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WHIP-POOR-WILL POPULATIONS IN THE LOWER PIEDMONT OF GEORGIA

By

W. WILSON BAKER and RICHARD H. PEAKE

Thomas D. Burleigh (1958, p. 334) describes the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus vociferus*) as a "common summer resident" of the Georgia mountains and an "uncommon transient south of the mountain counties." However, Burleigh notes records for the breeding season from the Atlanta Plateau in the Upper Piedmont: These consist of records from "Sullivan Creek (sixteen miles north of Atlanta)" and Marietta as well as "two eggs found a quarter of a mile south of Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County, the middle of May, 1932, by T. Lawrence."

Observations before 1965:

In 1955 J. Fred Denton (1956) found Whip-poor-wills calling on the nights of 10 and 11 June at Elijah Clark State Park on the Washington Plateau in Lincoln County, Georgia. That same summer R. Barclay McGhee heard Whip-poor-wills in Clarke County, Georgia, near Cedar Creek off the Barnett Shoals Road. On 21 June 1956 McGhee heard Whip-poor-wills calling at 10:20 p.m. He continued hearing them during the summer of 1956 and has heard them during the breeding season at the same location as listed above each summer since 1956. At the time Denton reported his Lincoln County records he suggested that "the possibility of the Whip-poor-will nesting" in Lincoln County in the Lower Piedmont is "not too unlikely."

Besides these records there is a recent one from Columbus, Georgia, where Florence Lynn recorded the Whip-poor-will calling from 23 March to 1 June 1964 (Wells, 1964). Also, eight Whip-poor-wills were heard on Nowhere Road in Clarke County on 4 May 1963 by Herbert W. Kale, II, and Richard H. Peake.

Observations, 1965:

In 1965 W. Wilson Baker and his wife, Virginia, heard Whip-poor-wills throughout the summer near their home on the Indian Hills Road in Clarke County. At this locality the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) was first heard calling on 10 April and the Whip-poor-will on 19 April. Not until 9 May was the Whip-poor-will heard again in this area, but from that date until 16 July the Bakers listed the Whip-poor-will regularly. The dates recorded are as follows: 9, 10, 12, 31 May; 5, 9, 10, 22 June; 6, 7, and 16 July. The times at which the birds called varied from 8:00 to 10:45 p.m. One bird was recorded on the late date of 25 September at 4:40 a.m. Although the Bakers did not keep count of the Chuck-will's-widows heard, their records indicated that the Chuck-will's-widow was much more abundant than the Whip-poor-will at Indian Hills Road. Quite likely the records for April, early May, and September represent transient Whip-poor-wills, but the records from 31 May to 16 July represent summer residents.

Observations, 1966:

In 1966 Baker heard a Whip-poor-will singing at dusk in Bobby Brown State Park, Elbert County, on 3 April, and on 12 April one at Indian Hills Road, Clarke County. After 19 April 1966 no more Whip-poor-wills were heard at Indian Hills Road. On 14 April Richard Fatora and Peake heard two Whip-poor-wills on Nowhere Road where the species had been recorded in May, 1963.

On 29 May Peake made a search for Whip-poor-wills in southeastern Clarke County and heard seven calling on a three mile stretch extending from Barnett Shoals Road to Hardeman Road. After finding the birds calling along this route, Peake returned to this area. Stopping every three-tenths of a mile, he counted all the Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows within hearing, making every effort to avoid counting any bird twice. Additional counts using the method described above were made during June and July. Peake took part in all these counts and was assisted by Baker, Calvin S. Brown, and Hugh Brown on the June counts. The results are shown in the accompanying table.

As one can see, these counts reveal that the calling of the Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows is somewhat unpredictable, but the blanks on the chart may be correlated to some extent with the winds which came up while the count was underway. Whenever the wind rose noticeably, goatsucker activity seemed to diminish. However, the table does reveal a decrease in activity of the Chuck-will's-widow after the peak of its breeding season. According to Bent (1964) the peak of the nesting for this

Table 1.
GOATSUCKER CALL COUNTS IN CLARKE COUNTY, 1966*

Stops	29 May	19 June	21 June	3 July
	9:30 - 10:15	8:15 - 9:05	8:30 - 9:00	8:20 - 8:45
1	2(1)	1(1)	1(2)	
2	(1)	1(2)	(1)	
3	1(2)	(3)	3(1)	
4	(3)	(4)	1(3)	1(1)
5	1(3)	(2)	1(3)	(1)
6	1(5)	3(6)	3(5)	1(3)
7	1(6)	1(5)	1(2)	3(2)
8	(2)	1(2)	1	1(4)
9	(3)			(3)
10	1(3)			1(2)
11	(1)			(1)
Totals	7(30)	7(25)	11(17)	7(17)

* First number Whip-poor-wills, number in parentheses ()
Chuck-will's-widows.

species occurs in May and the results shown in the table indicate a marked decrease in calling activity of the Chuck-will's-widow in June and July. The lack of such a decrease in calling of Whip-poor-wills suggests the Whip-poor-will might have a somewhat more extended breeding period.

Several other records for Clarke County are worthy of note. On 3 June 1966 Baker and William Dopson heard one Whip-poor-will near Thompson's Lake. The observers also heard two Whip-poor-wills on 16 and 17 June on Nowhere Road.

The surprising abundance of Whip-poor-wills in Clarke County in 1966 led to a search for this species in surrounding counties that resulted in summer records of Whip-poor-wills from the following counties:

JACKSON: On 2 July C. S. Brown and Peake heard one Whip-poor-will and four Chuck-will's-widows at 8:20 p.m. in southern Jackson County on the Mitchell Bridge Road.

MADISON: On 1 June Peake heard one Whip-poor-will and six Chuck-will's-widows in southwestern Madison County, just off Georgia Highway 106. On 7 June the Bakers heard one Whip-poor-will on Nowhere Road just inside Madison County.

OCONEE: On 19 June Baker, H. Brown, and Peake heard at least one (probably two) Whip-poor-will about one mile from the Oconee River on the White Hall Road at 8:14 p.m.

OGLETHORPE: On 19 June Baker, H. Brown, and Peake heard at least three Whip-poor-wills in northwestern Oglethorpe County from 9:35 to 9:45 p.m. On 21 June C. S. Brown, H. Brown, and Peake heard one bird at 9:15 p.m. in the same area. On 28 June the Browns and Peake travelled the Bob Godfrey Road from the Oglethorpe County area mentioned above the Skull Shoals Road through the Oconee National Forest to the Macedonia Church Road and the Oconee Recreation Area on Georgia Highway 15. The first part of this route is in Oglethorpe County, the second in Greene County. From 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. the observers heard 41 Chuck-will's-widows and 40 Whip-poor-wills in Oglethorpe County.

GREENE COUNTY: On 28 June, on the route described above, the Browns and Peake recorded 17 Chuck-will's-widows and 23 Whip-poor-wills between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m. On the same night Baker heard Whip-poor-wills in almost the same area (6 to 8 at one stop) and also noted that more Whip-poor-wills were calling than Chuck-will's-widows. Again on 5 and 8 July Baker heard four Whip-poor-wills on the Macedonia Church Road at the same location as above. On 11 July 1966 one adult male Whip-poor-will was collected at the Greene County location. At the time this bird (one of a pair) was acting as if on territory. This specimen prepared by C. William Dopson is number 2815 in the University of Georgia collection.

These records, especially those for Greene County, which is fairly close to the Fall Line, suggest that the Whip-poor-will is becoming a common summer resident in portions of the Lower Piedmont in Georgia. It is indeed difficult to believe that the Whip-poor-will could have been present but unnoticed in the Lower Piedmont throughout the first half of the 1900's. Evidently the Whip-poor-will extended its summer range into the Lower Piedmont in the 1950's, and the population has increased rapidly during the 1960's so that in some places the Whip-poor-will appears to be as abundant as the Chuck-will's-widow. However, the Whip-poor-will seems to be limited to the higher ground. The shift in land use in the Lower Piedmont during the twentieth century probably accounts in part for the extended range of the Whip-poor-will. For example, the portions of Oglethorpe and Greene Counties mentioned in this paper were heavily populated agricultural areas fifty years ago; today the land is in mixed woods and is sparsely populated.

Denton was obviously correct in suggesting that the Whip-poor-will may breed in the Lower Piedmont, although a nest has yet to be discovered. The records presented here definitely show the Whip-poor-will to be a summer resident of the Midland Slope and Washington Plateau of the Lower Piedmont. Probably birds in late May and early June in the Lower Piedmont represent summer residents rather than transients. In addition, the Whip-poor-will is a far more common transient in the Lower Piedmont than Burleigh indicated. Observers in the Georgia Piedmont should listen for Whip-poor-wills throughout June wherever they have heard Whip-poor-wills in May.

SUMMARY

The Whip-poor-will has become a common summer resident in parts of the Lower Piedmont of Georgia. This species has now been recorded during summer months from Jackson, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, and Greene Counties as well as Clarke and Lincoln Counties. In some places in the Lower Piedmont the Whip-poor-will seems as abundant as the Chuck-will's-widow. The shift in land use in the Lower Piedmont seems to be contributing to the rapid expansion and range extension of the Whip-poor-will populations.

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 Box 4206 Campus Station and 342 Milledge Terrace; Athens, Georgia.

RECORD OF AN IVORY BILLED WOODPECKER KILLED THIRTY MILES UP RIVER FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

By HERMAN W. COOLIDGE

Many valuable and interesting papers belonging to the late Ivan R. Tomkins have been deposited with The Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, Georgia, where they will be made available to students. Among these papers is a statement by the late C. B. Westcott in which he tells of collecting an Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in the lower Savannah River swamp, about thirty miles from Savannah, during the year 1886. This appears to be the last specimen of this magnificent woodpecker to be collected in the Savannah area.

C. B. Westcott, better known as Charlie Westcott, together with Ward Allen and Christmas Moultrie, a Negro from Mulberry Grove Plantation, were three colorful and capable professional market hunters of the lower Savannah River at the end of the last century. Westcott was an educated, competent observer and his reputation gives us every reason to accept his story as authentic. He was considered one of the finest shots this section has ever known.

The area referred to by Westcott is easily identified today. Bear Creek and Miller's Island are still known by those names, and the entire location appears to be within what is known as the Argent Lumber Company Tract which is presently owned by the Union-Camp Corporation.

The entire statement, which apparently was prepared for the late G. R. Rossignol, is as follows:

IVORY BILLED WOODPECKER KILLED THIRTY MILES UP RIVER FROM SAVANNAH, GA.

On one of my hunting trips up the Savannah River, I started through one of the most isolated swamps in this section of the state. Just above the mouth of Coleman Lake there is a run in the shape of a creek, known as Bear Creek, leading into a run that flows from Miller's Lake into Big Bear Creek. This run is known as Miller's Island run. It flows around the island and branches out into a large lake known as Round Lagoon. On this Miller's Island is where I killed the only specimen of Ivory-billed Woodpecker I ever saw alive in Georgia. I was sculling along in my duck boat yelping now and then for turkeys. I heard a yelp that sounded like a young hen turkey. I sculled my boat up to the bank along side of a large

cypress tree, took my gun and got out. I made a call on the turkey yelper and got an answer at once. I waited for the turkey to come to me but I waited in vain. I called again, and again got an answer. I waited some ten minutes and I tell you ten minutes is a long time to wait when you are expecting to get a shot at a turkey. I concluded to investigate and see why this fellow did not come to my call, it never failed before. I looked cautiously around the cypress and saw something dart around a large black gum tree. I placed another tree in my line so as to hide my movements. I then ran toward the tree where I saw the object disappear. As as soon as I got to the tree I wanted to get behind, I squatted and listened for a few seconds. I looked cautiously around the space in the direction where I had seen the object disappear. Seeing nothing of the bird I concluded to yelp again. Placing my gun so I could get to it quick, I called two notes quite low and was answered at once very close by and again in a dense cane brake about a hundred yards away. I noticed for the first time that the yelp was a strange sound and I was doubtful if it was a turkey that was answering my call. I called again and to my astonishment a large bird flew to the next tree and lit with his back toward me. I saw the beautiful plumage and knew this was a stranger. I shot him and tried to get his mate to answer but failed to get a glimpse of him or her. The bird is about as large as a pigeon, shaped like the common swamp woodpecker. Known as Snow Kate, has a white bill like ivory, a red head top knot, neck and sholders (sic) black, a beautiful large V shaped space on the back in two sections, running from sholders (sic) to rump, divided in the middle with black, the rump and tail black. A specimen of this beautiful bird is now in the possession of Mr. G. R. Rossignol, Jr. The specimen I killed was a male. I sold it to George Noble (in the year 1886) who kept a store on Broughton Street between Price and Habersham Streets, Savannah, Georgia.

Compliment to Hon. G. R. Rossignol, Jr.

Sincerely yours,
C. B. Westcott

Savh, Ga.
Aug. 26, 1912

13 Bluff Drive, Isle of Hope
Savannah, Georgia
June 24, 1966

SUMMARY OF THE 1965 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

By C. WILLIAM DOPSON, JR.

Eleven counts were conducted in Georgia this year, with a total of 166 species being recorded in the state. The counts were as follows: Athens, Dec. 23, 6 observers, Richard Peake, Jr., compiler; Atlanta, Dec. 26, 29 observers, Louis Fink, compiler; Augusta, Dec. 27, 11 observers, J. Fred Denton, compiler; Columbus, Dec. 27, 10 observers, L. A. Wells, compiler; Dalton, Dec. 26, 20 observers, Anne Hamilton, compiler; Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Jan. 1, 11 observers, Leonard Walker, compiler; Pine Mountain, Jan. 1, 20 observers, Fred Galle, compiler; Rome, Jan. 2, 12 observers, George Dorsey, compiler; Sapelo Island, Jan. 1, 10 observers, William Dopson, compiler; Sherwood and Birdsong Plantations, Dec. 31, 1 observer, Herbert L. Stoddard, compiler; Thomasville, Dec. 26, 2 observers, Jack Dozier, compiler.

The information in this summary was taken from *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 20, No.2.

	Athens	Atlanta	Augusta	Columbus	Dalton	Okefenokee	Pine Mt.	Rome	Sapelo Is.	Sherwood Plant.	Thomasville
Common Loon				2					1		
Red-throated Loon									8		
Horned Grebe				1					2		
Pied-billed Grebe	7	9	28	12	26	1	7	22	1	1	1
Brown Pelican									10		
Double-cr. Cormorant									130		
Anhinga						9				9	2
Great Blue Heron	1		11	1		18	1	1	18	2	2
Green Heron								2	2		
Little Blue Heron						29			10		1
Common Egret						55			38	1	2
Snowy Egret									24		
Louisiana Heron									9		
Black-c. Night Heron			5			7			1		
American Bittern			1								
White Ibis						109					
Canada Goose							13				20
Snow Goose						2					
Blue Goose						1					
Mallard			2	4	7	111	33	36	2	8	
Black Duck						11	2		47		
Gadwall			3				2		9		
Pintail							1			3	15
Green-winged Teal			37		1			33			
American Widgeon			3			6	11	55	10	7	
Shoveler			2			1					
Wood Duck			5			37		9	2	37	60
Redhead				6					12		
Ring-necked Duck	1		102	29			16	15		20	1200
Canvasback				1			11		1		
Lesser Scaup			12	74	1	21	31	15	2400	1	2
Common Goldeneye				4							
Bufflehead			2	89			5		30		
Oldsquaw									15		
Common Scoter									10		
Ruddy Duck			1				1				
Hooded Merganser	7		2	1	2	6			13		
Red-b. Merganser				23					5		
Turkey Vulture	2	1	8	3	7	53	11	33	37	12	
Black Vulture	7		8	2	8	37	8	9	16	12	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					1		1	1		
Cooper's Hawk		1		2	1		1	6	1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	4	12	15	2	1	6	3	2	8		7
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	2	6	2	3	11	1	4		3	1
Marsh Hawk	1		4	2	1	2	1	4	4		1
Osprey						1					
Pigeon Hawk								1			1
Sparrow Hawk	2	4	6	12	6	6	1	11	12	1	3
Chachalaca									1		
Bobwhite	51	20	16	69	67	16	122	56		36	10
Turkey								2			1
Sandhill Crane						27					
King Rail									7		
Clapper Rail									50		
Sora								1			
Common Gallinule			2			4			8	1	

	Athens	Atlanta	Augusta	Columbus	Dalton	Okefenokee	Pine Mt.	Rome	Sapelo Is.	Sherwood Plant.	Thomasville
American Coot			54			1	98	74	4	1	
Oystercatcher									3		
Semipalmated Plover									5		
Piping Plover									3		
Killdeer	1	33	145	33	72	1	10	65	4		12
Black-bellied Plover									28		
Ruddy Turnstone									7		
American Woodcock	2			5		7		2	1		3
Common Snipe		10	29		1			17	3	1	3
Spotted Sandpiper				2					3		
Willet									60		
Greater Yellowlegs			4						2		
Lesser Yellowlegs									1		
Knot									110		
Least Sandpiper			1						15		
Dunlin									8		
Western Sandpiper									30		
Sanderling									140		
Herring Gull				30					61		
Ring-billed Gull			41	387	1				1		
Laughing Gull									1		
Bonaparte's Gull			1						1		
Foster's Tern									7		
Caspian Tern									1		
Black Skimmer									60		
Mourning Dove	36	157	45	198	269	51	22	148	154	29	43
Ground Dove				5		3				6	7
Barn Owl		1						1	1		2
Screech Owl	3		3	1					1		1
Great Horned Owl	2			2				3	5	7	9
Barred Owl	1		3	1		5		4	6	2	
Belted Kingfisher	1	3	6	8	10	8	3	13	19	1	3
Yellow-w. Flicker	17	36	60	32	35	27	16	52	67	9	25
Pileated Woodpecker		7	6	6	1	13	8	12	6	8	2
Red-billed Wdpkr.	24	51	22	20	19	8	31	28	23	6	17
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	38	3	4	6	1	7				1
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	6	15	28	40	4	5	9	22	5	4	8
Hairy Woodpecker	2	1	3	7	4	1	5	8	2	2	
Downy Woodpecker	7	29	21	21	15	2	23	35	13	2	5
Red-cockaded Wdpkr.			2	4				6		1	2
Eastern Phoebe	4	1	12	13	8	24	10	10	6	4	12
Wood Pewee								1			
Horned Lark		3	54	4				18			
Tree Swallow					3	212			900		
Blue Jay	64	196	37	83	110	28	35	113		17	50
Common Crow	29	51	36	38	138	28	53	105	16	55	10
Fish Crow									8		
Carolina Chickadee	44	140	37	89	77	1	121	94	31	5	12
Tufted Titmouse	25	120	25	38	47	12	51	50		11	14
White-b. Nuthatch		55		2			5	3		4	6
Red-b. Nuthatch	2	6	2	4				1			
Brown-h. Nuthatch	8	27	8	53		7	35	13	6	2	6
Brown Creeper	5	4	6	6	4		7	9	1		4
House Wren	1	1	1	1		1	2		20		6
Winter Wren	8	1	5				3	5			
Bewick's Wren		1		1	2			1			

	Athens	Atlanta	Augusta	Columbus	Dalton	Okefenokee	Pine Mt.	Rome	Sapelo Is.	Sherwood Plant.	Thomasville
Carolina Wren	33	81	37	42	15	7	53	55	29	4	10
Long-b. Marsh Wren			1						5		
Short-b. Marsh Wren									5		
Mockingbird	26	147	53	67	75	61	25	60	20	6	19
Catbird	2	2	2	1	8	1	1	2	7		5
Brown Thrasher	7	33	19	8	15	6	6	31	13	10	15
Robin	26	150	72	374	239	385	310	264	220	3	220
Hermit Thrush	16	6	9	11	2			5	4	1	4
Eastern Bluebird	30	49	12	56	137	47	45	41	49	20	46
Blue-g. Gnatcatcher						1	1				
Golden-cr. Kinglet	4	37	33	19	10		31	29			6
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	48	79	76	49	11	17	45	56	33	3	18
Water Pipit	4	63	4			3		1			5
Cedar Waxwing	30	437	7	49	32		205	77		5	
Loggerhead Shrike	2	5	8	19	21	18	9	9	10	1	11
Starling	1113	2500	653	310	1548	11	75	1500	34		5
Solitary Vireo						1					1
Black & W. Warbler							1		1		5
Orange-cr. Warbler		3	1	2							1
Myrtle Warbler	1	3	28	134	8	248	350	89	700	5	65
Yellow-th. Warbler			1								
Pine Warbler	7	12	8	50	7	44	154	39	30	3	20
Palm Warbler			4			6	3		5		3
Yellowthroat		2	27	4		5	1		30	1	13
House Sparrow	72	153	170	261	186	10	258	386		2	45
Eastern Meadowlark	47	242	181	210	360	102	150	259	70	61	50
Red-winged Blackbird	537	1266	176	488	14	3534	255	2000	300	1020	5000
Bullock's Oriole											1
Baltimore Oriole			1								38
Rusty Blackbird	40	8	38	300	13		30	1500			1
Brewer's Blackbird				2		39		2400			
Boat-tailed Grackle									111		
Common Grackle	210	310	69	320	1015	51	17	3700	25	5	750
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	550	4	24	25			900	2		2
Cardinal	75	246	141	211	152	21	151	230	54	158	70
Evening Grosbeak											
Purple Finch	12	104	10	47	24		26	21			15
Pine Siskin	13	86		48	8		35	2			4
American Goldfinch	93	272	119	104	115	24	130	218	70	10	60
Rufous-sided Towhee	82	233	65	125	127	15	132	103	24	14	55
Savannah Sparrow	58	29	29	120	12	14	70	14	100		9
Grasshopper Sparrow											1
Vesper Sparrow		5	22	43	5	25	7	4	3	5	60
Bachman's Sparrow				1							
Slate-colored Junco	45	464	65	710	138		198	346	2	4	15
Chipping Sparrow	16	36	11	216	49	54	310	144	9	60	60
Field Sparrow	54	169	178	207	198	15	15	225	22	1	15
White-cr. Sparrow		3									
White-th. Sparrow	168	481	229	243	153	19	93	720	66	35	95
Fox Sparrow	3	17	14	15	6	3	3	21			
Lincoln's Sparrow	1										
Swamp Sparrow	30	133	178	20	14	3	6	91	45	1	25
Song Sparrow	39	157	290	133	65	6	105	155	72	2	15
Lapland Longspur			1								
Total Species	70	71	95	91	68	81	79	89	114	63	86
Total Individuals	3657	9612	4038	6524	7762	5832	4138	16,940	6991	1775	8454

708 Graham St., McRae, Georgia

GENERAL NOTES

RED-NECKED GREBES AT COLUMBUS — Each fall common loons (*Gavia immer*) and horned grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) appear on Lake Oliver, now five years old, but have thinned out about Dec. 24. This year a few stayed through the Christmas Count. A grebe remained through Jan. 11, and one was seen in February.

On the afternoon of Dec. 14 two additional larger grebes with extra long necks were noted. Red-necked grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) were suspected and, next morning, were confirmed by the more slender and erect gray necks, and triangular heads with high vertical white lines behind grayish cheeks. One retained more than a trace of rufous on the neck, and also had more yellow on the bill. — L. A. Wells, Green Island Hills, Rt. 1, Columbus, Ga. 31904, March 25, 1966.

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT AND LAPLAND LONGSPUR AT HARRIS NECK WILDLIFE REFUGE, GEORGIA — On January 1, 1966, Allen Mead and I visited the Harris Neck Wildlife Refuge, southeast of Riceboro, McIntosh County, Georgia. While exploring the runways and brushy field we came upon a recently planted field that had a crop sown in rows about five inches apart. The crop was about four inches high. As Allen and I walked through the field about 50 feet apart a bird suddenly flushed in front of me and gave a loud chirp. I knew at once that it was something I had never heard before. Following it with binoculars I noted that it landed about 150 feet ahead. As it landed it showed white outer tail feathers. We easily approached within 50 feet of the bird and noticed it had a narrow pointed bill and the top of the head was striped. As I gradually came closer it turned sideways and I could see an eye-stripe and stripes on the back. When I came within 30 feet it took two steps forward revealing light colored legs. After taking these steps it stood in an alert position reminding me of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. All in all I had a remarkable look at the bird and am 100% positive that it was a Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*).

When we moved closer it flew again, giving the characteristic chirps several times during the flight. It circled overhead three times about 60 feet high and landed near the spot from which it was originally flushed. Later Allen flushed a second bird a little further down the field. The only other birds present in the cultivated area were Savannah Sparrows.

While walking along the North-South runway we observed two Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*), a species with which I am thoroughly familiar.

This is apparently the first time Sprague's Pipit has been recorded in Coastal Georgia since Helme observed it on Cumberland Island in 1903. The Lapland Longspur is of equally rare occurrence in Coastal Georgia having been recorded once on Oysterbed Island, March 24, 1935, by Tomkins. Vernon M. Kleen, Fort Gordon, Georgia.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITES IN SCREVEN COUNTY — Murphy (1938) and Thomas (1943) both recorded seeing the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) in Richmond County, Georgia, but I have found no record of this species in this section of the state since then. Anne Hamilton (1964) does not mention the Swallow-tailed Kite in "Notes on the Birds of Screven County, Georgia."

From 29 June through 6 July 1965 I was working on a wildlife rabies surveillance program in Burke and Screven Counties. Our study areas were close to the Savannah River. Mississippi Kites (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) were seen every day in both river bottom woods and in open pastureland near the river.

On 5 July 1965 at 11:30 a.m. John M. Connell and I were watching a group of at least eight Mississippi Kites from the Girard Road, 2.2 miles North of U. S. 301, in northern Screven County. The Kites were hawking over pastureland in the Brick (Bethel) Church area on the Wade Plantation. While the Mississippi Kites were under observation a large bird appeared off toward the river. This was immediately recognized as a Swallow-tailed Kite. As it came almost overhead another adult Swallow-tailed appeared. Both species of kites were feeding on the wing on what appeared to be large grasshoppers.

One of the Swallow-tailed Kites landed on an exposed branch of a large hardwood tree in the pasture where it perched and preened for twenty minutes. Meanwhile the other Swallow-tailed Kite was hunting around the pasture with the Mississippi Kites.

The author is grateful to Richard H. Peake for critically reading this note.

LITERATURE CITED

- Hamilton, Anne P. 1964. Notes on the Birds of Screven County, Georgia, Oriole. 29:1-16.
 Murphy, E. E. 1938. The Swallow-tailed Kite in Richmond County. Oriole. 3:36.
 Thomas, B. 1943. The Swallow-tailed Kite at Augusta. Oriole. 8:22.
 W. Wilson Baker, Box 4206 Campus Station,
 Athens, Georgia. July 14, 1966

LINCOLN'S SPARROWS WINTERING AT ATHENS — Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, 1958) lists the Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii lincolnii*) as a "scarce transient and winter resident" throughout Georgia: Burleigh gives no winter records from Athens. On 12 December 1965 at the eastern edge of Clarke County, I heard a song that I suspected to be that of the Lincoln's Sparrow in an area where I had studied this species 29 April 1962 (*Audubon Field Notes* 26:398). After stalking the bird through heavy underbrush for about ten minutes, I obtained an excellent view of it. The bird's fine striping, buffy breast band, and eye-ring were obvious at the range of approximately fifteen feet. Again on 17 December I heard and saw a Lincoln's Sparrow at the same location. Throughout the winter (last on 20 March 1966) the song was heard in the area, but no further sightings occurred. However, on 23 December 1965 in a similar area a few miles away I had a close view of a Lincoln's Sparrow in a tangle along the roadside. Although the field marks of the species (including its skulking habits) were apparent, there was no opportunity for extended study. In both areas there was a combination of fields, a small amount of woods with heavy undergrowth, and water nearby. Richard H. Peake, 342 Milledge Terrace, Athens, Georgia 30601.

YELLOWTHROAT WINTERING IN ATHENS — Burleigh (*Georgia Birds*, 1958) asserts that winter records of the Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) in Georgia probably "refer largely to *typhicola*, but more winter specimens will have to be taken before definite conclusions can be reached." Burleigh cites seven specimens taken in winter in Georgia and attributable to *typhicola*; two of these are from Athens (taken 22 Jan and 29 Nov 1928). In view of Burleigh's comments, it seems worthwhile to note a third specimen of the Yellowthroat taken at Athens in winter. On 23 Dec 1962, while working a brushy area on the University of Georgia farm, I received an answer to "witchety" calls that I was emitting. Soon after a Yellowthroat appeared giving the common call note of the species; I studied the bird for about ten minutes. Again on 26 Dec 1962 and 15 Jan 1963 I found a Yellowthroat at the same place. On 22 Jan Larry Andrews and Herbert Kale, II, accompanied me to the spot; the Yellowthroat again answered my calls, and Kale collected it. Kale later sent the bird to John W. Aldrich, who identified the specimen as *Geothlypis trichas typhicola*. The specimen is now No. 2185 in the University of Georgia Museum collection. Richard H. Peake, 342 Milledge Terrace, Athens, Georgia 30601.

BIRD NOTES FROM A RIVER CRUISE IN SOUTH GEORGIA — On June 7, 1966, I accompanied a group that left Red Bluff, on the line between Ben Hill and Coffee counties, Georgia, in small boats for a trip down the Ocmulgee and Altamaha Rivers. At the Seaboard Railroad trestle over the Altamaha River in Glynn County the trip was terminated late on the afternoon of June 9 by rain squalls and high winds. The following notes concerning significant birdlife were recorded.

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*). One kite of this species was noted approximately ten miles below the U. S. 441 bridge at Jacksonville, Telfair County, on the 7th. Others noted on the same date were: one three miles below Scuffle Bluff, Telfair County; one five miles below Scuffle Bluff, Telfair County; ten over a clearing approximately five miles below the Lumber City bridge (U. S. 341), Wheeler County; one at fifteen miles below the U. S. 341 bridge, Montgomery County. Two were seen at the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee Rivers, Wheeler and Montgomery counties. On June 8, 1966, one was seen one mile upstream from the U. S. 1 bridge, Toombs County; two others were noted at the confluence of the Ochopee and Altamaha Rivers, Tattnall County, on the same date and one was near Fort Barrington, McIntosh County, on June 9.

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*). One bird of this species was noted at the same location as the ten Mississippi Kites approximately five miles below Lumber City on June 7th. It was wheeling and soaring over the north bank of the river while most of the other kites were over a clearing about two hundred yards away. Two other birds of this species were noted soaring in brisk winds and over large timber about twelve miles upstream from where U. S. 301 crosses the Altamaha River at Jesup, Wayne County, on June 9.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). One adult was noted about three miles upstream from the Georgia 121 bridge, Appling County, on June 8. Five adults were seen in Wayne County about twelve miles upstream from the U. S. 301 bridge crossing on the 9th.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*). One was seen at Red Bluff in Coffee and Telfair counties on June 7, and one was noted in Appling County on the Altamaha River on the 8th.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*). A male was singing at a camp site in cut-over timberland about three miles below the Hazlehurst bridge (U. S. 221) in Jeff Davis County on June 7. Two males were singing three miles downstream from the Georgia 64 bridge, Appling County, on June 8.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). This species was probably the most numerous of "over the river birds" and was almost constantly in view. At a campsite about three miles downstream from the Hazlehurst bridge (U. S. 221) I watched a pair hovering over a large, dead, hollow oak trunk stem for several minutes. One of the pair dropped into the hollow at the top of the stem and remained for the length of time that I was observing them. This swift's abundance over many of the wilder parts of the river suggests to me that more than a small percentage of the individuals continue to nest in hollows other than chimneys.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). On June 10 four adults of this species wearing plastic ? neck bands were noted on the Altamaha River, McIntosh and Glynn counties, about four miles downstream from the Seaboard Railroad trestle. Their wings were not clipped, and they flew for approximately one half mile when flushed from the water.

Addendum: Since making this trip I have noted one Mississippi Kite approximately three miles below the U. S. 441 bridge at Jacksonville, Talmer County, on July 11, 1966, and three others on the same date approximately ten miles downstream in Jeff Davis County. Milton Hopkins, Jr., Oysterfield, Georgia. June 13, 1966.

RECENT LITERATURE

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, 1966, by C. S. Robbins, B. Bruun, and H. S. Zim; illustrated by A. Singer. Golden Press, Inc., New York, N. Y. 340 pp., 4 1/2 x 7 1/2 in.; paperbound, \$2.95; clothbound, \$4.95.

This new field guide appears to be very well done and excellent in every respect. The authors and the illustrator are highly qualified in their fields. Chandler S. Robbins is Chief of the Migratory Non-game Bird studies of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He has been a research biologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 20 years, has had extensive field experience in all parts of North America, and is a recognized expert on bird identification. Bertel Bruun is a prominent amateur ornithologist from Europe who has also had broad experience in North America. Herbert S. Zim is well known in the field of science education, particularly as editor of the Golden Guide Series. He edited the beautifully done volume, *Birds of the World*. Arthur Singer is highly regarded as a painter of birds and has received acclaim for his illustrations for *Birds of the World*.

Unlike other field guides, which are limited in their coverage either to a particular portion of the country or to a limited number of birds, this one deals with all of the species occurring in North America north of Mexico. Each one is clearly illustrated, not only by means of an individual portrait, but also by very helpful sketches, silhouettes, etc., showing the bird in typical attitudes. Sketches of birds likely to be confused with a particular species are usually provided with the portrait of the form in question. The illustrations are of uniformly high quality. An especially convenient feature is that all illustrations of the birds appear on right hand pages, as the book lies open, exactly opposite the textual materials dealing with the species, which are on the left hand pages. There is no problem correlating text with illustrations.

Range maps accompanying the textual materials successfully show for each species the breeding range, winter range, areas of permanent residence, the approximate monthly limits of northward progress of spring migration, and regions through which the species moves in spring and in fall migration. The small size of these maps reduces their usefulness near the limits of a bird's range, but state or local books should be consulted for these areas, anyhow.

A major effort has gone into the presentation of Sonagrams for the various species. These are attempts at graphic presentations in an effort to assist users of the manual to learn and later recognize bird songs.

My own efforts to use these have been unsuccessful thus far, so I am frankly dubious about their value. However, as knowledge of bird songs is very useful to both the amateur and professional ornithologist, this effort to aid the learning process is to be commended.

The authors list the species by orders and families (presenting a minimal amount of information about these larger taxonomic categories), which is an aid to learning scientific classification. The accent marks provided to assist in the pronunciation of the scientific names of the birds are very helpful.

It is inevitable that any good new field guide to birds will be compared with Roger Tory Peterson's two volumes, *A Field Guide to the Birds* and *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. *Birds of North America* stands the comparison well. In many ways it is easier to use, especially since text and illustrations are always together for each species, and it does cover all species in one book. However, there is no equivalent to the pointer lines in Peterson's illustrations, showing immediately and clearly the diagnostic characters for which to look in the field. These are extremely helpful, both to the beginner and to the experienced person who wishes to make a hurried check on an identification. For this reason it seems likely that this new guide will not supersede Peterson's guides, but will prove to be a useful complement to them. At any rate, it is a good field guide and I recommend it highly. L. B. Davenport, Jr.

THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER, by J. T. Tanner (1942); THE ROSEATE SPOONHILL, by R. P. Allen (1942); THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR, by C. B. Koford (1953): Republications by Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, New York, 1966, paper-bound, \$2.00 each.

These three volumes first appeared as research reports Nos. 1, 2, and 4 of the National Audubon Society. They have been out of print for several years, and have now been re-published by Dover Publications as part of this company's program to make available at low cost important books in natural history and ecology which have gone out of print and become difficult to obtain.

These books have been the standard reference works on the three species ever since they were first published. The price of \$2.00 each is very reasonable; here is a good chance to obtain them in attractive format if you missed them on first publication. L. B. D., Jr.

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