

# THE ORIOLE

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



Vol. XVI

DECEMBER, 1951

No. 4

# THE ORIOLE

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#### GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS UPON WATERFOWL PRESENT IN BARTOW COUNTY, NORTHWEST GEORGIA

By GEORGE W. SCIPLE.

A small artificially-formed pond known as Aubrey Lake, in Bartow County, Georgia has been the site of an interesting series of occurrences and concentrations of waterfowl during the latter months of 1950 and the early months of 1951. It is the primary observation area with which this article is concerned.

The lake is located just west of Highway 411 between Cartersville and White, Georgia. It occupies a part of the valley formed by two small, steep, parallel ridges. Adjacent portions of the valley are gently rolling, being largely cleared of trees and at present mostly in pasture. A swampy, forested area lies at one side of the upper end of the lake, while at the other side is a very damp and rather closely-grazed meadow. Five small branches and one small creek empty into the lake. At highest water level, the pool covers about 120 acres. The maximum depth approaches twenty-five feet. A considerable portion of the lake is quite shallow, however, and large mud flats are exposed with a five to six foot lowering of the maximum water level.

From October 22, 1950, through April 22, 1951, eighteen trips were made to Aubrey Lake for observations of waterfowl occurring there. Corollary observations were made in the Allatoona Lake area on the dates of each of the visits to Aubrey Lake. Observation periods at Aubrey were usually of about three hours in length, and were mostly in the afternoons. Those at Allatoona were never more than 1½ hours in length.

The desirability of comparative observations in the Atlanta area was realized. The writer had records of his observations of waterfowl occurring on the Atlanta Waterworks Lakes (off Howell Mill Road) for a number of years past. Therefore, about twenty visits were made to the waterworks reservoir from time to time during the October 22 - April 22 period, but these only roughly approximated the dates of the other observations. These observations were not satisfactory, but were the best possible under the circumstances. (The only duck noted in the waterworks visits, a single male Ring-necked or Scaup, was seen in very foul weather in December.)

Biologically, Aubrey Lake was in a fairly stable state when first seen on October 22. Hunting of waterfowl and fishing had been carried on extensively for some years, however, and the area was not undisturbed.

AUBREY LAKE																			ALLATOONA LAKE			
Species	Oct 22	Nov 23	Dec 3	Dec 25	Dec 30	Jan 7	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11	Mar 4	Mar 18	Mar 20	Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 22	All Other	Apr 12	Apr 22		
Horned Grebe	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Pied-billed Grebe	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	L	1	—	2	2	2	1	—	4	—	2	0	32	2	
Canada Goose	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	K	—	—	—	—	10	10	10	10	10	0	—	—		
Mallard J	—	4m	—	—	—	—	—	E	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Black Duck	—	—	—	2m	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Gadwall	—	—	—	2f	—	—	—	R	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Pintail	1f	5m	—	—	—	—	—	N	5m	5m	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Green-winged Teal	—	manyf	—	—	—	—	—	D	4f	2f	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Blue-winged Teal	2f	3f	—	—	—	—	—	A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Baldpate	—	33m	7	—	—	—	—	L	—	—	—	—	4m	2m	2m	1m	1m	0	—	—		
Shoveller	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O	1f	—	—	—	5m	1f	1f	1m	1m	0	—	—		
Wood Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	8f	—	1m	1m	1m	0	4m	1f		
Redhead	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	C	—	—	—	—	4m	1m	1m	—	—	0	—	—		
Ring-neck Duck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O	—	—	—	—	9f	2f	2f	—	—	0	—	—		
Canvas-back	—	—	—	3m	2m	3m	32m	P	35m	76	1m	20	23	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Scaup Duck (Greater or Lesser)	1m	115	—	—	—	1m	—	E	9f	est.	2f	est.	1m	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
American Goldeneye	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	T	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Bufflehead	—	—	—	2m	—	—	—	H	2m	2m	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—		
Ruddy Duck	1	6m	4	—	—	—	—	I	2f	2f	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	4m	—		
Hooded Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	1f	—	1m	—	—	0	6m	—		
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	6m	—		
American Coot	14	330	150	—	—	—	—	E	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	3f	—		
	est.	est.	est.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	22	5	4	7	41	7	0	3	—	
																		0	234	38		
																		est.		est.		

Another point is that the term "estimate" (abbreviated "est.") is shown after several of the figures given. These figures were not based on a rough guess, but were actually counts which for one reason or another could not be precisely accurate. In most cases they are a very close approximation of the numbers observed.

In a few instances no breakdown into sex ratio is given where plumage or other characters would make this differentiation possible in field observations. Either the writer's observations or his notes were incomplete in these cases. The symbol "f" is used to mean female by field distinguishable characters. Included, therefore, may be certain immatures or very late eclipse plumage males of some species. The latter are few, if any.

Interesting points brought out by these observations include the relation shown between the Scaup Duck and its close relative the Ring-necked. It will be seen that the occurrences and numbers of Scaup Ducks declined precipitously with the onset of winter, then began to rise slowly with the coming of spring. The Ring-necked occurred in almost the opposite manner, increasing from fall toward the mid-winter season, then decreasing with the coming of spring. It would almost appear that the Ring-necked filled the niche of the Scaup in this geographical location during the middle of the winter season.

Another interesting point revealed is the sex-ratio of the Ring-necked and Scaup Ducks in relation to the advancing seasons. In the case of both species, males seem to occur predominantly, and with a cumulative predominance, toward and during mid-winter. This situation seems to be reversed toward the spring as will be seen from the tabulation in combination with excerpts from the writer's notes as follows: "February 11, 76 Ring-necked Ducks. Males present in about 2:1 ratio to females; March 18, Ring-necked Ducks, twenty estimated present, more males than females; March 25, mixed flock of Scaups and Ring-necked Ducks, 22 males, 21 females present; April 5, about fifteen Scaups present, about one-half males, one-half females; April 7, about twenty Scaups, with approximately one-half males, one-half females; April 12, about fifteen or sixteen Scaups present, approximately equal numbers of males and females." The male to female ratio in the Allatoona Lake observations of April 22 is almost reversed from that seen at Aubrey Lake on February 4. Further data needs to be gathered on this point in Northern Georgia, as Burleigh (1938:6) gives only a slight suggestion that like disproportionate ratios may prevail in the Athens area in winter and early spring. Jones (1942) in the Rome area, and Griffin (1941) in the Atlanta area, make no mention of the subject in their respective annotated lists. Greene, *et al* (1945) do not discuss the point, and neither do Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949).

The influence of weather upon concentrations and occurrences of waterfowl at Aubrey Lake cannot be assessed fully because of the small number of observations made, and because of the shortness of the total calendar period covered. On the basis of what has been learned over this short period, however, it can be said generally, from observations made and data in hand, that the influence of weather is greater in the original occurrence than in directly subsequent ones, or in the final leaving of

the area by the species. In other words, a specific selected occurrence seems to be influenced in several cases by adverse weather conditions which may have forced the bird down onto the water. Once there, however, the birds had a tendency to remain for varying periods, attract others, and even to "hold over" for a time in the middle of migration seasons.

This holding over may be due to the excellent ecological situation for ducks at Aubrey Lake which has developed gradually as aquatic and emergent plants have become dominant during the 23-year period of the lake's existence. It may also be due to the lack of satisfactory habitat presently available elsewhere in the region. The ecological situation in the South is a rapidly changing one, as mentioned by Stoddard (1951) and by Odum and Burleigh (1946) in other connections. One of the most striking of these changes has been the immense increase in the total acreage now covered by impounded waters. These reservoirs, ponds, etc., have been formed, in great preponderance, in the last few years. An excellent example of this is the Bartow County area, where the impounded water increase has been massive within the last three years. There has not yet been time for the ecological setup of many of these places to have altered sufficiently to result in any considerable food production for ducks. Aubrey Lake is in contrast to these newer bodies of water in this respect. It is notable, then, that this small lake carries considerable numbers of ducks from time to time even though no special protection is given, and the area is heavily shot over in season.

It is possibly significant that no waterfowl were seen by the author on the gradually-filling southwest arm of Allatoona Lake—the area in which the greater portion of the Allatoona observations were made—until April 12, when the lake was nearly full. During the night of April 11, a heavy thunderstorm occurred over just this region. The birds recorded were seen early in the morning of April 12. At this time the rafts contained several species mixed indiscriminately. Late in the afternoon repeat observations were made in the same areas. In the eight hours which had elapsed the flocks had separated into smaller single-species groups which were then in the process of locating themselves in habitat areas roughly resembling those which they seem to prefer. One would thus be led to believe that the birds had arrived the preceding night and had been forced down by the storm. A highly similar weather complex preceded the April 22 observations at Allatoona. Quite similar results were recorded.

Upon neither of these two observation dates was any particular effect seen at Aubrey. To a large extent, the southern storm boundaries were to the south of Cartersville. This would tend to force the migrating birds down in available open-water areas prior to their reaching Aubrey. Another consideration would be the vast difference in size between the 120 acres of water surface at Aubrey and the many thousands of acres covered by the southwest arm of Allatoona. On the basis of mathematical probability alone, the storm-buffed birds would many times more readily find the larger water area. Without biological conditions meeting their needs—and chief among these would be food—they could not be expected to "hold over" in the middle of migration seasons as some of the waterfowl seem to do at Aubrey Lake. At no time in any of the April 22 observa-

tions at Allatoona were any of the ducks present seen to feed. Furthermore, a number of these birds were seen to leave the lake and fly to the northeastward at high altitude just before dusk on the evening of that same day.

Of interest is the very considerable percentage of "diving" ducks of several species recorded at Aubrey Lake. A strong influx of the ducks of this subfamily (*Aythiinae*) seems to prevail in winter and early spring. This is in some contrast to the observations of Burleigh (1938) at Athens, which is considerably more easterly than the present area. It is also in contrast to what the author has observed in the Atlanta area in the years 1936-1941 and 1946-1950. The observations of Jones (1942) in the Rome region seem to bear out the fact that many bay ducks are irregularly resident or visitant in Northwest Georgia in the winter, while more pass through this section of the State during the seasons of migration.

Looked at in its entirety, a somewhat different situation in regard to waterfowl seems to prevail in Northwest Georgia from that previously recorded at Athens and at Atlanta, this being true not only of the *Aythiinae* but of the *Anatinae* as well. It would seem that many of these birds found in the northwestern part of the State represent travellers on the western arm of the Atlantic Flyway which Kortright (1943: 48) speaks of as being so important from the standpoint of the Black Ducks, Canada Geese, and Diving Ducks of the interior.

As the recently-formed lakes discussed above develop biologically in the coming years, the ornithologist in Northern Georgia will likely find increasing number of waterfowl occurring, for the writer believes that the relative paucity of waterfowl reported from the Piedmont of Georgia in past years has been due more to the absence of suitable habitat rather than to sparse migration over the region.

The author wishes express his appreciation of the courtesy and cooperation extended by Mr. J. M. Neel, owner, and Mr. Homer McEver, caretaker, which made possible the Aubrey Lake observations. He wishes also to thank Messrs. Richard Parks and W. W. Griffin, and Dr. E. P. Odum for valuable suggestions and criticism offered. Mr. A. M. Hitz has been kind enough to read the manuscript for errors.

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Denver, Colorado

## GENERAL NOTES

**A GEORGIA RECORD FOR THE ARCTIC TERN.**—On May 22, 1921, an adult female Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) was taken by Francis Harper at Suwannee Creek, Ware County, Georgia, two miles from the Okefenokee Swamp. The original label on the specimen reads in part as follows: "Caught in wire fence? (*sic*) Near a house."

This interesting record was discovered by Greene while working on the ornithology of the Okefenokee Swamp, and was contained in a list of specimens in the Cornell University Collection provided him through the efforts of Dr. Arthur A. Allen. It has recently been verified by Parks. —EARLE R. GREENE, 534 "D" Street, Oxnard, California, and RICHARD A. PARKS, 2303 Pembroke Place, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

**NOTES FROM THE SAVANNAH AREA.**—Glaucus Gull: *Larus hyperboreus*. On May 30, 1951, a single bird was found with some Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) on the beach at the north end of Tybee Island and was collected. It was in excellent plumage except for badly worn flight feathers and was probably only a few months less than three years old.

American Knot: *Calidris canutus*. The Knots usually migrate along the coast in spring and fall, but during 1951 a flock of forty, more or less, was seen numerous times about the mouth of the Savannah River all summer long.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: *Tryngites subruficollis*. On September 29, 1951, a single bird was found on the city dump, three miles east of Savannah, and was collected. Bird associates were Pectoral, Solitary, and Stilt Sandpipers and Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs. It bears my number 692. Identification was confirmed by Allen J. Duvall of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who also furnished the information that it is the only Georgia specimen of which they have record. —IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th Street, Savannah, Georgia.

**THE DICKCISSEL NESTING NEAR ATLANTA.**—In May, 1951, a small colony of Dickcissels (*Spiza americana*) was found at the U. S. Prison Honor Farm at Panthersville, DeKalb County, Georgia, near Atlanta. The birds were discovered only by chance, the first being seen on May 19 as it sang from a barbed wire fence bordering one of the public roads which pass through the farm. While this bird was under observation, another was heard singing nearby. The following day the bird was again singing from the fence, several others were heard, and another male with a female was seen.

A week later, on May 26, with permission of the prison authorities, I went on the prison property to determine the number of birds there and to find nests if possible. The field which the birds occupied was rather rough and sloping, and was grown up in various grasses, clover, scattered patches of kudzu, and rank weeds. At this time it was not being used as a pasture. Other bird associates were Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) and Red-wings (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Two nests of the Red-wings were found.

There were five male Dickcissels, all of which had apparently established territories. They sang almost continuously from various perches within their territories. On one occasion one of the birds gave its song while in flight. I saw but three females, each of which was in close company with a male. Others may have been present, possibly on their nests. There was no indication of any nest building activity.

On June 9 I returned and discovered that the field had been put into use for pasturage. Some disturbance had been created by trucks or tractors bringing in drinking troughs for the cattle. One of the Red-wing nests had been thus destroyed. However, I was successful in finding one Dickcissel nest. It had escaped by only a few inches the fate of the Red-wing nest. The female flushed from the nest as I approached, and, although apparently not greatly excited by the intrusion, remained nearby calling regularly. The nest was 13 inches from the ground, in kudzu and weeds with one edge touching the bottom strand of a barbed wire fence. It held four plain blue eggs. Unfortunately, due to lack of time and a downpour of rain, further search was impossible.

This is the second recorded occurrence of the Dickcissel in the Atlanta region (see Griffin, *Oriole* 12:34, 1947).

It was only through the cooperation of Mr. W. H. Hiatt, Warden, and Mr. Harry Weissman, Farm Manager, that these observations were made possible.—RICHARD A. PARKS, 2303 Pembroke Place, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.

#### MANDIBULAR ABNORMALITIES IN A CHIMNEY SWIFT SPECIMEN.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) banding operations were carried on by the author, W. W. Griffin, and Raymond J. Fleetwood in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 28, 1941. The birds, about five hundred in number, were trapped in the chimney of the old United Motors Service Building on West Peachtree Street across from the Biltmore Hotel.

The author noted a single bird from this roost which showed the following interesting abnormality upon close examination at the time of banding. Both upper and lower mandibles were symmetrically and oppositely curved, and crossed when closed in much the same general manner as the crossing seen normally in members of the genus *Loxia*. The cranial and other associated bones showed no externally observable abnormalities, and no signs of previous trauma could be found. The bird was of average size, in good flesh, alert, and appeared normal otherwise. Norris (*Oriole*, 13:28, 1948.) has reported a gross gastro-intestinal tract transposition, in another species, which likewise had not observably hindered the individual described.

It seems significant that the skeletal variation reported here had not handicapped the Swift appreciably in obtaining its food. Presumably the curved mandibles had proven satisfactorily adaptable to the aerial feeding and drinking habits of this species.

This observation has not been reported previously due to a loss of the author's records incident to World War II. These records have recently been located.—GEORGE W. SCIPLE, *Denver, Colorado*.

## RECENT LITERATURE

**DISTRIBUTION AND POPULATIONS OF SUMMER BIRDS IN SOUTHWESTERN GEORGIA.** By Robert A. Norris. Occasional Publication No. 3 of the Georgia Ornithological Society. University of Georgia Press, 1951. vi + 67 pp, 16 figs. \$1.25 (Order from Univ. of Ga. Press, Athens, Ga.)

This booklet is the first of what we hope will be a series of regional or life history studies of Georgia birds published with the aid of the publication fund of the Georgia Ornithological Society. Royalties from the sale of the publication will reimburse the fund, perhaps add a little to it, when the edition is sold, thus enabling the GOS to sponsor another worthwhile publication. In this way, our modest fund can be used over and over again and be a continuous service to the society and the advancement of bird study in our region.

To members of the Georgia Ornithological Society, Robert Norris needs no introduction. He has been studying birds since early boyhood. Attending meetings of the Georgia Ornithological Society stimulated his interest, and when he entered the University he was already an experienced field observer. It was my pleasure to direct his Southwestern Georgia study which became his thesis for the Master of Science degree at the University of Georgia received in 1949. His academic record was exceptional, and his personal drive and initiative are such that one may be certain that any job which he undertakes will be completed with exceptional skill. Robert is now at the University of California where he is completing his requirements for the Doctor's degree under Dr. Alden H. Miller.

Norris' booklet is of more than local interest and sets a standard that compilers of regional works would do well to follow. In addition to the annotated list of all summer birds known to occur in the region, the booklet contains material on the general ecology of the little known upper Coastal Plain, illustrations of all the major vegetation types of the region, a section summarizing and analyzing the overall distribution patterns, eleven distribution maps, and an account of population studies which represent a start, at least, towards the quantitative approach in regional bird study. Also included is a frontispiece and cover design of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker reproduced from an original drawing by Richard A. Parks.

The southwestern Georgian region is of special interest because it is a segment of the Appalachian-Chattahoochee invasion route by which many northern land birds have extended their breeding ranges to, or almost to, the Gulf coast. Thus, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Goldfinch, Wood Thrush, and several other species nest further south in this region than at comparable latitudes in southeastern Georgia. The topography and limestone formations of the region have resulted in many ponds and swamps attractive to water birds. Nearly all of the herons summer in the region, many breeding. When there is adequate rainfall to fill the limesink ponds Pied-billed Grebes, Purple Gallinules, Florida Gallinules, and Coots nest. The summer avifauna is, therefore, diverse and interesting. You will want to read about it whether you plan a trip to the region or not.—EUGENE P. ODUM.

**THE BIRDS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.** By Harold S. Peters and Thomas D. Burleigh. Illustrated with 32 color plates, 40 text figures, and end paper maps by Roger Tory Peterson. Department of Natural Resources, Province of Newfoundland, St. John's, 1951: xix + 431 pp. \$6.00. (Distributed in the U. S. by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston).

The island of Newfoundland, although visited from time to time by naturalists, has not previously had its bird life thoroughly investigated. This volume is, therefore, the first complete and authoritative work on the ornithology of this newest Canadian province and was written at the request of the Newfoundland government. Field investigations extending over a period of ten years were made by the authors, both of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to all parts and habitat types of the island and at all seasons of the year. During this time more than 2000 specimens were collected and preserved and exhaustive field notes secured.

The introductory chapters provide interesting background information about the location, history, physiography, and climate of Newfoundland, and a history of observation of bird life there. Also included is a brief account of the classification of birds with a discussion of its importance. The main body of the book consists of accounts of the 227 birds reported from the island. In addition to a brief description and field marks of each species, supplemental information is included under the following headings: voice, nest and eggs, range, status in Newfoundland, and habits. A hypothetical list follows the list of accepted birds and includes 56 species reported from the province but unsupported by specimens. The volume closes with a selected bibliography and classified index.

All the illustrations, both color and black and white, are the work of Roger Tory Peterson, this being the first book of this type to be fully illustrated by him. The beautifully printed color plates depict 153 species and represent Peterson's best work. The pen and ink text figures are equally good and serve to enliven the text appearance.

As the standard work on the birds of Newfoundland, this book will not only be of value to both scientist and layman visiting the island, but also to all those interested in the birds of Eastern North America.—  
RICHARD A. PARKS.

## NEWS AND COMMENTS

**FALL MEETING, 1951.** — The twenty-fifth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, on October 13 and 14, 1951, with a total registration of forty-one members and guests. Members assembled and registered at the American Legion Hall and then dispersed on informal field trips.

In the evening a bountiful shore dinner was enjoyed, followed by the business session. The president, Dr. J. Fred Denton, presided, extending a welcome to those present and appreciation to Miss Catherine Clark and Mrs. Margaret Cate for their services in arranging the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given and showed a balance of \$59.17.

Copies of Occasional Publication No. 3 of the Georgia Ornithological Society, *Distribution and Populations of Summer Birds in Southwestern Georgia* by Robert A. Norris, were on display. Dr. Eugene P. Odum made some explanatory remarks about the publications that have been published by the G.O.S. and especially about the Norris booklet. He stated that 500 copies had been printed, 250 of which were to be purchased by the Emory University Field Station. He pointed out that it would be necessary to sell all the remaining copies in order to fully replace the money in the publication fund which was used to underwrite this project.

The President exhibited the original drawing by Richard Parks used on the cover of the Norris book and offered it for auction, the proceeds to go to the Publication Fund or the General Fund. A Chinese auction was held and \$33.00 was raised, the drawing going to Mr. Stoddard.

Upon motion by Richard Parks and seconded by Mrs. J. C. Oliver, it was voted to have the spring meeting at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with the Wilson Club, to be held the latter part of April.

It was voted that dues for regular membership be raised to \$3.00 and for associate membership (student, library, and out-of-state) to \$2.00.

Richard Parks made a plea for articles and news items for *The Oriole*.

The report from the Nominating Committee was as follows:

President—Harold S. Peters  
First Vice-President—Mrs. Charles Neal  
Second Vice-President—Mrs. James C. Oliver  
Secretary—Mrs. Thomas J. Cater, Jr.  
Treasurer—Mrs. Lucille C. Rotchford  
Librarian—James C. Major  
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Frederick V. Hebard—Kingsland  
Miss Grace Chapin—Milledgeville  
Herman W. Coolidge—Savannah  
Mrs. J. H. Whiteman—West Point

A motion by Dr. Odum called for unanimous election of the slate presented, and the appointment by the President of additional regional vice-presidents. Mr. Edmund Farrar, Jr., was nominated by Mrs. Cater for regional vice-president in the Macon region. The vote was taken, and the slate was declared elected.

Mr. James Jenkins gave a report on the proposed Georgia Council on Natural Resources, stating that his committee recommended that the G.O.S. be represented on the Council and that he had written the Council to that effect.

Mr. Jenkins reported on the research being done on doves and asked for volunteers to help with the cooing count in the spring. Mrs. Dorris said that members of the Society in Milledgeville would help.

A movie on game management problems was shown, after which the meeting was adjourned.

After early breakfast in Brunswick Sunday morning, those taking the field trip rode out the Highway toward Jekyll Island to observe the shore and marsh birds. The final count showed that 77 species had been seen.

**NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.**—At the recent meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union Eugene P. Odum was elected a fellow of that organization. This is quite an honor to Gene as the number of fellows is strictly limited. At the same time another of our members, Frederick V. Hebard, was elected to full membership in the AOU . . . Thomas D. Burleigh reports from Moscow, Idaho, that he will complete the manuscript for his book on Georgia birds by spring. He plans to attend the spring meeting at Gatlinburg and report to the society on plans for publication . . . William W. Griffin, now on active duty with the Marine Corps, has been promoted to the rank of major. We are pleased to learn that he expects to complete his tour of duty and return to the State early next year. . . . One of our younger members, Willard Colston of Cornelia, is making a name for himself as a young naturalist in the northeastern part of the State. At the recent State 4-H Congress he was named Georgia Champion in Forestry.

**DUES.**—In order to continue the activities of the G.O.S., principally the publication of *The Oriole*, it has become necessary to increase our dues. Printing costs have risen steadily since the end of World War II, and for the past three years income from dues has been totally inadequate to cover the costs of publication. It was only through the generosity of the Atlanta Bird Club and Herbert L. Stoddard that we were able to survive the financial crises of this period. And even with this increase, the society's finances will be strained, and it is hoped that those who are able will raise their class of membership.

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