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Editor: Richard A. Parks, 2303 Pembroke Place, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia

Business Manager: Ralph L. Ramsey, 1578 N. Decatur Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia

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Dr. Sam. A. Anderson, 3536 Roxboro Road, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia

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FOLK NAMES OF GEORGIA BIRDS

By W. L. McATEE

The terms here presented are extracted from the folk-name sections of a large manuscript on *American Bird Names: Their Histories and Meanings*, which now seems unlikely to be published. Compilation ceased in 1947—a fact to be kept in mind while consulting this list. Names not recorded until after that year will not be found. Some of the appellations, here listed, are included because they are in general use and that fact is stated. Names not so labelled are definitely known from Georgia. Anyone wishing to pursue the records further may do so at the Fuertes Museum and Library at Cornell University, where the card catalogs and other material accumulated over a period of 40 years are deposited.

In a paper by the writer printed in *The Oriole* (1946), the vernacular names used by John Latham in his "General History of Birds" (1821-1824) were associated with modern technical terms, so far as they could be identified. Many of these appellations were provided by John Abbot and some of them doubtless were gathered by him from the people. None of these terms are repeated here, but they should be considered by students wishing to take in the whole vocabulary of folk names.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

COMMON LOON.—**Diver**, **Hell-diver** (rather general); **War-loon** (probably from its cry).

HORNED GREBE.—**Didapper** (that is, dive dapper, dipper, or diver); **Water-witch** (general, in reference to the bird's uncanny submerging ability).

PIED-BILLED GREBE.—**Dabchick** (general, the bird that dabs, dips, or dives; of old usage in Great Britain, Merrett, 1667); **Didapper** (general, see under preceding species); **Dipper** (general, meaning diver); **Hell-diver** (general, referring to the bird's uncanny diving powers); **Water-witch** (general, see note under horned grebe).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—**Nigger Goose** (in allusion to its black color and to its goose-like appearance, especially in flight in the V-formation so closely associated with the Canada goose).

ANHINGA.—**Gannet** (in the Southeast, this term is rather widely applied to large water birds); **Snake Bird** (general; when swimming, with all but the long, curved neck and the head submerged, there is considerable suggestion of a snake in its appearance); **Water-turkey** (general; Newton, 1896, suggests that this name is ac-

counted for by the bird's spreading its banded tail; general shape also may have been a factor).

MAN-O'-WAR-BIRD.—**Spanish Man-of-war** (elaboration of the name comparing this bird to a great ship, like which it has superior navigating, i.e., flying, ability).

GREAT BLUE HERON.—**Blue Crane** (general; various herons are misnamed cranes); **Major** (in recognition of its imposing appearance); **Po Job, Po Joe** (from pojo, Gullah=heron, a word which has identical sound and meaning in the language of the Vai tribe in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Africa. Lorenzo D. Turner, ms., 1945); **Preacher** (from its dignified appearance).

AMERICAN EGRET.—**Plume Bird** (as a bird formerly sought by hunters of plumes, or aigrettes, for millinery trade); **White Crane** (general; various herons are misnamed cranes).

SNOWY EGRET.—**Poor Job, White Crane** (see notes under the preceding two species).

LOUISIANA HERON.—**Crane** (see above); **Skoggin** (the definition of this variously spelled word, as a "butt for ridicule" traceable to John Skoggin, court fool to Edward VI of England 1546-1553, may well explain its application to various herons, birds often ungainly in appearance and uncouth in action).

LITTLE BLUE HERON.—**Blue Crane** (general; various herons are misnamed cranes); **Blue Skoggin** (see note on skoggin under the preceding species); **Little Blue Crane, Little White Crane** (general, for the color phases); **Skoggin; White Crane** (general).

GREEN HERON.—**Fly-up-the-creek** (seen along small streams more frequently than are other herons); **Indian Hen, Indian Pullet** (a wild bird, facetiously referred to as poultry of the Indians); **Skow** imitation of a cry often made when the bird is flushed).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—**Indian Hen, Indian Pullet** (see note under the preceding species); **Nighthawk** (a bird active at night); **Night Skoggins** (see note on skoggin under the Louisiana heron); **Qua Bird, Quawk, Quok** (generally distributed terms, from a common call); **Red-eye; Squaw Bird** (variant of qua bird, which see).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—**Indian Hen, Indian Pullet** (see note under Green Heron); **Night Skoggins** (see note on skoggin under the Louisiana Heron); **Qua Bird, Squark** (names from a common call).

AMERICAN BITTERN.—**Butter-bird** (perhaps a variant of butter-bump, a British provincial name for the European Bittern, a sonic name transferred to our bird by immigrants); **Fool Fowl** (it stands still or "freezes" at the approach of danger; if seen it is regarded as a fool for braving the proximity of man); **Indian Hen, Indian Pullet** (see note on those terms under Green Heron); **Jack Grindle** (a "pet" name, or perhaps a recollection of a sonic term heard elsewhere); **Marsh Hen** (a sizable bird of the marsh); **Sky-gazer, Star-gazer** (in its "freezing" pose, while the bird's bill points toward the sky, the eyes do not, being directed forward); **Stake-driver** (general; at a distance the notes of the bird suggest resonant pounding); **Thunder-pump** (general; the notes resemble sounds

made by an old-fashion suction pump, but they are hardly as loud as thunder).

WOOD IBIS.—**Bald-head, Bald-headed Gannet** (the head is unfeathered; gannet, perhaps by transfer from the large sea fowl, ordinarily so called, probably from resemblance in color pattern—mostly white with black wing tips); **Black-end-wing Gannet, Black-winged Gannet** (see preceding note); **Flinthead** (the head being bare and having a horny crown plate, the bird has received numerous names indicating hardness of head); **Gannet** (see first note); **Gourdhead** (from the shape of the bare head, including beak, the latter being the "neck" of the "gourd"); **Ironhead** (see note on flinthead); **Mule-head** (probably as a synonym of "hardhead," the sense of several names of the bird); **Salt-water Crane** (various large water birds are misnamed cranes; this one is not much addicted to salt-water); **Stork** (this bird deserves the name as it is our only representative of the stork family); **Wood Gannet** (as to "gannet," see first note; "wood," it commonly inhabits swamps).

WHITE IBIS.—**Bastard Gannet** (as distinct from the similarly colored wood ibis or gannet, which see); **Black-pied Curlew** (black-pied refers to the black wing tips; "curlew," see note under glossy ibis); **Brown Curlew** (young of the year are brownish; "curlew" see preceding reference); **Curlew; Pied Curlew** (see foregoing notes); **Stone Culoo** (latter term equals curlew; "stone curlew" probably adopted from some general natural history; the bird rightfully bearing that name does not occur in North America); **Spanish Curlew** (various birds with decurved beaks are misnamed curlews); "Spanish" to distinguish it from the true curlews); **White Curlew** (general; the plumage of adults is chiefly white).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL.—**Pink Curlew** (general; the full plumage has much tincture of pink to rose; "curlew" from affinity with the ibises, which are commonly misnamed curlews); **Spoonbill** (the beak is broadened subapically; early use, Bartram 1792).

CANADA GOOSE.—**Honker** (universal, from its notes).

MALLARD.—**English Duck** (the adjective in this term means superior); **Gray Duck, Gray Mallard** (rather general); **Mallard** (universal).

BLACK DUCK.—That name, as well as **Black Mallard**, is in general use; **English Duck** (see note on that term under the preceding species); **Mallard**.

GADWALL.—**Creek Duck** (from its preference for small waters); **Gray Duck** (general); **Gray Widgeon; Widgeon** (rather general).

PINTAIL.—**Gray Duck** (rather general; often refers only to the female); **Long Gray** (the neck and pointed tail make it appear long and pointed); **Pintail, Sprig, Sprigtail** (all these general terms refer to the long, pointed tail of the male); **Sprig-tailed Widgeon**.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—**Green-wing, Green-winged Teal, Teal** (general; the speculum is green).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL.—**Blue-wing, Blue-winged Teal, Teal** (general; the wing-coverts, and in the male, adjacent feathers, are blue).

EUROPEAN WIDGEON.—**Marsh Widgeon; Redhead** (the head of the male is chiefly reddish-brown).

AMERICAN WIDGEON.—**Bald-faced Duck, Baldhead, Baldpate** (in allusion to the white forehead of the male); **Gray Duck; Widgeon** (general).

SHOVELER.—**Broadbill** (general in the United States; also in British provincial use; in allusion to the spatulate bill, as are also the following names); **Mud Shoveler, Pipe-bill; Shovel-bill, Shoveler, Spoonbill** (general; these also are British provincial names); **Spoonbill Duck** (general); **Spoon-billed Widgeon, Spoonbill Teal; Spoony** (general).

WOOD DUCK.—**Acorn Duck** (from its feeding on acorns); **Squealer** this refers to the whistling note, *oo-eek, oo-eek* of the male); **Wood Duck** (general; from its living in swamps and nesting in tree cavities).

REDHEAD.—This generally distributed name refers to the mahogany-colored head of the male.

RING-NECKED DUCK.—**Black Duck** (the male is black or blackish above); **Blue Bullet** (in allusion to its speed in flight); **Bullneck** (this name would mean big or strong neck, but has no particular application to this species); **Paddle Duck; Raft Duck** (from its assembling on the water in dense flocks, suggesting rafts); **Ring, Ringbill, Ringbill Duck** (from the pale crossband near the front end of the bill); **Whistle-wing** (from the winnowing sound made by the wings in flight).

CANVASBACK.—This generally used name refers to the coloration of the back and sides—white, delicately dotted and lined in a wavy pattern with dusky gray, suggesting the fabric, canvas.

GREATER SCAUP.—**Blackhead, Big Blackhead** (general on the Atlantic Coast; the head of the male is black, glossed with greenish); **Bluebill, Big Bluebill** (the bill is of light bluish-lead color); **Broadbill; Raft Duck** (see note on this term under Ring-necked Duck).

LESSER SCAUP.—**Blackhead, Little Blackhead** (the head of the male is black glossed with purplish); **Bluebill, Little Bluebill** (explanation as under the preceding species); **Broadbill; Raft Duck, Little Raft Duck** (see note under Ring-necked Duck).

BUFFLEHEAD.—**Butter-ball, Butter Duck** (from its sometimes being conspicuously fat); **Dipper, Dipper Duck** (as an habitual diver); **Spirit Duck** (in reference to its quick diving, which in earlier days enabled it to evade missiles from a bow or a flint-lock gun).

OLD SQUAW.—**South-southerly** (from its notes).

RUDDY DUCK.—**Butterball, Butter Duck** (from sometimes being excessively fat); **Dumpling Duck** (from its plump form); **Hard-tack** (either because it is especially resistant, or being small, escapes through gaps in the shot pattern, this species has the reputation of

being hard to kill); **Raft Duck** (see note on that term under Ring-necked Duck); **Stiff-tail** (general).

HOODED MERGANSER.—**Cotton-head** (the ample crest of the male is in part white); **Fish Duck** (general, from feeding on fishes); **Frog Duck; Hairy-head, Mop-head, Moss-head** (the head is conspicuously crested); **Pond Duck** (as frequenting small bodies of water); **Sawbill** (general; the bill is provided with prominent serrations); **Shag-poll** (in reference to the ample crest); **Tadpole Duck**.

COMMON MERGANSER.—**Fish Duck, Sawbill** (general); **Shelduck** (i.e., pied duck, a name in British provincial use).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—**Fish Duck, Sawbill** (general).

TURKEY VULTURE.—**Buzzard** (general; from resemblance, on the wing, to the soaring hawks known as buzzards in England); **Carriion-crow** (similar reference).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.—**Fish Hawk** (by misapprehension, this expert flyer drinking from the surface of the water while on the wing; **Fork-tail Hawk**).

MISSISSIPPI KITE.—**Grasshopper Hawk** (from feeding on the insects named); **Pigeon Hawk** (apparently from its small size and general resemblance to a pigeon).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—**Blue Darter** (general; the adult male is dark bluish-gray above; "darter" from its pouncing mode of attack upon its prey); **Fowl Hawk** (Abbot, 1797; see Rhoads, *Auk*, 1918); **Little Blue Darter; Pigeon Hawk** (rather general; this name, applied to several hawks, traces back to the time of the wild, or passenger, pigeon, which they followed and upon which they preyed).

COOPER'S HAWK.—**Big Blue Darter, Blue Darter** (see note under the preceding species); **Blue-tailed Hawk; Chicken Hawk** (general).

RED-TAILED HAWK.—**Chicken Hawk, Hen Hawk** (general; the red-tail preys upon poultry but not to the extent popularly supposed; stomach analyses indicated that about one meal in twelve included chicken); **Rabbit Hawk** (remains of rabbits were found in 64 of 754 stomachs); **Red-tail** (rather general; the tail of adults is chestnut above and shows that color predominantly when light shines through it).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—**Chicken Hawk** (general; only 8 of 391 birds examined had preyed upon chickens); **Dominicker** (from a fancied resemblance in color pattern to that of the breed of poultry of that name); **Frog Hawk; Hen Hawk** (general; see note on chicken hawk).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK.—**Little Hawk** (Abbot, 1797; See Rhoads, *Auk*, 1918).

BALD EAGLE.—That name is rather general; the head in adults is white, but not bald; **Black Eagle** (for birds in immature plumage, which is grayish-brown to blackish, often with white patches); **Gray Eagle** (rather general; see preceding note); **White-headed Eagle** (rather general).

MARSH HAWK.—**Goshawk** (that is goose hawk, a misnomer);

Harrier (an English name for a related species, traceable to 1556, Oxford English Dictionary; and meaning one that harries or ravages); **Marsh Hawk**, **Mouse Hawk** (general); **Rabbit Hawk** (rabbits are large, hence unusual, prey for this species); **Rat Hawk**.

OSPREY.—**Fish Eagle** (rather general; the bird preys almost exclusively upon fishes, and is eagle-like in appearance); **Fish Hawk** (general); **Water Eagle**.

PEREGRINE FALCON.—**Duck Hawk** (apparently a rather general name; remains of wild ducks were found in 9 of 57 stomachs examined).

PIGEON HAWK.—**Hen Hawk** (the bird is too small to be much of an enemy to poultry).

SPARROW HAWK.—This name is general; while sparrows and other small birds are taken, a better name, based on food habits, is **Grasshopper Hawk**.

RUFFED GROUSE.—**Mountain Pheasant**, **Pheasant** (British names were transferred by colonists to American birds of similar relative size to those of the homeland; thus while the grouse was dubbed pheasant, the bobwhite was called partridge).

BOBWHITE.—**Bird**; **Bobwhite** (rather general, from a common call); **Partridge** (see note under the preceding species); **Quail** (rather general).

WILD TURKEY.—**Gobbler** (the adult male, rather general); **Jasper** (the young male, a name transferred from the Ozark region); **Turkey**, **Wild Turkey** (general).

WHOOPIING CRANE.—**Great White Crane**; **White Crane** (general); **White Whooping Crane**.

SANDHILL CRANE.—**Gray Crane**, **Gray Whooper**, **Sandhill Whooper**, **Whooping Crane** (the cries are sonorous and far-carrying).

LIMPKIN.—**Marsh Hen** (as a sizable bird inhabiting marsh).

KING RAIL.—**Fresh-water Marsh-hen**; **King Rail**, **Marsh Hen** (rather general); **Red-breasted Rail** (the front of neck and the breast are from tan to reddish-cinnamon); **Swamp Chicken** ("swamp" a common misnomer for marsh, thus marsh chicken or a somewhat hen-like bird of the marshes).

CLAPPER RAIL.—**Hen**, **High-tide Hen**, **Marsh Hen** (a somewhat hen-like bird of tidal marshes).

SORA.—**Coot**; **Ortolan** (the name of a gastronomically famous European finch that has been transferred to numerous species of excellent table birds); **Sedge Hen** (a somewhat hen-like bird that inhabits sedges); **Sora** (thought to have been derived from an Indian name of the species); **Water Hen**; **Water Rail**.

PURPLE GALLINULE.—**Blue Peter** (latter term from its walking over water plants at the surface and thus apparently on the water); **Bonnet Walker** (as walking on the floating leaves of water-lilies or "bonnets"); **Marsh Hen**, **Pond Fowl**, **Water Hen** (as a sizable bird of those surroundings).

FLORIDA GALLINULE.—**Mud Hen**, **Pond Fowl**, **Water Hen** (see preceding note).

AMERICAN COOT.—**Blue Peter** (treading on the floating leaves of aquatic plants, it appears to walk; and spattering along in its "take-off," to run, on the water); **Coot** (general); **Crow-duck** (from its dark color and the shape of its bill); **Mud Hen** (universal).

AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.—**Oyster Bird** (from feeding on oysters).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER.—**Ringneck**, **Ring-necked Plover** (the neck has a white collar, bordered below by a narrower black band).

WILSON'S PLOVER.—**Ringneck** (a larger bird than the last, with similar neck markings, the dark band broader, black in front, the remainder grayish brown); **Stuttering Bird** (from its notes).

KILLDEER.—**Cheweeka** (in imitation of its notes); **Deerkill** (transposition of the ordinary name, from a common cry); **Killdeer** (or **Killdee**, universal); **Old-field Snipe** (any shore bird may be called a snipe; this one inhabits drier places than most of them do).

GOLDEN PLOVER.—**Turkey-back** (as being speckled).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—**Bullhead** (meaning bighead; also in British vernacular use).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK.—**Dipsydoodle**, **Doodle** (doodle is a fanciful appellation of rather wide distribution; "dipsy" may have allusion to the bird's erratic flight); **Hill Snipe** (especially in the fall, this bird frequents uplands); **Snipe** (in early days this was the general name of the bird, which only in recent times became widely known as woodcocks); **Woodcock** (general).

WILSON'S SNIPE.—**English Snipe** (general east of the Mississippi River; in such names the term "English" serves not only to indicate a distinctive kind, but also to express approbation); **Jack-snipe** (i.e., small snipe, contrasted to the woodcock, universal); **Mud Snipe**; **Snipe** (universal).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—**Spanish Curlew** (as a distinctive kind).

HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—**Jack Curlew** (i.e., small curlew, general).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—**Peet Weet** (general); **Sweet** (from its notes); **Teeter-tail** (general); **Tip-up** (universal; from its bobbing movements).

WILLET.—**Stone Curlew** (any large shore bird may be called a curlew); **Willet** (general; from its notes).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS.—**Big Yellowleg** (general); **Tell-tale** (its watchfulness and loud cries give warning of the presence of hunters); **Yellowleg** (general).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS.—**Little Yellowleg**, **Yellowleg** (general).

HERRING GULL.—**Sea Gull** (general).

RING-BILLED GULL.—**Sea Gull** (general).

LAUGHING GULL.—**Black-headed Gull** (general).

ROYAL TERN.—**Big Striker** (from its plunging into the water while feeding).

CASPIAN TERN.—**Gannet Striker** (as a large kind of striker; see preceding note).

BLACK SKIMMER.—**Cutwater** (when feeding, the bird flies with its prolonged and compressed lower mandible "cutting" the water); **Flood Gull** (as feeding actively on rising tides); **Razor-bill** (the lower mandible is compressed like a knife-blade); **Scissor-bill** (the bill is compressed, somewhat suggesting a pair of scissors, as viewed from the side); **Shearwater**, **Skimmer** (see note under cutwater).

MOURNING DOVE.—**Carolina Dove**, **Dove** (general), **Field Dove**, **Old-field Dove**, **Turtle Dove** (general; "turtle," tracing to the sonic Latin term "turtur," is a cognomen for the European turtle-dove, recorded in English usage as early as 1000 A.D.).

PASSENGER PIGEON.—**Pigeon**, **Wild Pigeon** (general).

GROUND DOVE.—That name; **Moaning Dove**, **Mourning Dove** (to human ears the notes may have a mournful tone, but the bird utters them at the height of its joy in living); **Tobacco Dove** (from its frequenting tobacco fields).

CAROLINA PARAKEET.—**Parrot**, **Wild Parrot** (probably general in their time).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—**Cowbird** ("cow" from a common call); **Rain Crow** (universal; the bird is most clamorous before a rain); "crow" in the sense of bird, as the species is not at all like a crow); **Rain Cuckoo**.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—**Rain Crow** (doubtless this closely similar bird shares all the names of the yellow-bill, where both species occur).

BARN OWL.—**Degati Owl** (Gullah; the first term in the language of the Wolof tribe of Senegal and Gambia, Africa, meaning "hear it again" is applied to an owl that hoots frequently near the house. Lorenzo D. Turner, ms, 1945); **Monkey-face** (the heart-shaped facial disk being likened to that of a monkey); **Monkey-faced Owl** (general).

SCREECH OWL.—**Cat Owl** (any owl may be so called from its stealthy, silent attack; this and other species with ear tufts may get the name from their head silhouette suggesting that of a cat); **Death Owl** (owls in general are popularly regarded as birds of ill omen); **Screech Owl** (a general name, but it seems that this species rarely screeches; its common note is a soft, tremulous whistle); **Shivering Owl** (from the effects of its calls on superstitious auditors); **Squinch Owl** (perhaps because the eyes are only partially opened when the owl is disturbed in daylight; on the other hand, "squinch" may be only a corruption of "screech").

GREAT HORNED OWL.—**Big Cat Owl**; **Cat Owl** (general; see note under the preceding species); **Chicken Owl** (from its preying upon poultry); **Hoot Owl** (general); **King Owl** (from its large size); **Tugadoo** (apparently a sonic term).

BARRED OWL.—**Coo-coo** (a sonic name); **Deer Owl** ("When it hollers, it's feed time for the Deer." Harper, 1926); **Hoot Owl** (general); **Swamp Owl** (general); **Tugadoo** (see under the preceding species).

CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW.—All names are sonic unless otherwise explained. **Chip-fell-out-of-a-white-oak**; **Chip-off-the-white-oak**; **Chuck**; **Chuck-wills-widow**; **Dick-married-a-widow**; **Fontis Cat** (corrupted by children into "funny-sacks"; when the bird called, elders said the Fontis cat was about. Francis Harper, *Oriole*, 1938); **Great Bat** ("bat" from its nocturnal habits; "great" to distinguish it from the Virginia bat (whippoorwill) and bullbat (nighthawk); **Jack-married-a-widow**; **Stick-for-the-red-oak**; **Stick-for-the-white-oak**; **Whip-poor-will** (from its similarity in habits to the bird whose notes suggested that name).

WHIP-POOR-WILL.—This sonic term is in general use.

NIGHTHAWK.—**Bat** (from its nocturnal habits); **Bull-bat** (adjectival term from the sound made by its wings while dropping through the air, which is likened to the bawling of a bull); **Nighthawk** (from its nocturnal and expert flight).

CHIMNEY SWIFT.—**Chimney Bat** (from its roosting and nesting in chimneys; "bat" from its erratic flight and nocturnal activity); **Chimney Martin** ("martin" here meaning merely "bird"); **Chimney Swallow** (general); **Chimney Sweep**, **Chimney Sweeper** (from its frequenting chimneys, using a once familiar name for human cleaners of those smoke stacks).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—**Hummingbird** (general, from the sound made by its buzzing wings).

BELTED KINGFISHER.—**Diver** (from its method of catching fish); **Kingfisher** (general; as an accomplished fisher).

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER.—**Flicker** (general; from a common call); **Ground Woodpecker** (seen on the ground more than are other woodpeckers); **High-holer** (popularly thought to refer to the bird's choice of a lofty site for its nest; on second thought, it must be admitted that the nest is often low; this and similar names really trace back to those of the green woodpecker, the most similar European species; British folk-names for that bird, as "high-hoe" and "high-hole" are traced to Anglo-Saxon terms, referring to its "laughing" note); **Peckerwood**, **Peckwood**; **Sapsucker** (general; by error, only one of the eastern woodpeckers, the yellow-bellied, deserving this name); **Woodchuck** (a rather general name for woodpeckers, meaning a woodland creature that utters a sound like "chuck"); **Woodpecker Lark** (the black crescent on its breast, its yellow coloring, and terrestrial habits cause it to be compared with the meadow-lark); **Yellowhammer** (universal; a British folk name of the yellow bunting that has been applied to a variety of birds with yellow in their plumage).

PILEATED WOODPECKER.—**Good God**, **Good-god Woodpecker** (these names, having apparent reference to the Deity, are in reality derived from the common name logcock; intermediates are "Log Guard" and "Lord God"); **Kate** (apparently by transfer from the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, whose almost exclusive utterance has been syllabized as *kient* or *kent*); **Logcock** (general); **Log God**, **Log Guard**, **Lord Cock**, **Lord Guard** (corruptions of the preceding term); **Old Kate** (see note on "kate"); **Pineland Woodcock**, **Red-Headed Woodcock** ("woodcock" as a striking bird of the woodland); **Swamp**

Woodpecker; Woodchuck (see note on this term under the preceding species); **Woodcock** (general); **Wood Kate** (see note on "kate").

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—**Chad-cherries, Cham-chack, Cham-chat, Cham-chucker** (all in reference to common utterances of this polyphonic bird); **Checkered Woodpecker** (the back is black-and-white banded, not checkered); **Ram-shack, Sam-check, Sham-shack** (further sound names); **Red-headed Sapsucker** (the crown and nape are red; "sapsucker" a term applied to practically all of our woodpeckers, is nevertheless a misnomer; only one eastern species, the yellow-bellied deserves the name; **Zebra Woodpecker** (from the black-and-white barred back).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—**Corn-eater** (sometimes injurious to maize); **Jerry-coat** (an insufficient coat, referring to the black coloration, which does not cover the lower back); **Redhead** (general); **Red, White, and Blue Woodpecker** (the "blue" is bluish-black); **Shake-tail, Shirt-tailed Bird; Shirt-tail Woodpecker** (the white coloration of the secondary wing-feathers, the rump, and tail coverts suggest an exposed short-tail; "shake-tail" is a corruption); **Summer Woodpecker; White-shirt** (enough of the plumage is white to suggest a shirt of that color); **White-wing** (the secondary wing-feathers are white).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.—**Sapsucker** (this woodpecker makes holes in bark, which it revisits to drink sap).

HAIRY WOODPECKER.—**Sapsucker** (a misnomer; the preceding species is our only true sapsucker).

DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Same name and note.

RED-CKADED WOODPECKER.—Same name and note.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.—**Indian Hen** (as a sizable bird; "Indian" in such names has the significance of "wild"); **Lobcock** (corruption of logcock); **Woodcock** (as a striking bird of the woodland).

EASTERN KINGBIRD.—**Bee-bird, Bee Martin** (from its feeding on honey-bees); **Kingbird** (rather general; in allusion to its driving other, and often, larger, birds away from its nesting territory).

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—**Yellowhammer** (see note on that name under flicker).

EASTERN PHOEBE.—**Pewee, Phoebe** (general terms that imitate its most common call); **Tick Bird** (from its associating with, and alighting upon, cattle, as if in search of ticks); **Town Bird**.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—**Tick Bird** (through-confusion with the phoebe; see preceding note).

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE.—**Martin** (from being something like a bee martin or kingbird); **Ree-weight** (sonic).

TREE SWALLOW.—**Sea Martin** (it winters on the sea shore).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.—**Gully Martin** (it often nests in burrows in banks).

PURPLE MARTIN.—**Black Martin** (the feathers are tipped with steel-blue, overlying black and soot-gray); **Gourd Martin** (from nesting in houses erected for it by man); **Martin** (rather general).

BLUE JAY.—**Jay, Jay Bird** (sonic; general).

COMMON CROW.—**Crow** (general); **Pine-barren Crow**.

FISH CROW.—**Jackdaw** (by transfer of the name of a small European crow ally).

TUFTED TITMOUSE.—**Tomtit** (British name for titmice, especially the blue tit).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—**Sapsucker** (general; misnomer, through confusion with woodpeckers, where also misapplied; see note under yellow-shafted flicker); **Tomtit** (see under the preceding species).

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH.—**Tomtit**.

CAROLINA WREN.—**House wren** (from frequenting the vicinity of houses).

MOCKINGBIRD.—That name is universal, and refers to the bird's mimicking the notes of other species); **Southern Nightingale** (likening the species to the European nightingale which is the most famed bird melodist of that country).

CATBIRD.—"Because of its sharp and petulant cry which is not unlike the . . . [meouw] of a cat." (Warren 1890).

BROWN THRASHER.—**Brown Thrush** (from its thrush-like coloration); **French Mockingbird** (to distinguish it from the common mockingbird; this species is an occasional, though expert, imitator of the notes of other birds); **Pig Thrasher** (probably because it "roots" among fallen leaves for food); **Sandy Mocker** (from its tawny-rufous color; see also note under French mockingbird); **Thrasher** (general; apparently by transfer of name from the European song thrush); **Thrush** (see first note on this species).

AMERICAN ROBIN.—**Robin** (universal); **Robin Redbreast** (general; by transfer from a similarly confiding but smaller European species of the same family, which is dusky and reddish-orange below).

WOOD THRUSH.—**Mud Bird** (from using that substance in the construction of its nest); **Rest-time Bird** (from its being heard by farmers at their resting periods); **Sun-down Bird** (from its song being given at that time).

HERMIT THRUSH.—**Herman Thrush** (through mishearing of the first term); **Trotter**.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD.—**Blue Bird** (general; the male is largely blue above).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—**Chay-chay** (sonic).

CEDAR WAXWING.—**Wax Bird** (the shafts of the secondary wing feathers look as if tipped with red sealing-wax).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE.—**Butcher Bird** (general; because it hangs its prey on thorns or other sharp objects, or in crotches, for storage or preparatory to rending it); **English Mockingbird** (as a distinctive kind of "mockingbird"; latter term from its great similarity in general appearance to the true mockingbird; it also has some power of mimicry); **French Mockingbird** (general; same note); **Loggerhead** (i.e., bighead); **Nine-killer** ("The tradition that the

Shrike destroys exactly nine victims a day . . . has been current for centuries in folk-lore." Coues, 1878).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—**Fish Sparrow.**

SOLITARY VIREO.—**Oak Wren** (almost any vireo or warbler may be called a wren).

RED-EYED VIREO.—**Magnolia Bird** (from its feeding on magnolia seeds).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—**Gold Bird** (from its largely yellow coloration); **Swamp Canary** (from a habitat, its coloration and its notable song).

MYRTLE WARBLER.—**Yellow-rump.**

OVEN BIRD.—General; in shape, the arched-over nest suggests an oven.

YELLOW-THROAT.—**Black-cheek; Black-jaw** (the male has a black mask-like marking); **Rain Bird** (from being especially active before rains).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.—**Crow Mockingbird** (as a raffish mocker; it is a variety singer but does not, however, rival the true mockingbird in the art of mimicry).

HOODED WARBLER.—**Swamp Canary** (from its habitat, yellow coloration, and striking song).

HOUSE SPARROW.—**English Sparrow** (universal; much of the original stock was imported from England); **Sparrow** (universal; a British name traceable to about 725 A.D.)

BOBOLINK.—**Barley Bird** (as feeding on that grain); **May Bird** (from the month in which it is commonly noticed); **Oats Bird; Reed Bird** (as frequenting "reeds" or wild rice, upon the grain of which it feeds); **Rice Bird** (it was a pest during the rice-growing era on the South Atlantic Coast).

MEADOWLARK.—**Field Lark** (often pronounced fee-lark; from its habitat; it is, however, no lark); **Lark, Old-field Lark** (see first note).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.—**Officer** (the red patches on the wing of the male suggest military insignia); **Redwing, Redwing Blackbird** (general); **Reed Bird, Rice Bird** (see notes under Bobolink); **Swamp Blackbird** (general; "swamp," a misnomer for marsh).

ORCHARD ORIOLE.—**Fig-eater** (as destructive to that fruit); **Nonpareil** (by transfer from the painted bunting, as a strikingly colored and melodious bird); **Sanguillah** (probably from "sangalo," an African word; Lorenzo D. Turner, ms. 1945); **Tailor Bird** (from the neat weaving of its nest).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—**Golden Robin** (rather general; about half of the plumage of the adult male varies from yellow to intense orange); **Hang Bird** (the nest is suspended); **Hangnest** (rather general).

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE.—**Jackdaw** (universal; by transfer from a European member of the crow family, with which our bird has little in common, either in color, size, or habits); **Salt-water Blackbird** (its habitat is mostly near the coast).

PURPLE GRACKLE.—**Crow Blackbird** (general); **Gray-eyed Blackbird** (the iris is pale yellow).

COWBIRD.—That name and **Cow Blackbird** are rather general; they refer to the bird's habit of associating with cattle; **Cowpen Bird; Cow-tick** (perhaps from its clambering over cattle in search of ticks).

SCARLET TANAGER.—**Black-winged Redbird; Redbird** (rather general; the plumage of the male is chiefly scarlet).

SUMMER TANAGER.—**Redbird** (rather general); **Scarlet Sparrow; Summer Redbird** (general; the plumage of the male is chiefly dull red to vermillion; "summer," in contrast to the "winter," Redbird or Cardinal).

CARDINAL.—That name is probably general as a result of recent processes of education; from the vermillion-red coloration of the male; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal, or member of the Pope's council, is red); **Redbird** (universal); **Virginia Nightingale** (it is an excellent songster but does not habitually sing at night).

BLUE GROSBEAK.—**Big Indigo** (that is, indigo bird; "big" in contrast to the smaller Indigo Bunting of the same general coloration).

INDIGO BUNTING.—**Indigo Bird** (general; the plumage of the male is chiefly cerulean-blue); **Little Indigo** (see note on the preceding species); **Summer Bluebird** (in contrast to the "winter," or common, Bluebird).

PAINTED BUNTING.—**Nonpareil** (general; i.e., without equal, in reference to the extraordinarily diversified and brilliant coloration of the male).

PURPLE FINCH.—**Pink English Sparrow** (the bird has considerable resemblance to the "sparrow" named; and the male has more or less crimson coloration).

GOLDFINCH.—**Flax Bird** (from feeding on the seeds of that plant); **Gang Bird** (as being often seen in flocks); **Goldfinch** (probably rather general, the general color of the breeding male is canary-yellow); **Keehee** (sonic); **Lettuce Bird** (rather general; as feeding on lettuce seeds); **Swamp Canary** (perhaps from confusion with warblers so-called; the goldfinch has no particular affinity with swamps; "canary," from the largely yellow coloration of the breeding male); **Thistle Bird** (universal; it feeds on thistle seeds and lines its nest with thistle down); **Wild Canary**, a yellow bird (universal).

EASTERN TOWHEE.—**Bullfinch** (as a large sparrow); **Chewink** (sonic; general); **Ground Robin** (general; it is a ground lover and the black and cinnamon coloration of the male suggests that of the robin); **Joree, Jo-wheet** (sonic); **Swamp Robin; Towhee** (sonic; general).

SAVANNAH SPARROW.—**Grass Sparrow** (from its habitat).

VESPER SPARROW.—**Bull Sparrow** (from its larger than average sparrow size).

BACHMAN'S SPARROW.—**Grass Sparrow; Stink Bird** (hunting dogs "point" it, hence it is supposed to have a strong scent).

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—**Black Snowbird** (general; it is chiefly slaty in color; and except in the mountains is seen only in winter; **Gray Snowbird**; **Skeet** (sonic); **Snowbird** (general).

CHIPPING SPARROW.—**Chippy** (general; its call is a "chip" and its song a succession of similar notes); **Hair Bird** (general; it uses animal hair to line its nest); **House Sparrow** (from its living near the habitations of man); **Little Sparrow**.

FIELD SPARROW.—**Red-headed Sparrow** (the crown is rusty-brown).

FOX SPARROW.—**Red Sparrow** (from its rufescent coloration).

SWAMP SPARROW.—**Grass Sparrow**; **Ground Sparrow**; **Stink Sparrow** (see note under Bachman's Sparrow).

SONG SPARROW.—This name appears to be rather generally used; the bird attracts attention by its persistent singing, especially in early Spring.

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3 Davie Circle
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

RECENT LITERATURE

FLORIDA BIRD LIFE. By Alexander Sprunt, Jr. Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, and the National Audubon Society. 1954: xlii, 527 pp., 56 colored plates and photographs, 66 maps. \$12.50.

One of the most authoritative and complete state bird books ever to appear was Arthur H. Howell's *Florida Bird Life*, published in 1932. Scores of ornithologists the country over have turned its pages and have envisioned the variety of Florida's birds with the aid of Francis Lee Jaques' excellent illustrations and the factual text material on life histories. Since 1932 ornithologists and their observations in Florida have increased significantly—to the point where, after twenty years, a compilation of old and new records has been deemed necessary. Mr. Sprunt has undertaken this difficult task, attempting to bring ornithologists up to date on the present status of birds in Florida by adding to Howell's work whatever he has been able to glean from recent field observations and the literature. Whereas Howell recorded 423 species and subspecies in 1932, Sprunt now lists 473.

The present volume is organized much as Howell's book was. There are introductory chapters on the Recent History of Florida Ornithology (ornithologists) since 1932, historical accounts of the Florida Audubon Society and the Tropical Audubon Society, Bird Protection in Florida (written by John H. Baker), and a biographical sketch of the author, indicating his long-time experience with the birds of the state. The next chapter on Physiographic Features and Regions contains a description of the various floral and faunal areas of the state; these descriptions and photographs are practically identical with Howell's earlier material. The following 494 pages are devoted to detailed accounts of each species and subspecies ever found in the state, much of this being quoted from Howell. Each account gives local, common and scientific names, a description of the bird, its distribution in North America and its status in Florida. Under the headings of "nesting" and "history," there is an account which deals with the bird's ecology—something about its distinctive characteristics, nesting habits, food, preferred habitat and other notes of interest. At the end of the book 36 forms of hypothetical occurrence are listed, and there are seven pages of references cited in the text. Many of Jaques' original illustrations are used again, thus adding to the attractive format of the book, but, unfortunately, several of the paintings by John Henry Dick contain birds the colors of which are inaccurately portrayed.

The author's treatment of species and subspecies requires some comments. First, it is disturbing to find that every species and subspecies are given consecutive numbers (not the A. O. U. number, but a kind of life-listing), thus placing these two taxonomic categories on par. Furthermore, in many places the impression is given that subspecies, in addition to species, can and should be identified under field conditions. It is true that a few subspecies are so well marked that they can be tentatively suspected in the field, but the vast majority of these require critical study in the hand plus comparison with museum specimens before they can be properly identified even

by the most experienced museum taxonomist. The inclusion of a subspecies on a state list on the basis of a sight record alone (for example, the Gulf Coast Barn Swallow) is absolutely without scientific foundation or significance.

Second, this impressive book purports to be a revision of the records of Florida's birds, but there are conspicuous evidences of incompleteness in "reviewing and correlating the literature and field records" between 1932 and the present. Let us consider a few examples. Why has the author not consulted two recent publications by Pitelka (*Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool.*), one on dowitchers and the other on jays of the genus *Aphelocoma* (Florida Jay)? If he had, he would have added one more subspecies to the Florida list, *Limnodromus griseus hendersoni*, for which there are numerous specimens. Furthermore, Sprunt gives only forty locality records for the endemic Florida Jay whereas Pitelka gives eighty! Recent publications list as additions to the Florida list, Stone's Grackle and the Yukon Fox Sparrow, but both of these are omitted from the present volume. In view of these obvious omissions, we might suspect that other subspecies from Florida lie "undiscovered" in museum collections, especially since certain other forms have been collected in Georgia close to the Florida line. These would include *Setophaga ruticilla tricolora*, *Melospiza melodia juddi*, *Melospiza georgiana ericrypta*, *Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus* and *Seiurus noveboracensis linnaeus*, to mention but a few.

Finally, the author has not been consistent in relegating birds to the main list as versus the hypothetical list. He maintains (p. 495) that "no species should be added to a State list on observation alone." (To this, I would emphatically agree.) And yet, in the main list he includes at least five species for which no specimens have ever been collected in the state. At the same time, many forms are placed on the hypothetical list for the same reason.

The above remarks, summarily, indicate a philosophy held by many contemporary ornithologists, namely, that a state bird book should emphasize only the species, or, if subspecies are to be treated, a thorough and systematic job of collecting and identification by specialists should be effected.

Nevertheless, it is true that this compilation of ornithological facts will be a "must" for those interested in Florida's birds. It will be not only an attractive addition to one's library, but indispensable to ornithologists who plan to travel in the state. By referring to the discussions about each species, one will have at hand much valuable information on the identification and natural history of Florida bird life. The helpful distributional maps used in conjunction with the text material will be of much aid in deciding where and when a given species might be expected in the state.—DAVID W. JOHNSTON, *Department of Biology, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia.*