

# THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology; Official Organ of the  
Georgia Ornithological Society



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No. 3



# THE ORIOLE

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## GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# THE ORIOLE

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## BARN SWALLOWS ALONG THE GEORGIA COAST IN EARLY SUMMER

BY GEORGE W. SCIPLE

Barn swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) are known in Georgia as common spring and fall transients, with nesting having been reported by Rossignol prior to 1904 on Wassaw Island (Burleigh, 1958). Birds of this species are said to occur regularly during the nesting season at Rome, Georgia, (Jones, 1947), but no nesting was reported. Norris is recorded (Greene, *et al*, 1945) as having seen one bird of this species at St. Simons Island on June 10, 1942. No recent nesting is documented along the Georgia coast. The bird is known, however, to nest on islands along the Gulf coast of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. (Burleigh, *loc. cit.*).

On June 22, 1962, at about 7:30 A.M., two birds of this species were observed in flight at Meridian, Georgia by the writer and Ivan R. Tomkins. Both birds were later observed to be sitting together on the electric wires running to the dockhouse on Mr. R. J. Reynold's wharf at Meridian. The house had one pane of a window missing on a locked storeroom near the bird's resting point on the wires, but during a 15-20 minute period neither bird made any attempt to enter the window. The interior of the storeroom could not be examined by the observers. Both birds finally flew off together and disappeared.

On the following day, June 23, a single barn swallow was seen coursing along the Sapelo Island Beach near the inlet which divides Sapelo from Cabretta Island. No other birds of this species were present.

Another observation of a single barn swallow was made at the south tip of Tybee Island on 25 June at about 4 P.M. This was a bird flying about and feeding over the salt water of Tybee Creek. Three days later a single bird was seen at the mouth of Lazaretto Creek where it empties into the south channel of the Savannah River.



It seems illogical that a single observer, rather seldom in the field, should see several of these birds in so short a period of time and in different locations, if there were not a considerable number present in the coastal area during the period covered by the observations. Teal (Teal, 1959) lists no very late spring nor early summer records. Teal's article apparently includes records from more than one competent observer and covers a period of three and one-half years. He specifically mentions multiple observations made in types of habitat where barn swallows might have been seen in early summer had they been present. One can only assume that these birds were at most very rarely present during the early summer periods covered by his report, and were probably absent.

Ivan Tomkins had been in the field almost daily during the last several years primarily in the Savannah and Tybee Island areas, but also to a lesser extent along the coast south of Savannah. He has seen no barn swallows during early summer until the two birds described above. (Tomkins, 1962). This suggests, then, that these swallows may have been present in small numbers along the Georgia coast during late June of 1962, but may not have been in recent earlier years.

The presence of individuals of this species during the breeding season in an area where they formerly nested may indicate (and probably does indicate) only that several non-breeding individuals happened to be in, or pass through, the region. It is possible, however, that they may again breed on the offshore islands, after not being known to do so in more than 50 years. Observers in the coastal area should be aware of this possibility, and make specific search for these birds and their nests during the breeding season. *P.O. Box 279, Savannah Beach, Georgia, Sept. 18, 1962*

## THE STARLING IN ATLANTA

BY GEORGE A. DORSEY

Since there seems to be some scarcity of published information on the early appearance of the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the Atlanta Region, I should like to present my records of this species at this late time. The first date on which the Starling was seen in Atlanta was September 26, 1927, when I saw two birds sitting in the electric wires on Lee Street, near the intersection of Rose Circle, just south of McCall's Crossing. I notified Mr. Earle R. Greene of the presence of these birds, but they were not in evidence when he visited the site. He found them the next day, and at my request, he reported the occurrence in *The Auk* (45:101). From this time on I saw from one to five Starlings at this place almost every day until November 12, 1927, when I terminated the observations.

On the afternoon of November 14, 1927, near the junction of Lucile Avenue and Gordon Street, in the Battle Hill section of Atlanta, I saw 28 Starlings feeding in a Black Gum tree that had a large yield of fruit. Shortly later, in the same vicinity, I saw a flight of several groups of Starlings, all going in the same general direction, as though toward a roost (it was late afternoon), totaling about 50 birds, making about 75 individuals in all for this vicinity on this date. Apparently the Starling must have been present in this part of Atlanta in some numbers long before we first found their presence.

On March 22, 1928, on Peters Street near Atlanta University I saw a pair of Starlings, with one of the birds carrying nesting material into a woodpecker hole in an electric utility pole. This is a somewhat inadequate record of breeding activity for the species in Atlanta. It was not long before the bird began to spread somewhat. On February 8, 1928, Waldemar T. Ziegler and I saw a flock of more than 30 Starlings in the country a few miles south of College Park, Ga. However, in the winter of 1928-29 we did not see any Starlings with the large flock of Grackles and other blackbirds which were common in the open country to the east of College Park. On March 18, 1929, I observed a Starling in song in College Park, and on March 23, 1929, Ziegler and I saw a pair carrying nesting material into a hole in a large oak in private grounds in College Park. The pair was seen at this nesting site several times thereafter, but I could not examine the nest. As every observer knows, the Starling has become one of Atlanta's most common birds by now.—Darlington School, Rome, Ga., August 27, 1962.



## GENERAL NOTES

**EARLY DATES ON TWO HERONS IN WHITFIELD COUNTY.**—A Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) was shot and injured by W. I. (Ike) Holmes in a broom sedge field five miles south of Dalton, Whitfield County on February 19, 1962. Mr. Holmes stated that he thought it was a hawk and that another bird of the same species was perched in a pine holding something "the size of a Bobwhite" in its feet. After the heron on the ground was shot, the other bird flew away still clutching the object in its feet. The injured heron remained alive at Mr. Holmes' home but refused to eat. He gave it to me on February 21 and I was also unsuccessful at feeding it. The bird died on February 22 and was sent to the University of Georgia science museum in Athens. Black-crowned Night Herons had previously been seen in this area as early as March 24 (1951) and as late as October 22 (1950).

A Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) was captured alive on April 3, 1962 by three schoolboys north of the Dalton Country Club near the Cleveland highway. Roger and Steven Farmer and Ronnie Callahan saw it standing on a log over a small pool of water where a ditch enters the golf course at the intersection of Beulah Drive and the Cleveland highway. As the three boys approached the bird it left the log and disappeared into a patch of weeds. On flushing it the boys watched it go into the pool and they believed that it swam two or three yards, the water there being about two feet deep. The boys brought the bird to me and it was examined. With greenish-black crown, back, and tail it was presumed to be a male. Its wingspread was 16 inches and the total length was 15 inches. When the boys released the bittern at the pool on the same evening, it ran into tall, thick grass and reappeared to climb three or four feet up into the branches of a small bare tree by the pool. The boys and I saw it clamber from this spot to a higher limb. Next morning the boys observed it at the same spot. It was not seen after this date.

The earliest previously recorded date for this species in the Dalton area was May 27, 1958.—MRS. R. E. HAMILTON, 704 Greenwood Drive, Dalton, Georgia, September 8, 1962.

**BLACK TERN IN WHITFIELD COUNTY.**—A Black Tern (*Chidonias niger*) was killed on July 13, 1961 at the federal fish hatchery at Cohutta in Whitfield County. A hatchery employee shot it in belief that it might

harm the fish. The next day George Chastain saw two more birds of the same species over the hatchery. On July 16 he again observed two terns. The species, though not common in this area, has been seen as early as July 15 (1950) and as late as September 5, (1943).—MRS. R. E. HAMILTON, 704 Greenwood Drive, Dalton, Georgia, Sept. 8, 1962.

**CATTLE EGRET AND LOUISIANA HERON FOUND NESTING AT OKEFENOKEE.**—The cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) was found nesting on Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in 1962. Mr. Henry Holt had told me of a large concentration of herons which had been occupying a tree island only about a quarter of a mile from the boat trail in Chesser Prairie. On July 31 he and I poled to within good viewing distance of the island and was pleased to find that it was the site of a heron rookery which was occupied principally by cattle egrets.

At the time of our visit, most of the young birds were out of the nest but were unable or reluctant to fly so we did not approach closer than within about 50 yards of them for fear of alarming them. There were a few adult cattle egrets to be seen and an estimated 200 immature birds. We also saw four immature Louisiana herons (*Hydranassa tricolor*) and several fledging anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*).

I returned to the rookery August 15 and found that all the egrets had left. There were approximately 150 nests.

The occurrence of the cattle egret in Okefenokee Swamp during the past two years is a sample of the explosive increase in this species. Fred Hebard and I made the first reported observation of the cattle egret in Okefenokee April 4, 1960. This was a lone bird, probably a wandering transient. In the spring of 1961 about 30 of these birds were found using a pasture between Folkston, Georgia and the swamp. This year cattle egrets were common in the pastures throughout Charlton County. The Chesser Prairie rookery is probably the chief if not the only nesting place of these birds in this vicinity.

The occurrence of young Louisiana herons at the rookery is also interesting. Burleigh had no reports of this species nesting in the interior of Georgia in *Georgia Birds*.—EUGENE CYPERT, *Wildlife Biologist, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, August 24, 1962.*

**CATTLE EGRETS IN BIBB AND PEACH COUNTIES.**—On the afternoon of April 15, 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cater, Jr. had seen a group of 24 white



birds feeding on the ground amongst the cows in a pasture east of Cochran Field in Bibb County. They were all about the size of Little Blue Herons and all appeared white. The Caters alerted me to be looking for Cattle Egrets.

Two days later, April 17, about 4:30 P.M. the writer saw a flock of 15 feeding near a wet weather pond in Peach County just east of Fort Valley, Ga. By the time the Caters arrived the birds had shifted to another pond just across a dirt road. We were able to come so close that binoculars were not necessary to see the buff feathers on head and back. They were indeed Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) and possibly part of the same flock seen near Cochran Field. Later, unconfirmed reports led us to believe that this flock may have been in the vicinity of Cochran Field for three weeks prior to this observation. M. ALMA COOKE, *Butler, Ga., July 4, 1962.*

Robert Downing of Warwick, Ga., working for the State Game and Fish Commission, reported to us that he had seen Cattle Egrets near Albany, Ga. in May 1962 but did not record the specific date.—HEDVIG S. CATER, 315 *Davis Drive North, Warner Robins, Ga., July 4, 1962.*

**COMMON GOLDENEYE IN BIBB COUNTY.**—It was about 4:00 P.M. on March 11, 1962 and the sky was overcast when we stopped at Goodall's Mill Pond in Bibb County south of Macon. With 7x50 binoculars I could recognize 2 male and 1 female Ring-necked Ducks, 1 pair Lesser Scaup, and 1 pair Redheads although they were at the far side of the lake and about 200 yards distant.

There were two other ducks which swam together. The appearance of the side was unusual to me. I could make out a wide white horizontal band with black cross-markings on it. When they flew a short distance a large white area was noted on the wings. I thought they might be Goldeneyes so checked the markings through a 25 power telescope and noted the same black cross-markings on the white horizontal stripe from a side view. The rest of the side appeared dull. There was no white spot on the head as in the male Goldeneye but the head was a dull brown color, not a rusty brown like the head of the male Redhead with which I compared it.

When one of the ducks stretched its neck I could see a white neck or white band on the neck which contrasted sharply with the dark head.

Both ducks were the same size and patterned alike. I felt reasonably sure they were female Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*).

There has been one other observation of this species in Bibb County, that of David W. Johnston's on February 2, 1958.—HEDVIG S. CATER, 315 *Davis Drive North, Warner Robins, Ga., July 4, 1962.*

**GOLDEN PLOVERS IN PEACH COUNTY.**—Miss Alma Cooke had been watching a wet weather pond at Byron in Peach County every day for ducks. On March 15, 1962 she noted a great many shore birds scattered along the shallow edges and believed this was the first day they had been there. She recognized Pectoral Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, and at least two Lesser Yellowlegs. Later in the day we counted 30 Pectoral Sandpipers and noted the Least Sandpipers along with 12 American Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica*). They were scattered amongst the other shore birds feeding in the damp area along the shore line.

At a distance they appeared quite light or gray. When closely observed the brownish color of the species was apparent. It was late afternoon and while we were still there the plovers took off in a group and left the pond. I again counted 12 in flight. The other shore birds remained.

The next morning we could not find the plovers although the other sandpipers were there. The following day, however, Mrs. Mildred Grubbs, Mr. Cater, and I again counted 12 Golden Plovers. The breasts were finely streaked with the exception of two which had black spots beginning to show on the breast and belly; the spots were larger on one bird than on the other. These birds were also darker on the back and top of head with more brown and with "golden" highlights. The eye stripe was more sharply defined. These birds were evidently beginning to get their breeding plumage. It is interesting to note here that a Golden Plover taken in Peach County April 8, 1961 was in full winter plumage like the majority of these. When the plovers flew a short distance it was noted that the back, wings, and tail were all brownish colored. There was no wing pattern or white rump. We also noted that one of the plovers hopped about having only one leg.

On the morning of March 18 Miss Cooke counted 25 Golden Plovers. In the afternoon I counted 22 with certainty that I was not repeating any individuals. The pond was evaporating, leaving more mud flats and there seemed to be more shore birds than on the first day. When we arrived this



day we stayed in the car and observed one plover that came within 30 feet. Miss Cooke had observed one as close as 20 feet. We both looked for the presence of a hind toe but could not detect any. Water Pipits also fed on the mud flats.

On March 20 we counted 22 plovers. The Pectoral Sandpipers were more numerous and there were three Lesser Yellowlegs.

On March 23 Professor T. P. Haines and Dr. Doris Raymond of Mercer University accompanied me to the area. The plovers were still present. On the morning of March 24 Mrs. Grubbs and the Caters again observed them.

March 25 Miss Cooke found Pectoral and Least Sandpipers as well as Common Snipe but found no Golden Plovers. The next day she found no shore birds. The water was rapidly evaporating and soaking into the ground.—HEDVIG S. CATER, 315 Davis Drive North, Warner Robins, Ga., July 4, 1962.

#### LATE DATE FOR RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH IN ATLANTA AREA.—

William Griffin and Richard Parks ("Occurrence Extremes of Birds of the Atlanta, Georgia Region") describe the red-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) as an uncommon winter resident, with the latest spring date given as March 26, 1944. Burleigh ("Georgia Birds") found it as late as April 23 at Athens. Mrs. Stanley S. Will, 3013 Majestic Circle, Avondale Estates, Georgia has sent me the following record of the red-breasted nuthatch at her feeder:

February 17, 1962—one bird eating suet and sunflower seed, preferring the seed.

April 3—While the bird was seen daily in the meantime, on this date it was counted at the feeder 19 times.

April 16—two birds studied carefully and compared with the Fuertes plates. Mrs. Will believes one was a female, and one a male.

April 23 through 27, 1962—bird was seen at close range through binoculars at least twice a day. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hess of Meridian, Mississippi, confirmed the identification. The bird was not seen after April 27.—LOUIS C. FINK, 688 North Parkwood Road, Decatur, Georgia. July 15, 1962

**CORMORANT IN ATLANTA.**—On June 14, 1962, W. Elbridge Freeborn of the Atlanta Bird Club called to report a large black bird at East Lake, which is a small pond on a golf course where many rarities have been discovered in years past. His daughter, Kate, said the bird had been there for three days. At eight A.M. I saw the bird sitting on a wooden float in the center of the lake. After 15 minutes of sunning and preening, it dived into the water and swam away.

The breast of the bird was whitish and suggested that it might be an immature northern double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), although Roger Tory Peterson warns that older birds with worn feathers may exhibit this paleness. There appears to be no other spring or summer record for the cormorant in Atlanta, and the last record given by Griffin and Parks in their "Occurrence Extremes" for the city was October 27, 1945.

Mr. Freeborn spoke to the club manager at East Lake, who promised to protect the bird. (Grounds-keepers had told me they intended to shoot it because it ate fish!) The bird was observed regularly until ten A.M. on June 22 by club members. It disappeared at that hour. The bird was photographed by Tim Armstrong and others. LOUIS C. FINK, 688 North Parkwood Road, Decatur, Georgia. July 15, 1962

#### BREEDING DATA FROM LITTLE OCMULGEE STATE PARK.—

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea violacea*)—I have observed single Yellow-crowned Night Herons twice during the past several summers around the lake at Little Ocmulgee State Park but have not previously suspected nesting activity. On June 22, 1962, I observed a Yellow-crowned Night Heron flying into the swamp at one end of the lake. I followed by boat the bird's general direction of flight and found a nest. The nest, about 12 feet above the water was in a Water Ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) adjacent to a channel through a swamp. It was not in the vicinity of any other nesting herons. I could see pink young in the nest but could not tell how many. On June 24, when the nest was next visited three young could be seen standing in the nest. The nest was again visited on July 14, when two of the young birds, brown and white by then were seen standing in the nest. On July 22, the two young birds had left the nest but were still in the nesting tree. The adult birds were quite wary except the first time the nest was visited, when an adult bird was approached to within 10 yards, and not yet disturbed enough to fly.



Prairie Warbler (*Dendrocia discolor*)—On April 24, 1962, I found a small nest about 3 feet above the ground in a blue-berry (*Vaccinium*) bush. The site of the nest is where a power line crosses an oak ridge and where the trees and shrubs are kept to a maximum height of about 5 feet. On April 29, the next time the nest was visited, it contained one egg. The next day, April 30, I visited the nest at about 5:50 a.m. and found a Prairie Warbler in it. On May 1, the nest contained three eggs. Several days later the remains of a fourth egg was found under the nest. Incubation had started by May 3, and on May 13, the nest contained three young. The nest was built about 5 feet from a dirt road and I could sit in a car and see the adult bird on the nest. I don't think the three young warblers were successfully raised for on May 15 the nest was empty, and the young birds were no where to be seen. I heard and saw Prairie Warblers in the Powerline cut but did not find another nest.—WILLIAM DOPSON, 708 Graham Street, McRae, Georgia, July 25, 1962

**NOTES FROM WEST POINT, GEORGIA.**—On May 5, 1962 we found a nest of the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) a few miles from the city. On June 3, another nest was found in a different section of Troup County near West Point. It is interesting to note that the second nest was found under a bridge that we had been watching for three years. Under the bridge was a total of five nests. I do not know if this represents five years of nesting, or rather the birds' inability to decide upon a nesting site. During this same day we observed six individuals of this species in an area of about five miles along roadsides.

Also on June 3 we saw our first summer Cowbird in this area, and saw singing Acadian Flycatchers along a stream. This is a second record for the Flycatcher.

On May 11, 1962 a nest of the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) was located on the gravel roof of the Woolworth building in West Point. At the time of first discovery of the nest, actually only a small depression in the loose gravel, one of the adults was flushed from the nest disclosing two eggs. On June 2 we again checked the nest and found one young bird in the shelter of the roof overhang. An adult bird was in attendance and attempted to distract our attention by a mad scramble across the hot roof with one wing dragging behind it. The nesting site was again visited on June 4, and again we saw one adult and one young bird resting quietly in the shade. We were unable to find any

trace of the second egg. The rooftop of the building is at least 30 feet from the ground.—GRACE M. WHITEMAN, 1103 Sixth Ave., West Point, Ga. June 30, 1962.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER NEST IN FLOYD COUNTY.**—On May 30, 1962 I was birding along the stream which flows out of Victory Lake on the Berry School campus. At about 10 A.M. and approximately 300 yards downstream I observed two adult Prothonotary Warblers (*Protonotaria citrea*) feeding young. There were four young in the nest which was located about ten inches down in an eight to nine inch diameter stump which was about 28 inches high. The stump was five feet from the water.

I returned to the nest on June 2 and found it empty. RICHARD H. LUX, 3 Oxford Place, Rome, Georgia, Sept. 5, 1962.



## FROM THE FIELD

Two Sanderlings were observed on Sept. 8, 1962 by Gustav Swanson and Hedvig Cater in Houston County. They were in the company of Killdeer in a borrow pit north of Robins Air Force Base. The only other recorded observation of this species in the Macon area is one by J. Fred Denton on Aug. 31, 1937.

L. A. Wells et al of Columbus were very active in their area during the summer and sent several observations that are worthy of recording as follows: Mississippi Kite on May 18 and June 11 and 24; Woodcock, two on June 30; Purple Gallinule, 1 on July 4 by Ed Hase; Black Tern, 5 on July 25 and several in August; Yellow Warbler, 3 on July 4, by Ed and Donna Hase and Roberta Wells; White-breasted Nuthatch on May 23 and June 3 at Waverly Hall by Mildred Pierce; Worm-eating Warbler, one seen on June 10, 24, and 30th in Harris County.

Phil Cannon reported his observation of eleven immature White Ibis in Rabun County, on the Squee River two miles above Watts Mill and 17 miles north of Clarksville on July 23. This is probably one of the northernmost recorded wanderings of the species in the state.

William Dopson at McRae found Purple Gallinules, Common Gallinules, and the Pied-billed Grebe nesting at Little Ocmulgee State Park. He reported twelve Cattle Egrets near Brunswick on May 12, and fifteen of this species again near Brunswick on June 2. On June 6 he again noted Cattle Egrets in Chatham County. He located a nesting Red-cockaded Woodpecker feeding young in Laura S. Walker State Park near Waycross on June 4. He observed a Common Loon near St. Simons on June 2. William's father, Clark Dopson, noted 18 Mississippi Kites in Telfair County on June 6. These birds were over the same field where William noted 17 birds of this species on June 9, 1961. The Blue-winged Teal was recorded from Telfair County on August 20. In a later communication William tells of observing four Mississippi Kites in a cleared area of the Ocmulgee River swamp near Jacksonville, Georgia on July 16-18. Two of these birds were apparently immatures.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Lt. William W. Rossiter, Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta sent two color prints of a duck that he photographed on Martin's Pond near Valdosta on April 1, 1962. These photographs were sent to Alexander

Wetmore at the Smithsonian Institution and he states that: "The bird unquestionably is the Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*), a species with which I am thoroughly familiar in life." Mr. Ivan R. Tomkins has also examined these prints and compared them with his of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). These photographs should entitle the species to a place on the state list and are the first evidence, to my knowledge, of the species' presence in Georgia. The record is one of a very few for the United States.



## NEWS AND COMMENTS

**FALL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:** The fall meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on October 19, 20, 21, 1962. Headquarters will be at Howard Johnson's Motel which is located on North Druid Hills Road at the N.E. expressway.

This should be one of the best attended meetings in several years with the Atlanta Bird Club assisting with the arrangements. All members should try to attend and bring some folks along who are interested in wildlife and good fellowship.

Louis C. Fink has been very active as our new business manager and has added several new exchanges to the G.O.S. library. Members attending this meeting are urged to bring any duplicates of ornithological publications that they might have and contribute them to the G.O.S. library housed in Athens.

**BACK NUMBERS OF THE ORIOLE AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER.**—Louis C. Fink, 688 N. Parkwood Road, Decatur, 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: The Birdlife of the Savannah River Delta, Gaviiformes through Charadriiformes by Ivan R. Tomkins, \$1.50.

## RECENT LITERATURE

**LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS OF PREY**—by Authur Cleveland Bent, Vols. 1 and 2, Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, N. Y. 14, New York, 1961, \$4.70 per set or \$2.35 per volume.

These volumes were originally published in 1937 and 1938 by the U.S. Government Printing Office as bulletins of the Smithsonian Institution. The present volumes are unabridged republications of the first editions. They contain a total of 907 pages with bibliographies of 923 items and 197 full page plates.

Pages in these paperbound volumes are sewn in signatures on good quality paper, are in legible type and have margins that are ample for cloth rebinding. They cover in full detail the life histories of 114 birds of prey, many of them prepared by observers who spent a lifetime on the study of a single species.

Mr. Bent served as a clearing house for information received from thousands of observers and included all information known on the species covered up until the appearance of these original volumes. An especially interesting discussion, given in much detail, is that of the controversy concerning the American vultures' finding of food. This discussion continues with sight versus smell until today when most agree that the ability to find well concealed food is probably a combination of the two senses.

Dover Publications indicate that they intend to republish all of the Bent series. In view of the cost of originals it would be wise for serious ornithologists to take this opportunity to secure these very good reproductions at this time.

**BIRDS AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES**—by Glover M. Allen, Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, N. Y. 14, New York, 1962, 338pp., \$1.85.

This volume is an unabridged reprint of the 1925 edition. It contains fourteen chapters with the subject matter consisting of the following topics: Some human relations with birds, feathers, bird's colors and their uses, bills, feet, wings, and bones, the food of birds, origin and distribution of birds, some ecological relations of birds, the senses and behavior of birds, eggs and nests, some parasitic habits of birds, flight and song, birds at rest, bird migration, nomenclature and classification, and a section of references and index.



This book would prove to be invaluable to those who occasionally give talks to, say, garden clubs or groups who are interested in bird life on an intermediate level. It has long been recognized as one of the best general introductions to birds. The book is well put together, contains 51 illustrations and is a bargain at this price.

AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; A GUIDE TO WILDLIFE FOOD HABITS—by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim, and Arnold L. Nelson, Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, New York 14, New York, 1962, 500pp, \$2.00.

American Wildlife and Plants is a guide to the food and feeding habits of more than 1000 species of American birds and mammals, together with their distribution in the U.S., their migratory habits and plant-animal relationships.

A dependable presentation of food habits of a particular species depends in large measure on how many individual crops or stomachs were examined. The species accounts break this information into plant and animal foods. The per cent of each is identified and is grouped seasonally. The number of specimens examined is stated and the time of year when collected is also given plus the general section of the country where collected, thereby giving seasonal food habits of many of the migratory species.

One part of the book is devoted to plants that furnish food for wildlife. Their distribution is noted and also the species of birds and mammals that utilize them.

The greater part of the food data has been taken from the Fish and Wildlife Service files and for the most part represents actual crop and stomach examination although visual observations of feeding preferences have been included in some cases.

The information gathered in this volume will prove to be valuable to the wildlife technician, farmer, gardner, and garden clubber and will serve to place the usefulness, economically wise, of many species in the right perspective.—Milton Hopkins, Jr.

Ed. Note—One of the Bent bulletins "Life Histories of North American blackbirds, orioles, tanagers, and allies," is still in print and may be obtained from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. for \$2.25.

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