

THE ORIOLE

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THE ORIOLE

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Katherine Weaver, Box 452, Milledgeville, Georgia

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GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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1959-1960 WINTER RECORDS IN GEORGIA OF THE EVENING GROSBKAK

By Louis C. Fink

Atlanta Bird Club

The presence of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) in Georgia during the winter of 1959-1960 in large numbers was a phenomenon widely observed. The bird is easily identified and came readily to back-yard feeders, so that beginning students as well as experienced ornithologists had ample opportunity for study.

The bird came in larger numbers than ever before, with flocks of 50 to 100 not uncommon. Its stay was longer, with observations running from the middle of December to the second week of May. It was widely distributed, with records from Augusta, West Point, Dalton, Milledgeville and Atlanta. Perhaps because there are more observers in Atlanta, that city produced many records from widely scattered areas.

This is an attempt to consolidate the records, in the hope that they will be of interest to all who saw the grosbeak and a base point for observations in future years.

Before all the records are catalogued, it might be worth-while to make some mention of the progress of the bird southward during this century. It breeds, of course, in northwest Canada and northern Michigan. From there it wanders erratically in the winter through the northern tier of States. In 1911, it was first recorded in New York City, and the 1916 migration through New England attracted much attention. (*Birds of America*, edited by T. Gilbert Pearson.)

In his "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," Frank M. Chapman reports the grosbeak as a casual winter visitant in the Washington, D.C. area, giving the dates of April 3 to May 26 for the year 1922.

Thomas D. Burleigh ("Georgia Birds") says the Evening Grosbeak was unrecorded in Georgia until 1955; when small flocks were seen as far south as Macon. Gordon L. Hight, Jr. saw a flock of five on the campus of Berry Schools at Rome on February 18, and the latest records for the

State at that time were furnished by David W. Johnson - two birds on the campus of Mercer University at Macon on April 7. In Atlanta, Mrs. Sam Anderson reported the grosbeak on February 5, 1955, and Marene Snow on April 4, 1955. (William W. Griffin and Richard A. Parks, "Occurrence Extremes of Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia, Region.")

The *Bulletin* of the Atlanta Bird Club reported observations of the bird in January of 1958 without any details, and in March of 1958 Mrs. R. L. Parsons saw the bird on Moore's Mill Road, Atlanta.

Some indication of how widespread and numerous the Evening Grosbeaks were in Georgia during the winter of 1959-1960 may be gathered from the notes which follow:

AUGUSTA - Five males and nine females or subadults in the picnic area at the Federal Lock and Dam nine miles south of Augusta in Richmond County on March 6. Three males and two females in a yard in the western part of the city on March 30. Seen again in the same yard on April 18. J. Fred Denton.

DALTON - Two males on February 14 at the back porch feeding station of Miss Daisy Hamilton and Mrs. Charles Kreischer. The birds returned on March 1 and were seen daily until April 25 in varying numbers, with a count of eleven birds on many days. There were 25 on March 3, and 27 on April 9 or 10. A single bird was seen on April 23 and 25. The grosbeaks were seen in four or five other sections of Dalton. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Sims, Jr., found a female dead in their yard on April 16, with no apparent injury. Mrs. Hamilton skinned this specimen and has it in her possession. Warren Martin, a Dalton student at Berry Schools in Rome, saw evening grosbeaks eating dogwood berries on the campus in late November or the first week in December. - Mrs. R. E. Hamilton.

MACON - WARNER ROBINS - Approximately 36 birds near Hillsboro in Jasper County on March 5 and again on March 19. - Mrs. T. J. Cater, Jr., Mrs. Mildred Grubbs and Mrs. Edna Smith.

MILLEDGEVILLE - The birds were reported several days before March 15, but on that date positive identification was made. The last record was on April 25. Flocks numbered from 25 to 100 birds, and they were seen in all parts of town. - Katherine Weaver.

WEST POINT - The *Bulletin* of the Chattahoochee Bird Club notes that Mrs. Jim C. Murphey of Fran-Colyn Terrace saw a flock in the second week in March at St. John's Episcopal Church.

CALLAWAY GARDENS - Win Shaughnessy says the grosbeak was not seen to the best of his knowledge.

SAVANNAH - Ivan R. Tomkins reports no records in that area of the State.

ATLANTA - John C. Symmes of 1215 West Garmon Road N. W. first saw the grosbeaks "a week before Christmas." They were in his yard regularly in flocks of 30 to 40, with males predominating, and total numbers of 60 to 70. One female was the last bird seen, on May 7. On April 13 and 16 at this address, Harold Peters (Research Biologist with the National Audubon Society) banded seven females and nine males, using a Japanese mist net to trap the birds at a feeder.

E. C. Gouldman of 3468 Knollwood Drive N. W. watched 16 birds from around January 15, and on April 18 still had six to eight birds feeding.

Mrs. Russell B. Loe, 97 Tuxedo Terrace N. W. had as many as 30, with the last one - a female - leaving on May 15.

Mrs. E. R. Miley, 1714 West Sussex N. E. saw three females and one male on April 5 and for one week thereafter.

Mrs. Murry Shropshire, 1635 Pelham Road N. E., saw two males on April 11 - one day only.

Mrs. Ben Cooper, 841 Glenbrook Drive N. W. saw one male at the feeder on January 10 and seven birds on January 20. The last bird was

S. T. Walz, 4330 Mt. Parran Parkway, first saw the grosbeaks in his yard on January 17. They fed daily and during the heavy snow, the birds fed from a piece of board which Mr. Walz placed atop the snow. There were as many as 40 to 50 birds, gradually tapering down in numbers during April, at which time they gave the impression of being paired off. The last bird was seen on May 10.

Mrs. Ray C. Werner, 758 Wildwood Road N.E., saw two birds at a feeding tray in her yard on Easter Sunday, April 17.

One of the favorite spots in Atlanta to watch the evening grosbeaks was a stretch of Peachtree Creek which borders the Bobby Jones Golf Course, at Woodward Way and North Side Drive. William W. Griffin saw them beginning on February 6 in flocks varying from six to 50, with females or young males predominating in a ratio of six to one over adult males. On February 9, Mrs. J. B. Kilbride saw "hundreds" at this location. a female on May 9.

On February 13, in the same general area, an Atlanta Bird Club field trip led by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Murphy saw a large flock, "perhaps 200," at this location. On February 16, Louis Fink saw two flocks totalling 49 birds, of which only five were adult males.

On March 5, the same observer counted 14 birds, two of them males. The Bird Club went back on March 19 and counted six females and two males. On March 20, Mr. Fink counted seven birds, and thereafter could not find the grosbeak in this area. There is an assumption that the flocks near the Bobby Jones Golf Course, which stayed together until near the end of March, broke up at that time into smaller flocks and moved about the north side of Atlanta.

Richard A. Parks saw 50 to 60 grosbeaks on February 21 at Woodward Way Peachtree Battle Avenue, not far from the golf course. Six were adult males. The following day under adverse weather conditions, Mr. Parks saw between 75 and 100 birds across Peachtree Creek, with at least eight to ten adult males. On February 27, he found only 15 birds, including two adult males.

Miss Orpha Baber found the grosbeaks in a completely different part of the Atlanta area - Jackson Hill Baptist Church in DeKalb County. Miss Baber counted 23 birds.

W. Elbridge Freeborn, a Vice President of H. G. Hastings Seeds Co., had a number of telephone calls describing a bird which could only be the evening grosbeak. One such call described eight grosbeaks at a feeder in the southwest section of Atlanta, far removed from any of the locations described above.

Mrs. H. B. Attaway reported eight grosbeaks at 1000 Boat Rock Road during February. Jimmy Cook saw the bird on February 14 on Cumberland Circle. Miss Baber saw the grosbeaks in still another location, the Druid Hills Golf Course - five males and two females on March 19.

Jack Murphy, 2291 Shenandoah Avenue N.E., first had the grosbeaks in his yard on April 15 - there were seven females and one male. He saw the birds again on May 2 and 7.

FEEDING HABITS

Everyone who had evening grosbeaks in his back yard reported on their liking sunflower seeds. One home-owner in Milledgeville said they ate a pound an hour. They showed no fear and in several cases approached the house rapidly when sunflower seed was put out, even if humans were

close by. Mrs. Hamilton in Dalton says the grosbeaks enjoyed riding a square, swinging feeder, as many as five at a time using the ledge that surrounds the feeder. Several times she saw a female ride the constantly turning feeder for ten or 15 minutes at a time, while several others - male and female - exchanged places during her tenure. She did not eat seed usually, but the changing riders did. In one case, a female grosbeak chased a blue jay from the porch where she was eating. The jay flew off, perched near a male grosbeak and "ja-ayed" loudly. The grosbeak quivered from head to toe, had a moment of calm and then flew off. Mrs. Hamilton says that 15 or 20 grosbeaks were seen to eat a pint of sunflower seeds in about 20 minutes.

In more remote places, the birds were seen eating berries from cedar trees, sugar berry trees, box elders and the buds of red maple and elm. Frequently, the birds were on the ground collecting weed seeds.

Every householder who fed birds regularly told me that they appeared in the morning, usually about ten A.M., and became quite punctual. Almost always, they were gone by one P.M. Mr. Walz reports this was the daily schedule of his birds until April, when they began to feed as late as four or five P.M.

RECOGNITION

The evening grosbeak is so distinctive that no one had any trouble recognizing it as a new bird and locating it immediately in the guide books. Peterson describes its bill as "whitish" and so shows it in his color plate. Burleigh uses the words "yellowish-green," which seems much more descriptive to this observer. When the grosbeak was first noted in the winter, the bill indeed did seem whitish or even gray. However, when Harold Peters banded several birds and I had the opportunity to hold them in my hand, the greenish cast was quite noticeable and distinct. Fay Peters, with a woman's sense of color accuracy, called the bill "char-treuse" - an eminently fair word for the bill of this distinctive, colorful and friendly visitor to Georgia.

Louis C. Fink
1060 Canter Road N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia
June 5, 1960

GENERAL NOTES

LOUISIANA HERON AND WHITE IBIS IN THE ATLANTA AREA.—An extensive area of marsh, mud flats, drainage canals and sloughs has been created on the Chattahoochee River in Fulton and Cobb Counties north of Atlanta by clearing timbered lands and the subsequent flooding due to increasing the height of Bull Sluice Dam. This has resulted in a most favorable habitat for water birds.

In this area an immature Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) has been observed at close range by three observers. It was first seen near dusk on July 17, 1960, by William Dunson. On July 26, 1960, Manilla Land and I observed an immature Tricolored Heron on the edge of a shallow pool near the road. After several minutes of observation, the bird took flight and disappeared down river. The following day, July 27, at approximately the same hour and at the same spot, I saw an immature Tricolored Heron. Using the car as a blind and at times as close as ten feet, the heron was observed for half an hour. During this time it stalked at the edge of the pool, freezing, then darting in for food. Again, on August 6th, 1960, a Tricolored Heron was observed in this same general area by all three of us together, feeding on the edge of a slough with Little Blues and Common Egrets.

Also on July 26, 1960, in this same area, Miss Land and I noted a bird flying and disappearing into a slough behind a dyke on the river. Some thirty minutes later it reappeared, flying directly in front and over our position. Observed with 8 x 40 binoculars, the dark bird with conspicuous white rump and belly, extended neck, and decurved bill, was identified as an immature White Ibis (*Guara alba*). Marene W. Snow, N. Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta, Ga. Aug. 7, 1960.

MIGRATION NOTE ON CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLERS IN MUSCOGEE COUNTY.—Seen from my terrace overlooking Lake Oliver about 10:30 AM Sept 13, 1959, a low overcast suddenly changed into a light rain. Immediately some 25 or 30 birds shot downward, then swung into a wooded area just across a slough to my left. They appeared to have been following the general course of the Chattahoochee River, SSE. Instead of taking a time-consuming, circuitous route to get at these birds, I reasoned that others may have pitched into a peninsular to my right and rear which was quickly accessible. Twelve Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) were found where not a one had been found some five minutes before. These were the first recorded for the season

and another was not found until fifteen days later. 1. They were migrating by day. 2. They were following the course of the waterway. 3. No other migratory birds were found among them.

L. A. Wells,

Rte. 1,

Columbus, Ga.

OBSERVATIONS ON A PAIR OF RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS.—In April, 1944, a pair of red-headed woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) built their nest in a hole in a tall dead tree on Ash Street, Macon, Georgia. This tree was situated in the open on the street side but still was surrounded by three magnolia trees within the yard. A high wind in an electrical storm broke that portion of the dead tree off about eighteen inches above the nesting site. The birds continued to nest there for the next several days following the storm. The following observations were made on this pair of birds after the tree had been cut down by workmen one morning at 9 o'clock. Immediately after the tree fell, first one bird and then the other, occasionally both birds together, visited the former position of the nest. Each flew to the approximate position and height of the nest. Each bird at first made several visits, either separately or together, hovered in the air at the former position of the nest for 2 to 5 seconds and then returned to a magnolia tree 50 feet away. This activity was repeated at frequent intervals, but later, the birds came only at intervals of one half hour or longer. By noon the woodpeckers made their last visit and after that were not seen in the vicinity. These few observations suggest that these birds might possess a kind of spatial sense, externally manifested; as if the distance to-and the height of the nest from the ground had been imprinted on each bird. Comparable behavior has been reported in other species of birds. John and Jean George in "The Private Life of the Birds" (George, Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 4, 1959) cite several such observations for the cardinal, chickadee, indigo bunting, Cooper's hawk, etc. indicating the existence of this spatial sense, well developed in these birds. T. P. Haines Biology Department, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia.

Ed. Note—This "nest homing instinct" or spatial sense has been noted in the behavior of several Yellow-shafted Flickers in Irwin County. During December of 1959 while I was clearing dead Black Gum trees from a pond site several individual Flickers were observed returning to the approximate height and position of their roosting cavities. Their display of this "sense" was accentuated strongly towards nightfall. MNH

HOUSE WRENS NESTING IN HABERSHAM COUNTY.—About five years ago, Mr. B. E. Ivie of Cornelia had a gourd he wanted to store for future use. He placed it on a ledge in a dark corner of an open-sided shed near his house. During the summer, the gourd was discovered by small wrens of a kind new to him, and used as a nest. They returned to the gourd each spring until this year, when Mr. Ivie put up a box-type bird-house on top of a post about six feet from the ground and ten feet from his house. This bird-house is now occupied by a pair of House Wrens, (*Troglodytes aedon*) which are probably rearing their second brood of the year.

Early this spring, Mr. and Mrs. Grady Frye of Clarkesville, seven miles north of Cornelia, bought a nest-box for bluebirds, and hung it from the lowest branch of a dense shade-tree about fifteen feet from their porch. Almost at once, they noticed that the box was occupied by small wrens. Though they have not actually seen young birds, they assume from the actions of the adults that the House Wrens have reared two families this summer.

The above solves the mystery of the singing House wrens I saw and heard, one near Demorest on July 13, 1959, and one in Cornelia less than half a mile from the Ivie house on July 17, 1959. Edward G. Nichols Demorest, Georgia Aug. 10, 1960.

A MIGRATION WAVE OF SPOTTED SANDPIPERS.—The Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), is usually found in this region, singly or in small numbers, at nearly any time of year. It normally frequents the edges of any body of water, either fresh or salt. I have seen a dozen feeding in the edge of the surf on Hiltonhead Island, South Carolina, along with a group of Sanderlings.

On Monday, 18, 1960, I found a loose flock of at least one hundred, resting on open ground, on McQueen's Island, Chatham County, Georgia. These birds had not been there two days before, and they were not there two days later. All that were seen close enough were in adult plumage. Evidently this was a wave of adult migrants returning south after the nesting season.

It is not uncommon among the Sandpipers for the adults to leave the nesting grounds and migrate before the young birds are sufficiently developed to leave; the young of the year migrating separately by themselves. It may be that many of the birds seen in fall and winter are young birds. Ivan R. Tomkins 1231 East 50th St., Savannah, Georgia 14 August, 1960.

FROM THE FIELD

L. A. Wells again reports the Mississippi Kite from Muscogee County as follows: "The pair of Mississippi Kites again returned to the Jack Sealy place the same date as last year but did not nest there apparently on account of interference by Purple Martins whose gourds have since been removed. They did return later in the season and finally brought one young bird with them to the old perching tree and were seen to feed it there, indicating that the nest was nearby. At least one is still around through yesterday, August 8, which is a day later than my last observation in 1959." The Evening Grosbeak was noted from April 11 to April 23rd. Mr. Wells also noted Black-and-White Warblers on July 3, Yellow Warblers on August 2, Solitary Sandpiper on August 3, and a Least Sandpiper on August 6. An Ovenbird was seen by Mrs. Florence Lynn on July 29. Grace M. Whiteman noted Purple Finches from January 25 to April 17 at West Point, one flock numbering 25. She first saw Evening Grosbeaks on March 12 when 25 were noted. They were last recorded on April 16. The Cerulean Warbler was first recorded at West Point on April 20 and 21st when two birds were seen. A Purple Gallinule was found on a downtown street on April 25 and the bird lived in captivity until August 10.

Mrs. Donald R. Ambrosen furnished the following additional information concerning the Evening Grosbeak in Georgia: "One flock remained in Hillsboro, Georgia this past winter. This flock was first seen by me in January but was apparently there before I first saw them, and they remained until the middle of April. There were in excess of 100 birds in this wintering flock. A small flock was seen at the Rock Eagle 4-H Camp near Eatonton, Georgia on March 17. Frank Fitch stated they had been there all winter and the winter before." M. Alma Cooke reports Mississippi Kites from Bibb, Crawford, and Taylor Counties during the spring and summer.

NEWS AND COMMENTS

Announcement of Fall Meeting—The fall meeting of the G. O. S. will be held at Statesboro, Georgia on October 14, 15, 16, 1960. Members are requested to register at Bryant's Motel as soon as possible after arrival.

Audubon Screen Tours come to Atlanta, starting Saturday, October 8th, at O'Keefe High School at 8:15 P. M. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. will show films of coastal Carolina at the first tour.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE ORIOLE AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER.—

Ralph Ramsey, 814 Drewry St., N. E. Atlanta 6, Georgia has indicated that all back numbers of The Orioles 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. 1 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

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SECOND SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The forty-second semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society was held in conjunction with the forty-first annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society in Gatlinburg, Tenn. on May 5-8, 1960. The meeting was sponsored by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Knoxville Chapter, with headquarters at the Mountain View Hotel. All regular sessions were held in the Huff House, adjoining the Hotel.

Registration for the Wilson Society meeting was handled by Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Monroe and began at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. A separate registration for G. O. S. was not held.

Field trips were held at 6:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday mornings at Park Headquarters and on Sunday morning at Andrews Bald, Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome.

Twenty-eight papers were presented at the four papers sessions by outstanding ornithologists from this country and Canada. Taking part

in the program were the following G. O. S. members and Georgians: David W. Johnston, Clyde E. Connell, Eugene P. Odum, Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., Lawrence H. Walkinshaw, Frederick V. Hebard, Herbert W. Kale, II, Thomas A. Imhoff and Arthur Stupka.

The G. O. S. Luncheon, arranged by Vice-President Hedvig Cater, was held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday in a private dining room at the Hotel with thirty-one members present.

The business meeting followed the luncheon and was opened by President Mary Lou Cypert, who appointed Alma Cooke to act as Secretary in the absence of Secretary Frank Fitch. The minutes of the past meeting published in The Oriole were approved. Katherine Weaver read the Treasurer's report, which was approved as read.

President Cypert called for reports from the Regional Vice-Presidents. Those present made short reports. Mrs. Oliver reported that the missing report from the Atlanta region was a good one.

President Cypert announced that the GEORGIA BIRDS pocket check list prepared by Ivan R. Tomkins would be available following the meeting for fifty cents per copy. J. Fred Denton reported that he had talked with Mr. Tomkins earlier in the week and that he expressed his regrets at not being able to attend the meeting but hoped that the check list would arrive in time for distribution.

The President reported that membership dues in the Georgia Sportmen's Federation, Georgia Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation for the G. O. S. would be \$15.00 per year. A motion was made that discussion of the matter be tabled until the fall meeting. The motion was passed.

Members of the committee on records storage were not present to make a report.

Louise Nunnally reported that a newsletter for the membership would be mailed with the next issue of the Oriole.

The President reported that invitations had been received to have the Fall, 1960 meeting in Statesboro and the Spring, 1961 meeting in Athens. The membership voted to accept these invitations.

Winslow Shaughnessy, Naturalist at Ida Cason Calloway Gardens, was asked to make a report on his work. He told of their expansion program and that he thought by Fall, 1961 they would be in position to extend an invitation to meet there.

Mrs. Oliver reported seeing numerous dead hawks on display along the road side in southern Georgia recently. Shaughnessy reported a similar

incident in the western part of the state. The slaughter of hawks in Georgia was deplored. President Cypert appointed the following to serve on a committee for hawk protection: Chairman, Ben Maulsby, Mrs. Oliver and Harold Peters. With the hope that G. O. S. might be instrumental in getting legislation passed for the protection of hawks and owls the business meeting adjourned.

The fourth papers session at the Huff House followed. "Songs of the White-throated Sparrow" by Borror and Gunn an excellent presentation. In the discussion period that followed Katherine Weaver gave an interesting explanation of an interpretation of one variation of the song.

The annual dinner of the Wilson Ornithological Society was held at the Hotel dining room Staurday evening at 7:00 p.m. with an address by President Lawrence H. Walkinshaw.

Following the dinner a color movie, "Four Seasons at Hawk Mountain" was presented by Maurice Broun.

The meeting ended following the Sunday morning field trips.

M. Alma Cooke
Acting Secretary

RECENT LITERATURE

The Trumpeter Swan-by Winston E. Banko. 1960 North American Fauna, number 63, Published by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Supt. of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 214pp \$1.00.

This number of the North American Fauna series is as complete a status evaluation, past and present, of the Trumpeter Swan that has been compiled.

The book is divided into sections concerning Distribution and Status, Habitats, Life Cycle, Population, Management, and includes a bibliography with titles dating to 1714.

During the early 1800's the Trumpeter was fairly well distributed over the North American continent. Its bones have been found in modern Pleistocene deposits in Florida, Ohio, and Oregon to mention but a few regions of this country. Records of the Hudson Bay Company indicate that thousands of swan skins were bought and shipped from the Canadian provinces.

By 1912 Edward Howe Forbush had this to say concerning its

status. "The trumpeter has succumbed to incessant persecution in all parts of its range, and its total extinction is now only a matter of years . . . the large size of this bird and its conspicuousness have served, as in the case of the whooping crane, to make it a shining mark, and the trumpeters that were once heard over the breadth of a great continent, as the long converging lines drove on from zone to zone, will soon be heard no more."

The best recent estimates indicate that we probably have a little over 1500 birds of this species still remaining on the continent with approximately 500 of these being in the tri-state area of southwestern Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

In the population dynamics section of this book the author states that the U. S. population of the Trumpeter increased at a constant rate of about ten percent annually from 1935 to 1955 at which time there was a definite leveling off indicating that the maximum level that the environment would support had probably been reached. He also states that the bird should no longer be considered an endangered species.

The greater part of the U. S. population is centered in and around the Red Rocks Lakes Refuge in southwestern Montana with a smaller number being found in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. In this general area there occur many warm flowing springs which provide open water during severe winter months.

The life cycle of this great bird is treated in a thorough and interesting manner. The enthusiasm of the author in telling of a successful management story can be sensed by the reader throughout the text in passages such as follow: "It is difficult to imagine a more beautiful and stirring sight in the whole waterfowl kingdom than a typically small flight of trumpeter swans as they cleave the air against a wilderness setting of dark conifers and the rugged Rocky Mountains. With the regular beat of their powerful wings and long necks undulating slightly from the exertion of each thrust, sometimes calling in flight but more often silent, they usually pass directly to their destination over the shortest route. If they chance to pass close to the observer, the clatter of their great flight quills can be heard distinctly above the usual rushing sound of moving air."

A 1958 census of Whistling Swans in this country indicated that we probably have over 78,000 individuals of this smaller species remaining. While the Trumpeter will probably never again reach comparable numbers if no further encroachment is made on their remaining breeding

and wintering grounds it is fairly safe to assume that we will be fortunate enough to keep this great bird with us. Milton Hopkins, Jr.

EDITORIAL

Are we as members of the Georgia Ornithological Society taking any steps to assure a continued interest and study of Georgia birds? The cliches "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" and "experience is the best teacher" are old but still appropriate. We are not making enough effort in the line of instilling interest in birds in our younger generation.

Although I have no statistics to support my view it seems that the greater percentage of our membership that is now active developed their interest early in life and were then helped on by older students of ornithology.

We need to encourage our younger members to take an active interest in our doings and to participate in our meetings. This will require an individual to individual relationship and can not be furthered by committee appointment. Would it be feasible to award expense paid trips to a handful of selected students to some of our semi-annual meetings? I personally have never known of a youngster truly interested in the out-of-doors who became a delinquent. A love of nature and an intelligent study of its inhabitants seems to impart a quality and understanding that is absent from many persons character.

We as a society have few problems. Quite often the subject comes up at our meetings as to whether we should be a scientific or lay group. Through the years this has seemed to solve itself. We need to place more emphasis on accuracy and truthfulness in our observations and then to record these facts in a useful and readable manner. Scientific knowledge is gained step-by-step. We already have a volume on Georgia birds that will stand for years to come. Let all of us strive to continue adding to this knowledge by contributing to The Oriole.