia Highway 40 where the hill covered with long-leaf pines is surrounded by flats studded with wax myrtle bushes and where one can see at least several hundred yards in every direction, the sky was covered in every direction with Tree Swallows coursing about at heights ranging from several hundred to thousands of feet except over a borrow pit filled with rain water where the swallows were compactly massed apparently trying to drink. How many thousands could be seen at one time is difficult to estimate, but fifty thousand is a safe, low guess.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD, 1500 Walnut St. Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

HORNED GREBE IN THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP.—While doing reconnaissance work in the Okefenokee Swamp, the writer observed on January 23, 1947, a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) feeding on the prairie at Stump Lake. The following day two individuals were seen on Lake Seagrove which is less than one-fourth mile from Stump Lake. From the review of the available literature,

this species does not appear to be a common bird in the Okefenokee during the winter.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, Folkston, Ga.*

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER AT MILLEDGEVILLE IN WINTER.—A Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) was seen January 16, 1947, near the G. S. C. W. campus in a shrub with two Ruby-crowned Kinglets. This is the third winter record for Milledgeville, birds having been recorded on November 30, 1944, and December 31, 1942.—BLANCHE TAIT, *Milledgeville, Ga.*

NEWS AND COMMENTS

NEWS OF MEMBERS—Thomas D. Burleigh spent January 6 through February 10, 1947, in Newfoundland studying the winter bird life there. This study, the first ever made so far north in mid-winter, revealed much surprising and interesting information. On April 15 Mr. Burleigh returned to Newfoundland to study the spring migration. He hopes to get back to Georgia by June 1.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, formerly of the Piedmont Wildlife Refuge, was transferred to the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge on January 2. Since arriving in the Okefenokee Mr. Fleetwood has been very active in observing the bird life there.—Miss Mabel T. Rogers recently spoke to the Boy Scouts and their leaders in LaGrange. Her subject was "Hints on Beginning Bird Study". Following her talk several G. O. S. members were obtained and plans made to organize a bird club in that city.—Horace B. Cantrell recently addressed the Garden Club of Bremen on the subject of "Birds". Mr. Cantrell has engagements to make several more talks this spring to groups in that part of the state.—J. Fred Denton spoke to the Terrace Garden Club of North Augusta, S. C., on March 6. Dr. Denton spoke on "Birds of the Garden".—Dr. A. A. Allen, Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, lectured to the University of Georgia Science Club on April 9.—S. R. Jaques, 450 Nottingham Drive, Macon, Georgia, is a new G. O. S. member who is an enthusiastic bird bander. Mr. Jaques is new at the game but promises to turn out some valuable work.—The Milledgeville Bird Club is sponsoring the publication of a pamphlet for members of junior bird clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and similar organizations. About sixty common birds of Baldwin County and vicinity are to be treated. This project is under the leadership of Miss Mabel T. Robers.—A party of G. O. S. members, consisting of Thomas D. Burleigh, Herbert L. Stoddard, Eugene P. Odum, J. Fred Denton, William Griffin, Robert Norris and David Johnston, spent March 21-23 studying the bird life of Echols County. No particularly rare or unusual birds were encountered but specimens of several species whose subspecific status was in doubt were collected.

SPRING MEETING—When the G. O. S. holds its spring meeting at Lake Burton on May 10-11, approximately 60 members will be present. This number which remains surprisingly constant from year to year will, with few exceptions, consist of the same familiar faces seen at previous meetings. One might wonder why we have about the same number and the same persons present each time. Why don't more members attend and why don't we see more new faces or a different group when meetings are held in different regions of the state? The present membership is double what it was a few years ago and consists of almost an en-

tirely different group from that which organized the Society.

The answer in part is easy. The older more interested members who take the lead in the Society can always be counted on to attend. They attend out of loyalty or a feeling of responsibility to the Society and because the meeting means seeing friends whom they probably have not seen since the last meeting. These members learn little or nothing new about birds at the meetings but they go home inspired and enthusiastic as a result of the contact with friends and from learning what others are doing in the state.

Few of our younger or, ornithologically speaking, less advanced members attend. Why don't we have more present? These are the members which stand to gain most from attending meetings. Meetings give them a chance to meet personally the leaders of the Society whom many have only heard of or read about in *The Oriole*. There is opportunity for them to discuss birds and see birds in the field with Georgia ornithologists who are just as expert and nationally known as those who wrote the handbooks and field guides that they have spent so much time poring over. And who would question that there is much greater inspiration to be gained from personal contact than through the pages of a book.

Meetings from time to time are held in various sections of the state. Attendance at these meetings will carry members into areas unfamiliar to them. As each section of the state has ornithological peculiarities of its own there is always opportunity of learning new birds or becoming really acquainted with others which they have had only a fleeting glance during migration.

Why not make an effort to attend the meeting this spring? Just to get away from business cares and home for a weekend in the mountains will be well worth the little effort and expense involved to say nothing of the opportunities the meeting itself offers.

OUR NEIGHBORS—The Kentucky Ornithological Society was founded in 1923 and was one of the first bird clubs to affiliate with the Wilson Ornithological Club. Their quarterly journal is the *Kentucky Warbler* which is now in its 23rd volume. The articles are concerned chiefly with the habits and distribution of Kentucky birds. Georgia bird students interested in ornithological problems which are common to Kentucky will find much of interest and value in this publication. Dues are one dollar per year and should be sent to the treasurer, Miss Helen Browning, 206 W. Oak St., Louisville, Ky.

MR. GANIER RETIRES—Mr. Albert F. Ganier, outstanding Tennessee ornithologist, after 11 years of devoted service as editor of *The Migrant*, official organ of the Tennessee Ornithological Society has retired. Mr. Ganier explains that his reason for giving up the editorship of this journal is that he has a larger project in view. We suspect that he is about to begin a comprehensive work on the birds of Tennessee.

NEW EXCHANGE—In January, 1947, the National Audubon Society began publishing *Audubon Field Notes* (Vol. 1, No. 1) as a separate journal rather than as Section II of *Audubon Magazine*. This new publication has been added to our list of exchanges and is now available from the G. O. S. library.

NEW LITERATURE

Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice, by Arthur Cleveland Bent, U. S. National Museum Bulletin No. 191, pp. xi X 495, plates 1-68.

This fifteenth bulletin on the life histories of North American birds embraces the families Corvidae and Paridae of the order Passeriformes. Eighteen species including 50 forms of the Corvidae, which includes Jays, Magpies, Ravens, and Crows, are recorded from North America. But four of these species including 6 forms, Northern Blue Jay, Southern or Florida Blue Jay, Northern Raven, Eastern Crow, Southern Crow, and Fish Crow appear in the Georgia Check-List. I have collected the Florida Crow on Coleraine and the Florida Jay may once have occurred in the pine scrub east of Folkston, a distinct ecological area not yet covered by naturalists. The forms occurring in Georgia occupy 85 of the 321 pages devoted to the Corvidae.

Thirteen species, including 48 forms of the Paridae, which include Chickadees, Titmice, Verdins, and Bushtits, are recorded from North America. But two of these species, including three forms, Carolina Chickadee, Florida Chickadee, the Tufted Titmouse, occur in Georgia. Perhaps the Appalachian race of the Black-capped Chickadee may eventually extend its range into Georgia. The general non-migratory nature of the Paridae makes the addition of other forms or species improbable. Only 22 of the 138 pages devoted to the Paridae are given to the species and forms occurring in Georgia.

In southeastern Georgia, the Southern Blue Jay is very much more abundant in the small towns than in the surrounding pine barrens and swamps. When found in the wilderness there, it is often near where man once dwelled. All nests found there to date have been well up and well out in pine trees. This seems in accordance with its habits elsewhere as described on pages 53-54. Mention is made of the Northern Blue Jay's aversion to Sharp-shinned Hawks on page 48. On April 27, 1946, I saw a Southern Blue Jay single handedly drive a Sharp-shinned away from its nest 60 feet up in a Black Pine (*Pinus taeda*).

The Florida Crow in Coleraine nests well up in "slender lengthy pines" as described by the author on pages 260-261. But the Fish Crow is not "practically resident" (as stated on page 275) in interior southeastern Georgia. At Camp Cornelia on the eastern edge of the Okefinokee Swamp, Fish Crows are absent or almost so in winter whereas numbers will always be seen there in spring. In February flocks in the hundreds can be seen flying west across the Coastal Highway in Camden County or up the St. Mary's River. Once late in November in Camden County, I saw a flock of about 150 in a pecan tree which it had almost denuded of its fruit. No such flocks of Florida Crows will ever be seen in Charlton and Camden Counties where they are resident. The absence of Crows from the Okefinokee is notable (see Wright and Harper, 1913).

The author is at his best in his charming study of the Tufted Titmouse, whose nest we have found only once in southeastern Georgia. Its habits in this region are well described on page 394.

It is difficult to conceive of a better investment for an ornithologist than to purchase Bulletin 191 before the limited supply is exhausted.—FREDERICK V. HEBARD.