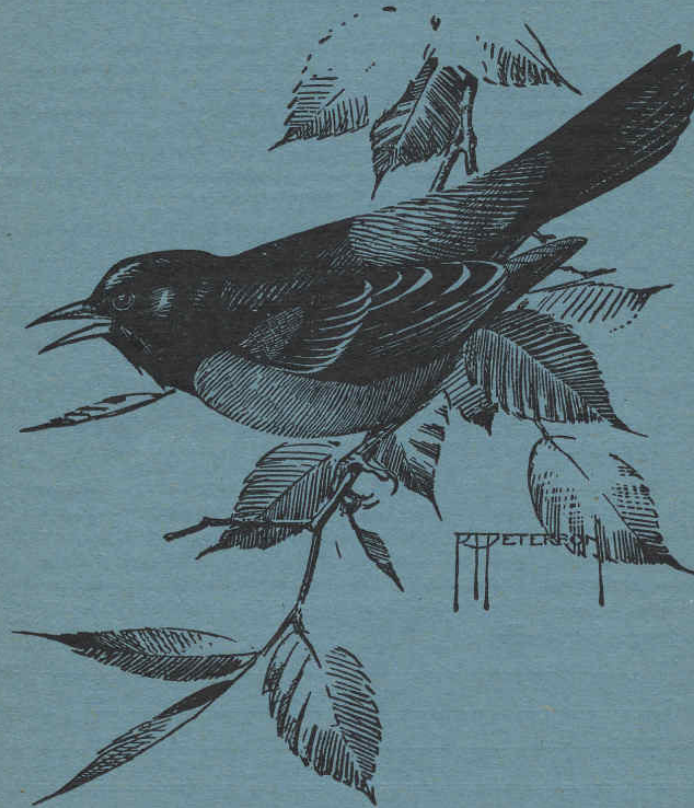


THE ORIOLE

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



Vol. XIII

JANUARY, 1948

No. 1

THE ORIOLE

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THE 1946-47 PINE SISKIN INVASION OF GEORGIA

By DAVID W. JOHNSTON

The Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) is well-known for its erratic movements throughout most of the United States especially in winter. In Georgia, as well as other parts of the country, some years it is abundant and other years it is scarce. The winter of 1946-47 brought an unusually large concentration of siskins to this state. By contacting ornithologists throughout the state the writer has compiled data concerning this invasion. Data have been obtained from Athens—Willard Gaulding, Robert Norris, Dr. E. P. Odum, the writer, *et al*; Atlanta—Glenn Bell, William W. Griffin, Branch Howe, James Major, the writer *et al*; Augusta—Dr. J. Fred Denton; Dalton—Mrs. R. E. Hamilton; Demorest—Mrs. Charles Neal; Fitzgerald—Milton Hopkins, Gregor Rohwer; Loganville (and other points in northern part of the state)—Thomas D. Burleigh; Macon—Gregor Rohwer; Mount Berry—Dr. Harold C. Jones; Okefenokee Swamp (Camp Cornelia)—Raymond J. Fleetwood, the writer; Rabun Bald—Dr. E. P. Odum; Savannah—Ivan R. Tomkins; Statesboro—Miss Malvina Trussell; Thomasville—Herbert L. Stoddard, *et al*.

Siskins were first reported at Loganville (Walton County) on November 12 and at Athens shortly thereafter. The largest number and the most widespread occurrences, however, were reported in the spring between February and May, and many of these reports were made from feeding-station observations. The usual flock contained up to twenty birds, but occasionally flocks of more than fifty birds were seen. On February 18 the writer observed an estimated 200 siskins feeding on the ground in some stables adjacent to the University of Georgia campus at Athens. At Statesboro and Thomasville flocks containing up to seventy or more birds were reported. In the Okefenokee Swamp, on the other hand, only three or four birds were noted. About the first of May the siskins began to depart, and after this time the usual flock consisted of less than ten birds. Miss Trussell at Statesboro reported two siskins on May 23, the last date the birds were seen in the state.

Practically any available food was taken readily by the siskins. They were seen to feed most commonly on the seeds of sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), alder (*Alnus sp.*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), imported conifers (cedar, fir, spruce, etc.), and many weeds. Some of the other foods taken were sunflower seeds, seeds of the red-bud (*Cercis canadensis*), pecans and other nuts, and plant (collard) lice (Order Homoptera).

Several observers, Miss Trussell, Mr. Stoddard and the writer, kept daily notes

on the siskins recording numbers, habits, foods, etc. Upon two occasions at Athens Dr. Odum and the writer trapped, weighed, measured, and banded more than twenty siskins. Canary seed was spread in and around the wire funnel trap, and the siskins followed one another into the trap until the entire flock was caught. The birds were so tame that several times an individual could be touched as it fed beside its trapped comrades.

Of course the big question relative to the siskin invasions is "Why?". There seems to be a definite correlation between the invasions of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*) and the abundance or scarcity of its food in its normal wintering range. Perhaps the invasions of the Pine Siskin are also caused by a food scarcity. Two other factors, overpopulation and climate, or some combination of these three factors, could be responsible for the siskin invasions. Then too, there is a question as to whether or not these invasions occur at certain periods, as is the case with the Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*). Perhaps in the years to come ornithologists will amass sufficient data to determine the exact cause or causes of the siskin invasions.

Dept. of Biology
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Athens, Georgia

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF GEORGIA BASED ON RECENT COLLECTIONS MADE IN THE STATE.

PART 2

By THOMAS D. BURLEIGH

The following notes summarize briefly information acquired through a critical study of specimens taken, with few exceptions, from August, 1945 through June, 1947, in various parts of the state. As explained in a previous article (*Oriole*, Vol. XII, No. 3, July, 1947) intensive field work has been carried on during this interval in connection with a proposed book on the bird life of Georgia, and as such a publication may not appear for several years it seems desirable to place on record from time to time any additions and corrections to the Georgia Check-List. The nomenclature here used is that of the fourth edition of the *A.O.U. Check-List* (1931) and of the Supplements that have appeared in *The Auk* in recent years.

Dendrocopos pubescens medianus (Swainson). NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER

A series of twenty-four Downy Woodpeckers, of both sexes, taken in the northern part of the state showed clearly that the northern form, *medianus*, is the race occurring in the mountains and in the upper Piedmont. *Birds of Georgia* (1945) credits the southern form, *pubescens*, with being resident throughout the entire state, and admits *medianus* to the accredited list on the basis of two specimens taken at Athens and Atlanta. Apparently insufficient material had been available up until now to evaluate correctly the actual status of these two races in Georgia, for, as the following measurements will show, the supposed status cited above is certainly not the case.

Average wing measurement (chord of unflattened wing) in millimeters

	Males	Females
<i>pubescens</i> (La., Miss., Fla.)	88.6	87.6
<i>medianus</i> (Pa., N. J., Mass.)	95.2	95
Northern Georgia	94	92.5

In the Northern Georgia series critically studied the smallest male was one from Athens with a wing measurement of 91 mm, while the largest were from Ringgold (96 mm), Yonah Mountain (95), Princeton (95), and Decatur (94). The smallest female was one from Lexington (wing 91 mm), the largest from Neel's Gap (95 mm), Canton (93), and Washington (93). An analysis of these figures shows that while in some cases specimens taken were intermediate in their characters all were closer to the northern race, and that *medianus* should be considered the resident form in the northern third of the state.

Myiarchus crinitus boreus Bangs. NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Breeding specimens taken in 1946 showed conclusively that the northern race of the Crested Flycatcher occurred at least as far south as Carrollton (Carroll County) and McDonough (Henry County). Further field work in June, 1947, in the southern part of the state, extended materially the breeding range of *boreus*. Males from Thomaston (Upson County) and Ashburn (Turner County) proved to be typical of this "northern" race, while males from Eastman (Dodge County) and Fitzgerald (Ben Hill County) approached *crinitus* in their characters but were closer to *boreus*. It would appear therefore that typical *crinitus* is limited in its distribution during the summer months to the extreme southern part of the state and to the vicinity of the Savannah River as far north as Augusta, and that *boreus* is the form occupying the larger part of Georgia north of this relatively narrow belt.

Cyanocitta cristata bromia Oberholser. NORTHERN BLUE JAY.

Although the Florida Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata cristata* has been commonly considered the resident form over the entire state it would appear now that in the northeastern corner of Georgia the northern race, *bromia*, replaces it as the breeding Blue Jay. A male taken on Rabun Bald on June 1, 1933, has a wing measurement of 133 mm., and the average for *bromia* as given by Ridgway is 131.5 mm. Another male taken on Brasstown Bald on November 24, 1945, and possibly representing the breeding population there, is equally large, its wing measuring 132 mm. Both these specimens likewise agree with *bromia* in so far as color is concerned, the upper parts being lighter and lacking the purple tinge characteristic of *cristata*. That the migration of the northern race extends to some extent at least into Georgia is evidenced by three specimens taken during the winter months south of the mountains that were found referable to *bromia*. These were males taken at Winterville (Clarke County) on November 30, 1945, and at Gainesville (Hall County) on March 27, 1947, and a female taken at Athens on November 10, 1945.

BROWN CREEPER

But one race, *Certhia familiaris americana*, is at present credited to Georgia. However, a critical study of thirty-three Brown Creepers taken in the northern half

of the state revealed the presence of three forms. These can be summarized briefly as follows:

Certhia familiaris americana Bonaparte. EASTERN BROWN CREEPER.

Sixteen, or approximately fifty percent of the birds collected, were found to represent *americana*. They were taken on dates varying from October 14, (1945) (Athens) to March 16 (1946) (Atlanta), and represented the following localities: Elbert County (Dewey Rose), Clarke County (Athens, Princeton), Hall County (Lula), DeKalb County (Decatur, Stone Mountain), Fulton County (Atlanta), Cherokee County (Canton), and Whitfield County (Dalton).

Certhia familiaris nigrescens Burleigh. SOUTHERN BROWN CREEPER.

This Southern Appalachian race proved to be almost as common as the more northern form, for twelve of the thirty-three specimens taken were found referable to *nigrescens*. They were collected on dates varying from November 11 (1945) (Athens) to April 4 (1947) (Decatur), and represented the following localities: Clarke County (Athens), DeKalb County (Decatur, Stone Mountain), Fulton County (Atlanta), Cobb County (Kennesaw), and McIntosh County (Blackbeard Island).

Certhia familiaris anticostiensis (Braund and McCullagh). ANTICOSTI BROWN CREEPER.

This recently described race from Anticosti Island (Braund, F. W. and McCullagh, E. P. The Birds of Anticosti Island. *Wilson Bull.*, 52: 96-123, June 1940) is suggestive in coloration of *nigrescens* but is less gray above and lighter brown on the rump, with the nape noticeably darker brown. Although originally supposed to be confined during the summer months to Anticosti Island, investigations by the writer have shown it to have a far more extended breeding range, and it undoubtedly occurs regularly during the winter months in the southeastern United States. Five specimens in the series critically examined proved to be of this form, and are as follows: male, Stone Mountain, December 10, 1944; female, Bogart, November 16, 1945; male, Winterville, November 30, 1945; female, White Hall, December 5, 1945; male, Athens, March 25, 1946.

Turdus migratorius nigrideus Aldrich and Nutt. BLACK-BACKED ROBIN.

This well-marked race was recorded for the first time in the Atlanta area in 1947. Four male specimens in the small series of Robins taken then were found referable to *nigrideus*. These are as follows: Atlanta (Fulton County), two on March 11; Decatur (DeKalb County), March 12 and April 12.

Hylocichla guttata guttata (Pallas). ALASKA HERMIT THRUSH.

In the small series of Hermit Thrushes critically examined, two additional specimens of *guttata* were found to be represented. One was a female taken at Jeffersonville, Twiggs County, on March 31, 1946, and the other a male taken at Tucker, DeKalb County, on February 20, 1947.

Hylocichla guttata oromela Oberholser. CASCADE HERMIT THRUSH.

A male taken at Decatur on April 6, 1947, is the first specimen of this western race to be recorded for the state. Further collecting should determine whether it is of casual or merely accidental occurrence in Georgia.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

Although the validity of a northern race of the White-eyed Vireo was for a time questioned, study of additional specimens taken during the breeding season throughout much of the range of this species has proven conclusively that two well marked races can be recognized north of the Florida peninsula. Taxonomists now agree that the more northern form, *noveboracensis*, can be readily separated from *griseus* by its larger size, brighter green upper parts that lack the gray wash characteristic of the southern bird, and the more extensive and deeper yellow coloration of the flanks. Typical *griseus* apparently has a rather limited range, and this fact unquestionably was responsible for the diversity of opinion that existed at one time as to the existence of a northern race. Breeding material from Georgia now available makes it possible to define fairly accurately the breeding range of the two forms in the state. This is summarized briefly as follows:

Vireo griseus griseus (Boddaert). SOUTHERN WHITE-EYED VIREO.

The range of typical *griseus* appears to be quite limited for it apparently occurs only in the southern edge of the state in the vicinity of the coast, and along the Savannah River as far north as Augusta. On the coast breeding specimens have been taken in McIntosh County (Darien), Wayne County (Jesup), Long County (Ludovici), Liberty County (Hinesville and Yellow Bluff), and Chatham County (Savannah), while farther north in the vicinity of the Savannah River it has been recorded in Warren County (Warrenton), Glascock County (Gibson), and Richmond County (Augusta). A breeding male taken in Johnson County (Kite) is intermediate in its characters and difficult to assign to either race, although on the basis of size it is closer to *griseus*.

Vireo griseus noveboracensis (Gmelin). NORTHERN WHITE-EYED VIREO.

This is the form occurring over most of the state. In recent years breeding specimens representing *noveboracensis* have been taken as far south as Macon, but field work carried on in June 1947, south of the Fall Line proved conclusively that this northern race extends much farther south than was originally suspected. In the northern half of the state breeding specimens typical of *noveboracensis* have been taken in Chattooga County (Summerville), Polk County (Cedartown), Hall County (Gainesville), Banks County (Homer), Fannin County (Blue Ridge), Cobb County (Smyrna), Fulton County (Atlanta), DeKalb County (Decatur), Clarke County (Athens, Princeton, Winterville), Henry County (McDonough), Carroll County (Carrollton), Fayette County (Fayetteville), Green County (Greensborough), and Meriwether County (Greenville), while farther south specimens referable to this "northern" race were taken in Houston County (Perry), Twiggs County (Jeffersonville), Shelby County (Ellaville), Pulaski County (Hawkinsville), Montgomery County (Tarrytown), Calhoun County (Leary), and Tift County (Ty Ty).

Vireo solitarius solitarius (Wilson). BLUE-HEADED VIREO.

Vireo solitarius alticola Brewster. MOUNTAIN VIREO

While by no means common the Blue-headed Vireo winters regularly in the northern part of the state, an occasional bird being noted throughout the winter

months with flocks of titmice and chickadees. Because of the fact that some uncertainty existed as to the status of the two races at this season of the year a small series of eight wintering individuals was collected to determine this point. The results obtained are obviously subject to modification if further collecting is carried on. Nevertheless, it was interesting to note that half the specimens taken are referable to *solitarius* and half to *alticola*. Typical *solitarius* was represented by males taken at Athens (Clarke County) on December 1, 1945, at Decatur (DeKalb County) on December 7, 1946, and at Stone Mountain (DeKalb County) on February 21, 1947, and by a female taken at Stone Mountain on December 10, 1944. Specimens of *alticola* were represented by males taken at Center (Jackson County) on December 3, 1945 and at Athens on December 17, 1945, and by females taken at Athens on December 16, 1945, and at Princeton (Clarke County) on February 5, 1946.

Parula americana pusilla (Wilson). NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER.

In view of the fact that *pusilla* has been taken in the state on but very few occasions it was of decided interest to find four specimens of this northern race in a series of fifteen Parula Warblers critically examined. These were males taken at Athens on September 2, 1939, at Elberton (Elbert County) on September 21, 1945, and at Decatur on April 12, 1947, and a female taken at Athens on October 11, 1945.

Dendroica petechia amnicola (Batchelder). NEWFOUNDLAND YELLOW WARBLER.

A female taken at Decatur on May 10, 1946, constitutes the first record for the occurrence of this northern race in the state.

Dendroica coronata hooveri McGregor. WESTERN MYRTLE WARBLER.

A male of this species taken at Athens on January 3, 1941 has a wing measurement of 78.5 mm., and as this is much larger than the maximum for typical *coronata*, and almost the maximum for *hooveri*, I have no hesitation in assigning this specimen to this western race. This is the first definite record for the state.

Seiurus aurocapillus furvior Batchelder. NEWFOUNDLAND OVEN-BIRD.

Although heretofore unrecorded in the state this northern race of the Oven-bird was found to be of at least casual occurrence in the fall, and possibly occurs also as a spring transient. Further collecting will be necessary, however, to determine its status during the spring months, for as yet it has not been taken at this season of the year. In the series of Oven-birds available for study five specimens were found referable to *furvior*. These were a male taken at Commerce (Jackson County) on October 9, 1945, and four females taken at Athens on September 3 and October 3, 1929, on October 12, 1937, and on August 15, 1939.

Seiurus noveboracensis linnaeus McCabe and Miller. BRITISH COLUMBIA WATER-THRUSH.

This recently described race is characterized by being darker above and paler beneath than any of the other Northern Water-thrushes. It apparently is of at least casual occurrence in Georgia for in the series of *noveboracensis* critically studied three specimens were found referable to *linnaeus*. These were a male taken at

Atlanta on April 19, 1945, and females taken at Athens on September 23, 1928, and on October 3, 1945.

Sturnella magna magna (Linnaeus). EASTERN MEADOWLARK.

The present status of this northern race is that of a winter resident over the larger part of the state, but on the basis of a breeding male taken at Young Harris (Towns County) on June 22, 1932, it would appear that *magna* is the breeding form in the extreme northeastern counties. This specimen has a wing measurement of 120 mm., whereas the maximum for *argutula* is 118.9 mm., with 111.8 as the average. In color it also agrees with the northern birds with which it was compared, being paler above and less intensely yellow beneath than in *argutula*. Accordingly *magna* should be considered the breeding Meadowlark in extreme northeastern Georgia, with *argutula* occurring over the rest of the state.

Quiscalus quiscula quiscula (Linnaeus). FLORIDA GRACKLE.

A breeding male taken at Covington (Newton County) on June 5, 1947, cannot be distinguished from other breeding males from the southern part of the state (Cochran, Bleckley County; Vienna, Dooly County), so it would appear that *quiscula* is the form occurring over the larger part of Georgia. Specimens from Atlanta have been identified by Dr. Frank M. Chapman as either typical *stonei*, or as intergrades with *quiscula* but approaching *stonei*. This being the case Newton County possibly represents the extreme northern limits for *quiscula* in the state.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster Howell. ALABAMA TOWHEE.

Canaster has always been considered resident throughout its range in Georgia, but on the basis of specimens taken during the winter months in the northern part of the state this is apparently not the case. From the latter part of October 1946, until the following April, Towhees were closely scrutinized, and an occasional specimen taken, but only *erythrophthalmus* was recorded from late October until after the middle of February. The first specimen of *canaster*, a male, was taken at Decatur on February 16, and it was the first of March before the breeding population was apparently present in any numbers. It is probable that an occasional individual of *canaster* winters in the northern part of the state, but it would appear now that the breeding birds, to a very large extent, winter farther south, and are replaced at this season of the year by the northern race.

Pooecetes gramineus polius Braund and Aldrich. NORTHERN VESPER SPARROW.

This dark race of the Vesper Sparrow, heretofore unrecorded in the state, is apparently not uncommon in migration, and doubtless occurs during the winter months as well. It can now be placed on the accredited state list on the basis of four specimens taken both in the spring and in the fall, as follows: Males, Athens, March 23, 1946, Decatur, November 28, 1946; females, Athens, October 21, 1945, Bogart (Oconee County), November 16, 1945.

Passerella iliaca zaboria Oberholser. ALASKA FOX SPARROW.

This recently described race (Oberholser, H. C. Three new North American Birds. *Jour. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 36: 388-389, Nov. 15, 1946) resembles the Eastern Fox

Sparrow, *iliaca*, but it is darker both above and below, and noticeably grayer on the back. It is apparently as common in Georgia during the winter months as is *iliaca* for out of a series of thirty Fox Sparrows taken in the northern part of the state, fourteen, or almost fifty per cent, were found referable to *zaboria*. These were taken as follows: Madison County (Pocatalago), male, February 14, 1946; Jackson County (Center), male, December 3, 1945; Clarke County (Athens), male, February 2, 1946, female, January 13, 1946; DeKalb County (Stone Mountain), male, December 10, 1944, female, December 24, 1946; (Decatur), males, February 22, and March 6, 1947, female, March 8, 1947; Fulton County (Atlanta), males, February 24 and March 11, 1947, females, January 6, March 4 and March 7, 1947.

My latest spring record for the state is that of a flock of three birds seen on the lower slopes of Stone Mountain on April 2, 1947. A female taken then was found to represent the eastern race, so on the basis of actual specimens it would appear that *zaboria* arrives later in the fall and departs earlier in the spring than does *iliaca*.

Fish and Wildlife Service
Moscow, Idaho

GENERAL NOTES

UNUSUAL SPECIES OBSERVED AT ATLANTA DURING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.—While participating in the Atlanta Christmas Bird Count, December 21, 1947, the writer observed a Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) on the lakeshore of the Capital City Country Club. The constant teetering, stiff wing-stroke, and white wing stripe were all noted. Several tail feathers were missing although its flight did not appear weakened. The only other winter record of this species for Atlanta is December 20 and 22, 1936, by Bill Griffin and George Sciple (*Birds of Georgia*, Greene, et al.).

The rain on that date, which eventually caused postponement of the Count, might have been a factor in the bird's accidental occurrence, as was perhaps the case with four other rather unusual records obtained in the brief time that participants were afield: Redhead, Ruddy Duck and Herring Gull at the city water works (Tom Collum and T. F. Davis, Jr.); and Horned Grebe at Piedmont Park lake (Ray C. Werner). On the following day, which was rainless, the sandpiper was absent (Griffin) as were also the species at the water works (Jack Carusos). None were seen a week later when the Count, under ideal weather conditions, was repeated. One can only wonder how many "rare" transients may often pass through a given region and, if not detained by inclement weather, never be recorded by the unsuspecting observer.—BRANCH HOWE, JR., 414 W. Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, Ga.

THE HORNED GREBE IN ATLANTA.—On December 21, 1947, I visited the lake in Piedmont Park, Atlanta, and found a Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), a new species to me as they are rare here. This bird, about the size of the Blue-winged Teal, was easily identified by the typical grebe shape, marked black and white colors and small, dark bluish color of bill. This handsome bird stayed on the lake only one day. The weather was rainy with heavy clouds and temperature of 40 to 45 degrees, so perhaps the migrating bird was forced down temporarily.—RAY C. WERNER, 758 Wildwood Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga.

ANOTHER SWAINSON'S WARBLER COLLECTED AT ATLANTA.—Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) occurs but rarely in the Atlanta area. It was last recorded here by Griffin and Sciple on April 17, 1936. On April 12, 1947, I collected a male of this species in a small wooded area off Peachtree Road in Fulton County near the DeKalb County line. The bird was singing from a low perch when collected.—RICHARD A. PARKS, 3754 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Ga.

A WOODCOCK NEST NEAR ATLANTA.—On March 2, 1947 the writer discovered a nest of the Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) containing two eggs. The nest was located in dry woods some eight miles north of the center of Atlanta near Nancie's Creek in Fulton County, Georgia, and was a mere depression in the leaves near a fallen log. An alder bog of perhaps an acre in extent was about 150 yards distant. Unfortunately the writer was unable to return until April 6, at which time neither eggs nor birds were seen. To the writer's knowledge this is but the fourth nest of this species to be recorded from the Atlanta region.—WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN, 135 Peachtree Way, NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

MALE BLUEBIRD ANTAGONISTIC TO NEST BUILDING.—On March 9, 1947, I first observed a female Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) carrying pine needles into one of our nesting boxes. From this date on the bird was frequently seen entering the box, always with pine needles. The male was usually close by, but, although he entered the box regularly, he apparently did not assist in the nest building. After nearly two weeks I thought surely the nest must be almost completed. However, on looking into the box on March 22 I found it empty with no sign of even the beginning of a nest, despite the fact that I had seen a considerable amount of nesting material carried into the box. A few minutes of close observation explained the empty box. The male was removing the pine needles as rapidly as the female brought them. As the female left the box, the male entered. Then he quickly reappeared with pine needles in his bill and flew to a nearby tree where he dropped them. Despite the male's strange action the female persisted, and finally had the nest completed and the first egg laid on April 8.—RICHARD A. PARKS, 3754 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Ga.

UNUSUAL WINTERING GRASSHOPPER SPARROW AT ATHENS.—According to *Birds of Georgia* the Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum pratensis*) is "a rather scarce winter resident in southern Georgia" with "winter records as far north as Atlanta," and the occurrence of the western form *A. s. perpallidus*, in the state is represented by only one record, a bird taken by Burleigh January 27, 1936, in Baker County. Since the publication of this book Burleigh (*Oriole* 12: 30-31) has taken *perpallidus* in winter as far north as Athens.

Since wintering Grasshopper Sparrows are uncommon in the Piedmont Region of Georgia, the following record seems noteworthy. On November 9, 1946, Robert Norris and the writer were observing wildlife in a large broom grass field about one mile south of Athens. Savannah Sparrows were common in this field, but upon one occasion a sparrow flushed that had a noticeably different flight. This bird was collected and proved to be a male Grasshopper Sparrow. The specimen was sent to Dr. J. W. Aldrich, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., for subspecific identification. The writer was present when the identification was made, and Dr. Aldrich remarked that the specimen, although identified as the eastern form, *pratensis*, was

not typical of either *pratensis* or *perpallidus* because it lacked the extensive dorsal black coloration of the former and bore none of the characteristics of the latter race.

The above specimen, believed to be a wintering individual, is now in the museum at the University of Georgia, bearing the number 126.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Dept. of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.*

AN EARLY SUMMER RECORD FOR THE AMERICAN EGRET AT ATHENS.—On July 6, 1947, while passing Lake Kirota on the campus of the University of Georgia, an American Egret (*Casmerodius albus egretta*) was seen standing quietly at the edge of the water. In past years I have found this species by no means common here during the summer months, and have never recorded it earlier than July 11 (1926).—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Ga.*

PARTIAL ALBINO NEWFOUNDLAND ROBIN IN CHARLTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.—While patrolling the east side of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge December 18, 1947, Patrolmen Willie Davis and Allen Nazworth observed a small flock of strange birds perched in a pecan tree on lot number 1 north of Carter's Prairie. One was collected and brought to me which I called a partial albino robin. The feathers of the head and neck, with the exception of a few normally colored ones on the head, were white. The bird was a male and the skin was sent to Dr. John W. Aldrich of Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., for race determination. In a letter of acknowledgement, Dr. Aldrich stated "that the bird was an interesting specimen in two respects. In the first place it was an example of the Black-backed Robin (*Turdus migratorius nigrideus*) which breeds in Newfoundland and Labrador; in the second place, it is the only albino specimen of that race which I have ever seen." The specimen is in the collection of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thomas D. Burleigh in February and March of 1946 collected 12 specimens of this race at Athens, Clarke County, Georgia (*Oriole*, vol. 12; No. 3 July 1947) so my record is not the first for the state but apparently it is the first published one of this race of robin wintering in south Georgia.—RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Folkston, Ga.*

NEW LITERATURE

SILENT WINGS: A Memorial To The Passenger Pigeon, edited by Walter E. Scott (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Madison, 1947; paper wrapper, 8ro. pp. 1-42 with 1 col. pl. and 15 illus., mostly from photographs; price, \$1).

Published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and made available at the dedication of the monument to the Passenger Pigeon at Wyalusin State Park, Wisconsin, on May 11, SILENT WINGS is a dedication not only to a single bird but to the bird as a species. It is a plea and a challenge that we lend ourselves to the perpetuation of our native wildlife in its native habitat.

Dr. Aldo Leopold, Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson, and Dr. A. W. Schorger, one of the foremost authorities on the Passenger Pigeon in the United States, are the principal contributors. In one article Dr. Schorger describes his researches into the literature and gives a good account of the bird's travels, its nesting, general habits, and its final destruction. Dr. Schorger's second article, The Great Wisconsin Pas-

senger Pigeon Nesting of 1871, is reprinted from *Proceedings of the Linnaean Society of New York*, no. 48, 1936, published Oct. 1937.

This booklet is well written, attractively illustrated, and is a very complete and important article. Both amateur and serious bird students will find it worthwhile reading.

NEWS

ATLANTA BIRD CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS.—The Atlanta Bird Club at its January meeting elected a new slate of officers to serve for the year 1948. Mr. Richard A. Parks, whose paintings of birds have been exhibited at several G. O. S. meetings, is the new president. Aiding him during the year will be Thomas F. Davis, Jr., first vice president; Mrs. Marene W. Snow, second vice president; Kenneth Lewis, third vice president; Mrs. H. M. Daniel, treasurer; Mrs. H. M. Herreman, recording secretary; Miss Arlevia Burson, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. B. N. Willingham, historian. Mrs. J. Morgan Smith will be publicity chairman, and Mr. Ray C. Werner will continue to be chairman of the Audubon Screen Tours committee.

SAVANNAH AUDUBON SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS.—At the annual meeting in May, the Savannah Audubon Society elected its slate of officers to serve for the year 1948. Gilbert R. Rossignol was elected president and Fred C. Morton and William McIntosh, Jr., first and second vice presidents. Mrs. J. R. Cain and Miss Marie Reddy were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. Mrs. Victor H. Bassett, the retiring president, was elected director. This society was organized April 29, 1916, with Mrs. W. A. Pigman president. Mrs. Pigman has been a continuous member of the society and is now honorary president and poet laureate.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS IN ATLANTA AND COLUMBUS.—During the winter and spring seasons another series of Audubon Screen Tours is being currently shown in two Georgia cities. Begun in Atlanta in 1946, this year Columbus was added to the list under the local sponsorship of the Parent Teachers Association and the Boy Scouts. Among the lecturers to speak and show their motion pictures during the current season are William Ferguson, Howard Cleaves, Alice and Harold Allen, Allan Cruickshank, and Alexander Sprunt, Jr. In Atlanta audiences have averaged well over 300 per lecture, the series being surprisingly well received by bird enthusiasts as well as those with only a latent interest.

EDITORIAL

Knowledge of the bird life of Georgia was broadened considerably by the information revealed in volume 12 (1947) of *The Oriole*. Contained within this volume of 56 pages were eight long articles, 29 general notes and 12 pages of news, comments and reviews. No species was recorded for the first time as occurring in the State but the occurrences of four subspecies were reported for the first time. The first records of breeding within the State of three species and one subspecies were revealed. In addition to these records much valuable information on the habits of such little known Georgia birds as the Florida Crane and Swainson's Warbler was made known.

One might legitimately conclude from this summary that knowledge of Georgia birds is expanding by leaps and bounds. Also, that *The Oriole* is flourishing and has no problems other than the high cost of printing. This is far from correct. In preparing this issue of *The Oriole* for publication your editor exhausted the supply of material submitted for publication. In the nearly two months since the copy for this issue was prepared only one short note has been submitted for publication. Inquiries of various members indicate that the possibilities of additional material being sent in soon are very slim. Already we are far behind our publication date and it will be many months more before the next issue can possibly appear. Unless sufficient material in the form of long articles and short notes is submitted another issue may never appear.

It is highly improbable that we have succeeded in publishing all available new information on Georgia birds. A more likely explanation of our present predicament is that members have become complacent about publishing their observations. In order to keep our knowledge of Georgia bird life expanding and to insure the future of *The Oriole* let's all send the editor immediately an article or note for publication.