

THE ORIOLE

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THE ORIOLE

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SUMMER BIRDS OF SAPELO ISLAND, GEORGIA: A PRELIMINARY LIST*

By HENRY C. ROBERT, JOHN M. TEAL, AND EUGENE P. ODUM

In 1953 the University of Georgia established a research biological laboratory on Sapelo Island supported by funds provided by Mr. Reynolds through the Georgia Agricultural and Forestry Research Foundation. While work in estuarine ecology has been stressed, general surveys of major groups of plants and animals are being undertaken in support of the long-range program. Birds, especially, are of great interest to many who work on or visit the island. During the summers of 1955 and 1956, when we were in the field almost daily, an effort was made to collect enough information on birds to prepare a preliminary annotated list which might serve as a basis for future and more systematic studies. Lists for other seasons will be prepared as observations permit.

In common with many of Georgia's Sea Islands, Sapelo has long been under private ownership and accessible only by boat or plane. Hence, little ornithological work has been done in the past. No attempt is made at the present time to search the literature for scattered records pertaining to the island; rather we are presenting a picture of the bird life as observed during June, July, and August of 1955 and 1956. Some breeding records in May are included and a few comparisons are made with avifauna of St. Simons as recorded by Woodward (*Oriole*, 14: 1-9, 1949) and Dr. Robert A. Norris (unpublished notes).

Sapelo is one of the larger Sea Islands being about 12 miles long and 3 to 4 miles wide. In the early part of the 19th century much of the land was under cultivation, but with the abandonment of the plantation way of life in the 1860's, the cotton and sugar cane fields reverted to pineland (chiefly slash but some long-leaf and pond pine). There are also extensive live oak forests, some very old and "climax-like" with tangles of undergrowth and with the giant spreading trees covered with Spanish moss and vines. Small clearings have been maintained by the resident Negro population for gardens and corn fields. A number of large pastures

*Contribution No. 6 from the Marine Biological Laboratory, University of Georgia, Sapelo Island, Ga.

are present with large herds of beef cattle grazing there as well as over much of the woods. The cattle, fires, selective logging, and the large deer population have diversified the forests in various sections of the island. Small natural freshwater ponds and marshes found throughout the island, and man-made ponds fed by artesian water located at the north end of the island provide breeding sites for many water birds. There are two main strips of beach facing the open ocean, the south beach and the Cabretta beach. The north end of the island is behind Blackbeard Island and thus has no open ocean beach. Extensive dunes occur back of the south beach. Vast areas of salt marsh (largely *Spartina* type), tidal creeks and "rivers" lie between Sapelo and the mainland whereas a narrow strip of salt marsh lies between the dunes and the main forested part of the island on the ocean side. A large tidal estuary called the Duplin River, which runs parallel to the island along the inner margin, is a center of much of the ecological work being done by staff and students at the laboratory.

Little Egg Island, where some observations have been made, especially of nesting shorebirds, is little more than a sand bar, part of which remains above water at high tide. It is located south of Sapelo in the Altamaha Sound.

Because of the large areas of shallow-water habitats, the wading birds are the conspicuous species on Sapelo. Most species of herons and ibises to be expected commonly at this latitude are found on Sapelo, and many breed. Three heronries were found in easily accessible places in 1955; there are probably others in less accessible locations. Ornithologically, however, Sapelo is probably best known as the home of the introduced Mexican bird, the Chachalaca. In the 1920's, Mr. Coffin, who then owned the island, introduced a variety of exotic game birds, but only the Chachalaca has persisted and established a stable breeding population (see Jenkins, *Oriole*, 14: 11-12, 1949, and Norris, *Oriole*, 21: 1-6, 1956). Sapelo also is the first locality in Georgia where the Cattle Egret has been recorded and a report subsequently published (Teal, *Oriole*, 21: 33, 1956). The occurrence of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in June, 1955 was another noteworthy observation.

Among the small land passerines it seems safe to say that the Carolina Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Cardinal, and Painted Bunting are the commonest and most widely distributed. On some of the small wooded islands in the salt marsh these four seem to be the only breeding land birds present. The Painted Bunting is certainly the most conspicuous if not the commonest bird around habitations as well as in the wilder sections of the island.

In considering the fauna of islands, species which are absent are of equal interest as those which are present. Two species which are common on the mainland but which appear to be very rare on Sapelo are the Blue Jay and the Tufted Titmouse; in fact we have not seen a single individual of either! Blue Jays are not uncommon on St. Simons Island where there are towns, so perhaps it avoids Sapelo because of the lack of extensive human habitations. We cannot account for the absence of the titmouse, especially when its frequent associate, the Carolina Chickadee, is common on Sapelo. The Flicker is another species which is strangely absent during the summer. Since Norris (*Oriole*, 4:30, 1939, and 9:9, 1944) has reported the Gray Kingbird on St. Simons Island, we had expected to find it on Sapelo, but so far we have not recorded it.

The birds of the vast *Spartina* salt marshes have been of special interest to us in connection with our ecological studies of the salt marsh community. The wading birds and the Boat-tailed Grackle, of course, use the marshes as feeding grounds, but the three species which are most intimately associated with the marsh community are the Clapper Rail, Long-billed Marsh Wren, and Seaside Sparrow. These species live, feed, and nest almost entirely within the marsh and contend daily with the wide range of tides which characterize this part of the Atlantic coast. Eventually we hope to have students who will make detailed studies of each of these species.

The following list is divided into three parts: (A) Species which breed, (B) species which do not breed even though they may be of common occurrence for all or part of the summer, and (C) species of casual occurrence. The nonbreeding component is much more prominent in a sea coast locality than is usually the case in an inland region.

A. Breeding birds.

An asterisk (*) indicates that we have definite breeding records (nests or recently fledged young); otherwise breeding is assumed on circumstantial evidence.

* Anhinga: *Anhinga anhinga*. Common, largely restricted to freshwater areas.

Great Blue Heron: *Ardea herodias*. Common, usually observed singly feeding in the salt marshes. Probably breeds but no nests have been found.

* American Egret: *Casmerodius albus*. Common, feeding in all parts of the salt marsh as well as in freshwater habitats.

* Snowy Egret: *Leucophoyx thula*. Common, feeds both in the marshes and in pastures in company with cattle.

* Louisiana Heron: *Hydranassa tricolor*. Common, but not as

numerous as the egrets. On June 11, 1955, thirty-four nests containing eggs were counted in the pond heronry at the north end of the island.

* Little Blue Heron: *Florida caerulea*. Common. On June 11, 1955, twenty-two nests with young were counted in a small heronry at the middle of the island, and an additional fourteen nests were noted in the north pond heronry.

* Green Heron: *Butorides virescens*. Common, frequenting the smaller salt creeks and freshwater areas. Several nests with young were noted in the Little Blue Heron colony mentioned above.

* Black-crowned Night Heron: *Nycticorax nycticorax*. Seen frequently at the north ponds, nesting with Louisiana Herons.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: *Nyctanassa violacea*. A few individuals were seen on most visits to the north ponds but no nests were found.

Least Bittern: *Ixobrychus exilis*. Common among the cattails and other dense freshwater marsh vegetation.

Turkey Vulture: *Cathartes aura*. Common, often feeding on dead sea life around tide pools and on the beach.

Black Vulture: *Coragyps atratus*. Common, similar distribution and habits as the preceding species.

* Cooper Hawk: *Accipiter cooperii*. Frequently seen and heard in the live oak woods where recently fledged young were observed in 1956.

Red-tailed Hawk: *Buteo jamaicensis*. Frequently seen along the salt marsh-pine woods edge and in the vicinity of the pastures.

Bald Eagle: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Individuals were seen infrequently along the upper Duplin River and Sapelo Sound.

* Osprey: *Pandion haliaetus*. Common. Conspicuous nests were located in several places on the island.

* Chachalaca: *Ortalis vetula*. Introduced in 1923, this species has maintained a small but apparently stable population. Although it was found throughout the island, it preferred the dense live oak forests.

Bob-white: *Colinus virginianus*. Uncommon, probably due to the small amount of suitable habitat. It was found chiefly around habitations and sparingly on the dunes.

* Wild Turkey: *Meleagris gallopavo*. Common throughout the island. Numerous half-grown young were noted in May. Turkeys were apparently extirpated from Sapelo during the era of concentrated agriculture. The present population is derived from birds stocked in the 1920's.

King Rail: *Rallus elegans*. Observed in cattails of the north ponds.

* Clapper Rail: *Rallus longirostris*. Common in all of the salt marsh areas. During both summers a tame female with young chicks was often observed near the boathouse.

* Purple Gallinule: *Porphyryla martinica*. Adults and young were observed on the north ponds.

* Black Gallinule: *Gallinula chloropus*. Common in both north and south freshwater ponds. Numerous young were seen.

* Oyster-catcher: *Haematopus palliatus*. Seen commonly along the south beach and at low tide on the oyster-covered jetty at the mouth of the South Basin Creek.

* Wilson Plover: *Charadrius wilsonia*. Scattered pairs nested along the beach dunes and also among the Least Terns on a tract of drained marshland.

* Willet: *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*. Common and noisy summer resident in the higher marshes and edges. The eastern subspecies left Sapelo about the second week of July, and was replaced by the western subspecies which occurred most frequently on the beaches.

* Gull-billed Tern: *Gelochelidon nilotica*. Found breeding on Little Egg Island on June 25, 1955. Sixteen nests, mostly containing three eggs, were strung out along the edge of a large nesting skimmer colony.

* Least Tern: *Sterna albifrons*. Common. In 1955 an estimated fifty pairs nested on an area of drained marsh. In 1956 this site was abandoned, and the birds nested along the beach.

Royal Tern: *Thalasseus maximus*. Seen commonly along the beach and flying over the sounds. Although this species is known to nest on nearby small islands, no nesting colony has been visited.

* Black Skimmer: *Rynchops nigra*. Common. Approximately 144 nests were counted on Little Egg Island. On June 25, 1955, the nests contained 2-6 eggs, mostly four.

* Mourning Dove: *Zenaidura macroura*. Common, especially along the dunes.

Ground Dove: *Columbigallina passerina*. Fairly common near habitations.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *Coccyzus americanus*. Infrequently seen, mostly in the middle part of the island.

Barn Owl: *Tyto alba*. Often heard at night as it flew over marshes and open fields. On June 12, 1955, one was flushed from an abandoned boathouse.

Screech Owl: *Otus asio*. Common, frequently heard in the vicinity of the laboratory and houses.

Great Horned Owl: *Bubo virginianus*. The only record is that of one heard calling on June 18, 1955.

* Chuck-will's-widow: *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. Common. A nest with eggs was noted on May 5.

* Common Nighthawk: *Chordeiles minor*. Common Nestling birds were found as late as July 23 on the dunes.

* Chimney Swift: *Chaetura pelagica*. Common, nesting in the abandoned metal silo as well as various chimneys.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *Archilochus colubris*. Observed infrequently throughout the summer.

Pileated Woodpecker: *Dryocopus pileatus*. Observed frequently in the forested areas.

* Red-bellied Woodpecker: *Centurus carolinus*. The commonest woodpecker on the island.

Red-headed Woodpecker: *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Observed frequently in the more open pinelands.

Hairy Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos villosus*. Fairly common in forested areas.

Downy Woodpecker: *Dendrocopos pubescens*. Common in forested areas.

* Eastern Kingbird: *Tyrannus tyrannus*. Consistently observed in pasture areas.

* Crested Flycatcher: *Myiarchus crinitus*. Common in all woodlands.

* Acadian Flycatcher: *Empidonax virescens*. Common in dense live oak forests.

* Wood Pewee: *Contopus virens*. Common in woodlands.

* Rough-winged Swallow: *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. A few remain all summer. In May, 1956, four pairs nested in the vertical side of an old sawdust pile located along the Duplin River. The nests were located in tunnels about 2½ feet deep and were composed largely of dead marsh grass.

* Purple Martin: *Progne subis*. Seen frequently throughout the summer. One brood was raised in an open-top mud nest on a cross support high up on a metal water tank.

American Crow: *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Common around the farm lands and pastures of the interior of the island.

* Fish Crow: *Corvus ossifragus*. Common, especially around water. In August this species tended to form flocks with sometimes as many as fifty individuals. Little or no association was observed between the two species of crows.

* Carolina Chickadee: *Parus carolinensis*. Common in all woodlands.

* Brown-headed Nuthatch: *Sitta pusilla*. Common in the more open pinelands.

* Carolina Wren: *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Abundant over much of the island.

* Long-billed Marsh Wren: *Telmatodytes palustris*. Common in the *Spartina* marshes, nesting exclusively in the bands of tall marsh grass bordering the creeks. Nests with eggs were noted as late as July 29, 1956.

* Mockingbird: *Mimus polyglottos*. Common in the appropriate open or brushy habitats.

Brown Thrasher: *Toxostoma rufum*. Observed around habitations.

* Bluebird: *Sialia sialis*. Common, especially in pastures and open pinelands.

* Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *Polioptila caerulea*. Common in forested areas.

* Loggerhead Shrike: *Lanius ludovicianus*. Common along fence rows in the pasture areas. On June 19, a small leopard frog was found impaled by shrikes on a bobwire fence.

* Common Starling: *Sturnus vulgaris*. Rare. One pair nested in the barn in 1956.

* White-eyed Vireo: *Vireo griseus*. Abundant in understory vegetation in wooded areas.

* Yellow-throated Vireo: *Vireo flavifrons*. Common, especially in the mature pine areas.

* Red-eyed Vireo: *Vireo olivaceus*. Common in the broad-leaved woodlands.

* Parula Warbler: *Parula americana*. Common in wooded areas, especially the live oak forests.

* Yellow-throated Warbler: *Dendroica dominica*. Common in similar habitat as that occupied by the Parula Warbler.

* Pine Warbler: *Dendroica pinus*. Common in pinelands.

Prairie Warbler: *Dendroica discolor*. Uncommon. A few singing males were noted at various times during the summer.

Common Yellow-throat: *Geothlypis trichas*. Observed chiefly around the north ponds.

Yellow-breasted Chat: *Icteria virens*. Uncommon, observed largely in the middle portion of the island.

* English Sparrow: *Passer domesticus*. Uncommon, observed only in the vicinity of habitations.

* Red-winged Blackbird: *Agelaius phoeniceus*. Common in the cattails and shrubs bordering freshwater ponds. The salt marsh was used to a limited extent by this species.

* Orchard Oriole: *Icterus spurius*. Present and nesting around habitations and other edge habitats.

* Boat-tailed Grackle: *Cassidix mexicanus*. A characteristic bird of the salt marshes. It nests, however, largely on shore. A large colony of about 100 birds nested during both summers in a double row of Oleander bushes at Marsh Landing (see Cross, *Oriole*, 21:9, 1956).

* Summer Tanager: *Piranga rubra*. Common in both broad-leaved and pine woodlands.

* Cardinal: *Richmondia cardinalis*. Abundant on the island.

* Painted Bunting: *Passerina ciris*. Abundant. Males were vigorous singers and were strongly territorial. At least two broods were raised. Females were observed building nests as early as May 4 and as late as

July 4. On Sapelo this species often built its nests in the bottom of a hanging mass of Spanish moss.

Eastern Towhee: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Largely restricted to scrub and dune vegetation. It was not found in the vicinity of habitations as is characteristic of the more northern subspecies.

* Seaside Sparrow: *Ammodramus maritima*. Locally distributed in the salt marshes.

Pine-woods Sparrow: *Aimophila aestivalis*. Rather infrequently observed or heard in the open pinelands at the middle of the island.

B. Nonbreeding Summer Residents

Pied-billed Grebe: *Podilymbus podiceps*. Observed July 18 on the south pond by A. E. Smalley. Since suitable habitat is available this species may prove to be a breeding species.

Brown Pelican: *Pelecanus occidentalis*. Common throughout the summer. An estimated 300 was seen on the south beach on July 23, 1955.

Cattle Egret: *Bubulcus ibis*. The occurrence of this form on Sapelo has been described in detail by Teal (*Oriole*, 21:33, 1956). Two or three birds were seen on many occasions between June 6, 1956, and September 9, 1956.

Wood Ibis: *Mycteria americana*. Seen almost daily. Individuals or small to medium-sized flocks were frequently observed soaring in circles, perched in trees or quietly feeding in shallow freshwater ponds or smaller creeks and flats in the high salt marsh. There was no evidence of breeding.

White Ibis: *Guara alba*. Common all summer. Large flocks were always present at the north ponds and were often seen feeding on the Upper Duplin River high marsh. Flocks usually contained juvenal birds as well as those in adult plumage. There was no evidence of breeding.

American Coot: *Fulica americana*. Observed on the north ponds in early June but no conclusive evidence of breeding has yet been obtained.

Shore-birds. A few shore-birds remain all summer and many species begin returning to the beaches in large numbers in July. The following are the dates in 1955 when species were first noted in numbers: Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), July 31; Ringed Plover (*C. hiaticula*), July 23; Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), July 5; Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), July 31; Hudsonian Curlew (*Numenius phaeopus*), July 5; Greater Yellow-legs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), July 31; American Knot (*Calidris canutus*), July 5; Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*), July 23; Dowitcher (*Limnodromus sp.*?), July 17; Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes mauri*), July 31; Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), July 17; Sanderling (*Crocethia alba*), July 23. The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), which frequents the salt creeks rather than the

beaches, was first observed on June 30, 1955, and on July 11, 1956.

Laughing Gull: *Larus atricilla*. Common all summer. Ten were seen June 25, 1955, on Little Egg Island at the skimmer colony, but no evidence of breeding was found. Flocks of 200-500 were seen resting on the beach in late July.

Cabot Tern: *Thalasseus sandvicensis*. Three were seen offshore on June 23, and approximately 50 were sitting on the beach with Royal Terns on July 31 and again on Aug. 3, 1955.

Other Gulls and Terns. The Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*), Forester Tern (*Sterna forsteri*), and Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) were seen sparingly in early summer and commonly after the middle of July. The Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra*) was first recorded on June 25 and several times thereafter.

Belted Kingfisher: *Megasceryle alcyon*. This species was absent from the salt creeks from about the middle of May until the middle of July. It was first seen again on July 27, 1955, and July 15, 1956.

Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*. On June 9, 1955, an individual was observed flying around the boathouse and we were hopeful that nesting might occur. The species, however, was not seen again until August 1, after which large flocks of migrants were common.

Early migrant warblers. The Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) was first seen on July 22 and the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) was first seen on August 1. These comprised the vanguard of the fall warbler migration.

Cowbird: *Molothrus ater*. Small flocks were late summer residents on Sapelo, feeding in close association with cattle and horses. They were first seen on July 16, 1955, and on July 11, 1956.

C. Casual Visitors

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: *Muscivora forficata*. A tame individual was observed by the entire Marine Laboratory staff and families on June 26, 1955. The bird was perched on a wire at the beach and was discovered while a picnic was in progress. A 15X telescope was available but hardly necessary to establish identification.

Hooded Warbler: *Wilsonia citrina*. Of uncertain status. An individual was heard singing in live oak woods on June 11.

Chipping Sparrow: *Spizella passerina*. A singing male was observed for three successive days, June 16-18, 1955, on the edge of a pasture, but this species could not be found later in the summer nor in 1956.

Marine Biological Laboratory
University of Georgia
Sapelo Island, Georgia
December 22, 1956

GENERAL NOTES

EVENING GROSBEAKS IN FLOYD COUNTY, GEORGIA.—On the morning of February 18, 1955, five Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) were observed on the Boy's High School campus of the Berry Schools. The high school campus is located about six miles from the city of Rome at the foot of Lavender Mountain. Of the five birds seen, four were females and the other was a male. The writer was unable to locate the grosbeaks again until February 21, 1955, at which time an adult male was collected since there was no previous record for this species in the state. The skin has been deposited in the collection at the University of Georgia in Athens.

The birds were seen, in the same area, throughout February, March, and April during which time I was able to trap and band 19 individuals, 6 males and 13 females. Two foreign-retraps were trapped during the banding operations: 50-188231 Ad. female banded by Mrs. G. E. Ramsdell at Lewiston, Maine on February 6, 1953, and retrapped at Rome on March 2, 1955; 52-136247 Ad. female banded by Parker C. Reed at Lexington, Mass. on February 14, 1953, and retrapped at Rome on February 28, 1955. All birds trapped were then marked with a red cross on the white area of the left wing.

On March 14, 1955, Evening Grosbeaks were seen by Mrs. Harold Hunter at her home, 706 River Ave., in Rome. From this flock ten more birds were banded, five by Mrs. J. L. Henderson and five by the writer. At least one of the birds in the River Ave. flock was from the Berry School flock because a wing-marked male was sighted. The Berry School flock was estimated at more than 50 birds, and the River Ave. flock at about 20 birds. We could not determine if the Berry School flock was much larger than supposed and that part of it moved its feeding grounds or if there were two separate flocks with some interchange of individuals. GORDON L. HIGHT, JR., Box 1626, Rome, Georgia. November 2, 1956.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO AND YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER AT ATLANTA—A special effort was made in the fall migration of 1956 to secure a specimen of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) in the Atlanta area, and, although only two flycatchers were taken during the season, the one secured on September 15 was this species. With the bird in hand I felt certain of its identity and was pleased to have this confirmed by Dr. John Aldrich, when the specimen was examined by him in Washington, D. C. This is my first record of this species for Atlanta.

The Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) again appeared at Atlanta during the fall migration, one bird being collected and another

seen a few minutes later on September 23, 1956. Although I have several other records, this is the first time I have seen more than one in a season.

Both of the above species were found in a small, swampy area along the South Fork of Peachtree Creek off Clairmont Road in DeKalb County, Georgia. Three previous specimens of the Philadelphia Vireo were taken in this same area, and indeed one was taken from the identical tree from which the present specimen was secured. These occurrences seem to indicate a preference for moist woodlands, particularly where willows abound.—RICHARD A. PARKS, 2303 Pembroke Place, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. November 30, 1956.

FROM THE FIELD

On September 27, 1956, Charlie Elliott observed a Man-o'-war Bird at Lake Sinclair. The bird was seen a number of times during a period of several hours. Ivan R. Tomkins recorded five Sandhill Cranes flying south on October 19, 1956, over the city of Savannah. Three Black and White Warblers were seen three miles southeast of Macon on December 19, 1956, by David W. Johnston.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

FALL MEETING, 1956.—The thirty-fifth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held at Savannah Beach, Georgia on October 19, 20, 21, 1956, with headquarters at the Tides Hotel Apartments on Butler Avenue.

Commencing on Friday afternoon, registration was continued on Saturday, and a total of 58 people registered. At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, a field trip was taken to the Savannah River entrance at the northern end of Tybee Island where the group was fortunate in observing a variety of shore and water birds. After an 8 o'clock breakfast, the members drove by some fresh water ponds before going to Cockspur Island where there was a considerable concentration of tree swallows.

A business meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in the Town Hall of Savannah Beach. The President, Herman Coolidge, called the meeting to order. He announced that this year was the 20th anniversary of the Georgia Ornithological Society. In the absence of the Secretary, Mrs. Fred Crenshaw, Mrs. Fern Dorris was asked to serve.

In the absence of Mrs. Whiteman, Mr. Coolidge called upon the Regional Vice-presidents to give their reports. The following reported: Mrs. Neal, Miss Hart, Dr. Denton, Miss Weaver, and Mrs. Cater. Miss Snow of Atlanta sent her report which was read by Mr. Coolidge. The Regional Vice-presidents were urged to send in their written reports to Mrs. Crenshaw for her files.

Mr. Eugene Cypert stated that there were several people in Waycross who were eager to form a bird club. He said that he would consider inviting the GOS to meet at the Okefinokee Swamp in the spring of 1957.

Dr. David Johnston, Editor of *The Oriole*, asked that members feel free to submit material for publication to the editorial office. He made a plea to the Regional Vice-presidents to keep him informed as to current happenings in their regions. Dr. Johnston announced that an Occasional Paper on the birds of the coastal region of Georgia was being prepared for publication by Ivan R. Tomkins.

Mrs. Neal inquired whether it would cost too much to have a list of the volumes in the GOS library at Athens printed. She was of the opinion that there would be a value to the members in having such a list.

Mr. Herbert Stoddard was asked to report on "Georgia's Birds". He said that he was glad to say that the money for publishing was all in hand for "Georgia's Birds" which is soon to go to the University of Oklahoma Press. It is thought that single copies would cost \$10.00, and that possibly some 7,500 would be printed.

Mr. Wolfe made a plea for the various clubs of Georgia to encourage more youths to become members.

The paper session included the following:

"Life History of the Least Tern"—Ivan R. Tomkins. Exerpts were read from his manuscript which will be published later.

"Values in Keeping Notes"—Dr. David Johnston. He stressed the point of taking down daily observations in a log or journal; such notes taken over a long period of time are invaluable.

"Relation of Game Management to Wildlife"—Herbert L. Stoddard. Many new practices tend to antiquate some of the past thinking and teachings in regard to conservation of wildlife.

Upon a call from Herman Coolidge for the charter members of the Georgia Ornithological Society to stand, the following arose to receive hearty acclaim: Mrs. Oliver, Mr. Herbert Stoddard, Mrs. Wolfe, Dr. J. Fred Denton, Ivan Tomkins, Dick Parks, and Bill Griffin. The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Coolidge after which the group went on short field trips to the beach and to the Savannah River entrance.

Mary Butler's restaurant was the setting for the banquet at 8 p.m. This was followed by colored slides shown by Mr. E. O. Mellinger of the Savannah Wildlife Refuge.

After a breakfast at 6:30 on Sunday, the members motored across the river to the Savannah Wildlife Refuge where many ducks and other forms of water birds were observed. A total of 104 species of birds was reported for the three-day meeting.