

THE ORIOLE

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LAND USAGE AND BIRDS

By MILTON N. HOPKINS, JR.

Land usage changes during the past decade in the Fitzgerald region and in many other sections of Georgia have brought about significant differences in kinds of species and numbers of birds observed in any particular locality. This is especially true during the fall and spring migrations. The Soil Conservation Service has recently estimated the existence of over 30,000 farm ponds in Georgia, ranging up to two hundred acres in size. These increase at the rate of about 250 per month. These farm ponds have and will in the future bring about marked changes in birds, habits and habitats and will add importance to the Atlantic waterfowl flyway. The United States Forest Service estimated nearly two million acres of land have been abandoned from agriculture and planted in pine forests. This change in land use will also bring about marked ecological modifications in wildlife population and the like.

During the time that Robert Norris and I were birding near Fitzgerald in the early 1940's, the Spotted Sandpiper and the Solitary Sandpiper were our standbys in the shorebird group with few exceptions, unless we wished to travel fifteen or more miles to the Ocmulgee River or another large body of water. It is now not uncommon to observe at least five species in one day at many of the farm ponds. The Wood Duck was to be found in small numbers and pairs along creek runs and in potholes along branches. They have recently been seen in numbers of twenty-five to fifty at one time. Flocks of this size, however, are generally located in what is known locally as a "roosting pond" and in which there are trees, dead or alive, that were left there when the pond was filled. Wood Ducks often use these ponds in late afternoon and early morning and usually disperse during the day. Several species of open-water ducks are apparently spending the winter in some of the ponds where shooting is not allowed. The Prothonotary Warbler has spread its local breeding range from a few concentrated swamps and cypress ponds to the farm ponds that still have dead stubs for nesting sites. Rotten willow stumps seem to be this species' choice of

nesting site. The Wood Thrush now breeds downstream from many small ponds that have seepage below their dams or some dependable overflow during the dry months.

A pond of fifteen acres constructed near Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia in July, 1957, and which filled slowly with water during the fall migration season has already produced nine species of shorebirds, the Black Tern and Herring Gull, six species of ducks, American Bittern, Common Gallinule, coots, and Pied-billed Grebes up to the first of December, 1957. No rails have been noted at any of the farm ponds to date. This is probably explainable in that most of these artificial ponds have their edges rimmed to a depth of two feet to discourage the growth of aquatic vegetation which would attract rails.

The rapid change-over from row crops such as cotton to pastures and the pine plantation have had their consequences. Whereas some of the western birds (for example, Horned Lark) appear to be moving east due to large open pastures, many of our local permanent residents are leaving the planted pinelands. As most bird watchers know the planted pine forests, except for occasional waves of small birds in winter, are usually barren grounds for birding. Barn Owls, however, quite frequently sit in this timber during daylight hours.

202 W. Roanoke Dr.

Fitzgerald, Georgia

December 19, 1957

RESUME OF CHRISTMAS COUNTS, 1957

BLOOD MOUNTAIN—LAKE WINFIELD SCOTT.—December 27; five observers in two parties (R. B. Godwin, compiler); about six miles, mostly in deciduous woods. Temp. 28°-35°. Clear. Totals: 20 species and 230 individuals. No unusual species or numbers reported.

ROME.—December 29; 19 observers in 6 parties. Temp. 32°-53°. Clear and sunny. Totals: 88 species and 202,677 individuals. Of especial interest were Little Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 3; Gadwall, 5; Peregrine Falcon, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 1; Kingbird, 1; American Crow, 990; Yellow-throated Warbler, 4; Rusty Blackbird, 180,100; Brewer's Blackbird, 10,100; Grasshopper Sparrow, 1.

OKEFENOCHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.—January 1, 1958; 18 observers in 6 parties (Eugene Cypert, compiler); 133 party-miles by car, 28 by foot, and 31 by boat. Temp. 45°-62°. Totals: 91 species and 5,508 individuals. Of interest were Anhinga, 10; Sandhill Crane, 190; Sora, 1; Barn Swallow, 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 2; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 8; White-eyed Vireo, 3; Boat-tailed Grackle, 4; Bachman's Sparrow, 9.

GENERAL NOTES

SEASONAL NOTES FROM KINGSLAND.—On October 26, 1957, a small flock of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) appeared in my backyard in the early afternoon. A female had a white band across the tail half-way between the coverts and end of the tail. The width of the band was about 3/4 in. It was egg-shell white rather than snow-white. On October 29, this female was seen again in the same place and presumably with the same flock.

A brightly-colored bird appeared in my garden on the ground with a flock of robins, jays, cardinals, redwings, and sparrows on December 13, 1957. I saw it in full sunlight and identified it as a male Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Again, on February 13, 1958, at 5:00 p. m. a male Baltimore Oriole appeared in my yard and ate bread crumbs on the ground. The night before, we were blanketed with snow which is as rare here as the oriole or more so.—S. C. WITTER, P. O. Box 354, Kingsland, Georgia.

SONGBIRD KILL FROM THE BIG FREEZE.—During the period February 16-20, 1958, Georgia experienced one of the most prolonged periods of sub-freezing weather in recent years. Minimum temperatures ranged from -4° in the mountain sections to +18° in extreme South Georgia. This was accompanied by snow and ice in many sections. It is felt that the effects on bird populations might have been disastrous in some locations. Here at Rock Eagle, where birds were being fed, single representatives of four species were found, apparent victims of the freeze. Robin, Bluebird, White-throated Sparrow, and Junco were found in an area of slightly over one acre around my house. Without being asked, hunters who were in the field during this period, mentioned seeing dead birds in several places. Although they were unable to identify species involved, they seemed concerned about the effects on both game and song birds. These reports were from Putnam and Morgan counties. Other observers may be able to fill in with reports from other sections, so that the magnitude of the kill may be partially determined.—FRANK W. FITCH, JR., Rock Eagle 4-H Club Center, Eatonton, Georgia, February 26, 1958.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER IN IRWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA.—On September 6, 1957, I had the good fortune of observing a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) at very close range. The locality was approximately three miles SSW of Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia. At the time of the observation I was driving through a field that had recently been combined for a peanut crop. The ground was rela-

tively barren and dry with remnants of peanut vines scattered about and with a few sprigs of grass here and there.

The bird flushed a few feet ahead of the truck and flew a short distance before alighting again. This maneuver was repeated several times as the bird cooperated by permitting me to look for flight marks. The evenly-colored breast and under parts readily distinguished this species from other sandpipers in this size group. A large pond with wide shorelines and numerous mud flats was located approximately 200 yards downgrade from this field. At the time of this observation five other species of shorebirds were present at this pond although the Buff-breasted Sandpiper could not be found associating with them during the days following.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., 202 W. Roanoke Drive, Fitzgerald, Georgia. December 19, 1957.

EVENING GROSBEEKS AT ROCK EAGLE.—On January 31, 1958, a flock of strange birds was reported by Mrs. Cecil Johnson, wife of the Director of the 4-H Club Center. With her description as a starting point, we located the birds on February 3. They were identified as Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) and a male specimen was taken for verification. This was forwarded to Dr. David Johnston, at Mercer University.

Since February 3, the flock has been seen almost daily, in various locations in the 4-H Club Center, and although somewhat shy at first, have become quite tolerant to humans and afforded many opportunities for observations. Dr. Sarah Nelson, and others from the Milledgeville Bird Club have seen them. They seem to feed almost exclusively on pine seed. They have been seen picking the seeds from the cones in the trees, and eating seed that had been cast on the ground. This year there was one of the heaviest pine mast crops in recent years in this section and the grosbeaks, along with several hundred doves and other seed-eating birds have used this food source all winter. One occasion, when the grosbeaks were ground-feeding, gave opportunity for an accurate count. There were 43 seen at one time, with a slight predominance of females. The first estimate of the flock was 30-40, so there is a possibility that the original flock has increased somewhat. To date, the flock is still here.—FRANK W. FITCH, JR., Rock Eagle 4-H Club Center, Eatonton, Georgia. February 26, 1958.

NOTES ON NESTING GRACKLES.—A nesting colony of Common Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula*) within the corporate limits of Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia has been under observation for six years. It is in a pine thicket of approximately two and one-half acres, bounded on one side by open fields and on the other three by occupied homes and

a busy railroad track. The nearest permanent water supply is one-half mile away although ditches in the near vicinity usually contain some water during the breeding season. The stand of pines consists of about two-thirds slash (*Pinus Elliotti*) and one third longleaf (*Pinus palustris*). It is a peculiarity of grackles in the choice of nesting tree, if it be a pine, in that they never use the long-leaf for nesting in this area. Probably this is due to the arrangement of branches because the slash has a closer network of small limbs in the crown than the longleaf. Grackle nests have nearly always been located in the topmost branches where they are hidden, partially or completely, from the ground view.

This colony had approximately 25 active nests in 1952, 18 in 1953, 15 in 1955, and between 12 and 15 in 1957. The colony has been observed and checked during three more years, but definite nesting figures were not recorded. The colony is apparently dwindling due to the age of the slash pines. The preponderance of the nests were located at heights of 15-22 feet in slash pines and due to age and resulting growth in height of the pines, grackles are leaving the colony.

During the 1940-41 nesting season in the Fitzgerald, Georgia region Robert Norris and myself located over 60 nests of the grackle. Of this number 39 were in pines, 2 in cypresses, 1 in a hollow stump, 1 in a hollow tree, 1 in an oak, and the remaining 16 were in honeysuckle and smilax vines or bamboo. Nesting dates indicate that the peak of the nesting season is during the first two weeks of May when over 48 of the nests were located.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., 202 W. Roanoke Drive, Fitzgerald, Georgia. December 19, 1957.

PINE SISKINS IN WAYCROSS, GEORGIA.—Two Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) were seen in Waycross on February 2, 1958. They were with a flock of 100 or more goldfinches in the back ward at 911 Glenmore Avenue. A truck load of pecan shells had been spread on the ground and the birds were feeding on the bits of nut meat among the shells. I had ample time to observe the siskins with binoculars at a distance of about 30 feet. There is a previous record for this species from Waycross in February, 1953.—ROY MOORE, Waycross, Georgia. February 5, 1958.

LIFE HISTORY NOTES CONCERNING THE GROUND DOVE.—Although the Ground Dove (*Columbigallina passerina*) is placed in various lists and in some ornithological publications as a common permanent resident in most coastal plain localities of Georgia, it is peculiarly absent in many Christmas censuses and daily lists compiled at these times. One visualizes a list of 35-40 species of birds seen in one of these coastal plain localities regardless of the time of year, notwithstanding extremely in-

clement weather conditions, but this list will many times not include the Ground Dove.

Habitats: In the Fitzgerald region the preferred habitats are hedgerows that shade enough of the ground to prevent the growth of secondary vegetation, thereby leaving good patches of bare earth. Plum trees are usually present in the habitat of the Ground Dove here and usually some species of *Prunus* in southwest Georgia. Honeysuckle vines, often used for nest support, are often present. These hedgerows are generally bordered by open fields or land lying fallow on both sides. These "habitat niches" that harbor Ground Doves have an additional factor that keeps them there besides vegetative cover and food. Whether this factor is an ancestral nesting ground instinct or possibly a specific soil type, I do not know. Often these hedgerows do contain a good amount of sandy soil. This unknown factor, however, largely determines whether or not Ground Doves are present. There are many hedgerows that look alike in this locality and do contain essentially the same vegetative cover. However, some of these hedgerows do not harbor Ground Doves and in others one can locate at least a pair on nearly every visit. Other observers have had essentially the same experience.

Nesting: Of three nests located here in the Fitzgerald region, two were approximately four feet up in honeysuckle vines and another was on the ground with a few strands of grass lining. The two nest platforms located in vines were more frail than the Mourning Dove's nest. Nesting date extremes have ranged from a nest located January 23, 1950, on the ground in Baker County, Georgia, to an observation of a fledgling bird not more than a week from the nest by Robert Norris near Tifton on October 31, 1941. Norris also located a nest of this species ten feet high in a plum tree in Baker County on July 10, 1947. As with the Mourning Dove, nesting is taking place probably throughout the year but is of small consequence during the winter months. All of these nests have contained either two young or two eggs.

Winter Flocking: I cannot locate in the literature any mention of winter flocking in this species. Although many authors state that the Ground Dove mates for life and is seasonally multi-brooded, flocks of six to eight or more birds probably indicate that this species has a flocking behavior. During late November and the first two weeks of December this year I noted groups of eight to twelve birds on several occasions which obviously are larger than family groups. Grim mentions a flock of twenty near Hinesville, Georgia, on November 22, 1944 (*Oriole*, 11:37, 1944). Flocks observed during the winter near Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia have shown a tendency to desert their hedgerow haunts

for field edges near denser cover.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., 202 W. Roanoke Drive, Fitzgerald, Georgia. December 19, 1957.

WINTERING BALTIMORE ORIOLE AT MILLEDGEVILLE.—On February 11, 1958, Mrs. Holmes Overstreet called me to her house in Milledgeville, Georgia to see a bird she had tentatively identified as a female or immature Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). It came to her feeding shelf as I watched. It fit the description of the female as given in several guides we consulted, and looked like the picture of the immature in Pough's *Audubon Bird Guide*. It was yellowish olive above with a brighter yellow rump and tail, and yellow below. It had distinct wing bars and a sharp pointed bill.

Mrs. Overstreet said that this bird was evidently one of three that she has seen at her shelf since December 30, 1957. The other two were more colorful than this one, but they had not come as long as this one had. I saw the bird again on February 17 at one of her feeding shelves where it was eating apple and cornbread, and also observed it feeding on the ground in her yard.—KATHERINE WEAVER, Box 452, Milledgeville, Georgia. February 18, 1958.

CHIMNEY SWIFT MORTALITY IN ATLANTA.—On October 2, 1957, we received a report of many dead birds in the back yard of E. L. Kirk, 1451 North Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Upon investigation, Fred Williams and I found about 150 Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) dead under several large oaks. They were emaciated and wet from the drizzling rain. A few others were discovered dead in adjoining yards and upon nearby roofs. Since the grounds of Mary Lin School border the rear of Mr. Kirk's lot we sought out the janitor of the school for additional information.

He had built the first furnace fire of the fall in the school two days previously. This caused "clouds" of swifts to leave the large chimney rather reluctantly since it was raining. The janitor picked up 30 or 40 dead swifts in the school yard during the next day or two, and we found two on the roof of the school at our visit. Probably 200 swifts were killed by the combination of furnace fumes and near starvation during a week of rain and cool weather, when insects were not flying.

The chimney at Mary Lin School is a favorite roosting place for large numbers of swifts during fall migration. Concentrations have been noted there for many years. On October 11, 1936, I assisted in banding 6,025 swifts from the Mary Lin chimney.

This destruction of swifts by fumes during the period of rainy weather when food was scarce illustrates one of the hazards faced by

this species in migration.—HAROLD S. PETERS, 968 Cumberland Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. October 31, 1957.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE CATTLE EGRET IN GEORGIA.—In June, 1956, the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) was first recorded from Georgia on Sapelo Island (Teal, *Oriole*, 21:33, 1956). This year, 1957, three Cattle Egrets arrived on the island on May 1, one month earlier than in the previous year. Two more birds had arrived by June 6. All five spent their days feeding among the cattle and roosted at night in a dead tree at the edge of the pasture. On June 23, one was seen on a nest at the ponds located at the north end of Sapelo, about six miles from the pasture. The nest was in the top of a ten-foot shrub surrounded by open water. A number of Snowy Egrets, Louisiana Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons were nesting nearby. There were three eggs in the nest at this time.

The nest was visited once a week. On July 7, there were six eggs and on July 21, there were two young birds and three eggs. By August 4, only one more young had hatched and the other eggs were gone. All three successfully hatched birds were banded (606-00945, -46, and -74) and fledged successfully. While being banded, the young regurgitated grasshoppers, an indication that the parents were collecting their food on the pastures six miles away.—JOHN M. TEAL, *University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia. November 1, 1957.*

ADDITIONS TO THE BREEDING BIRDS OF SAPELO ISLAND.—Robert, Teal, and Odum (*Oriole* 21:37-45, 1956) have given a preliminary list of the summer birds of Sapelo Island, Georgia. We stated there that the White Ibis (*Guara alba*) was common on the island during the summer but that it did not breed. In the heronry at the north end of the island on August 4, 1957, four White Ibis were discovered raising young in abandoned heron nests located in the same shrub in which the Cattle Egret nested (see separate note). At least two other White Ibises were seen nesting in small trees which were inaccessible. It is quite certain that this species did not nest on the island earlier in the season because an intensive search was made for it in May and June. It may be that these were young birds that had not nested earlier and for this reason did not breed until late in the season.

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was listed in the preliminary list as a rare breeding bird. Starlings were common, however, in 1957, nesting in the ventilators of the barn during the latter part of April.—JOHN M. TEAL, *University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia. November 1, 1957.*

THE RELATION OF WATER LEVEL TO POPULATIONS OF COMMON EGRETS IN THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP.—During the past year, frequent counts of Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) have been made in Chesser and Grand prairies on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

They were made during twenty-two boat trips which ranged from one to ten miles in distance (mean of 4.8 miles). It was not possible to cover the entire route on all trips because of low water or obstructed boat runs.

As the accompanying table indicates, the numbers of egrets were low early in 1957. At that time, the water level in the prairies was usually

Water Elevation	Date	Number Seen	Number Per Mile
	1957		
119.00	January 29	1	3
118.86	February 13	0	0
118.80	February 20	0	0
118.96	March 2	0	0
119.44	March 15	1	1.0
120.70	April 15	39	6.5
120.46	May 13	13	6.5
121.44	June 30	8	1.6
121.16	July 18	26	3.8
121.18	August 5	4	1.3
121.50	August 19	14	2.0
121.18	September 9	6	2.0
121.08	September 27	2	.7
121.32	October 10	24	3.4
121.10	October 29	24	4.0
121.00	November 12	35	5.8
121.00	November 21	29	3.6
121.24	December 4	49	6.1
121.28	December 23	19	3.8
	1958		
121.30	January 14	17	2.1
121.26	January 30	15	1.5
121.30	February 8	3	3.0

about two feet below normal. The prairie lakes, 'gator holes, and low places were flooded, but most of the prairies did not have surface water. With the return of the water, egrets returned and the population has remained fairly high so far this winter (1958).—EUGENE CYPERT, *Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Waycross, Georgia. February 20, 1958.*

EARLY NESTING OF THE MOCKINGBIRD AT ATHENS.—On March 1, 1957, a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) was observed building a nest in a small *Pyracantha* shrub near Baldwin Hall on the University of Georgia campus at Athens. The nest was complete except for the inner lining. On March 8, two eggs were seen in the completed nest. That night a cold front, accompanied by winds and freezing temperatures, moved in and remained until March 10. Observations made on March 9, 10, 11, and 12 indicated that the nest had been abandoned because no additional eggs had been laid.

On March 12, a thin platform of sticks was found approximately 12 inches above the old nest and on March 13, 14, and 16, this platform was considerably enlarged. This construction was abandoned about March 20. Construction was resumed and the second nest was completed by April 10. By April 15 two eggs had been laid and the female was incubating four eggs on April 25. Unfortunately this attempt also ended unsuccessfully—two weeks later, the nest was found with two dead nestlings and two infertile eggs in it.

Only one earlier breeding date has been recorded for the mockingbird in Georgia, that being a nest of three eggs found in Atlanta on March 2, 1932, on the authority of Dobbs and Greene (Burleigh, *Georgia's Birds*, in press). Another early record mentioned by Burleigh is that of a nest of three fresh eggs found in Waynesboro on March 9, 1932 by Stevenson.—HERBERT W. KALE, *Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. November 12, 1957.*

FROM THE FIELD

From the Savannah area Ivan Tomkins reports the following interesting observations—as many as ten Pine Siskins from February 2-19, 1958, and Purple Finches from February 10-19, 1958. A Common Goldeneye, the first record for the region, was noted at Macon on February 2, 1958, by David W. Johnston. In southern Houston County, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cater observed a Black-and-White Warbler on January 26, 1958, and a Long-billed Marsh Wren on February 9, 1958. Also, this winter there have been reports of Lapland Longspurs at Augusta, and Horned Larks near Warner Robins. More precise information on these occurrences will appear in print later. Gordon Hight reports a male and female Evening Grosbeak at Rome on February 20, 1958. From last spring, Roy Moore reports the occurrence of a male Painted Bunting on April 22, 1957, and a female on April 24, 1957, at Waycross.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

SPRING MEETING.—A very interesting meeting is in store for G. O. S. members in the spring. The headquarters for the outing will be Waycross from which several trips will be made into various parts of the fabulous Okefenokee Swamp. Parties will go by boat into both sides of the swamp, and will visit some of the famous islands and prairies, long noted for their rich abundance of animal and plant life. In addition to these field trips, plans are being made for an evening presentation of kodachrome slides and a lecture on the swamp life. No G. O. S. member will want to miss this rare opportunity to observe birds, other animals, and plants in the swamp, so be sure to reserve April 18-20 for this significant meeting.

ADDENDA.—*Oriole*, 22:29, 1957. In addition to the published records for the White-rumped Sandpiper at Atlanta, Mrs. J. C. Oliver reports observations on March 30, 1953 and May 24, 1952.

RECENT LITERATURE

DISTRIBUTIONAL CHECK-LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MEXICO.—edited by Alden H. Miller, *et al.* Part II. Pacific Coast Avifauna Number 33: 436 pp. 1957.

In 1950 the Cooper Ornithological Society published the first part of a check-list of Mexican birds in which the compilers presented the ranges of all birds through the hummingbirds. Now, in this companion volume the distributional data are given for the species from the trogons through fringillids. Both of these volumes contain handsome color plates by Andrew Jackson Grayson. If one wants a ready reference to the latest information on the distribution of birds in Mexico, either or both of these volumes can be highly recommended. They may be purchased through the Cooper Society.—D. W. J.

THE WARBLERS OF AMERICA.—by Ludlow Griscom, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., *et al.* Devin-Adair Co., New York. 1957. 356 pp. \$15.00

The size, format, illustrations, and authors make this an impressive book, not to mention the subject material. Actually, it represents a compilation of life history data contributed by more than twenty renowned ornithologists, and among these is Dr. J. Fred Denton who contributed to the section on Swainson's Warbler. The southern bird artist, John Henry Dick, prepared the color plates; some of these are noticeably better than others.

The bulk of this publication concerns itself with succinct life history accounts of the warblers breeding in the United States, Canada, and

Baja California. In these accounts may be found information on range, field characters, nesting, song, and food habits, all of which seem to be soundly presented. To those who have a yen for the far-away, the final chapters will provide a particular spark. These chapters and their authors are (1) Warblers of Mexico (Blake), (2) Warblers in the West Indies (Bond), (3) Warblers in Central America (Skutch), (4) Warblers in Panama (Eisenmann), (5) Warblers of South America (Blake), (6) Warblers in Alaska (Lincoln), and (7) Warblers in Canada (Munro, Godfrey, Clement, and Gunn). Several appendices deal with the classification of the Parulidae and Gulf Migration Routes. Of notable value are the illustrations of Mexican, South American, and West Indian Warblers.

As is true of almost any book, a critical reviewer will discover minor and/or major points of disagreement. In the present volume one will notice errors in the appendix which purportedly follows the 1957 edition of the A. O. U. Checklist. There are errors in spelling and some forms are included which are not in the check-list. In the body of the text we find that Lawrence's and Brewster's warblers are both hybrids between Golden-winged and Blue-winged parents. Genetically, this is incorrect for Lawrence's Warbler, because it is usually the result of matings between two hybrid Brewster types.

In spite of these and other critical statements that could be presented, this compilation is a noteworthy addition to any ornithologist's bookshelf.—D. W. J.

THE ORNITHOLOGISTS' GUIDE.—edited by H. P. W. Hutson. Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 E. 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y. 1957, *xix* 275 pp. \$10.00.

The articles in this book, written by authorities in the field, are compiled to provide a comprehensive guide for techniques in ornithology. The contributors are largely from the United Kingdom, so the entire volume has something of an international flavor and could be used generally anywhere in the world. The various sections of the book treat subjects such as field recognition, geographical distribution, behavior, breeding, protection, and study methods (banding, life history studies, photography, etc.). Of extreme value are the short sections on regional distribution of birds in such places as Africa, Near East, Far East, Australia, and Polar Regions. Important books, societies, and ornithologists are mentioned for these areas. Among the more interesting comments in the book was the following (p. *xix*): "Finally, when a study is completed, what then? . . . If the facts . . . are not already on record then they should certainly be published."