

# THE ORIOLE

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



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VOL. XXXI

MARCH, 1966

NO. 1

# THE ORIOLE

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## ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF SAPELO ISLAND AND VICINITY<sup>1</sup>

By

HERBERT W. KALE, II, and PETER A. HYPPIO

Seven years have elapsed since the appearance of *Birds of Sapelo Island and Vicinity* by John M. Teal (1959). Since that time numerous observers have visited the island and eight annual Christmas bird counts have been conducted (Aud. Field Notes, 1959-66). The present paper adds several more species (24) to the Sapelo list (a total of 250 species) and presents additional observations on some of the species listed by Teal. Corrections of two minor errors that appeared in the 1959 paper are also noted. It should be cautioned here that the area of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge on Blackbeard Island is poorly represented in both this paper and the 1959 paper, especially as pertains to wintering waterfowl.

A brief explanation of some place names used in this list is in order. These are well-known to island residents and frequent visitors, but may be difficult to pinpoint by future observers. The South-end refers to the area of the Big House, Marine Institute, shops, and living quarters located at the southern tip of the island. South-end Beach refers to the barrier beach due east of the island. Cabretta Island is the barrier along the east-northeast side of Sapelo, north of South-end Beach. Marsh Landing is the boat landing on the Duplin River or west side of the island. Chocolate refers to the old French plantation located about mid-way along the road to the North-end on the western side of Sapelo. The North-end ponds refer to the series of artificial fresh-water ponds on the northeastern side of Sapelo.

<sup>1</sup> The authors dedicate this paper to the memory of Ivan R. Tomkins, an outstanding naturalist and ornithologist, whose contributions to our knowledge of the avifauna of the Savannah River delta and the Georgia seacoast will be unmatched for many years to come. The senior author, in particular, is deeply grateful for the privilege of having spent many stimulating and memorable hours with this rare and knowledgeable man.



Teal thought that the large number of cattle on Sapelo beach was a factor in preventing nesting of some shorebirds and estuarine-inhabiting birds (Brown Pelican, Cormorant, Laughing Gull, etc.). He stated, "It would be interesting to see what changes in breeding bird species and numbers would take place if a part of the beach and associated dunes and marshes were fenced off." In 1959-60, all of the cattle on the island, except for a few privately owned head, and a small herd of wild stock at the North-end, were removed. Since that time tremendous changes in plant species and cover have occurred. Taller and denser vegetation and greater stabilization of dunes has accompanied these changes. No concurrent changes or additions to the avian populations that breed on beaches have occurred however. In the case of the Royal Tern, and possibly the Black Skimmer, Kale, Sciple, and Tomkins (1965) suggest that these species do not nest on large islands chiefly because of the presence of mammalian predators (raccoon and mink, in particular).

The authors are grateful for the assistance of Mr. W. Wilson Baker and Mr. Fred G. McMurry in making available to us their observations made during recent visits to Sapelo. We are also happy to acknowledge the efforts of the participants of the annual Christmas counts. Their names appear in the published accounts of these censuses. This research was supported in part by funds of the Sapelo Island Research Foundation and is Contribution No. 103 of the University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia 31327.

#### A. NEW ADDITIONS

Red-throated Loon: *Gavia stellata*. Winter resident. Several seen in the Atlantic off the South-end beach on 30 Dec 62, 29 Dec 63, and 1 Jan 66 by count participants.

Greater Shearwater: *Puffinus gravis*. Rare. A skeleton with most of the feathers still attached was found in beach drift on 24 June 62 by I. Tomkins. Kale found a second specimen in similar condition on 29 June 62 about one-half mile away (Kale, 1962).

Wilson's Petrel: *Oceanites oceanicus*. Rare. Several petrels of this species were seen on 11 July and 3 Aug 61 several miles east of Sapelo during cruises to the Gulf stream by L. Pomeroy and S. Griffith (Griffith and Kale, 1961). It is probably more common in its off-shore habitat than indicated by the few recorded observations that have been made along the Georgia coast.

Common Goldeneye: *Bucephala clangula*. Uncommon winter resident. One individual was seen off Cabretta Island by A. Craig and H. Kale on 31 Dec 61, and another specimen was seen by I. Tomkins and G. Sciple in Doboy Sound on 31 Dec 62. This species is commonly seen on the Altamaha Wildlife Refuge near Butler Island ten miles southeast of Sapelo.

Old Squaw: *Clangula hyemalis*. Rare. One bird seen by P. Hyypio on 1 Dec 63 and again by I. Tomkins and Hyypio on 29 Dec. On 1 Jan 66, 15 Old Squaws were observed by count participants.

White-winged Scoter: *Melanitta deglandi*. Uncommon winter resident. Approximately 100 scoters of this species were observed by E. Odum and H. Kale on 16 April 61 in the mouth of Doboy Sound off the South-end beach. Six ducks were observed by count participants on 2 Jan 65. All three species of scoters have been observed off the Georgia coast in increasing numbers during the past several winters by I. Tomkins, and seem to be more common now than in the past.

Common Scoter: *Oidemia nigra*. Uncommon winter resident. Over 230 ducks of this species were counted by I. Tomkins on 30 Dec 62 in the waters off the South-end beach. During November of 1963 large rafts of several thousand ducks were observed by P. Hyypio and F. McMurry; however, only six scoters were seen by count participants on 29 Dec. Eight common scoters were counted on 1 Jan 66.

Common Merganser: *Mergus merganser*. Winter resident. This merganser is much less common than the Red-breasted Merganser. Several were seen during the bird counts of 2 Jan 60, 29 Dec 60, 30 Dec 62, and 29 Dec 63.

Golden Plover: *Pluvialis dominica*. Rare. A single individual was observed at close range by H. Coolidge, W. Dopson, and P. Hyypio on a mudflat along Cabretta Creek on 29 Dec 63.

Lesser Yellowlegs: *Totanus flavipes*. Uncommon. The Lesser seems to be less common than the Greater Yellowlegs on Sapelo. Several were seen by W. Baker on 20 April 63 and by count participants on 29 Dec 63, 2 Jan 65, and 1 Jan 66.

Avocet: *Recurvirostra americana*. Rare. One avocet was seen on the mudflats of the old diked area behind the Marine Institute on 30 Dec 62 by count participants. This diked area was re-opened to tidal flow during the previous summer and large numbers of shorebirds frequented it daily during the winter of 1962-63.



Great Black-backed Gull: *Larus marinus*. Uncommon winter visitor. Until the winter of 1962-63 this species was considered a rarity along the Georgia coast. Several were seen off Tybee and Little Cumberland Islands by Tomkins, Sciple, and Coolidge (Sciple and Coolidge, 1963) during that winter and three immature birds were observed by count participants on 30 Dec 62 on the South-end beach of Sapelo. Two additional immature birds were found dead and are now in the University of Georgia collection.

Whip-poor-will: *Caprimulgus vociferus*. Rare. Possibly this species may be encountered during the spring or fall migrations; however, as yet no observations have been recorded during these periods. Two individuals were seen along roads at dawn and at dusk on 30 Dec 62 by count participants.

White-breasted Nuthatch: *Sitta carolinensis*. Uncommon winter visitor. One bird was seen on 30 Dec 62 by W. Post and another on 29 Dec 63 by count participants.

Brown Creeper: *Certhia familiaris*. Uncommon winter visitor. Count participants observed this species — one bird only — during the counts of 2 Jan 65 and 1 Jan 66.

Winter Wren: *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Rare winter visitor. One bird was seen in a brushy area behind the Marine Institute on 2 Jan 60 by H. Kale and another bird was seen by count participants on 3 Jan 65.

Bewick's Wren: *Thyromanes bewickii*. Rare winter visitor. Two birds were seen on 1 Jan 59 by E. Odum near old sheds (now removed) behind the Marine Institute.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: *Hylocichla minima*. Uncommon spring and fall migrant. One individual seen by W. Baker on 20 April 63 in the oak grove at the South-end.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: *Regulus satrapa*. Uncommon winter visitor. Three kinglets of this species were seen during the bird count of 30 Dec 62, and one bird was seen on 2 Jan 65.

Philadelphia Vireo: *Vireo philadelphicus*. Rare. Two adults of this species were netted and banded near the Greenhouse (at the South-end) on 1 Oct 63 by F. McMurry and P. Hyypio.

migrant. A single specimen was netted in one of Teal's mist nets at the South-end on 12 April 59. It was banded and released.

Worm-eating Warbler: *Helminthos vermivorus*. Uncommon spring

Ovenbird: *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Spring and fall migrant. Large numbers of this species were noted in open wooded areas and along paved roads during the last week of April, 1961. Several were also observed by the Natural History class on 8-10 May 64. Three ovenbirds were netted and banded by P. Hyypio and F. McMurry in September, 1963.

Rusty Blackbird: *Euphagus carolinus*. Uncommon winter visitor. The first record for this series was of ten birds seen by count participants on 2 Jan 65.

Fox Sparrow: *Passerella iliaca*. Uncommon winter visitor. Two individuals were seen in shrubs near the lighthouse on 29 Dec 60 by D. Simpson and H. Kale, and several have been observed by count participants on 30 Dec 62, 29 Dec 63, and 2 Jan 65.

## B. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS OF OTHER SPECIES

White Pelican: *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. Rare. Two seen by E. Provost and M. Pelton and the Natural History class 8-10 May 64.

Double-crested Cormorant: *Phalacrocorax auritus*. Listed as a common winter visitor by Teal, single individuals have occasionally been seen during the summer months (29 June and 21 July 59, and in August 1962). It is possible that these individuals were of the Florida race, *P. a. floridanus*, but it is not possible to determine this in the field.

Cattle Egret: *Bubulcus ibis*. In 1959 Teal predicted that this species someday would be found on Sapelo also during the winter and on 2 Jan 65 two birds were seen by count participants. The removal of cattle from the large pastures near the South-end has prevented build-up of a large resident population, although the presence of several horses attracts some birds.

Least Bittern: *Ixobrychus exilis*. Teal lists this species as occurring April through September. One was seen on 29 Dec 62 by H. Kale in the North-end ponds.

Glossy Ibis: *Plegadis falcinellus*. Uncommon. Four ibis were observed feeding in the salt marsh near the North-end ponds on 15 April 61 by E. Odum and H. Kale and one was seen flying over the South-end beach the next day. One or two birds were seen in the same areas throughout the spring and summer of 1963 by P. Hyypio.

Bufflehead: *Bucephala albeola*. This species apparently has become more common in recent years. A pair spent the winter on the fresh-water



pond at the South-end during 1959-60. Numerous Bufflehead were seen on the upper reaches of the Duplin River and in the ocean during the bird counts of the past four years.

Red-shouldered Hawk: *Buteo lineatus*. Teal considered this hawk to be a spring and fall migrant and cited observations in October, February, and March. Observations on 29 Dec 63 and 2 Jan 65 suggest that it may remain most of the winter. It is a common permanent resident on the nearby mainland.

Bald Eagle: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. The eyrie mentioned by Teal and used by the eagles in 1958 was also occupied in 1959 when three young were reared. Adults were present in the spring of 1960, but no young were reared and no nesting attempts were made in 1961-63.

Peregrine Falcon: *Peregrinus falco*. Rare. The duck hawk has become so rare in the eastern U. S. that it may be worthwhile to record sightings. The most recent record on Sapelo is that of an immature bird observed by P. Hyypio and F. McMurry on 27 Nov 63 giving chase to a Pintail over the North-end ponds.

Chachalaca: *Ortalis vetula*. Permanent resident. This introduced Mexican species continues to thrive on Sapelo and Blackbeard Islands. Since the dense forest undergrowth was removed from the South-end area around the Big House in 1959-60 it no longer nests at the South-end. However, adults are occasionally observed feeding in the area.

Virginia Rail: *Rallus limicola*. Teal recorded an observation in February 1958. Several were heard calling on the North-end ponds in response to fire-crackers on 30 Dec 61, 30 Dec 62, and 2 Jan 65.

American Woodcock: *Philohela minor*. Teal lists this species as a winter resident only. However, one was seen near the South-end pastures by A. Smalley on 30 June 59 and another bird was watched by H. Kale on the road north of Chocolate on 31 July 60. No evidence of breeding was found, although the latter bird was walking strangely — very reminiscent of certain steps that appear in the dances of North American Indians. Several woodcocks were observed by count participants on 30 Dec 62 and 29 Dec 63 along the North-end road, and one bird was seen during the count of 1 Jan 66.

Long-billed Curlew: *Numenius americanus*. Rare. Several birds were seen by I. Tomkins on 29 Dec 62 on the South-end beach.

Knot: *Calidris canutus*. Teal lists this species as a fall and spring migrant since it is rarely observed during the winter months. An estimated

2500 were observed on the South-end beach on 29 Dec 60 by H. Kale and D. Simpson. Count participants observed 66 knots on 2 Jan 65 and 110 knots on 1 Jan 66. Thus it may be considered an uncommon winter visitor also.

Pectoral Sandpiper: *Erolia melanotos*. Uncommon. S. Austin and D. Simpson observed a single bird in a tidal pool behind the beach on 20 July 59. E. Provost and H. Kale found one feeding in the fresh-water pond near the lighthouse on 12 April 62. Other records were a bird seen by W. Baker on 21 April 63 and one seen by E. Provost and M. Pelton on 9 May 64.

Marbled Godwit: *Limosa fedoa*. Teal lists this species as being seen from July through May, but noted the absence of November and December records. Two were seen by Teal, E. Odum, and E. Kuenzler on 1 Jan 59 and 50 were counted on the South-end beach by W. Anderson, R. Williams, and H. Kale on 2 Jan 60. On 30 Dec. 62 approximately 20 birds were found on the mudflats of the diked area, and over 60 birds were counted there the next day.

Black-necked Stilt: *Himantopus mexicanus*. Rare. Teal lists this species as a summer resident, possibly because it may have nested along the coast in former years (Burleigh, 1958). Its status is now of accidental occurrence on the coast. In addition to Teal's April and September 1958 records, two birds were seen in the South-end pastures in April 1959 by Kale.

Pomarine Jaeger: *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Rare. A single bird was positively identified by H. Coolidge and M. Hopkins, who approached within 35 feet of the bird on 2 Jan 65. Two additional jaegers were observed the same day, but were not specifically identified.

Bonaparte's Gull: *Larus philadelphia*. Teal lists this gull as a common wintering species along the beaches and sounds. An unusually large concentration of this species, estimated at 5,00 birds, was observed in Sapelo by count participants on 2 Jan 65. Only one Bonaparte's Gull was observed on 1 Jan 66 however.

Black-billed Cuckoo: *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. The first Sapelo record for this species is a bird seen by H. Kale at Chocolate on 15 April 61. One was seen by Kale on Blackbeard Island in April 1958.

Belted Kingfisher: *Megascyle alcyon*. Though still no evidence of nesting exists, this species has now been seen during every month of the year. New records are 17 and 23 June 60, 4 July 61, and 20 June 62.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: *Archilochus colubris*. Teal lists this species as uncommon from April through August and had no breeding



records for the island. In April 1961, H. Kale observed a nest being built by a female 50 feet above the ground on a dead branch of a slash pine located near the Big House.

Eastern Kingbird: *Tyrannus tyrannus*. In early November 1963, P. Hyypio and F. McMurphy observed a flock of kingbirds feeding on seeds in the crowns of *Magnolia grandiflora*. The birds would hover before the fruit and peck at the seeds causing a large number of them to fall to the ground.

Western Kingbird: *Tyrannus verticalis*. An additional record is of two birds seen by F. McMurphy and Hyypio at Shell Hammock (at the South-end) on 1 Nov. 63. Two birds, probably the same two seen previously, were observed by Hyypio in the vicinity of the greenhouse several days later.

Barn Swallow: *Hirundo rustica*. Though no evidence of breeding has been found, several individuals were observed by H. Kale during June 1961 flying over the marsh. On 22 and 23 June 62 Sciple (1962) observed this species at the Meridian dock on the mainland and along the Sapelo beach. Robert, Teal, and Odum (1956) record a 9 June 55 observation. Numerous notes in *The Oriole* in 1962 and 1963 indicate a southward extension of the breeding range of the Barn Swallow into Georgia.

Purple Martin: *Progne subis*. This species is now common on Sapelo where nest containers (gourds or plastic chlorox bottles) are provided. One or two pairs usually nest in an opening under the roof at Marsh Landing. One pair successfully nested in a gourd fastened to the mast of the research vessel *Kit Jones* in 1961 (Kale, 1964).

Blue Jay: *Cyanocitta cristata*. Rare. Teal did not list any dates for this species, but it occurs so rarely on Sapelo that we are recording the only known observations since at least 1937. Some of the long-time residents of the island have stated that they have never seen a Blue Jay there. On 14 May 58 Kale observed a Blue Jay flying high above the Marine Institute. It flew into a nearby pine grove and was not seen again. In early September 1958 he heard a jay calling in the trees in front of the Institute after which it was seen flying eastward over the dormitory. Several jays were heard calling in live oaks south of Kenan Field (on the west side of Sapelo) by Kale on 3 Mar. 62. One Blue Jay was observed by the Natural History class during the week-end of 8-10 May 64. Tomkins (1965) and Austin (1965) also take note of the scarcity of this common mainland species on the relatively uninhabited sea islands of Georgia.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: *Polioptila caerulea*. Teal lists this species as a common summer resident from March through August. It is also an uncommon winter resident. One was seen on 30 Dec. 62 at Chocolate by W. Post and H. Kale, and another bird was seen by count participants on 29 Dec. 63 in the same area.

Loggerhead Shrike: *Lanius ludovicianus*. This is a common resident reported by Teal occurring along the pasture fencerows. An interesting observation concerning a breeding pair that nest each year in the Oleander shrubs along Marsh Landing road is worth noting here. On 3 July 60 a female shrike was observed by Kale to be brooding eggs and newly-hatched young in an abandoned Boat-tailed Grackle nest located in an Oleander. A shrike occasionally killed White-throated Sparrows in mist nets set up by P. Hyypio near the greenhouses during the winter of 1963-64.

White-eyed Vireo: *Vireo griseus*. Though primarily a summer resident, a few may be seen throughout the winter. One was seen in late November 1960 by H. Kale, and four were observed by count participants on 29 Dec. 63.

Solitary Vireo: *Vireo solitarius*. This species is chiefly a spring and fall migrant; however, a few individuals remain during the winter months. Several have been observed by count participants on 1 Jan. 59, 30 Dec. 61, 29 Dec. 62, and 30 Dec. 63. All were seen in the wooded areas along the North-end road.

Black and White Warbler: *Mniotilta varia*. Though seen more often during spring and fall migration this is one of the few warblers which may be found wintering throughout the south. Two birds were seen on the 30 Dec. 62 bird count and five on the 29 Dec. 63 count.

Orange-crowned Warbler: *Vermivora celata*. Teal lists only the observation of this species, a bird seen by Kale on 8 April 58. Several have been observed by count participants during the past five years.

Yellow-throated Warbler: *Dendroica dominica*. A very common summer resident, several have been seen during each of the bird counts, 1960 through 1965.

Black-throated Green Warbler: *Dendroica virens*. Two additional records are a bird seen by Kale near Boys Camp in mid-April 1959, and one seen by him in live oaks at the South-end on 15 April 61.

Eastern Meadowlark: *Sturnella magna*. Teal lists this species as a winter resident from October through May. In early June of 1963 several males



were observed singing on territories in the South-end pastures. Though no nests were observed territorial behavior suggested evidence of breeding.

Indigo Bunting: *Passerina cyanea*. Teal considered this species as uncommon and found only in April. One adult male was observed singing in a live oak near Boys Camp on 18 July 60 by Kale. The song was atypical and consisted of only four or five notes. No other buntings were observed in the area. Four Indigo Buntings were banded by P. Hyypio and F. McMurtry during the fall of 1963.

Purple Finch: *Carpodacus purpureus*. Teal lists this bird as common in February and March. One was seen near the Marine Institute on 29 Dec 63

#### ADDENDA TO THE 1959 LIST

Due to typographical error the notations pertaining to the Hermit Thrush and Wood Thrush were mixed and parts of them omitted in Teal's 1959 paper. An erratum appeared in *The Oriole*, 24:40, but this was not included in the reprints of the paper. This erratum is therefore quoted here:

"Wood Thrush: *Hylocichla mustelina*. Not common. One was seen in December and on January 1, 1965; several are seen in February and March every year.  
Hermit Thrush: *Hylocichla guttata*. November through April."

The earliest Georgia records for the Wood Thrush prior to Teal's paper occur in late March. No Wood Thrushes have been observed in recent years on Sapelo Island prior to early April. It is possible that Teal's December and January observation was of an injured or disabled bird wintering in the area.

Bobolink: *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Teal records this species being observed in fields in September and March. The latter month is probably a typographical error and should read "May." Bobolinks are commonly seen on Sapelo in early May and rarely in late April. The earliest record for the state is listed as 29 March near Macon (Burleigh, 1958).

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Entomological Research Center, P. O. Box 308, Vero Beach, Florida 32960, and L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850. March 1, 1966.



## GENERAL NOTES

VERMILION FLYCATCHER IN GEORGIA — On November 30, 1965, I observed a male Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) on the north side of Woody Pond on the Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge in McIntosh County, Ga. On December 10 Ivan Tomkins and L. B. Davenport, Jr., observed the flycatcher in the same spot. Vernon M. Kleen saw presumably the same bird on December 21 and again on January 1, 1966.

Brooke Meanley reported seeing a brightly plumaged male approximately 13 miles northeast of Valdosta, between Valdosta and Lakeland, Ga., on January 1, 1966. On the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge in South Carolina, but within several hundred yards of the Georgia line, observations were made of a Vermilion Flycatcher in 1959 and 1960.

With the exception of Meanley's Valdosta record, the above observations in Georgia and South Carolina were of birds that remained within a small area for as much as two months at a time. Each area was near water with the birds using a conspicuous perch, such as the top of a tree — E. O. Mellinger, Route 1, Hardeeville, South Carolina, Feb. 17, 1966.

RED-THROATED LOON, WHISTLING SWAN NEAR COLUMBUS — A single Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) was first viewed on Lake Oliver on Feb. 4, 1966, but was not seen close up and in good light until March 10, 1966. In addition to the regular field marks — slightly smaller than Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), white spots on back, and slender upturned bill — this bird, still in winter plumage, appeared to have a white stripe just above the eye in a lighter colored head. So similar is it to the Common Loon that regularly arrives here each fall, but moves on by late December, that it probably is more common in the state than has been indicated.

On Nov. 19, 1965, a Whistling Swan (*Olor colombianus*) was recorded 30 miles south of Columbus at the new Eufaula Wildlife Refuge (includes parts of Stewart and Quitman Counties), where it has wintered, and was still present through the first week of March — L. A. Wells and Roberta Wells, Green Island Hills, Columbus, Georgia, March 10, 1966.

SANDHILL CRANES INCREASING IN ATLANTA? — My note in *The Oriole* for September 1965 (XXX[3]: 96-97) listed the few records of the Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) in the Atlanta region, beginning

in 1951. Confirmed observations record no more than four birds at a time, although there have been verbal accounts of larger flocks.

On Sunday, March 13, 1966, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Freeborn and I went to the farm of E. C. Dawson in Crabapple, a community 1½ miles west of Alpharetta, Georgia. At 10:30 A.M., Mrs. Freeborn noticed a V-shaped flight of Sandhill Cranes flying northeast in the general direction of Lake Lanier. To the southwest, where the flight may have begun, is the backwater of the Chattahoochee River where most of the records of standing Sandhill Cranes have been made. A careful check revealed 34 birds, moving from a V-formation to an irregular line and occasionally changing direction in an unhurried manner. Several birds displayed light markings on the wings, which some writers say is caused by the application of mud by the cranes. The distinctive call could be heard for half a mile.

At about noon of that same day, C. M. Einhorn and several members of his family were on the Northeast Freeway out of Atlanta, about 20 miles from the Dawson farm. The party saw eight Sandhill Cranes, flying in a loose V, roughly in a northerly direction. It is unlikely that they were part of the flock we saw earlier in the day — Louis C. Fink, 688 North Parkwood Road, Decatur, Georgia 30030. March 13, 1966.



## RECENT LITERATURE

THE GOLDEN EAGLE, 1965, by Robert Murphy, E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 157 pages, many black-and-white drawings, \$3.95. This is another in the style of popularized life histories, similar to books about the great auk and the peregrine falcon. The writing is rewarding, and the sketches stimulating. I found the story-line a little forced: there is an episode in which the golden eagle is trapped in a miner's cabin for several days, and it hardly seemed a typical event in the life of this bird. But the hazards to the eagle (principally man with guns, traps and nets, on the ground and in airplanes) are made abundantly clear. As Roger Peterson said, the descriptions of flight in this book will make an eagle fan of any reader. There are innumerable references to smaller birds — some known to us in Georgia — which heighten the interest of the book — Louis C. Fink.

SONG AND GARDEN BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA; WATER, PREY, AND GAME BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, by Alexander Wetmore and others, 400 pages and 464 pages, color photos and paintings on almost every page, two volumes boxed \$25, National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. In these two books, 656 species are portrayed in color and described. The writing is reminiscent of the National Geographic Magazine; there are first-person adventures, scholarly articles by Mr. Wetmore, and descriptions of birds which vary in length and detail. The layout of pages is disconcerting: captions are sometimes on facing pages, and in a few cases, the photo caption is on the following page, making study difficult. But the pictures are magnificent, and the text will bring a world of information to bird students at any level. Recordings of bird songs in the back of each volume are keyed, so that you can select the bird you want to hear. The recordings are keyed to page numbers also, making the study of song easier and more profitable — Louis C. Fink.

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