THE ORIOLE

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THE ORIOLE

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CERULEAN WARBLERS IN FALL ON THE UPPER COASTAL PLAIN OF GEORGIA

By Robert A. Norris

Despite several years of bird study in southern Georgia, I did not have the good fortune to find the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) in this region until August 8, 1951, between which date and September 3, of the same year, I obtained several specimens and sight records of this oft-unnoticed species. Such a belated discovery recalls the experience of Denton (1944, 1947), who now considers this warbler "a regular and fairly common fall migrant" at Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia, and one that was simply overlooked in previous years. Augusta lies on the geologic "Fall Line," which runs diagonally northeast-southwest through central Georgia and separates the Upper Coastal Plain from the more hilly Piedmont Plateau lying to the north. Denton (1947) adds that this migrant species probably has a similar status "along the Fall Line and in the upper Coastal Plain," a notion substantiated somewhat by my recent records. Until these records, there was, so far as I know, only one unquestioned occurrence of the Cerulean Warbler on the State's Coastal Plain. This was a female collected by Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., on Birdsong Plantation, Grady County, on September 18, 1948 (written communication).

The records for 1951 are summarized in the accompanying table. All sex and age determinations were made, respectively, through examination of gonads and of skull ossification. Records in parentheses refer to sight observations; the others, to specimens. The specimens (four skins and three skeletons) are deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley. Additional information on the birds, amplifying and supplementing the tabular data, is given in the following paragraphs.

Date	Sex and Age	Foraging Height (Feet)	Total Weight (Grams)	Weight of Subcutaneous Fat (Per Cent of Total)	Locality
Aug. 8	F im.	25	8.9	5.1	Crystal Lake
Aug. 13	M im.	45	9.4	2.7	Ocmulgee River
Aug. 16	F im.	25	12.3	13.0	Flint River, Macon Co.
Aug. 20	F im.	20	12.0	11.7	Crystal Lake
Aug. 20	o? im.	25	11.7	17.5	Crystal Lake
Aug. 29	M ad.	35	12.4	13.7	Crystal Lake
Aug. 29	(F or im.)	35	.....	.....	Crystal Lake
Sept. 1	F im.	20	9.2	3.3	Flint River, Decatur Co.
Sept. 3	(3 F or im.)	20-30	.....	.....	Crystal Lake

Localities and habitats. (1) Sandy hammock near Crystal Lake (4 miles N.N.W. of Irwinville), Irwin County.—Dominant plants: *Quercus virginiana, Quercus phellos laurifolia, Magnolia grandiflora, Carya* sp., with *Quercus nigra, Vaccinium arboreum, Osmanthus americana,* and *Ilex opaca* among the less important species. Canopy cover estimated to be 80 per cent, with little ground cover (herbs or subshrubs). Termed "hammock" because of the prevalence of broadleaf evergreen trees. Soil sandy with an extensive carpet of dried leaves.

(2) Broadleaf forest near Ocmulgee River bottoms (11 miles S.E. of Abbeville), Wilcox County.—Dominants: *Quercus nigra, Liquidambar styraciflua, Carya* sp., *Nyssa sylvatica,* with *Ulmus americana* and *Celtis georgiana* among subdominants. Ground cover moderate. Vegetation generally taller than that of hammock and of comparable density. Soil moister, less sandy, grading into floodplain alluvium.

(3) Broadleaf forest near Flint River (1 mile N.W. of Montezuma), Macon County.—Dominants: *Quercus phellos, Quercus nigra, Liquidambar styraciflua, Carya* sp., with *Nyssa sylvatica* and *Pinus taeda* less prominent. Ground cover scanty. Vegetation somewhat more open than in either of the above localities, although spacing of plants sufficiently close to warrant the term "forest".

(4) Floodplain forest alongside Flint River (1 mile N. of Chattahoochee, Florida), Decatur County (Georgia).—Dominants: *Quercus nigra, Carya* sp., *Nyssa sylvatica,* and (locally) *Taxodium distichum,* with *Nyssa aquatica* and *Carpinus caroliniana* among subdominants. Herbs and subshrubs poorly represented. This forest, like habitats 1 and 2, is rather dense.

Viewing these habitats as a whole, we note that oaks (chiefly *Q. nigra*) and hickories (*Carya* spp.) are the major species, with sweetgum (*Liquidambar*) and black-gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) somewhat less important. Broadleaf evergreens (*Quercus virginiana* and *Magnolia grandiflora*) are leading species only in the sandy hammock. Denton (1947) mentions cottonwood (*Populus*), sycamore (*Platanus*), and water oak (*Quercus nigra*) among trees inhabited by Cerulean Warblers along the Savannah River near Augusta, these being similar in life form to most of the dominants I have listed.

Whereas the Crystal Lake hammock lies just east of the Alapaha River, (a dark-water stream arising in the Coastal Plain), the other three habitats are associated with larger rivers which, like the Savannah, arise in northern Georgia. The presence of Cerulean Warblers near these big rivers suggests that they use, to some extent, these streams as paths of migration (a point made by Denton with reference to the Savannah River). Still, their adherence to rivers seems only a relative matter. A considerable inter-riparian southward movement is revealed by the presence of birds near the Coastal Plain stream, and, further, a tendency to forsake the near vicinity of streams is reflected by the warblers in the hammock, which were from one-half to one mile from the Alapaha. It nevertheless seems likely that the warblers' migratory movements are strongly influenced by the rivers themselves, as well as by the types of vegetation they support. Vegetation, of course, would normally determine the stopover sites.

Foraging activity. All the Cerulean Warblems were actively foraging and even the less fat ones were plump-breasted and well fed. Approximate heights at which the birds were noted (included in the table) were found to average between 25 and 30 feet. This is somewhat lower than Denton (1947) found most of the Augusta birds; it is possible that I missed more individuals feeding in the leafy crowns than I did at lower levels. My findings are consonant, however, with Howell's statement (1924: 288) that this warbler, although essentially a tree-top inhabitant on its breeding ground, often descends to the lower branches in migration.

Influence of weather. Denton (1947) writes that "the majority of Cerulean Warblers that pass south in fall through the Augusta area pass over without stopping. Only when adverse weather forces them to land are they to be found. The weather condition forcing such a descent is a heavy pre-dawn thunder shower. All three mornings last fall when the birds were found were preceded by such thunder storms." My observations do not support Denton's conviction, for no such inclemency occurred prior to any of my records. I am inclined to believe that while such adverse weather undoubtedly does cause some of the individual migrants to land in middle and southern Georgia, this is not the sole reason for their stopping and tarrying here.

The summer of 1951 was one of the hottest on record in southern Georgia. August was both hot and relatively dry. It is conceivable that extreme heat (exceeding that on the more northern breeding ground) slows the passage of many of our transients which are heavily supplied with fat. Although such slowing might on some occasions be due to rises in insect numbers and improved forage conditions, there might also be a general enervation felt by the birds. At least three of the Cerulean Warblers that I noted were holding open their mandibles, presumably in an effort to cool themselves. I distinctly recall that one panting individual was an excessively fat one (taken August 20). More than half the birds, I should add, were observed between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., a period in which daily temperatures reached their peak. It seems to me that extreme heat may pose for fat-laden migrants such as these the serious problem of simply keeping cool.

Fatness of specimens. The tabulated figures on amount of subcutaneous fat relative to total weight were ascertained through careful removal and weighing of all fat found beneath the skin (peeled or scraped from the skin itself and also from the body, notably in the rump and interclavicular regions). The fat was placed on waxed paper and weighed to the nearest 5/100 gram. On one of the heavier specimens the weight of intraperitoneal fat (from the abdominal wall and intestinal region) was found to be approximately one-third that of the subcutaneous fat. The latter deposit alone, however, was considered a good indication of overall fatness of the birds. This impression gains support from the quantitative determinations of Odum (1951) on White-throated Sparrows, one of his conclusions (p. 229) being: "The skin (with subcutaneous depots) proved to be an accurate index to total lipids, since it varied directly with total lipids . . . ." Another conclusion (p. 230) was that total weight changes reflect partially, but not completely, changes in lipids. Although my data are few, the latter, imperfect correlation seems to apply to the Cerulean Warblers. If skin fat plus estimated peri-

toneal fat weights are subtracted from total weights, the lean weights of fatter specimens are somewhat greater (up to two grams) than those of less fat birds. Thus, the total weight increases would seem to result not only from added fat but also from increase of muscle and other tissues. In a vague way my data suggest that earlier migrants have less fat than later ones, a tendency that has been reported for several species by Baldwin and Kendeigh (1938: 432-433). But more Cerulean and other migrant warblers must be examined before we can be certain of this.

Preponderance of immatures. In the collected series the immature-adult ratio is 6:1. The one adult appeared three weeks after my noting the first arrival. Although the records are scanty, they might, if combined with others, reveal a tendency for immature Cerulean Warblers to precede adults in their southward journey.

Sex ratio. There is some suggestion of a greater number of females than males. The non-sexed specimen of August 20 (table) was in typical young female plumage (wanting the marked bluish cast of the young male); if we consider it female, my ratio is 5 females to 2 males among the collected birds. This in itself means little, but when combined with the interesting ratio of 13 females to 3 males collected in fall by Burleigh (1945) on the Mississippi coast, it is quite suggestive (combined ratios being 18 females to 5 males). Burleigh's six spring specimens are, by contrast, half one sex and half the other. Additional information on sex ratio in the Cerulean Warbler, including nestlings, would be most desirable.

Sociability and other reactions. Three of the warblers were essentially alone whereas the other eight were to a greater or less degree in company with other small passerines. Like Denton (1947), I found the most frequent flock companions to be Parula Warblers, both young and old. Some of the Parulas were singing. I did not hear the Cerulean Warblers sing (as Denton did on occasion), although once or twice their call notes were heard. Black and White Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also associated with Cerulean Warblers in these wandering groups; likewise, although perhaps less frequently, Tufted Titmice, Hooded Warblers, and vireos (chiefly Red-eyed and Yellow-throated) were among the flock constituents. Upon their arrival in late August and early September, Chestnut-sided and Golden-winged warblers were also seen foraging in loose association with the aforementioned species.

For the most part the Cerulean Warblers, like many migrant warblers, paid little attention to my movements or to "squeaks" or "wren scolds" emitted by me. However, one bird (on September 3) flew up rather close and eyed me with curiosity after I had imitated the Screech Owl's tremulous whistle. This individual showed a more obvious response to this sound than any other member of the mixed-species assemblage in the general vicinity.

General status. The records of 1951 together with those of Denton (1944, 1947) and Stoddard (written communication) indicate the Cerulean Warbler to be a fall migrant, from early August to late September, in middle and southern Georgia. While Denton regards it as regular and fairly common at Augusta, I would, on the basis of what is now known, consider it rather uncommon in fall on the Upper Coastal Plain and still of questionable regularity in its occurrence. This species is still unrecorded in spring in southern Georgia and is still unreported from the Lower Coastal Plain in either spring or fall.

SUMMARY

Between August 8 and September 3, 1951, I observed eleven (and collected seven) Cerulean Warblers on seven different occasions in four separate areas on the Upper Coastal Plain of Georgia. There was one previous (mid-September) record from the southern part of the State. Both deciduous and broadleaf evergreen (hammock) vegetation types were favored by the birds. Oaks and hickories dominated the former type and live-oak and magnolia, the latter. All four areas were close to rivers. Although the hammock adjoined a Coastal Plain stream, the other habitats lay near larger rivers arising in northern Georgia, thought to form pathways for the migrants. All birds were foraging actively, generally 25 to 30 feet up, and all individuals were well nourished. There was evidence of discomfort in fat birds as a result of high midday temperatures, but there was no evidence that rainstorms or other inclemencies had "grounded" any of the warblers. Subcutaneous fat in the specimens comprised 3 to 18 per cent of the total body weight. The specimens suggest that heavier fat deposits appeared in later migrants than in earlier ones. Immatures were six in number, the first appearing three weeks earlier than the single adult; more data may show young Ceruleans to precede old ones in fall migration. In both my series and one from coastal Mississippi females outnumbered males (overall ratio 18 to 5). Avian associates of the Cerulean Warblers were several, the most regular being the Parula Warbler. The general status of the Cerulean Warbler in southern Georgia appears to be that of a rather uncommon, and questionably regular, migrant from early August to late September. It still has not been found on the Lower Coastal Plain, and as yet there are no spring records anywhere in southern Georgia.

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THE COLLECTION OF A SERIES OF NEWFOUNDLAND CROSSBILLS AT STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

By George W. Sciple

In February, 1951, a flock of Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) was located at Stone Mountain, DeKalb County, Georgia by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Descoteaux. The birds were first seen by them on February 11. A flock, or flocks, remained in the vicinity of this 700 foot high granite monadnock at least through May 30, 1951, and birds were observed by the Descoteaux and members of the Atlanta Bird Club on numerous occasions.

Because of the complex situation relative to these erratic birds (see Greene, *et al., Birds of Georgia,* 1945), it was essential that specimens be taken and preserved for study. Accordingly, on February 24, 1951, the author, accompanied by Richard A. Parks, arrived slightly before sunrise in the immediate area where the birds previously had been reported. After several hours of search, a flock of seven or eight Crossbills was located. We were fortunate in securing three specimens, one being a male and the other two females. From the testicular and ovarian development found at necropsy and the possibilities raised thereby, it was recognized that further careful observations should be made.

On March 3, a flock of 15 birds was observed in four locations over a period of several hours. A striking behavior in the flock was seen during this time. All the birds in the flock perched in the lower branches of small, leafless persimmon trees less than 25 feet in height. Individuals repeatedly fluttered down to the ground, and were seen to be scratching about in the dry vegetation littering the surface. These individuals would then fly back up to their original perches, or to others in immediate proximity. Often they carried with them in their mandibles small bits of unidentifiable material. While holding this material in their bills, they several times sat quietly in the trees for periods of many seconds to one or two minutes.

It was at first thought that this behavior represented a feeding or grit-collecting activity engaged in by several members of the flock, while other members remained quiescent. A quite different interpretation was apparent as their activity increased in tempo. It was seen that the birds dropping to the ground were usually males, while the females stayed in the trees. Finally a male picked from the ground a long, frayed strand of vegetation and flew with it to a perch near a female. The male went through a series of rapid, jerky head and body movements before the female. He "presented" the trailing straw to the female. There was little apparent response on the part of the female; she did not accept the straw, and after the lapse of a few seconds the male flew away. The entire performance was accomplished in silence.

On March 8, a single singing male was observed on a prominent perch where a male had been seen several times previously. On March 10, two males were collected at the same location, in the hope of being able to correlate gonadal changes with the observed behavior. On March 17, Parks collected another male.

On April 8, Mr. and Mrs. Descoteaux and Hugh Moore, Jr. observed a pair of Crossbills building a nest in a pine tree about half way up the mountain. On May 1, a male was seen in the vicinity of the nesting tree by Descoteaux, Moore, and Dr. E. P. Odum. However, the nest appeared to be unfinished and was never used.

Gross necropsies showed the male taken on February 24 to have expanded hyperemic testes with a maximum diameter of 5mm. One of the females taken on the same date had a discretely granular ovary containing six follicles each measuring about 1mm. in diameter, with numerous slightly smaller follicles present. The testes of the two March 10 birds measured 4mm. and 5mm. respectively, maximum, and were notably hyperemic. All the birds examined showed rather meagre visible lipid deposits, but these were of a strikingly bright carotenoid color. From the gross gonadal findings, the birds appeared to be approaching an active breeding phase.

The male taken on February 24 had its mouth, esophagus, proventriculus, and gizzard crammed with seeds of *Pinus taeda,* to the exclusion of other food substances. The gizzards of all the birds examined showed a quantity (estimated 30% to 40% of total contents) of sharp, clear quartz grit of a type and size such as is present in abundance over the eroding surface of the mountain.

No *Mallophaga* or other grossly visible ectoparasites were found on any of the birds examined.

Dr. John Aldrich has advised us (personal correspondence) that all six birds in the series collected are referable to *Loxia curvirostra pusilla,* the Newfoundland Crossbill.

Since the correction by Norris (*Oriole* 12:20-21, 1947) of an error in *Birds of Georgia* (*loc. cit.*), there appears from the literature to have been but one previous record for this subspecies from the State, this one being the type specimen in the Berlin Museum mentioned by van Rossem (*Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist.* 7:30, 258-359, 1934.) as supposedly having come from Georgia.

Of the six birds collected, two are now deposited in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Collection at the National Museum, Washington, D. C., two are at the Museum of Zoology of the University of Georgia, and two are retained by Parks for further study.

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GENERAL NOTES

HOUSE WREN NESTING AT ATHENS FOR THE SECOND SEASON. Last year (1950) Dave Johnston and I found the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon baldwini*) nesting at Athens, the first breeding record for the State. In a recent article in the *Auk* (68:357-366, 1951) we discussed the spectacular southward invasion of this species in some detail. Naturally we were anxious to know if the House Wren would again nest in Athens, or whether its appearance was just a temporary extension of range. I can report that the species has again nested in 1951 and was observed at two sites in addition to the one occupied last year. Last year, at the Veterinary Clinic site, two females nested, raising at least three broods. We could find only one male, apparently the father of all broods. One of the females was caught at the nest and banded, and two broods of nestlings were banded. This year House Wrens were again present at the site and again nested in the metal fence posts. Apparently there were two males and only one female. It was immediately noticed that the female was banded, and when captured she proved to be the same bird banded in July 1950 while feeding young of her second brood. Thus, the original pioneer bird returned to the same spot to nest for the second season!

Between April 30 and May 15, a House Wren was heard singing in a backyard in Milledge Circle, while on the other side of town, Jim Jenkins located a singing bird back of the Farmer's Market off the Atlanta Highway. On June 5, Jenkins and I watched this singing bird for some time but did not discover evidence of a mate or nest. Since we were not able to follow up these observations we do not know whether House Wrens actually nested at these two sites—EUGENE P. ODUM, *Dept. of Biology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.*

A SUMMER RECORD OF THE BLUE-WINGED TEAL NEAR ATLANTA.—On July 14, 1951, a field trip group of the Atlanta Bird Club observed a female Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) on South River at the U. S. Prison Farm at Panthersville, DeKalb County, Georgia. When first seen the bird was at too great a distance for certain identification. However, Billy Calder and I were able to approach quite close under cover of vegetation on the bank of the stream. It appeared to be leisurely preening as it drifted with the current. The blue patch on one wing was clearly seen. Although there was no indication of injury, it is possible that such existed and had forced the bird to remain in this area during the summer.—RICHARD A. PARKS, *2303 Pembrook Place, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia.*

NOTES FROM THE MACON AREA.—During the past two years the writer has made fairly frequent field trips in the Macon area. The following records all represent more or less unusual occurences, according to my observations.

Black-crowned Night Heron: *Nycticorax nycticorax.* A single adult was seen during Christmas Count, December 31, 1949.

Wood Ibis: *Mycteria americana.* Three immature birds were seen on September 10, 1950, and another on September 1, 1951. Dr. J. Fred Denton found two on August 26, 1935.

White Ibis: *Guara alba.* An immature bird seen September 2, 1950, appears to be the only recent record for the region. I am quite sure that I saw an individual of this species flying overhead at dusk much earlier in the summer, but unfortunately the exact date has been lost.

Mississippi Kite: *Ictinia misisippiensis.* I have seen this species twice, on August 29, 1950, and August 21, 1951. Brooke Meanley observed two on May 6, 1945, and Dr. Denton saw two on June 20 ,1944.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: *Sitta canadensis.* October 22, 1949. L. H. Mounts lists several records for this species, but none as early as October.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *Polioptila caerulea.* As far as I can determine, a single bird seen on January 8, 1950, by Mounts and myself constitutes the only winter record for the region.

Black-and-white Warbler: *Mniotilta varia.* A single bird was seen during Christmas Count, December 31, 1950.

Golden-winged Warbler: *Vermivora chrysoptera.* An adult male was noted on April 29, 1951. Meanley recorded the species on May 6, 1944.

Blue-winged Warbler: *Vermivora pinus.* The only spring record for Macon appears to be an adult male seen on April 29, 1951.

Black-throated Green Warbler: *Dendroica virens.* A single bird was noted on April 5, 1951.

Yellow-breasted Chat: *Icteria virens.* My March 4, 1950, record appears to be a very early spring arrival.

Brewer's Blackbird: *Euphagus cyanocephalus.* A sight record of two adults by Dr. Denton and myself on November 25, 1949, appears to be the only record for Macon. Attempts to collect these birds were unsuccessful.

Common Red-poll: *Acanthis flammea.* Mounts observed an individual of this species for several minutes at close range during January 1951, but cannot supply the exact date.

Henslow's Sparrow: *Passerherbulus henslowii.* Three birds were seen during Christmas Count, December 31, 1950.—EDMUND FARRAR, JR., *184 College Street, Macon, Georgia.*

THE OVEN-BIRD AT WEST POINT, GEORGIA, IN WINTER.—An Oven-bird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) appeared in our yard within the city limits of West Point on the afternoon of December 10, 1950. Thereafter, it was seen daily until March 3, 1951. On that date the bird fed as usual

with other birds during the morning hours. A short time later it was seen fluttering helplessly among some dead leaves. It died there about an hour after being found.

We were interested to note that the Oven-bird fed regularly upon a mixture of chicken scratch feed, as well as suet placed on the ground in the feeding area.

This is apparently the most northern locality in the State for the occurrence of this bird in winter. Meanley (*Oriole* 10:9, 1945) collected a bird in winter near Fitzgerald, while Stoddard has observed birds in southwest Georgia during the winter on several occasions.—GRACE M. WHITEMAN, *West Point, Georgia.*

RECENT LITERATURE

A GUIDE TO BIRD FINDING EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—By Olin Sewell Pettingill, Jr., with illustrations by George Miksch Sutton. 659 pp. Oxford University Press, New York. 1951. $5.00.

This is a companion volume to J. J. Hickey's *A Guide to Bird Watching* also published by Oxford (1943) and like it worthy of a place beside the field guides and state and local bird books in one's basic ornithological reference library. In this day of rapid automobile transportation all of us have occasion to travel at some time or another. The best way to see birds in a strange locality is to be guided by a local bird student; many times, however, this is not possible or practical. The next best thing is to have a copy of Pettingill's new book. A chapter is devoted to each state. The general characteristics of the state, its ecological sub-divisions, and extensive lists of birds to be found in these sub-divisions are first given, then specific localities listed in alphabetical order. Detailed descriptions of how to reach choice spots are given and also museum and college facilities. The text is not a bit dry or catalogue-like, but makes interesting general reading; I have enjoyed reading through various chapters even though I did not plan a trip in the near future. The chapter on Georgia is well done and seems to cover our top bird spots adequately, Georgia observers having helped Dr. Pettingill organize the material (the names of persons contributing information are acknowledged at the end of each chapter). Among the localities discussed are: Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Brunswick (including Jekyll, Blackbeard, St. Simon and Sea Islands), Brasstown Bald, Cornelia and Rabun, Seed and Burton lakes, Kingsland, Macon, Milledgeville, Savannah (including Tybee), and Waycross including Okefenokee Swamp.—EUGENE P. ODUM.

WHERE BIRDS LIVE.—Edited by Shirley A. Briggs and Chandler S. Robbins. Illustrated with photographs and drawings. Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, Inc., 1951: 58 pp. 75 cents.

It is not often that the beginner in bird study is aware of the close relationship between birds and their surroundings, the result of which

determines the number of species and individuals which occur in a given area. It is apparently with this in mind that this booklet has been compiled, the various sections having originally appeared in the *Atlantic Naturalist* (formerly the *Wood Thrush*). A short opening chapter on the importance of habitat in the lives of birds is followed by twelve sections, each devoted to a particular habitat and the birds occurring in it, so that all the major habitat types of the Middle Atlantic States are described. It is primarily a guide to where birds can be found, but it also, at times, goes into the reasons behind some of the plant and bird relationships.

Although intended for use in the Washington, D. C. region, it will undoubtedly prove useful in other sections also.—RICHARD A. PARKS.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

SPRING MEETING AT GATLINBURG.—The 26th semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, 1952, in conjunction with the annual meeting of The Wilson Ornithological Club. The host organizations for this meeting are the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Carolina Bird Club, and the Georgia Ornithological Society. Headquarters will be at the new Greystone Playhouse, adjacent to the Greystone Hotel in Gatlinburg. In order that our members may attend and participate in the larger national program, our meeting will consist of a luncheon with a short business session on Saturday, April 26. While this will be the first time we have met outside of our State, we believe a good attendance is assured by the attractive program of the Wilson Club.

Complete details of the program and accommodations have been mailed to all G.O.S. members. If you plan to attend and have not made your reservation, please do so as soon as possible. All reservations must be made directly with the hotel or tourist court of your choice.

THE BIRDS OF VIRGINIA.—The Virginia Society of Ornithology plans to publish early in 1952 *A Check List of the Birds of Virginia* by J. J. Murray. It will contain eighty or more pages, with introductory chapters on Virginia ornithology, with copious quotations from seventeenth century writers, and with a short bibliography. Most of the book will be devoted to a fully annotated list of the birds of the State, with migration and nesting dates, and discussions of changes in status. The price will be $1.50. Orders should be sent to A. O. English, 2803 Rosalind Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

An executive meeting was held in Atlanta on November 10, 1951, to plan an expansion of activities of your Society. Additional regional vice-presidents were appointed to complete coverage of the State as follows:

1. Dalton—Mr. R. E. Hamilton, 704 Greenwood Drive, Dalton.
2. Demorest—Mrs. Charles Neal, Demorest.
3. West Point—Mrs. J. H. Whiteman, 801 Third Avenue, West Point.
4. Atlanta—Mrs. J. E. Boyd, 626 Lawton Street, S.W., Atlanta.
5. Athens—Dr. Don L. Jacobs, Dept. of Botany, Univ. of Ga., Athens.
6. Macon—Mr. Edmund Farrar, Jr., 184 College Street, Macon.
7. Milledgeville—Miss Katherine Weaver, Box 197, Milledgeville.
8. Augusta—Dr. J. Fred Denton, 1510 Pendleton Road, Augusta.
9. Albany—Mrs. T. T. Giffen, 801 North Monroe Street, Albany.
10. Statesboro—Mr. Tully Pennington, Collegeboro.
11. Kingsland—Mr. F. V. Hebard, 1500 Walnut Street, Building, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.
12. Brunswick—Mrs. Margaret D. Cate, Sea Island.
13. Savannah—Mr. Herman W. Collidge, Isle of Hope, Savannah.
14. Fitzgerald—Mr. Milton Hopkins, Jr., Osierfield.

Each of these officers will contact present members and prospects in his area, to increase our membership and secure additional library subscriptions to *The Oriole*. They will plan field trips and possibly local meetings. They will be our contacts with members and prospective members and will work toward expanding our activities to include all of the objectives as listed in the by-laws (see the October, 1947, *Oriole*). Please keep in touch with your regional vice-president.

Occasional Publication No. 3 of our Society, *Distribution and Populations of Summer Birds in Southwestern Georgia,* by Robert A. Norris, is being advertised and sold by the University of Georgia Press, Athens. If you do not yet have your copy please send $1.25 and secure it soon. It is an excellent regional paper. We hope to utilize our publications fund for production of other worthwhile studies.

We wish to increase our membership in order to support a larger *Oriole* and to extend bird conservation throughout Georgia. We need the assistance and support of each member in securing new members.

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