

THE ORIOLE

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



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No. 4

THE ORIOLE

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GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY Founded December 13, 1933

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ST. MARY'S GEORGIA: 1878

FROM THE JOURNAL OF WILLIAM BREWSTER

EDITED BY FREDERICK V. HEBARD

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Leave Savannah

(144) Tuesday, February 19. Clear and cool. Left Savannah at 5 p. m. on the Str. "City of Bridgeton." Sat out on the deck smoking after supper and saw a beautiful fire in the woods along the bank of the creek. The flames followed the long trains of Spanish moss up thro' the branches and the sky above glowed with a lurid light that could be seen miles away.

Arrive at St. Mary's

Wednesday, February 20. Cloudy with a dull threatening sky. As we came down to breakfast the boat was running up the river to Brunswick. We lay at the wharf nearly an hour discharging freight. The town is not unlike St. Mary's from the river but larger, more straggling and not so pretty. Herring, Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls were flying about over the water and in the marshes Fish Crows, Boat-tailed Grackles and Red-wings. Steaming (145) back down the river we ran for several hours past the shores of St. Andrews Island where beautiful little meadows ran in from the water's edge. At the opening of St. Andrews Sound saw numbers of Royal and Forster's Terns. On the marshes saw a few Great Blue Herons and two American Egrets. A few Florida Grackles were flying or perched on stakes over the water.

Reached St. Mary's at 2 p. m. and found Mr. Fordham on the wharf. We quickly got our baggage up to the house and took possession of my old room. Spent the remainder of the afternoon in getting our things arranged and in resting after our journey.

(146) Thursday, February 21. Cloudy and threatening. Early in the forenoon a thunderstorm commenced which lasted all day.

I spent much of the time in sitting on the upper veranda watching the birds. After the first burst the rain fell more gently. The leaves of the orange trees dripping with moisture looked greener and more polished than ever; the air was soft and warm and that indescribable sweet, earthy

smell that comes at home during a summer shower stole up from the garden and grounds about the house. In a depression in the turf carpeted street a large pool of water had collected and around the margin of this evanescent little lake half a dozen Killdeer Plovers were feeding and with them two American Pipits. The former I saw when they first found this new-made feeding ground. From high up in the air they came wheeling down with their loud cries of Killdee-e-e (147) and soon they were as busy about the grassy margin as if the pool were one of their old haunts. They run exactly like the other plover but very much more swiftly than any of them. They have the same Robin-like ways when feeding. When any of the villagers passed along the street, they ran swiftly off to one side and shortly afterwards returned. They seemed more suspicious than shy. A sweet gum tree near the bottom of the garden seemed to have been previously agreed upon by the Fish Crows as a rendezvous. Singly or in couples they came trooping in from all directions until its naked branches were covered with a pall of black. People passing underneath did not seem to alarm them but occasionally a grand panic seemed to seize upon the throng and with a vast amount (148) of confusion and *ca-ca-ing* off they would go in all directions. Then in a little while they would return again as before. What the attraction was in that particular tree I could not make out to my satisfaction though I saw a few of them at times sail down to some cedar bushes below when they apparently fed on the berries. They were in the same place yesterday afternoon tho' not in such numbers. At least 200 must have been congregated there today. Not a single Florida Crow was among them.

A beautiful little male Sparrow Hawk has taken up his quarters in the garden. He sits sometimes on the hen house vanes; sometimes on the clothes yard posts. He is very tame; sits very erect and bobs his head up and down like an owl; occasionally he stoops down and seizes a grasshopper. The Mockingbirds resent his intrusion and (149) scold and dive at him. Once when one came too near he extended his foot and grasped at it. His cry is a shrill *kee-e, kee-e, kee-e*. A Loggerhead Shrike is also a constant visitor in the garden. He is in every motion like his northern cousin, the Great Northern Shrike. The Mockingbirds occasionally attack him too but not very angrily — rather with an air of protest than of menace. His note is like the rolling one of a Blue Jay. I cannot admit a close resemblance to the Mockingbird. His flight is far firmer, his posture more erect and every movement prompt and decided. The color and marking of the two are somewhat alike but I recognize either in a moment at any distance. The Shrike often descends to the ground for a grasshopper and once I saw him hopping about them, apparently for amusement or exercise. Myrtle Warblers fairly swarm through the (150) village. I dissected three specimens shot in the cedar trees and found their stomachs crammed with *whole* cedar berries and nothing else. They seem to prefer the feathery cedar trees and in the one at the foot of the garden dozens are congregated. Several large flocks of Cedar Waxwings whirl about over the village. They feed upon the mistletoe berries. (The local name for this species in southeast Georgia is "mistletoe bird."—Ed.) In the gloom

of the rainy noon I heard a Barred Owl hoot several times in the cedar grove in the village.

The Mockingbirds are in full song all day long. Mr. Fordham tells me that they began to sing some two weeks since. They reminded me at times of huge butterflies. There is an indescribable free, careless grace in their every movement. The breeze lifts their broad expanded tails as if they were light as thistledown, while their wings are ever expanded or loosely trailing. They alternately scold and sing. They especially haunt the orange trees, and evidently regard these shady retreats as theirs by right as they drive all intruders away.

(151) Friday, February 22. Clear and a lovely day. Ther. 75° at noon. Spent the forenoon about the house, writing, etc. In the afternoon took a drive back into the pine woods beyond Clarksville where we stayed about an hour, stopping in many places to watch the birds. The afternoon was most exquisite — the air as warm and soft as in July at home.

A pair of Purple Martins arrived this morning and with much ado took possession of the caves of "Orange Hall," where they bred last year. Mr. Fordham has not seen them before this year.

Found Florida Crows abundant in the pine woods. They were very tame and unsuspicious. In one place surface water from yesterday's rain flowed down a decline of the road making quite a little brook. As the horse was just entering it, 3 Crows came swooping down from the pines above and 2 of them lit in the shallow water and commenced bathing (152) themselves and walking about within ten yards of us. The third gave chase to some bird (a small woodpecker, I thought) and pursued it hotly through the trees until it took refuge in a hole when the Crow clinging sideways against the trunk watched for some time for its reappearance, every now and then making futile attempts to introduce itself into the hole. The voice of this Southern Crow is exactly like that of our Northern bird.

Robins are abundant everywhere even throughout the pine woods. They are very shy as they are hunted everywhere.

Pine Warblers are abundant in the pine woods. The males sing freely.

I heard and saw several Red-eyed Towhees and heard the peculiar, harsh note of the White-eyed Towhee in the oak scrub.

I saw a Loggerhead Shrike perched on the top of a leafless Pride of China tree in the garden regularly catching flies like a true (153) Flycatcher, making frequent sorties out into the air and returning to his place of observation again. I also heard him utter a new note, a harsh monosyllable like the mew of the Catbird or still more like the scolding cry of the Mockingbird. I should have said a pair of these Shrikes haunted the garden. I see them frequently now together or rather sitting on adjoining treetops watching for their prey.

House Wrens are quite common in and about the village tho' not numerous. Each individual has its favorite woodpile or brush heap where it is always to be found at home.

In the pines are one Red-cockaded and one Red-bellied Woodpecker. Myrtle Warblers fairly swarm everywhere and Tufted Titmice are common. I hear their monotonous *peto, peto, peto* at all hours of the day.

(154) Saturday, February 23. Cloudy and rather chilly. Cleared off beautifully at sunset. Spent most of the day in the house and made no observations of any consequence. I shot two Myrtle Warblers in the garden and found them in unchanged fall plumage — no signs of moulting yet.

Sunday, February 24. Clear, warm and perfectly still. Spent the forenoon in the garden watching the birds. All the songsters were in full blast.

Two Hermit Thrushes are always to be found in the olive hedge that bounds the garden. This morning to my great surprise, one of them commenced singing superbly. I shut my eyes and in a moment was carried back to Maine, but the next moment a Mockingbird broke in on the glorious strain and the Thrush became silent.

I heard a Loggerhead Shrike utter a new note this morning — like the squeak of a wooden pump. (155) I heard several Purple Finches in the cedar tree and saw two Vesper Sparrows in the garden. Goldfinches are not uncommon.

Wrote letters all the afternoon.

Monday, February 25. Clear and cool with north wind. Spent the forenoon in the garden watching the birds. Shot four specimens with my gun cane, a Hermit Thrush, a House Wren, a White-throated Sparrow and a Myrtle Warbler. In the afternoon took Wright's team and started for the pine woods but we had hardly passed Clarksville when the horse was taken with colic and we were only too thankful to get her home as soon as we could.

I saw a Catbird that had been shot and was offered for sale in a bunch of Robins. Robins are abundant everywhere. Every day the entire force of gunners in the village sallies out after Robins. At sundown they straggle in with large bunches of the unfortunate Thrushes strung like fish (156) on slender withes. All through the day there is an unremitting fusilade in the woods around the town. The birds are offered for sale along the streets at 30 to 40 cents per dozen and are readily enough disposed of. They feed upon the numerous berries that are found everywhere in the undergrowth.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are apparently rather common and the only Woodpecker except the Hairy which frequents the trees in the village.

I saw a Song Sparrow distinctly in the saw palmetto near Clarksville.

Loggerhead Shrikes are very common everywhere throughout the clearings — much more so than it was last April. They are very fond of sitting on the dead stalks in the cornfields. They are very tame and unsuspicious and one may easily approach within ten yards of them. I carefully studied their notes today. The one most frequently uttered which I

have previously compared to the cry of a Blue Jay is very like it but readily distinguishable; it may be best imitated by the word *pterds* repeated at intervals of a few seconds; it is not unmusical but monotonous. The other cry is most peculiar; more like the *pa-a-ap* of a Woodcock than anything I can think of, but with a peculiar vibrating *twang*, almost like a bowstring. This Shrike apparently feeds principally upon insects. It does not seem to molest the smaller birds, and with the exception of the Mockingbirds which quarrel with almost every other species, I have seen none attack it or show any alarm at its presence. In flight and general motions it is the very duplicate of its Northern cousin. It is, however, far less restless and far tamer.

Four Greater Yellow-legs flew over Orange Hall yesterday afternoon whistling loudly. Today I heard one of the Mockingbirds in our garden mimicking their calls.

I heard a White-eyed Vireo singing this afternoon. It is probably a resident here.

(To be continued)

NOTES ON SPRAGUE'S PIPIT WINTERING IN GEORGIA

By J. FRED DENTON

Arthur H. Helme while studying birds on Cumberland Island in January 1903, discovered the Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) there and collected specimens, thus establishing the first record for Georgia. His account (Helme, 1904) of the incident follows: "On January 16, 1903, near the north end of Cumberland Island, I flushed a small light-colored bird that I suspected to be Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). It flew but a short distance, but upon my attempting to approach it at once took flight, and joining a Common Pipit that chanced to be passing at the time was soon lost to view. Its note somewhat resembled that of the Common Pipit, yet was readily distinguishable from it. January 19, I again found it in the same locality and shot it, thus confirming my conclusions as to its identity. My next opportunity to look for these birds was March 27, when I found three and secured two of them. From this time to April 3, several more were noted and six specimens secured. They were all found singly among the short grass on the dry sandy flats between the marsh and the ocean, and did not appear to mingle with the Common Pipits, which were common in the vicinity. I did not see any perform the towering flight which is said to be so characteristic of this species. Nine* specimens in all were taken on the following dates: January 19, one; March 27, two; March 28, three; March 30, two; April 3, one. All were females, and with the exception of the one taken January 19, were in prenuptial moult."

*Birds of Georgia, 1945, p. 55, erroneously states Helme collected 10 specimens.

Fifty years during which many observers looked for it were to pass before the bird was again found in the state. On December 28, 1952, I rediscovered the species at Daniel Field Airport in the edge of Augusta, Richmond County. On this date two birds were observed and a female was collected. A complete check of the area was not made at this time, but later checks in January and February and up to March 13 revealed five birds still present. Altogether, then, at least six birds visited the area. On March 13 a second specimen, also a female, was collected, leaving four birds which were present through March 24. Three birds were noted regularly from April 2 to April 20, when only two could be found. These remaining two birds were last seen on April 24. Whether the two birds that disappeared between March 24 and April 20 migrated or fell captive to predators could not be determined.

Helme's account gives the impression that he collected practically the entire flock wintering on Cumberland Island. Since all of his specimens, as well as my two, were females the question arises as to whether the occasional flocks encountered in the southeast might consist entirely of females. A check of the two existent specimens from South Carolina taken by Wayne (1910) reveals that one was a male collected November 24, 1893, and the other a female taken November 17, 1900. Knowledge of the sex of only one of the three or four specimens that have been taken in Florida is available to me. This was a female collected by Herbert L. Stoddard, February 27, 1953, in Franklin County. There are no specimens from Alabama. In Mississippi, along the levee in Bolivar County, Vaiden (1953) collected a male and female on January 4, and another female on January 11, 1953, from a flock that contained at least five birds. This meagre data while it offers no definitive answer indicates that the flocks consist mostly of females with only occasional males mixed in. Further collection is needed.

To determine the extent of the occurrence of Sprague's Pipit in the southeast during the winter of 1952-53, the various editors of Audubon Field Notes concerned and the literature available to date were consulted. There were no records from North and South Carolina. In Georgia, in addition to my record, Mrs. Lewis Gordon, Sr., observed three birds in Atlanta, Fulton County, February 28, 1953. For Florida there were three records: a single bird seen near the St. Marks Light, Wakulla County, on dates ranging from November 30 to December 7, 1952, by Henry M. Stevenson and several others; an unspecified number of birds seen at Kendall, Dade County, January 11, 1953, by Mary Willingham; and three birds, one of which was collected, found on St. George Island, Franklin County, February 27, 1953, by Herbert L. Stoddard and Leon Neel. There were no records for Alabama while for Mississippi there was only the record of Vaiden (see above) from the western edge of the state. The greater than usual number of records of this pipit in Georgia and Florida during the past winter might indicate a greater than normal influx into the region. On the other hand they might be only a reflection

of a keener search by more people in suitable habitat for a bird easily overlooked.

Habitat. The birds showed a decided preference for a particular triangular area of the airfield bounded on two sides by paved runways and on the third by the enclosing fences. In construction of this part of the field the topsoil had been removed entirely leaving the bright red clay subsoil exposed. Stunted grasses, mostly Bermuda, and weeds sparsely covered the area. Interspersed with the vegetation were areas of bare ground approximately a square yard in area. Apparently the area was mowed late in the fall so that the ground cover, further killed back by the frost, averaged about four inches high. An almost constant and sometimes severe wind blew across the airport all winter and spring. It is conceivable that the wind, also characteristic of the habitat on Cumberland as well as the Gulf Islands, might enhance the attractiveness of an area. Apparently the essential requirement though is the short sparse grass with intermingling bare areas covering a dry or well drained area.

In such a unique habitat the Sprague's Pipit is likely to have few bird associates. At Augusta the most common species, and incidentally the most distracting to the observer, was the Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), about a dozen of which wintered on the area. A flock of about eight Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) and two pairs of Killdeers (*Charadrius vociferous*) frequented the area, eventually scattering and nesting. On March 13 a pair of Horned Larks (*Erimophila alpestris*) appeared for the first time and remained to nest. Domestic Pigeons, Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) occasionally visited the area to feed. From April 7 to 14, four Upland Sandpipers (*Bartramia longicauda*) lingered about the airport. Not once during the winter was the Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) recorded in the vicinity.

Habits. In general Sprague's Pipit in winter is an inconspicuous, obscurely marked, retiring species that is not likely to be observed unless searched for in suitable habitat. Once its specialized habitat is located and its characteristics and habits learned it is not a difficult species to study. Although generally thought of as occurring in small flocks, birds are usually seen or flushed individually so that much searching is necessary to determine the number in any one area. This bird shows a decided preference for remaining on the ground. When approached slowly, it runs mouse-like through the sparse grass in the manner of a Savannah Sparrow, with tail drooping like a Meadowlark. Frequently it will stop to raise its head high and look around, at which time one is struck by the proportionately small size of the head as compared to the body. In this attitude the bird is quite suggestive of a miniature Upland Sandpiper. While on the ground the most distinctive field mark is the buffy nape interposed between the distinctly streaked back and crown. Not once during many hours of watching was a bird seen to wag its tail as does the Water Pipit.

When forced to flush, the birds never flew very far nor high above the ground. They, seeming reluctant to cross the paved runways, would either fly over my head or circle around me to drop again to the ground. Never was a bird seen to light anywhere but on the ground. The white outer rectrices usually cited as a field mark were not conspicuous when the birds were on the ground but were easily seen in flight. In flight the white was about as distinct as that in the tail of the Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*), thus greatly aiding in distinguishing pipits from Savannah Sparrows flushed in the same area. The course of flight was distinctive, being an undulating one markedly like that of the Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*). Usually when flushed, birds while on the wing uttered singly or in series a two-syllable note suggestive of but quite distinct from that of the Water Pipit. This note was also helpful in distinguishing flushed pipits from Savannah Sparrows which in flight gave their characteristic *tseep*.

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GENERAL NOTES

A SPECIMEN OF EASTERN GLOSSY IBIS FROM CHATHAM COUNTY.—The Eastern Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis f. falcinellus*) has been on the hypothetical list of Georgia birds based on a few old sight records. This note places on record a specimen taken in a rain water pool on the City Dump three miles east of Savannah on August 16, 1953.

After watching for this species in vain for about twenty years, it appeared this year on August 14, and a single bird was seen numerous times from then to September 19. Though only one bird was seen at a time, peculiarities of plumage indicated that three different birds were seen. The one collected was a male in the first fall plumage. At least one of the other two was also immature, and probably all three were. They commonly associated with the herons in the pool and while resting on open ground to the eastward.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th Street, Savannah, Georgia.

NASHVILLE WARBLERS IN THE ROME REGION.—On October 11, 1953, while making a survey of birds on the Rome Nature Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, located within the city limits of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, I came upon three Nashville Warblers (*Vermivora ruficapilla*).

These birds were feeding in the company of Tennessee Warblers, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cardinals and Field Sparrows in a small weedy area bordering a deep ravine. The growth consisted mainly of giant ragweed and grasses. A single bird was seen on the next two days, October 12 and 13, in the same area.—GORDON L. HIGHT, JR., 16 Notasulga Drive, Rome, Georgia.

SANDHILL CRANES OVER ATLANTA.—Two flocks of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) were observed flying northward over the Bobby Jones Golf Course, Atlanta, Fulton County, about 10 A. M., March 7, 1953, by H. E. Wallace and D. E. Booth. The flocks, of 80 and 35 birds totaling 115 individuals, were each in rough V formation. The birds were very noisy and were recognized by sight and sound, since the two observers were familiar with the species from field work in Florida as biologists with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This seems to be the first Atlanta record of Sandhill Cranes. The date fits into the migration pattern of March which Walkinshaw gives for Georgia (*Oriole*, 18:13-15, 1953.)—HAROLD S. PETERS, 968 Cumberland Road, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

THE BELTED PIPING PLOVER ON THE GEORGIA COAST.—Two specimens of the Belted Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus circumcinctus*) were collected on the north end of Tybee Island on August 2 and 23, 1953. The specimens were identified by Allen J. Duvall of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This is a well marked subspecies, and may normally be distinguished in the field from typical *melodus* of the Atlantic coast, because it has a complete band across the throat that is black, or nearly so, in breeding birds and brownish in the winter plumage. It is an inland bird, and its range is still not clearly defined. Early specimens were from the Loup Fork of the Platte River in Nebraska.

Such men as Spencer F. Baird, Elliott Coues and Robert Ridgway long ago recognized it as a valid subspecies, or variety according to the language of the day. It was included in the edition of 1886 of the A.O.U. Check-list and also in the 2nd edition of 1895. Apparently it was regarded synonymous with *melodus* in the 3rd and 4th editions. It was reinstated in the 20th Supplement to the 4th edition (*Auk*, 62:440, 1945).

There seems to be no previous account of this subspecies in Georgia, but Sprunt and Chamberlain in *Carolina Bird Life* (1949) list two specimens from that state taken on May 14, 1907, and April 22, 1922. I have seen about a dozen of them this year, in March and April and again in late July and August.

All observers may well scan the Piping Plovers they see in order to arrive at a better understanding of its time of occurrence and relative abundance.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th Street, Savannah, Ga.

WILSON PHALAROPE AGAIN AT SAVANNAH.—Two Wilson's Phalaropes (*Steganopus tricolor*) in winter plumage were seen in a small pool of rain water at the city dump just east of Savannah on August 14, 1953, by Ivan Tomkins and the writers. The birds were carefully ob-

served through binoculars from 30 feet, swimming and spinning in characteristic phalarope manner. They were flushed and watched in flight with several Lesser Yellow-legs (*Totanus flavipes*) when the absence of a wing stripe and the distinctive white rump were clearly noted. Later the phalaropes were seen feeding in another pool with the yellow-legs, when the long, thin bill was very evident. The birds seemed to be in identical plumage. The only previous record of this species for Georgia is a mounted female in the State Museum at Atlanta which was taken at Savannah on April 27, 1923, by an unknown collector (see Greene, et al., *Birds of Georgia*, 1945).—HAROLD S. PETERS, Atlanta, and GORDON L. HIGHT, JR., Rome, Georgia.

CHIPPING SPARROWS AT TIFTON: A NOTE ON WEIGHTS AND FOOT-POX IN EARLY SPRING.—In the course of intermittent trapping near Tifton, Georgia, from February 29 through March 24, 1952, thirty-four Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) were caught, weighed, banded, and released. They were trapped at various times of day (10 between 9 and 11:45 a. m.; 15 between 1:15 and 2:50 p. m.; 9 between 3:35 and 5:35 p. m.), and there were no repeats. The sparrows' weights, in grams, are as follows: 7 adults (with rufous-red caps), 12.4-14.5 (average, 13.4); 22 apparent first-winter birds (with duller, streaked caps), 10.4-13.5 (average, 12.2); all birds (34 individuals), 10.4-14.5 (average, 12.5). Twenty-seven birds or about 82 per cent, including both age groups, were afflicted with foot-pox (*epithelioma contagiosum*), having discolored tumors on one or more toes and occasionally at the end of the tarsus. Some had lost a claw or two, and some even parts of toes. Musselman (*Auk*, 45:139, 1928) reports that percentages of Chipping Sparrows with foot disease from Thomasville, Georgia, were 10, 25, and 42 for the years 1921, 1922, and 1923, respectively, with a markedly lower incidence in 1925 and 1926 (the Thomasville birds, totaling many hundreds, were mostly trapped in March). Thus, 1952 appears to be a peak year for this disease. My weight data, although limited, indicate, first, that adult Chippies might be significantly heavier than first-winter birds in late winter and early spring and, second, that there is little evidence of seasonal weight change within the period; 13 birds trapped on March 24 averaging less than 0.3 gram heavier than 14 trapped by or before March 10. The overall average weight of 12.5 grams is very close to that of April-trapped, non-diseased birds from Cleveland, Ohio (Baldwin and Kendeigh, *Auk*, 55:436, 1938). Both this fact and the data from Tifton suggest that, in general, diseased Chipping Sparrows weigh about the same as non-diseased ones.—ROBERT A. NORRIS, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley 4, California*.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

FALL MEETING, 1953.—The twenty-ninth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at Vogel State Park, October 17 and 18, 1953, with headquarters at Walasiyi Inn. Total attendance of members and guests was 109 with representatives from the Alabama Ornithological Society, the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and the Carolina Bird Club.

An executive meeting preceded the business meeting which convened on the terrace of the Inn at 3:30 P. M. Saturday, with President Harold Peters presiding. The treasurer reported the following balances as of October 15, 1953: Regular account, \$493.20; Publication Fund, \$287.51; and *Oriole* Reprint Fund, \$78.34.

The president announced that 500 membership cards for GOS members had been donated to the Society by George Dorsey.

Mrs. J. C. Oliver gave the reports from the regional vice-presidents who were not present and called on those present to make their reports. Among the activities reported were: talks to interested groups, work with Boy Scouts, regional field trips, bird banding, organization of bird clubs and Junior Audubon clubs, establishment of bird sanctuaries, breeding bird counts, and nocturnal migration studies.

Miss Katherine Weaver reported the following nominations by the Nominating Committee:

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First Vice-President.....	Herman W. Coolidge
Second Vice-President.....	Mrs. Thomas J. Cater, Jr.
Secretary.....	Mrs. Fern E. Dorris
Treasurer.....	Dr. Sam A. Anderson
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J. Fred Denton.....	Augusta
Mrs. T. T. Giffen.....	Albany
Miss Catherine Clark.....	Sea Island
Herman W. Coolidge.....	Savannah
Milton Hopkins, Jr.....	Osierfield
George A. Dorsey.....	Rome

The secretary read the following recommendations submitted by the Executive Committee: It is recommended that Article III, Section 1 (c) of the By-Laws be changed from "Life member, \$25.00" to "Life member, \$50.00, made in one payment." It was moved and carried that this recommendation be adopted.

Saturday evening the group gathered at the Inn for the banquet. The president recognized nine charter members of the GOS who were present and introduced representatives from our neighboring states—Mrs. Blanche Dean, president of the Alabama Ornithological Society; Mrs. Eugene West of the Tennessee Ornithological Society; and Miss Kay Puett of the Carolina Bird Club. He also announced that the society would shortly lose two of its most valued members, Mrs. Lucille Rotchford, retiring treasurer, and Nat Whitney, retiring regional vice-president for the Macon area, both of whom are leaving the State.

Fred Denton reported on the progress of Thomas D. Burleigh's book on the birds of Georgia. He stated that the manuscript had been reproduced photographically and copies sent to several ornithologists in the State for checking and suggestions. This has been done and corrections made in the original manuscript. It is hoped that publication will occur next spring.


Jim Ross announced the publication of Gene Odum's book *Fundamentals of Ecology*.

William W. Griffin conducted the program which consisted of reports of ornithological studies and observations in three areas of Georgia which had previously received little investigation. Mrs. J. H. Whiteman of West Point, Gordon Hight of Rome, and Nat Whitney of Warner Robins reported on their respective areas. Nat Whitney presented color slides of habitat areas in which he had conducted winter and breeding bird studies.


The introduction of new officers was followed by a response from the new president, Mrs. Charles Neal. A rising vote of thanks was given the retiring officers.

On Sunday morning field trips were made to Brasstown Bald, Lake Trahlyta, and along the Appalachian Trail. After dinner at Walasiyi Inn a count of birds seen showed a total of 75 species.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE.—The president has appointed the following men to serve on the Editorial Committee: Ivan Tomkins, to serve six years; William W. Griffin, to serve four years; and J. Fred Denton, to serve two years. By provision of the By-Laws the Editor of *The Oriole* is also on this committee.



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