

# THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology; Official Organ of the  
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No. 2



# THE ORIOLE

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# THE ORIOLE

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## Checklist Of Birds Of The Dalton, Georgia Area With Occurrence Extremes

By ANNE AND R. E. HAMILTON

A century ago the first published list of birds of the Dalton area was made by Alexander Gerhardt, who lived in the early 1850's at Varnell, nine miles north of Dalton. His writings containing the list of bird species appeared in *Naumannia*, a German scientific journal, in 1855-1856. Since 1941 brief notes on birds have been published in *The Oriole* and in *Audubon Field Notes*, the Christmas count issues. The following list is the first that has attempted completeness concerning species, general status, relative abundance, and times of occurrence.

The area covered is Whitfield County, western Murray County, and northern Gordon County as far south as the Oostanaula River. It is in the Rome valley subregion of the "low plains of the Appalachian Valley" described by Robert Norris in his chapter, *Physiographic Regions of Georgia*, in *Georgia Birds* by Thomas D. Burleigh, pp. 25-76. The Oostanaula River and its tributary, the Conasauga River, drain the area. The fertile farm lands are interspersed with deciduous forests of oak-hickory climax and oak-pine subclimax formation. Johns Mountain and Taylor's Ridge in western Whitfield County, Cedar Ridge near the eastern edge of the county, and smaller ridges run from northeast to southwest in the same general direction as the Appalachian Valley itself. The altitude of the valley as stated by Norris (*ibid.*) slopes from about 700 feet near the Tennessee line to about 600 feet at the Alabama line, with the ridges rising as much as 700 feet above the valley floor.

Opportunities to observe water birds are furnished by Longley Lake in southwest Dalton, Lake Frances in northeastern Whitfield County, two lakes at Tunnel Hill, and Mill and Coahulla Creeks. Margins of farm ponds and occasional drainage of the lakes provide habitat for sandpipers. There are no extensive marshy areas.

Analysis of twenty years' records of field work preceded the making of the list and the designations of status and abundance. Possible errors



in estimates will likely be cleared up in future field work by an increasing number of birders. In spring and fall of most years fairly regular trips were made and records were kept. Less work was done in summer and winter. Field cards show an average of two trips per month.

Published records of the authors and others are cited in parentheses; figures given refer to volume and page numbers of the publications. A dash between occurrence extremes signifies that there are additional occurrence dates in the area; if there are no other dates, a semi-colon or comma is used instead. The orders and common names follow the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist, 5th edition 1957 and supplements. The letters "pr" indicate permanent resident species, most of which breed in the region. The remaining species are migratory; for these the extreme dates of occurrence are shown. Migratory status, so far as determined, is indicated by the following abbreviations:

c. — casual (rare or accidental)	sv. — summer visitant
t. — transient	wr. — winter resident
sr. — summer resident	wv. — winter visitant

Common Loon: *Gavia immer*. v. Apr. 2, 1950; Apr. 14, 1949; Nov. 8, 1959.  
Pied-billed Grebe: *Podilymbus podiceps*. wr. Common. July 15, 1945—May 19, 1946, and May 19, 1956.

Great Blue Heron: *Ardea herodias*. pr. Uncommon.

Green Heron: *Butorides virescens*. sr. Common. Apr. 6, 1952—Oct. 11, 1942.

Little Blue Heron: *Florida caerulea*. sv. Uncommon. June 27, 1954—Aug. 27, 1943. Spring record: May 18, 1943.

Common Egret: *Casmerodius albus*. sv. Uncommon. July 9, 1950—Sept. 10, 1950.

Black-crowned Night Heron: *Nycticorax nycticorax*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 24, 1951—May 12, 1956; July 16, 1944—Oct. 22, 1950.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: *Nyctanassa violacea*. c. July 7, 1946; Aug. 20, 1944; Oct. 3, 1954.

Least Bittern: *Ixobrychus exilis*. sr. Uncommon. May 27, 1958—Sept. 25, 1949. Two downy young seen in cattails July 4 & 9, 1950.

American Bittern: *Botaurus lentiginosus*. t. Mar. 25, 1944—Sept. 14, 1943. Not recorded since 1950.

Canada Goose: *Branta canadensis*. wr. Uncommon. Half a dozen or more pairs breed each year at Shields' ponds 10 miles n. e. of Dalton. The young remain until their second or third summer. They are joined

each winter by 9 or more wild birds. In 1959 one pair nested at Lake Frances, about 3 miles west of Shields' ponds. These with two offspring left Lake Frances in late summer.

Blue Goose: *Chen caerulescens*. t. One bird remained at Shields' ponds with Canada geese from Nov. 1957 till Mar. 1958 (AFN 12: 134). Seventeen observed Oct. 31—Nov. 1, 1959, on Longley Lake.

Mallard: *Anas platyrhynchos*. wr. Uncommon. Nov. 19, 1950—Mar. 20, 1949.

Gadwall: *Anas strepera*. c. Mar. 25, 1950.

Pintail: *Anas acuta*. t. Single birds seen Apr. 15, 1945, May 2, 1948, and Oct. 30, 1942; two seen May 11, 1952.

Blue-winged Teal: *Anas discors*. t. Common. Mar. 5, 1950—May 23, 1943; Aug. 20, 1944—Oct. 22, 1950.

American Widgeon: *Mareca americana*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 4, 1950—May 23, 1943. Fall record: Oct. 10, 1943.

Shoveler: *Spatula clypeata*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 15, 1945—Apr. 15, 1945.

Wood Duck: *Aix sponsa*. pr. Uncommon.

Redhead: *Aythya americana*. t. One on Mar. 17, 1951; in 1960 25 were seen Mar. 11, 34 (23 males, 11 females) on Mar. 13, and 13 on Mar. 14.

Ring-necked Duck: *Aythya collaris*. wr. Nov. 19, 1950—May 14, 1950. Summer record: Aug. 29, 1953.

Canvasback: *Aythya valisineria*. c. Three seen Nov. 19, 1950; one Nov. 23, 1950.

Lesser Scaup: *Aythya affinis*. wr. Common. Scarce in mid-winter. Dec. 30, 1955, and Dec. 30, 1958—June 2, 1950.

Common Goldeneye: *Bucephala clangula*. c. Mar. 10, 1960.

Bufflehead: *Bucephala albeola*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 4, 1950—Apr. 10, 1941.

Ruddy Duck: *Oxyura jamaicensis*. t. Uncommon. Jan. 1, 1952—May 28, 1958.

Hooded Merganser: *Lophodytes cucullatus*. t. Nov. 24, 1949; Jan. 1, 1959; Mar. 21, 1948; one killed by hunter in early 1940's and the head given to the writers.

Common Merganser: *Mergus merganser*. c. Eight seen Nov. 24, 1949.

Red-breasted Merganser: *Mergus serrator*. c. Dec. 1, 1946; Apr. 11, 1948; Apr. 30, 1955.

Turkey Vulture: *Cathartes aura*. pr. Common.

Black Vulture: *Coragyps atratus*. pr. Uncommon in fall, winter, and spring. Summer record: June 3, 1940.



- Sharp-shinned Hawk: *Accipiter striatus*. wr. Uncommon. Oct. 5, 1942—Apr. 24, 1943.
- Cooper's Hawk: *Accipiter cooperii*. pr. Common.
- Red-tailed Hawk: *Buteo jamaicensis*. pr. Common.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: *Buteo lineatus*. pr. Common.
- Broad-winged Hawk: *Buteo platypterus*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 2, 1944—Sept. 15, 1940.
- Marsh Hawk: *Circus cyaneus*. wr. Uncommon. Oct. 24, 1943—Apr. 22, 1956.
- Osprey: *Pandion haliaetus*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 6, 1952—May 21, 1950.
- Sparrow Hawk: *Falco sparverius*. pr. Uncommon.
- Bobwhite: *Colinus virginianus*. pr. Common.
- King Rail: *Rallus elegans*. sr. Uncommon. Mar. 5, 1950—Aug. 29, 1953. One seen by G. O. S. members at Looper farm Oct. 10, 1959.
- Virginia Rail: *Rallus limicola*. c. One seen Apr. 19, 1944 (Billy Mitchell, Warren Herron, Warren Sims)
- Sora: *Porzana carolina*. t. Mar. 18, 1945—Aug. 10, 1944.
- Yellow Rail: *Coturnicops noveboracensis*. c. One captured Oct. 6, 1944, by Albert and Alfred Griffin (Oriole 10: 8-9).
- Purple Gallinule: *Porphyryla martinica*. c. May 19, 1956 (Oriole 21: 35).
- Common Gallinule: *Gallinula chloropus*. t. Uncommon. Feb. 5, 1950—Apr. 9, 1950; Sept. 15, 1953—Nov. 27, 1949.
- American Coot: *Fulica americana*. wr. Common. Sept. 26, 1949—June 3, 1952. A few summer records in 1943 and 1944.
- Semipalmated Plover: *Charadrius semipalmatus*. t. Uncommon. May 8, 10, 15, 1941; May 8, 1960; Aug. 13, 1944—Sept. 8, 1946.
- Killdeer: *Charadrius vociferus*. pr. Common.
- American Woodcock: *Philohela minor*. pr. Uncommon.
- Common Snipe: *Capella gallinago*. wr. Common. Oct. 22, 1950—May 3, 1941.
- Spotted Sandpiper: *Actitis macularia*. t. Common. Apr. 12, 1941, and Apr. 12, 1942—May 23, 1943, and May 23, 1954; July 16, 1944—Oct. 7, 1954.
- Solitary Sandpiper: *Tringa solitaria*. t. Common. Apr. 16, 1942—May 23, 1943; July 16, 1944—Oct. 24, 1954.
- Greater Yellowlegs: *Totanus melanoleucus*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 26, 1960—May 10, 1941; Sept. 10, 1950.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: *Totanus flavipes*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 19, 1944—May 8, 1960; Aug. 13, 1944—Sept. 23, 1945.
- Pectoral Sandpiper: *Erolia melanotos*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 12, 1942; Aug. 13, 1944—Oct. 8, 1944 (Oriole 9: 40).

- Least Sandpiper: *Erolia minutilla*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 30, 1955—May 10, 1941. No certain fall record.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: *Ereunetes pusillus*. t. Uncommon. May 2, 1959—May 15, 1941; Aug. 13, 1944—Oct. 17, 1957.
- Herring Gull: *Larus argentatus*. c. Mar. 3, 1944 (Oriole 9:14); May 11, 1952; Oct. 20—21, 1950.
- Ring-billed Gull: *Larus delawarensis*. c. Apr. 30, 1960.
- Black Tern: *Chlidonias niger* t. Uncommon. July 15, 1950—Sept. 5, 1943. Spring record: May 18, 1943 (Oriole 9:14-15).
- Mourning Dove: *Zenaidura macroura*. pr. Common.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: *Coccyzus americanus*. sr. Common. Apr. 25, 1954—Oct. 26, 1954.
- Black-billed Cuckoo: *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 27, 1947—May 20, 1945.
- Barn Owl: *Tyto alba*. pr. One seen July 14, 1946. Five observed almost daily Dec. 4, 1959—Jan. 20, 1960; also Feb. 9 and 16, 1960.
- Screech Owl: *Otus asio*. pr. Uncommon.
- Great Horned Owl: *Bubo virginianus*. One was shot Feb. 14, 1959, by a boy in eastern Whitfield county (Mrs. Hermon King).
- Barred Owl: *Strix varia*. pr. Uncommon.
- Chuck-will's-widow: *Caprimulgus carolinensis*. sr. Common. Apr. 18, 1950—July 14, 1957.
- Whip-poor-will: *Caprimulgus vociferus*. t. Common. Apr. 27, 1957—May 19, 1956.
- Common Nighthawk: *Chordeiles minor*. sr. Common. Apr. 19, 1944—Aug. 15, 1943.
- Chimney Swift: *Chaetura pelagica*. sr. Abundant. Mar. 25, 1950—Oct. 17, 1954.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *Archilochus colubris*. sr. Common. Apr. 9, 1952—Oct. 5, 1942.
- Belted Kingfisher: *Megasceryle alcyon*. pr. Common.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: *Colaptes auratus*. pr. Common.
- Pileated Woodpecker: *Dryocopus pileatus*. pr. Uncommon.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: *Centurus carolinus*. pr. Common.
- Red-headed Woodpecker: *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. pr. Uncommon.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *Sphyrapicus varius*. wr. Common. Sept. 26, 1940—Apr. 28, 1943.
- Hairy Woodpecker: *Dendrocopus villosus*. pr. Uncommon.
- Downy Woodpecker: *Dendrocopus pubescens*. pr. Common.
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker: *Dendrocopus borealis*. c. Apr. 29, 1952.



- Eastern Kingbird: *Tyrannus tyrannus*. sr. Common. Apr. 11, 1947—Sept. 13, 1953.
- Great-crested Flycatcher: *Myiarchus crinitus*. sr. Common. Apr. 14, 1954—Sept. 10, 1950.
- Eastern Phoebe: *Sayornis phoebe*. pr. Common.
- Acadian Flycatcher: *Empidonax virescens*. sr. Common. Apr. 25, 1954—July 4, 1950.
- Eastern Wood Pewee: *Contopus virens*. sr. Common. Apr. 21, 1951—Oct. 22, 1950.
- Horned Lark: *Eremophila alpestris*. wr. Uncommon. Oct. 10, 1959—Feb. 27, 1944. Spring record: May 5, 1960.
- Tree Swallow: *Iridoprocne bicolor*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 1, 1945—May 8, 1960.
- Bank Swallow: *Riparia riparia*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 24, 1943—May 11, 1941.
- Rough-winged Swallow: *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*. sr. Common. Mar. 20, 1949—Sept. 1, 1946.
- Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 6, 1952—May 14, 1960; Aug. 20, 1944—Oct. 10, 1959. Summer record: June 13, 1960.
- Cliff Swallow: *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*. t. Uncommon. May 2, 1940—May 11, 1941.
- Purple Martin: *Progne subis*. sr. Common. Mar. 25, 1951—Aug. 15, 1943.
- Blue Jay: *Cyanocitta cristata*. pr. Abundant.
- Common Crow: *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. pr. Abundant.
- Carolina Chickadee: *Parus carolinensis*. pr. Abundant.
- Tufted Titmouse: *Parus bicolor*. pr. Abundant.
- White-breasted Nuthatch: *Sitta carolinensis*. pr. Uncommon.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: *Sitta canadensis*. Oct. 23, 1954—Apr. 28, 1940.
- Brown-headed Nuthatch: *Sitta pusilla*. c. July 3-4, 1956, Oct. 3 and 10, 1959.
- Brown Creeper: *Certhia familiaris*. wr. Common. Oct. 14, 1942, and Oct. 14, 1945—Apr. 14, 1944.
- House Wren: *Troglodytes aedon*. t. Uncommon. Mar. 26, 1950; Oct. 10, 1959.
- Winter Wren: *Troglodytes troglodytes*. wr. Uncommon. Oct. 14, 1942—Apr. 24, 1943.
- Bewick's Wren: *Thryomanes bewickii*. pr. Fairly common in summer, uncommon in winter. Recorded every month in year.
- Carolina Wren: *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. pr. Abundant.

- Long-billed Marsh Wren: *Telmatodytes palustris*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 22, 1944 (Oriole 9:15)—May 2, 1959 (Mrs. Hermon King).
- Short-billed Marsh Wren: *Cistothorus platensis*. t. Uncommon. May 7, 1941; May 8, 1945; Oct. 10, 1943, and Oct. 10, 1959.
- Mockingbird: *Mimus polyglottos*. pr. Abundant.
- Catbird: *Dumetella carolinensis*. sr. Common. Apr. 13, 1955 (Mrs. Jack Sohn)—Oct. 18, 1942.
- Brown Thrasher: *Toxostoma rufum*. pr. Abundant in spring, summer, and fall, uncommon in winter.
- Robin: *Turdus migratorius*. pr. Abundant in spring, summer, and fall, uncommon in early winter.
- Wood Thrush: *Hylocichla mustelina*. sr. Abundant. Apr. 3, 1944—Oct. 10, 1943.
- Hermit Thrush: *Hylocichla guttata*. wr. Uncommon. Nov. 14, 1943—May 6, 1940.
- Swainson's Thrush: *Hylocichla ustulata*. t. Fairly common. Mar. 25, 1951—May 13, 1945; Oct. 10, 1943; Dec. 1, 1946.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush: *Hylocichla minima*. t. Uncommon. May 12, 1946—May 19, 1940; Oct. 1, 1943—Nov. 23, 1939.
- Veery: *Hylocichla fuscescens*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 29, 1951—May 14, 1945, and May 14, 1950.
- Eastern Bluebird: *Sialia sialis*. pr. Abundant.
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *Poliophtila caerulea*. sr. Common. Mar. 18, 1945—Sept. 19, 1949.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: *Regulus satrapa*. wr. Common. Oct. 10, 1943—Apr. 13, 1947.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: *Regulus calendula*. wr. Common. Oct. 14, 1942, and Oct. 14, 1945—May 11, 1940.
- Water Pipit: *Anthus spinoletta*. c. Mar. 20, 1949; Apr. 8, 1950; Oct. 24, 1954.
- Cedar Waxwing: *Bombycilla cedrorum*. wr. Common. Sept. 13, 1940—May 22, 1940.
- Loggerhead Shrike: *Lanius ludovicianus*. pr. Uncommon.
- Starling: *Sturnus vulgaris*. pr. Abundant.
- White-eyed Vireo: *Vireo griseus*. sr. Abundant. Mar. 26, 1950—Oct. 5, 1957.
- Yellow-throated Vireo: *Vireo flavifrons*. sr. Common. Apr. 6, 1947—Oct. 10, 1943.
- Solitary Vireo: *Vireo solitarius*. wr. Uncommon. Dec. 19, 1943—Apr. 25, 1943.



- Red-eyed Vireo: *Vireo olivaceus*. sr. Common. Apr. 7, 1953—Aug. 29, 1953.
- Black-And-White Warbler: *Mniotilta varia*. sr. Common. Mar. 26, 1944—Oct. 17, 1954.
- Prothonotary Warbler: *Protonotaria citrea*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 12, 1956—June 28, 1955.
- Worm-eating Warbler: *Helmitheros vermivorus*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 11, 1954—July 18, 1955.
- Golden-winged Warbler: *Vermivora chrysoptera*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 24, 1943—Apr. 30, 1955; Sept. 26, 1940.
- Blue-winged Warbler: *Vermivora pinus*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 17, 1948—May 25, 1958.
- Tennessee Warbler: *Vermivora peregrina*. t. Uncommon in spring, common in fall. May 1, 1958—May 18, 1958 (1 sang almost daily during this period; 4 other spring records of single birds); Sept. 26, 1940—Oct. 30, 1942.
- Orange-crowned Warbler: *Vermivora celata*. c. Apr. 21, 1954 (Mrs. Charles Neal).
- Nashville Warbler: *Vermivora ruficapilla*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 24, 1943; May 2, 1950; May 10-11, 1941.
- Parula Warbler: *Parula americana*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 11, 1954—May 28, 1950; July 4, 1950—Sept. 26, 1940.
- Yellow Warbler: *Dendroica petechia*. sr. Common. Apr. 13 of 1941, 1944, and 1947—Sept. 10, 1940.
- Magnolia Warbler: *Dendroica magnolia*. t. Common in spring up to May 6, 1952, scarce in spring thereafter; common in fall. Apr. 29, 1942—May 18, 1941; Aug. 25, 1946—Oct. 24, 1954.
- Cape May Warbler: *Dendroica tigrina*. t. Common in spring, uncommon in fall. Apr. 14, 1944—May 13, 1945; Sept. 30, 1940—Oct. 17, 1940.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler: *Dendroica caerulescens*. t. Uncommon prior to 1951, none recorded 1951-to-date. Apr. 27, 1941—May 11, 1941; Oct. 14, 1940—Oct. 27, 1940.
- Myrtle Warbler: *Dendroica coronata*. wr. Abundant. Oct. 12, 1944 (Oriole 9:40)—May 16, 1940.
- Black-throated Green Warbler: *Dendroica virens*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 1, 1944—May 26, 1940; Aug. 25, 1946—Oct. 27, 1940. Summer records: June 12, 1960, June 16, 1940, June 18, 1960, July 4, 1940.
- Cerulean Warbler: *Dendroica caerulea*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 22, 1943—May 1, 1949.

- Blackburnian Warbler: *Dendroica fusca*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 11, 1954—May 18, 1953; Aug. 25, 1946—Oct. 21, 1940.
- Yellow-throated Warbler: *Dendroica dominica*. sr. Common. Mar. 21, 1948—Sept. 24, 1940.
- Chestnut-sided Warbler: *Dendroica pensylvanica*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 21, 1940—May 23, 1954; Sept. 3, 1950—Oct. 15, 1940.
- Bay-breasted Warbler: *Dendroica castanea*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 28, 1960—May 22, 1954; Aug. 25, 1946—Oct. 22, 1950.
- Black-poll Warbler: *Dendroica striata*. t. Common in spring, no certain fall record. Apr. 19, 1944—May 28, 1950.
- Pine Warbler: *Dendroica pinus*. pr. Common.
- Prairie Warbler: *Dendroica discolor*. sr. Common. Apr. 6, 1947—Oct. 2, 1949.
- Palm Warbler: *Dendroica palmarum*. wr. Common in migration, uncommon in midwinter. Oct. 10, 1943—May 9, 1942, and May 9, 1943.
- Ovenbird: *Seiurus aurocapillus*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 16, 1944—Oct. 21, 1940.
- Northern Waterthrush: *Seiurus noveboracensis*. t. Uncommon in spring; two fall records. Apr. 8, 1950—May 28, 1958; Sept. 12 and 19, 1954.
- Louisiana Waterthrush: *Seiurus motacilla*. sr. Common. Mar. 25, 1944, and Mar. 25, 1951—Sept. 16, 1940.
- Kentucky Warbler: *Oporornis formosus*. sr. Common. Apr. 16, 1944—Sept. 19, 1940.
- Connecticut Warbler: *Oporornis agilis*. c. May 17, 1941; May 19, 1940; May 23, 1940 (Oriole 5:22).
- Yellowthroat: *Geothlypis trichas*. pr. Common spring, summer, and fall; uncommon in winter.
- Yellow-breasted Chat: *Icteria virens*. sr. Common. Apr. 16, 1944—Oct. 8, 1939.
- Hooded Warbler: *Wilsonia citrina*. sr. Common. Apr. 7, 1948—Oct. 15, 1940.
- Wilson's Warbler: *Wilsonia pusilla*. t. May 16, 1940; May 23, 1954; Sept. 13 and 16, 1940; Oct. 5, 1957.
- Canada Warbler: *Wilsonia canadensis*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 28, 1940—May 23, 1954; Aug. 27, 1940.
- American Redstart: *Setophaga ruticilla*. t. Common. Apr. 8, 1946—May 28, 1950; Aug. 20, 1944—Oct. 22, 1950.
- House Sparrow: *Passer domesticus*. pr. Abundant.
- Bobolink: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 22, 1940—May 14, 1950.



- Eastern Meadowlark: *Sturnella magna*. pr. Common.  
 Red-winged Blackbird: *Agelaius phoeniceus*. pr. Common.  
 Orchard Oriole: *Icterus spurius*. sr. Common. Apr. 14, 1944 (Oriole 9:15)—Aug. 6, 1955.  
 Baltimore Oriole: *Icterus galbula*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 20, 1959—May 24, 1958; Sept. 10, 1950; Sept. 13, 1958.  
 Rusty Blackbird: *Euphagus carolinus*. wr. Common. Dec. 1, 1946—Apr. 2, 1944.  
 Common Grackle: *Quiscalus quiscula*. pr. Abundant in winter, fairly common in breeding season.  
 Brown-headed Cowbird: *Molothrus ater*. pr. Common in winter, has become more common in breeding season since 1952. First breeding record: July 13, 1953 (Oriole 19:12).  
 Scarlet Tanager: *Piranga olivacea*. t. Common in spring, not recorded in fall. Apr. 11, 1954—May 16, 1940.  
 Summer Tanager: *Piranga rubra* sr. Common. Apr. 7, 1948—Oct. 18, 1942.  
 Cardinal: *Richmondia cardinalis*. pr. Abundant.  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. t. Common. Apr. 17, 1954—May 12, 1946; Sept. 15, 1940—Oct. 17, 1954.  
 Blue Grosbeak: *Guiraca caerulea*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 27, 1954—Oct. 8, 1950.  
 Indigo Bunting: *Passerina cyanea*. sr. Common. Apr. 16, 1944—Oct. 27, 1940.  
 Dickcissel: *Spiza americana*. sr. Uncommon. May 5, 1956—Aug. 5, 1955.  
 Evening Grosbeak: *Hesperiphona vespertina*. c. Feb. 14, 1960—Apr. 25, 1960. First record for area. A female found dead in the yard of Warren Sims Sr. on Apr. 16 was skinned and is now in the authors' possession. Daisy Hamilton and Mrs. Charles Kreischer Sr. observed them in numbers varying from 11 to 25 at their porch feeder daily from Mar. 9 through Apr. 25.  
 Purple Finch: *Carpodacus purpureus*. wr. Common most winters; abundant winter of 1959-1960. Nov. 14, 1943—Apr. 22, 1944.  
 Pine Siskin: *Spinus pinus*. wr. Common some years, absent other years. Dec. 1, 1946—May 7, 1950.  
 American Goldfinch: *Spinus tristis*. pr. Common. The 1,389 goldfinches seen on Christmas count on Jan. 1, 1957, was the largest number found in any area that year (AFN 11:238).

- Rufous-sided Towhee: *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. pr. Abundant.  
 Savannah Sparrow: *Passerculus sandwichensis*. wr. Uncommon. Oct. 11, 1942—May 12, 1940.  
 Grasshopper Sparrow: *Ammodramus savannarum*. sr. Uncommon. Apr. 11, 1947—Aug. 15, 1943.  
 Vesper Sparrow: *Pooecetes gramineus*. wr. Uncommon. Jan. 1, 1957 (AFN 11:129-30) and Jan. 1, 1959 (AFN 13:145—Apr. 12, 1956).  
 Bachman's Sparrow: *Aimophila aestivalis*. sr. Uncommon. Feb. 25 1950—Aug. 28, 1943.  
 Slate-colored Junco: *Junco hyemalis*. wr. Abundant. Oct. 30, 1954—Apr. 22, 1943.  
 Chipping Sparrow: *Spizella passerina*. pr. Common.  
 Field Sparrow: *Spizella pusilla*. pr. Abundant.  
 White-crowned Sparrow: *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. t. Uncommon. Apr. 6, 1947—Apr. 30, 1955; Oct. 10, 1943—Oct. 25, 1940.  
 White-throated Sparrow: *Zonotrichia albicollis*. wr. Abundant. Oct. 1, 1940—May 19, 1954.  
 Fox Sparrow: *Passerella iliaca*. wr. Uncommon. Dec. 19, 1943—Mar. 14, 1949.  
 Swamp Sparrow: *Melospiza georgiana*. wr. Common. Oct. 7, 1954—May 5, 1956.  
 Song Sparrow: *Melospiza melodia*. pr. Abundant in migration, common in breeding season.  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hamilton  
 704 Greenwood Drive  
 Dalton, Georgia  
 June 23, 1960.

## GENERAL NOTES

**CATTLE EGRET OBSERVED AT OKEFENOKEE.**— On April 4, 1960, while we were traveling through Grand Prairie, we made what we believe is the first Cattle Egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) observation in Okefenokee Swamp. When first observed, the bird was perched on a button bush near the boat trail. We both agreed that it was a stocky built white heron with a loosely feathered buffy tinged head and a deep orange-yellow bill. When it flew, the legs appeared to be black. Cypert, who had never seen this species before, was confused because he was of the belief that the cattle egret always had yellow legs. This confusion was removed upon reading the descriptions in the Handbook of British Birds and in Peterson's Field



Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe that the legs may be either yellow, pink, dull purplish red, greenish brown or blackish.

Apparently the bird was a transient because, when flushed, it flew away in an easterly direction and did not alight again but just kept going until it was out of sight. The wing beat was choppy, more like that of a night heron than that of a common egret.

Eugene Cypert and Frederick V. Hebard  
Waycross, Georgia  
April 15, 1960

#### SPARROW HAWK AND FLICKER NESTING IN THE SAME CAVITY.—

I was surprised to find eggs of the Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) in a moderately advanced stage of incubation in the same nest cavity with comparatively unincubated eggs of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). No prolonged period of observation was possible. However, I did observe that both the Sparrow Hawk and the Flicker entered the nest cavity on the same day. Since the Sparrow Hawk eggs were at a more advanced stage of incubation than the Flicker eggs, presumably the Flicker was the interloper. The nest cavity was in a dead sweet gum tree and was approximately 40 feet from the ground on my forest "Tirnanogue" which consists of 865 acres, mostly pines, located two miles from Madison, Morgan County, Georgia on the Bethany Road. Crawford F. Barnett, M. D. 912 Doctors Building Atlanta 8, Georgia April 25, 1960.

**MY SECOND OKEFENOKEE VISIT, 1960.**—Arriving in the region of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia on the morning of March 13, 1960 my wife and I decided to try and visit the area where I studied the Florida Sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis partensis*) during early April, 1945. We found the Ben Chesser family had moved into Folkston so went directly to Camp Cornelia where we contacted John Holt and were soon with him in a boat heading down into the Seagrove Lake, Cooter Lake and Chesser Prairie regions where I had worked in 1945. I was interested in the numbers of cranes as compared to the spring of 1945. The water depth was about the same, the time of year a little earlier.

We observed Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue Heron and Osprey at nests on the way but did not see any cranes until we reached the region of Seagrove Lake. Here we were fortunate in finding two nests. The first nest was built right on a little mud island about 18 to 25 feet across with two small 5-6 feet high trees standing beside it. The nest was a very few

broken off dead stalks on the mud and measured 51 cm. across. There was only one egg, with bluish-gray ground color, spotted thinly with brown. It measured 95.1 by 63.1 mm. The incubating crane walked away from the nest as we approached and we did not see her again.

The second nest was only a few hundred feet from the first, built up into a mound of dead maiden cane in a thick stand of the same plant. This crane also walked away, then flew to join her mate and they went over three times as we examined the nest. The water was about two feet deep and the nest about 10 cm. above it, hollowed slightly in the center. It measured 96 by 112 cm. across and contained two eggs. These eggs were more buffy than those in the previous nest. They also had few spots. They measured, 96.6 by 58.0 and 97.3 by 56.7 mm.

The only birds we observed were in pairs or alone, seven in all during our stay in the marshy area and all were in the Seagrove Lake area.  
- Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, 819 North Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan.  
April 10, 1960.

**BROAD-WINGED HAWK NESTING IN IRWIN COUNTY.**—The Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) has been noted erratically during the spring and summer for the past several years in the Osierfield, Georgia area and I have suspected that it nested here. A pair of the birds was first noted on April 1 of this year. I had heard their calls between this date and May 17 but was not able to pin down any small area that they were using until the latter date. From my field notes on May 17 comes the following: Broad-winged Hawk nest located this morning at 10:00 AM approximately three miles SSW of Osierfield, Irwin County, Georgia. The nesting tree, a black gum, was located in a boggy and wet creek run and the nest was about 55 feet above the ground. I had seen and heard the adults as they soared near the area a few days ago. Many squirrel nests were in black gums adjacent to the nesting tree. I had stood below the nest tree for several minutes and then walked on for a view with binoculars from a different angle. At this time I noted the adult's tail protruding over the edge of the nest. The wide bands on the tail were easily seen. As I was watching through the glasses the adult flushed and quietly flew away without calling. The bird returned in five minutes and perched in top of a slash pine approximately 100 yards away. The bird was flushed from this perch by a Kingbird and a male Red-winged Blackbird and began soaring and whistling. The nesting site appears to be an abandoned squirrel nest and is approximately two feet high and two feet across. The nest was not observed again until May 23 when



when I went to it with intentions of climbing the tree. From the field notes on that date: At 9:00 AM on this date I stripped poison ivy vines from the nesting tree (a black gum of about 16 inches diameter). The vines were growing to a height of about 25 feet. The nest is approximately 55 feet from the ground in a crotch of the main branch and the nest under the occupied one is resting on a bunch of mistletoe. The nest containing eggs is constructed of black gum twigs for the base and the nest cavity or depression itself has smaller twigs. The two eggs, one a dingy brownish white and the other a fairly light white with fine pin stripes on the large end are lying in pine bark (slash) and dried leaves of the black gum tree. Some of the gum leaves are still green, indicating possibly that the parent continues to add material to the nest. The base of the nest contains a few feathers some of which did not come from the parents. Inside, the nest is probably 10 to 12 inches across. One poison ivy twig is in the nest. I could not see the adult incubating but the bird did fly away silently as I pitched a rope towards the bottom limb of the nest tree. Neither adult was seen after this for over an hour. The adults began calling near the nest site again during the last week of June. Milton Hopkins, Jr., Osierfield, Georgia, July 3, 1960.

**COWBIRDS BREEDING IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA.**—Adult Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), though never more than five together, were seen by the writer in six locations in Muscogee County, Georgia from April 5 through July 17, 1959. On August 3 at the confluence of Standing Boy Creek with the Chattahoochee River I saw a young Cowbird being fed by a Prairie Warbler. The young bird was able to fly about fifty feet to the opposite bank of the creek. On August 13 I also saw a young Cowbird, this time feeding himself. This individual was in a group of birds feasting on a bank of pasture grass. On August 16 I saw a third young Cowbird catching insects near a pet horse in the yard of Mr. Jack Sealy.

It was interesting to note that adult birds were seen more often about horses than about cows. Mr. Sealy states that he saw one alight on the hip of one of his horses. L. A. WELLS, *Green Island Hills, Route 1, Columbus, Georgia, August 18, 1959.*

### FROM THE FIELD

Louis Fink reports the finding of a Florida Gallinule on an Atlanta street on April 25. M. Alma Cooke observed the Blackburnian Warbler on Colaparchee Creek in Bibb County on March 28. L. A. Wells of Colum-

bus was quite active during the winter season in the field and the records below are but a few of the many interesting and worthwhile ones that he has reported. Bald Eagle, one near Huston Lakes on February 20, White-breasted Nuthatch, two on January 1 and five on January 23, Red-breasted Nuthatch first noted in November of 1959 and last recorded April 9 at a feeder in Mrs. Florence Lynn's yard. Both of these nuthatch records were the first for that local area. His first winter record for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a group of five on January 10 and then three on February 7. He also reports the Pine Siskin, Fox Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow in December.

Milton Hopkins noted two Killdeer at the airport in Dougherty County near Albany on June 9 but has not been able to find them in the Fitzgerald area in summer. The King Rail is again nesting in the Osierfield, Irwin County area.

### NEWS AND COMMENTS

Ivan Tomkins reports printing difficulties with the POCKET LIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS but indicates that it will probably be available in late summer or early fall and that orders will be filled at that time.

D. M. Scott, Dept. of Zoology, The Univ. of Western Ontario, London, Canada would appreciate information on the nesting of the Cardinal in Georgia. He is particularly interested in the relation between the time of first nesting and the appearance of leaves on deciduous shrubs.

**BACK NUMBERS OF THE ORIOLE AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER.**—Ralph Ramsey, 679 Amsterdam Ave., N. E., Atlanta 6, Georgia, has indicated that all back numbers of The Oriole are available except the following out-of-print issues:

Vol. V No. 3—September 1940

Vol. VI No. 2—June 1941

Vol. XII No. 4—October 1947

These out-of-print numbers will be reprinted as funds become available.

Libraries and others who may wish to obtain a complete set of The Oriole should be encouraged to buy a set now while most of the numbers are still available. Anyone who buys a set now will be sent the out-of-print numbers as soon as they are reprinted. The price of the complete set, Vol.



I to Vol. XXIV, is \$55.00. The majority of the back numbers of The Oriole sell for 50 cents each, however, there are several which sell for \$1.00 and a few for 25 cents each.

The following regional papers are also available: Birds of Athens, by Thomas Burleigh, 50 cents and The Birdlife of the Savannah River Delta, Gaviiformes through Charadriiformes by Ivan R. Tomkins, \$1.50.

### RECENT LITERATURE

A KEY TO FLORIDA BIRDS. - by Henry M. Stevenson. 1959 The Peninsular Publishing Co., P. O. Box 549, Tallahassee, Florida, 158 pp. \$3.00

As the title notes this publication is a "key" in the true sense of the word. However, it is not a field key as the author states but rather is intended "as a means of establishing the identity of museum skins or freshly killed birds."

Some of the characters used for orders and families are not fully applicable throughout their ranges. The species included are those for which there are at least two satisfactory records in Florida.

The book contains a preface which includes an explanation of key workings, a table of contents, a key to orders and families, a key to species, a section devoted to descriptions and status of Florida birds, a section on collecting and preserving birds, and a glossary with one plate showing an outline of a typical passerine bird with external features named. There is also an index to orders, families, and common names of species.

The key has a lot of good information for Georgia birders and is quite complete for a book of its size. Its descriptions should be applicable to nearly all species occurring in South Georgia and for the rest of the state in most cases.

Herbert L. Stoddard has assisted with advice on the section, "Preparation of Bird Skins".

Although I have not gone completely through the book the keys to species have held up well on the identification of the few skins that I have on hand. Persons using a key such as this one should read each opposing statement carefully, without preconceived guesses as to what he has in hand, then follow directions to the next description without skipping any statement for as a rule each statement eliminates species that may be closely similar to the bird in question.

The book is paper bound with plastic binders which do not function too well in the copy that I have used. Milton Hopkins, Jr.