

THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. XXVIII

MARCH, 1963

No. 1

THE ORIOLE

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OCCURRENCE OF THE GREATER SHEARWATER ALONG THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS OF THE U. S.

BY HERBERT W. KALE II

The Greater Shearwater, *Puffinus gravis*, (also called the Great Shearwater) is an ocean bird that rarely comes close to the shore in the southeastern states. For this reason there is a paucity of records of this species along our southern U. S. coasts. Few specimens are preserved in southern institutions. The majority of the specimens that have been found (usually after a storm) were in an advanced stage of decomposition and thus were left on the beach, or, if in a mummified condition, only a portion (usually the head) of the specimen was preserved.

According to Palmer (1962) the greater shearwater breeds from September through April only in the southern hemisphere and only on Nightingale, Inaccessible, and Gough Islands of the Tristan de Cunha group. Adult birds leave the breeding area in late April and early May, followed several weeks later by the young, and fly northward arriving off the New England coast in May or early June, and in the northeastern Atlantic in July (Palmer, *op. cit.*). A portion of the population remains in the South Atlantic after the breeding season while some non-breeders may remain in the North Atlantic during the normal breeding season (Murphy 1936).

The reader is referred to the work of Palmer cited above and to Peterson (1947) for field identification and to Palmer (*op. cit.*) and to Murphy (*op. cit.*) for detailed descriptions of plumages.

Since the greater shearwater is one of the rarest birds to be seen along our coasts (a total of 22 records for the entire southeast), I have reviewed the records of the various state bird books of the southeastern states and attempted to bring these up to date with more recent material. There are no records of the occurrence of this species west of Alabama.

Pearson et al (1959) report seven records of the greater shearwater on the North Carolina coast from 1897 to 1953. "Maynard saw a number off Cape Hatteras, on July 4, 1897. The State Museum received one from New River Inlet, Onslow County, June 25, 1938; and E. C. Green, Jr. recorded some at Cape Hatteras Point in 1936. One of these was seen July 24, two on August 1, and one on August 12 . . . One was found dead on the beach of Currituck County, near Poyner's Hill, by Pearson and Walker, June 22, 1939; and Walker picked up another on Bodie Island, four days later. Two later records are from Wrightsville (December 28, 1946), and Fort Macon (August 4, 1953)." On June 12, 1960, Parkes (1962) found a semi-mummified specimen near the foot of the Hatteras lighthouse. He took kodachrome slides of the bird, but did not save the specimen.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949) report two records for South Carolina. The first is a record of Waynes (1894, Auk 11:85), who "saw and examined countless numbers . . . dead upon the beach" on Long Island, S. C., a few days after the hurricane of August 26-27, 1893. The second record was on September 4, 1911, by Miss Laura M. Bragg who found a decomposed specimen on Sullivans Island. Tomkins (1959) found a dried specimen of this species on Hiltonhead Island beach, Beaufort County, S. C., on June 19, 1958. Only the head was kept (IRT No. 856) and represents the only South Carolina specimen preserved.

In Georgia, Burleigh (1958) considers the greater shearwater to be "one of the rarest birds known to occur in the state" and presents but two records: "The first is that of a dead bird picked up on the beach at Tybee Island, on June 11, 1911, by Hoxie." Hoxie (1911) states that he saved only the head which was identified by Prof. W. W. Cooke. Mr. Tomkins informed me that Cooke was with the Biological Survey and was the first to ask for migration records from the field. I have not been able to learn where this head is presently located, if, indeed, it is still extant.

The second Georgia record listed by Burleigh (*op. cit.*) is a letter from Hebard which "states that on February 25, 1949 '4 or 5 were seen at the end of the St. Marys Jetty following the shrimp boats after an eastern storm the day before'." Two dried specimens found by Tomkins and Kale (Kale, 1962) on June 24, and June 29, 1962, on Sapello Island is the most recent record of occurrence in Georgia.

Sprunt (1954) lists two records for the Atlantic coast of Florida. The first specimen was taken 10 miles north of West Palm Beach in

December, 1913 by Theodore Knight (Fla. State Museum No. 14,230). Two more greater shearwaters were found dead near Jupiter Inlet on September 20, 1947 by Eva S. Dickie. On February 7, 1959 Ruby Ruttger observed greater shearwaters off Miami Beach (Stevenson, 1959). Robertson (1962) reports two definite records, and a possible third record of this species in southern Florida in June and July 1962. Jim Dennis collected a specimen on June 19, 1962 off Hillsborough Inlet (specimen to FSU Collection) and Al Pflueger sighted one on "July 4, in the Gulf Stream, 10 miles east of Baker's Haulover, Dade County". "Large unidentified shearwaters, presumed to be either Greater or Cory's (*Puffinus diomedea*), were sighted on June 12 in the Florida Straits off Marquesas Keys" by participants of the International Ornithological Congress's southern Florida excursion.

The 5th edition of the AOU checklist (1958) does not include the Gulf of Mexico in the greater shearwater's range. However, Sprunt (*op. cit.*) cites a record of a specimen found on Dog Island, St. Marks Refuge, Franklin County, on January 29, 1950 by William H. Cross. In addition, Imhof (1962) reports one record of this species off the Alabama coast. This specimen (now in the U. of Alabama collection) "frequented the Mobile Pilot Ship (7 miles south of Dauphin Island) for most of July 1958. About July 30 it fell through the ship's ventilator into the galley and hit the cook on the head" . . . and died several days later. For the southern Gulf, Palmer (*op. cit.*) reports "one seen about 20 miles east of Dry Tortugas, May 11, 1958 by R. Cunningham and A. Schaffner".

Since shearwaters can withstand extremely bad weather conditions it is only after severe easterly storms or hurricanes that one might find these on our beaches. For this reason interested persons living near the coast should make an effort to visit the outer beaches within a few days after storms of this nature.

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- Department of Zoology,
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Athens, Georgia
October 22, 1962

HAWKS AND VULTURES HARASSED BY CROWS

BY GEORGE A. DORSEY

The so-called "mobbing" of hawks and owls by the Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) seems to be a phenomenon that is fairly well-known to many bird students, but there does not seem to be much mention of it in the general literature. It seems to have been neglected in almost all of the modern bird books of the type which everyone tries to acquire.

Bent (1) makes rather brief mention of crows annoying owls, and he cites only one instance of a crow attacking a Marsh Hawk in Texas (observation by Albert J. Kirn). One might well gain the impression from this that the act with hawks was one of rare occurrence. Forbush (2), who gives a rather detailed account of the crow's behavior in his monumental work on the birds of Massachusetts, says nothing more than: "When mobbing a fox, a hawk, an owl or an eagle they are exceedingly noisy . . ." Skinner (3) says: "The antipathy of crows toward hawks and owls was well known to me . . ." He adds an interesting account of crows scolding a Black Vulture.

I have made no attempt at an exhaustive search for information on the subject. There must surely be some more detailed accounts of it in works to which I have not had access, unless we have a case here of a fairly common occurrence being neglected just because it is common. It may be of some value to present here a summary of my field observations on this habit of the crow.

At the beginning I ought to say that in many of these instances I find that I had unwittingly neglected to write a full description of what happened at the time of observation. I am regretful, but it is the best that I have to offer that I present here:

SPECIES OBSERVED TO UNDERGO HARASSMENT BY CROWS

(A) Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), four instances:

(1) December 7, 1924, College Park, Ga. Five crows attacking one vulture, with loud cries. I had the impression at the time that they occasionally struck the vulture on the back, but this must have been in error, for the vulture behaved as though rather indifferent to the onslaught. The crows took turns in swooping down at the vulture from above. It soared away in broad circles, then returned, and the attack was

renewed, one crow following it for a long distance as it left the second time.

(2) January 17, 1928, College Park, Ga. One crow to one vulture. The crow made two downward swoops toward the vulture, crying loudly. The vulture seemed rather unperturbed. I could not see the affair very well, for the birds were between me and the sun.

(3) April 29, 1928, College Park, Ga. One crow annoying one turkey vulture in the air. No details recorded.

(4) March 29, 1954, Rome, Ga. One crow pursued one vulture. The crow was silent.

(B) Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), one instance:

March 28, 1954, Rome, Ga. Four crows to one female cooper's hawk. A pair of both species had nests on the same forested hillside, both for this year and in 1953. In the late afternoon the crows set up an outcry in the trees there, and a moment later a female cooper's hawk left the hillside to fly across adjacent fields into a dense growth along a stream, followed by four vociferous crows, that gave up the chase when the hawk entered the thicket.

This hawk may have been making some attempt at preying on the crows. The previous year, on May 16, 1953, two boys from my school found a young crow of the year, at the base of the same hill, which was crippled and unable to fly. Its tail was set to the side at an angle of nearly 45 degrees, one foot was useless, and one wing was stiff, and out of line when folded. The boys fed the crow, carrying it home, and it was still alive in September, 1953, but it died later in the year. We surmised that it had possibly been a victim of the neighboring cooper's hawks.

(C) Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), ten instances:

(1) May 17, 1931, College Park, Ga. Two crows to one hawk. Repeated aerial dives made at the hawk, with loud cries from the crows.

(2) April 3, 1941, Vinings, Ga. One crow to one hawk in the air. No details recorded.

(3) March 23, 1942, Vinings, Ga. One crow to one hawk; repeated swoops at the hawk in the air.

(4) December 22, 1952, Rome, Ga. One crow to one hawk. The crow made repeated swoops downward at the hawk, which wheeled in great circles, behaving somewhat indifferently, but circling away.

(5) December 26, 1952, East Point, Ga. One crow to one hawk. No details recorded.

(6) December 18, 1957, Rome, Ga. Three crows to one hawk; the crows noisy. One crow repeatedly swooped downward at the hawk in the air, checking its dive each time just before it reached the hawk's back. The other crows merely accompanied the chase, which was continued until the birds were out of sight.

(7) April 22, 1960, Bartow County, Ga. Four crows to one hawk. The hawk was perched in the top of a pine, with the crows making repeated downward swoops at it. Observation brief; made from a moving automobile.

(8) October 24, 1960, Rome, Ga. One crow to one hawk, in the air. The crow swooped down repeatedly at the hawk from above, but never quite touched the hawk's back each time. The hawk soared in broad circles, ever higher, until the crow left off the chase.

(9) April 4, 1962, Rome, Ga. One crow to one hawk. At the start the hawk was not very high above the trees. The crow made repeated swoops from above. With each descent from the crow, the hawk would flap its wings several times with quick, short strokes, showing evidence of being annoyed. The crow did not strike the hawk at any time, checking its descent each time just short of reaching the hawk's back. Both birds were silent. The hawk soared in irregular circles until it was quite high, when the crow abandoned the attack.

(10) December 30, 1962, Rome, Ga. One crow to one hawk. The hawk flew to a perch in a tree top. The crow discovered it, and gave a challenging cry. It then flew up and hovered briefly over the hawk. The crow then made a neat, spiraling swoop down and about the hawk, rather close, and then flew upward, hovering again above the hawk, which then took to wing, followed by the crow, flying above and behind it, crying harshly. They were soon lost to sight in the trees.

(D) Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), seven instances:

(1) April 8, 1931, College Park, Ga. One crow to one hawk. The hawk turned and twisted in the air, obviously annoyed by the crow's diving at it.

(2) April 3, 1933, College Park, Ga. One crow to one hawk. No details recorded.

(3) March 21, 1937, College Park, Ga. One crow to one hawk. The

crow was silent, and seemed to be rather vigorous in its manner of attack. The hawk flew straight away.

(4) January 21, 1939, College Park, Ga. One crow to one hawk. No details recorded.

(5) March 25, 1940, Vinings, Ga. One crow to one hawk. The crow was silent.

(6) February 22, 1959, Rome, Ga. Four crows to one hawk. No details recorded.

(7) October 20, 1962, Bartow County, Ga. Two crows to one hawk. The attack was made in the air, just above the tree tops. The crows stayed above and just behind the hawk, in turn making downward swoops at it, but apparently never quite touching it. The hawk flew as though annoyed, flapping its wings from time to time. This observation was made from a passing automobile, and was rather brief.

(E) Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*), two instances:

(1) June 17, 1932, Vinings, Ga. One crow to two hawks. I heard the characteristic cry of this hawk, and looked upward to see one crow silently attacking them. It swooped quite near, threatening to peck the hawks, but I could not see that it actually touched them at any time. The hawks cried constantly, soon beginning a skillful swooping and turning, maneuvering downward rapidly into the trees, leaving the crow in the air above. It did not follow them.

(2) April 3, 1944, Rome, Ga. Three crows and two hawks, but the crows attacked only one of them. The behavior of the crows was threatening, swooping downward at the hawk again and again, but never quite touching it.

(F) Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), one instance:

September 16, 1934, College Park, Ga. It need not be pointed out that in this instance the victim of the crow was not a raptore. In the late afternoon, two crows were annoying a nighthawk in the air, silently, apparently in a spirit of malicious play. One crow left the chase when it noticed that my party was watching the proceedings. The other crow continued the pursuit, following the curves and short swoops of the nighthawk in a very skillful manner. It did not peck at the nighthawk.

(G) In my field notes I have recorded three additional instances of crows annoying *Buteo* hawks, but in which I was not able to identify the species because of the distance. The dates are:

(1) October 28, 1928, College Park, Ga. Three crows to one hawk, probably the Red-shouldered Hawk.

(2) April 13, 1931, College Park, Ga. Several crows to one hawk, probably the Red-tailed Hawk.

(3) March 25, 1953, Rome, Ga. One crow to one hawk, probably a Red-shouldered Hawk.

In relation to the months of the year in which I have recorded the attacks on hawks (omitting the vultures and the nighthawk), by far the greater number of the attacks by the crows were made in March (five) and in April (seven), although four attacks were observed in December. There may be some possible correlation here with the nesting season, but I do not have enough data to be sure that this might be significant.

I have been impressed by the boldness of the crows in all these instances, and by the skill with which they flew about the moving hawks. We have tended to think of a soaring hawk as a master of flight, yet the crow, flapping its wings all the while, can make such easy maneuvers around the hawks, that it should put them to shame. Although in a few of these instances I had the impression at the time that the crow struck the hawk or vulture under attack, I cannot be sure that any one of them ever did. Perhaps the aerial dives were just threatening gestures, which certainly was the case in most of the instances. The crow would swoop down nearly to the raptore's back, slide to one side, or fall behind, and then rise upward, following the victim, to make another downward plunge at its back.

I am somewhat of the opinion, especially in the case of the nighthawk incident, that much of the harassment was carried out in a spirit of malicious mischief, although it could certainly be of advantage to the crows to drive hawks away in the breeding season. The crows could expect nothing detrimental from a vulture.

The crow is not always the aggressor in its relations with other bird species. In the Vinings, Georgia area I have seen attacks made on crows by the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*): June 18, 1935, one kingbird pursuing a crow, which flew away with rapid, steady wing-beats; and on July 16, 1936, two kingbirds were seen to put a crow to rout. On May 18, 1952, near Rome, Georgia, I saw several Blue Jays (*Cyanocitta cristata*) make a noisy attack upon a crow that was flying through the tree tops. Food-habits studies published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (4) list a few instances of crows having been eaten by the Red-

tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. I would hazard the guess that a crow would have a poor chance if matched against a peregrine falcon!

There can be times when a crow can meet with more than its match in the air by a flying predator. On November 13, 1958, I was observing several crows and two blue jays in the tree tops along the opposite bank of the Coosa River, south of Rome, Georgia, when a helicopter came over, not very high. The crows and jays fled in fright. One crow flew faster than I had even seen one go before, moving its wings frantically, and then planing downward, dropping at great speed, its wings bent somewhat backward and folded rather close to the body. It fled to a place of seeming safety in a dense thicket. I chuckled, yet I was sorry for the rascals. Nothing in their long line of development has prepared them for some of the recent changes in the habits of *Homo sapiens*, who is one of their worst natural enemies.

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Darlington School

Rome, Ga.

February 2, 1963

SANDWICH TERNS PRESENT ON OUTER COASTAL ISLANDS AND OFFSHORE

BY GEORGE W. SCIPLE, M.D.

Sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis aculeatus*) are considered "rare" (Green, *et al*, 1945) or "scarce transient" (Burleigh, 1958) along the Georgia coast. There are but few published records of the occurrence of this species in Georgia, though recently (Teal, 1959) they have been found "occurring" on Sapelo Island from July through October. A few have been seen at Tybee during the late summer (Tomkins, 1958) and early fall.

In mid-June of 1961, this author found four non-breeding plumaged birds resting on one of the outer buoys of the Port Royal roadstead. This area is off the South Carolina coast just north of the Savannah River entrance. A similar observation was made in Georgia waters on 26 May, 1962, not long after sunrise. Six sandwich terns were found resting quietly on the No. 4 buoy of the Tybee Roads system, about 2 nautical miles offshore. These birds were in a non-nuptial plumage similar to that seen in the Port Royal birds. When disturbed by the approach of a small outboard motorboat, they appeared loath to leave their resting spot on the heaving buoy. They finally flew in a group to the next nearest seaward buoy (No. 3), and settled there. The individuals of the group were observed to be actively preening themselves and arranging their rather nondescript plumage. Their actions suggested that they might be migrants, having just arrived after a night flight, but there is certainly no definitive evidence to support the supposition.

On June 23, two birds of this species, in plumage similar to the above, were seen resting among a mixed group of terns on Little Egg Island at the mouth of the Altamaha River. Later in the afternoon of the same day, eight of these birds were seen mixed in with a flock of royal terns which were sitting on the south shore of Sapelo Island, facing Doboy Sound.

On the north beach at Tybee Island during the morning of July 29, two sandwich terns in poor plumage were observed sitting quietly with a group of royal terns. The royal terns were quite active, and were feeding fledged young. The sandwich terns did not appear to be young of the year, but rather suggested non-breeding sub-adults or adults. At the

same beach on August 23, five birds of this species were seen in flight, after having been flushed from the beach by a child.

These findings, combined with the published reports of Teal and of Tomkins, indicate that Sandwich terns occur not infrequently on the sea islands. The author's observations show that the species was present on the Georgia coast during the breeding season of 1962, though not one of the birds seen suggested a breeding individual. The birds observed have all been found either on the outer barrier islands or offshore.

P. O. Box 279

Savannah Beach, Georgia

Sept. 18, 1962

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GENERAL NOTES

CATTLE EGRET AT AUGUSTA, GA.—A diligent wait for the appearance of the Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) in Richmond County finally ended on 25 February 1962, when two birds were discovered at the municipal airport. When found about noon on this cold, windy day the birds were huddled under a ligustrum bush beside a fuel oil tank near a barracks, and within 10 feet of the paved drive. The alerted assistant manager of the airport reported that the two birds remained on the front lawn from 1-4 March, where they fed with the Killdeers, Horned Larks and Starlings wintering there. During the afternoon of 4 March two birds, possibly the same two seen in the morning at the airport, were found feeding in knee-high grass at the fairgrounds in Augusta. Where the birds fed during the next two weeks is not known. From 20-24 March, when three birds were seen together for the first time, they fed in a rainpool in a pasture beside the road to the airport. Here the birds waded around in the 4-5 inch deep water picking food from the grass above the water. The birds were first noted feeding typically with cattle on 25 March. From that date until they were last recorded in the area on 6 May they were always with cattle. There was a sudden increase or concentration of birds to ten on 2 April after which the flock remained this size until last recorded.

The time of appearance of these birds in Richmond County as well as the habitat frequented early was most unexpected. There was no evidence of breeding in this area so one would wonder where the birds went to nest, if and when they did.—J. FRED DENTON, 1510 Pendleton Rd., Augusta, Ga. January 23, 1963.

CATTLE EGRET AT DOUGLAS, GEORGIA.—The Cattle Egret (*Ardeola ibis*) has been looked for and expected in the Fitzgerald region for several years. Much of the search for this species has centered around Osierfield, Irwin County where are located many large, flat, and oftentimes wet pastures. The bird has not been found in such locations. On March 10, 1963, a single individual of this species was observed in a small (approximately five acre) pasture one mile east of Douglas, Coffee Co., Georgia. The bird was standing near several Jersey heifers when first noticed but then began to follow one particular one around as the heifer grazed. When the bird was flushed it flew about 100 yards away and remained there until we left.—MILTON HOPKINS, JR., 202 W. Roanoke Drive, Fitzgerald, Georgia, March 14, 1963.

KRIDER'S HAWK IN WHITFIELD COUNTY, GEORGIA.—On April 7, 1961, a hawk was killed by a fisherman along Mill Creek in Whitfield County, Georgia. Identification of the bird as Krider's Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis kriderii*, was confirmed by Dr. John Aldrich of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Comparison with the series of skins of *kriderii* in the U. S. National Museum showed this specimen, a male, to be identical with the skin of an adult male collected in Iowa, the type locality for this race. Measurements of the prepared skin are as follows: Total length: 540mm; Tail: 201mm; Wing: 372mm; Culmen: 35.8mm; Middle toe (w/o claw): 43mm. The skin, prepared by J. D. Almand, is now deposited in the collection of the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. (No. 1658).

Burleigh (1958, Georgia Birds) gives the status of *B. j. kriderii* in Georgia as "of casual occurrence during the winter months, but possibly commoner than the few records indicate". He lists but three definite records of this race: a specimen taken by W. W. Worthington on Sapelo Island on February 16, 1888; a male collected on February 3, 1904 near St. Marys, Camden County, by Isaac Arnow (U. of Ga. Collection No. 912); and a female taken by Eugene E. Murphey on the Savannah River, in Screven County, on January 2, 1909. Tomkins (1958, Birdlife of the Savannah River Delta) reports a sight record during late December 1952 at the Savannah River Refuge. Another sight record was reported by Ben Maulsby (1957, Oriole 22:9) near Aragon, Georgia on March 1, and March 3, 1957.

In Alabama, Imhof (1962, Alabama Birds) lists nine sight records of *kriderii* from 1953 through 1959, but only one collected specimen for the state. Sprunt (1954, Florida Bird Life) lists one sight record near Okeechobee on February 18, 1950. He places it on the hypothetical list since no specimen has yet been collected in the state.

The circumstances which resulted in obtaining the Krider's hawk specimen emphasize the value of letting acquaintances know of ones interest in bird specimens—both dead and alive. A first grade pupil of Mrs. Clayton Boyles, Other Harris, described to her a large bird brought to his home by a relative. The relative, fishing in Mill Creek near the city of Dalton's water plant, had seen it in a tree and had idly thrown a rock at it. Believing he had only injured it, he continued fishing, but discovered later that the hawk was dead. Mrs. Boyles asked her student to search for the bird in the woods where it had been discarded; when

the boy found it she then gave it to Mrs. Herman King, who froze it. Eventually the salvaged bird found its way to its permanent home in the University of Georgia Museum.

Burleigh (*op. cit.*) states that "within reasonable distance it is possible to identify (this subspecies) with some degree of certainty, but as intergradation occurs with other races, records, to be reliable, must be based on actual specimens".

The present record constitutes the latest Spring occurrence of this race in Georgia, and the first record for Whitfield County. Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, 704 Greenwood Drive, Dalton, Georgia, and HERBERT W. KALE II, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. December 16, 1962.

KINGBIRD AND GRASSHOPPER SPARROW NESTS IN GORDON COUNTY.

—A nest of the Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) was found on July 4, 1960, in a Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*) about twelve feet from the porch of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lee's lakeside lodge in north-western Gordon county. Contents of the nest were undetermined at that time, but on July 24, 1960, two young birds were being fed in the nest. Location of the nest was near the outer end of a horizontal branch almost over the lake, a fact which is interesting inasmuch as the late Arthur H. Howell pointed out the propensity of this species for nesting near water (*Florida Bird Life*, by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. 1954 pp. 286-87). In the same reference Howell also quoted Francis Weston as saying that around Pensacola this species regularly places its nests among the needles of the longleaf pine at the outer ends of horizontal branches.

On July 21, 1962, the authors while walking on the Lee farm adjacent to the above location discovered the nest of a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) which held four naked young birds. Actions of the adult birds (their lack of desire to fly from intruders) led to a search for the nest, which was in a small club of sericea lespedeza on a gently rolling pasture hillside. The nest was below the level of the ground, completely hidden in the dense, fifteen-inch high lespedeza.

The latter is one of two late nesting records for Grasshopper Sparrows in this area, the other being a nest holding naked young on July 22, 1955, on the John Looper farm in western Murray county. The next latest record for Georgia is of a nest with four fresh eggs found by Burleigh (1958, *Georgia Birds*, p. 649) at Athens on June 23, 1929. (SARAH

H. LLOYD, *Woman's College of Georgia, Milledgeville*, and ANNE P. HAMILTON, 704 Greenwood Drive, Dalton, Georgia. Feb. 21, 1963.

WOOD DUCKS FOUND FEEDING ON LAWN AT CAMP CORNELIA.—An incident of avian behavior which strikes me as being interesting, if not strange, has happened on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Mr. John Holt, the Suwannee Canal Dock Commissioner, informed me that about 500 wood ducks were feeding on acorns on the lawn at Camp Cornelia, the refuge's sub-headquarters near Folkston, about dusk the evening of December 17. The birds were there again each evening until December 20.

This is interesting because Camp Cornelia is on the crest of Trail Ridge about a half mile from the swamp edge. There are a number of laurel oaks, water oaks, live oaks and turkey oaks on the lawn and this year all of them had bumper crops of acorns. Since the lawn is free of underbrush, the fallen acorns were readily accessible to the ducks and it is understandable that they would use the acorns once they had found them. But we have never known of wood ducks alighting on the lawn before. Since they are not in the habit of using the lawn, how did they know the acorns were there? EUGENE CYPERT, *Wildlife Biologist, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Waycross, Georgia*, Jan. 2, 1963.

WHISTLING SWANS AT CONYERS.—The whistling swan winters in the United States, but normally only as far south as North Carolina. There are scattered winter records of this "Stiff-necked" swan in Augusta, Rome and other Georgia cities—but none as far as I know for the Atlanta region.

On or about December 20, 1962, the monks at the Trappist Monastery near Conyers, Georgia, reported two whistling swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) on a pond at the monastery. Daniel O. Todd, of the U. S. Forestry Service and retiring President of the Atlanta Bird Club, told me that Fish and Wildlife representatives had confirmed the identification and taken photographs. Rufus Godwin and Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Murphy of Atlanta saw the birds on December 29.

The monastery is about 20 miles east of downtown Atlanta. On January 6, 1963, I went out to see the birds in the company of W. Elbridge Freeborn, incoming President of the Atlanta Bird Club, and Mrs. Freeborn. The two whistlers were immature—showing dusky necks held in

the characteristic straight vertical position (quite unlike the S-curve of the mute swans) and pink bills. The birds were notably smaller than four mute swans on the monastery pond. I believe that two of the mutes have been there for several years, while two other mutes were brought from Cullman, Alabama, recently. Not far from the swans were a dozen mallards, one female ring-necked duck and four snow-blue goose hybrids. —LOUIS C. FINK, 688 North Parkwood Road, Decatur, Georgia, Dec. 29, 1962.

BIRDS BATHING IN DEW.—On May 13, 1957, at Rome Ga., I looked out my window at a pair of Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) a little after 7 A.M. The female was bathing in the dew on the grass, where it grew thickly at the base of a bank on a lawn. She would advance in short sweeps, holding the body low, sometimes moving forward in a slightly zig-zag fashion, rubbing her plumage into the grass, and then fluttering and flipping her wings slightly, to again repeat the process. The male followed her, but he was more erect and alert in attitude, and merely hopping through the grass.

On August 24, at College Park, Ga., about 9 o'clock A.M. I again looked out a window, and saw a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in the lawn, bathing in the dew on the grass. The bird crouched and wallowed forward into the grass, then fluttered its wings briefly, shook its feathers, and moved forward to repeat the process about a dozen times. A male Towhee came out of the shrubbery, and made a lunge at the Mockingbird, which merely moved farther away in the grass to continue the bathing process.

Dew-bathing is known to occur in birds, but it does not seem to be reported very often. I thought an account of the behavior of these two birds might be of some value or interest to other observers of bird-behavior.—GEORGE A. DORSEY, *Darlington School, Rome, Ga.* January 7, 1963.

GOLDEN EAGLE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, GEORGIA.—On October 21, 1962, a Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*, was collected while feeding on fowl on the farm of Mr. Jasper Chastain of Royston, Georgia. The specimen, an immature male, was made into a taxidermy mount for Mr. Chastain by Dave Almand. The total length of the eagle was 34 inches and its wingspan was 78 inches. The crop and gizzard contained approximately one-half pound of flesh intermingled with white chicken

feathers, vibrissae of a mammal (squirrel?), blades of green grass, particles of dead leaves and fine gravel. One intact Dipteran larva, indicating the eating of carrion, was also found.

Burleigh (1958, Georgia Birds) considers the status of this species in Georgia as casual and lists approximately 20 records throughout the state. This is the first record for Franklin County. HERBERT W. KALE II AND J. DAVID ALMAND, *Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. December 16, 1962.*

SIGHT RECORDS OF HENSLow'S SPARROW IN ATLANTA.—The Henslow's sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowii*) is a scarce winter resident on both sides of the fall line in Georgia. Perhaps a sight record of three of these birds in Atlanta is worth noting.

On February 10, 1963, I cruised the South River area, trying to find an orange-crowned warbler which William Griffin had located on the Christmas Count. Along the extension of Forrest Park Road which runs adjacent to the South River sewage disposal plant, I observed three sparrows which were markedly different from the abundant song, field and white-throated sparrows which ranged over a neighboring field in the hundreds. Two of these "different" sparrows immediately disappeared into the weeds, but a third perched two feet off the ground, above a muddy area thawing from a recent cold wave. The striped head was obvious, as the bird remained perched in clear view for three or four minutes, and uttered that poor vocal effort which several authorities have noted. The reddish wings and white-edged tail were apparent.

I never found the warbler I was after. On the way home past the Atlanta prison farm, a starling with a prominent white tail flew low in front of the car. The bird quickly flew out of sight, but it was clearly a starling showing albinism, and not some other white-tailed bird.—LOUIS C. FINK, 688 Parkwood Road, Decatur, Georgia. February 25, 1963.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL IN WHITFIELD COUNTY.—On April 15, 1962, on a very cold day Cherokee Audubon Society members made a field trip to Shields' ponds 10 miles northeast of Dalton. On one of the five ponds two ducks were identified as Green-winged Teal both male and female by Ray Broadrick, Ann Hamilton, and the writer. The ducks were in company with nine Ruddy Ducks near the grassy border of the pond. They were observed carefully for thirty minutes with 8X binoculars.

The small size of both and the green spot on brown head and vertical white stripe or mark in front of the wing of the male were clearly noted in sunlight. This constitutes a first record of this species for Whitfield County.—MOURINE KING (Mrs. Hermon), Rte 4, Dalton, Georgia. January 22, 1963.

A WINTER DICKCISSEL FROM SAVANNAH.—In early January 1963, an unusual fringillid began coming in the yard in the evening with the White-throated Sparrows. It was seen numerous times for about two weeks, and was very shy. The specimen was not obtained until Jan. 17. The skin was sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, where Mrs. Roxie Laybourne identified it as a Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) in immature plumage.

It was a male and weighed 25.2 grams, but varied considerably from the normal in size and proportion. Taking the minimum measurements for adult males of *S. americana* given by Ridgeway (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 50, 1,171) the wing is 7mm shorter; the tail 2 mm. less; the culmen 2.7 mm. less; but the tarsus about reaches the minimum length. The very short primaries are not due to an uncompleted molt, and no explanation of the other variations can be given.

Sprunt and Chamberlain (South Carolina Bird Life, 1949, 517) list sight records in winter of three birds seen near Summerville, Dorchester County, S. C. and state that this is the first published winter record of the species in the United States. The 5th edition (1957) of the A. O. U. Check-list states that the species winters rarely north to Arkansas and Florida. It appears that this is the only account of the species near the coast of Georgia, and the specimen one of a very few that have been taken anywhere in the United States in winter.—IVAN R. TOMKINS, 1231 East 50th St., Savannah, Ga., February 24, 1963.

FROM THE FIELD

Mrs Tom Cater reports two Lesser Yellowlegs in Houston County on February 23, 1963. The previous early migration date in this area was March 16, 1952.

William Dopson noted about 50 Ring-neck Ducks, 20 Mallards, and two American Goldeneyes on the lake at Little Ocmulgee State Park on January 27, 1963.

A Christmas Count was conducted at Dalton, Georgia by the Cherokee Audubon Society members Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, Mrs. Hermon King et al. Sixty-three species and over 5,000 individual birds were observed on count day. The list included Canvasback, Great Horned Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rusty and Brewer's Blackbird, and Fox Sparrows among some of the more interesting species.

Purple Martins returned to gourds at Osierfield, Georgia on February 16.

Alma Cooke reports nine Cattle Egrets in a wet weather pond on the west side of Cochran Field, Bibb County on March 21, 1963

NEWS AND COMMENTS

The forty-eighth semi-annual meeting of the Georgia Ornithological Society will be held on April 19, 20, and 21. Headquarters for this meeting will be Little Ocmulgee State Park located one mile north of McRae, Telfair County.

Announcement: The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be host for the annual meeting of T.O.S. to be held in Chattanooga on May 3, 4, and 5. Registration headquarters will be at the Rolyat Motel and most field trips will be in Chickamauga Park. Mrs. E. M. West.

RECENT LITERATURE

THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS—by Jean Dorst, 1962, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 476 pp., \$6.75.

This volume contains the most recent and thorough compilation of world wide ornithological literature dealing with bird migrations.

Chapter headings are as follows: 1. Old explanations of bird migrations, 2. Methods of studying migrations, 3. Migrations in Europe and Northern Asia, 4. Migrations in North America, 5. Migrations in the Southern Hemisphere, 6. Migrations in intertropical regions, 7. Sea-bird migrations, 8. Modes of migration, 9. Bird Invasions, 10. The hibernation of birds, 11. The physiological stimulus of migration, 12. Orientation of migratory birds, 13. The origin and evolution of migrations.

The text is well illustrated with migratory route maps or flyways, isothermic and isochronal line maps connecting points imposed on land masses with their relations to visual observations of certain species, and many significant examples of migratory phenomena taken from other investigators' experiments and illustrated in graph or map form. The foreword is by R. T. Peterson.

Dr. Dorst discusses practically all tried methods of studying migratory habits of birds including radar tracking and indicates that all boil down to two methods which are—observation (concerning whole species) and banding—(isolation of the individual). Naturally more information from banding comes from larger birds, especially waterfowl. Banding recoveries for waterfowl have been high but passerines, especially the little ones, are seldom recovered. The author's figures for total birds banded in North America to date are 11,000,000 individuals of which 900,000 have been recovered.

Throughout the text Dr. Dorst emphasizes the point that cut and dried rules for the migratory behavior of one species do not necessarily coincide with those for another species and are usually different and that even within a species group individuals react in varying ways.

Under bird invasions the Evening Grosbeak and the Snowy Owl are discussed, the latter in some length.

In the discussion of the hibernation of birds the only instance mentioned that has been scientifically proved is that of the North American poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*). The first reference to A. H. Miller's

records on page 280 should read (1950). Miller has found that the rectal temperature of this species may drop to as low as 64 degrees F.

In discussing bird physiology and migration the author says "From a purely general point of view, migration periods in the annual cycle constitute two physiological 'crises' which are dependent on the endocrine glands, especially the pituitary." Albert Wolfson, who has contributed much to our knowledge on the physiology of migrants recently summed up his theories, saying that, in his opinion, the action of light is the source of all processes determining the migratory cycle and further concluded that the determinant is the duration of darkness instead of the length of light that the bird in question is subjected to.

Orientation of migratory birds is probably the most complex segment of the whole discussion of bird movements for it is certain that birds do not use one particular sense but that orientation involves many different phenomena which are difficult to distinguish.

The diversity of migratory behavior among birds make this well documented book interesting reading. The author has taken examples from world wide literature in an unbiased manner to illustrate various significant segments of migration study. His section treating North America is particularly good and North American species examples are mentioned in many of the other chapters.

The author concluded his presentation by saying "Migrations, like birds are multiple and involve a number of very different elements which cannot be reduced to a rigid formula." His two page section titled "Conclusion" didn't shed any further light on the migration phenomena which is probably just as well for when all the answers concerning the "hows" of orientation are found much of the mystery, fascination, and interest, in this subject will be lost. Milton Hopkins, Jr.

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