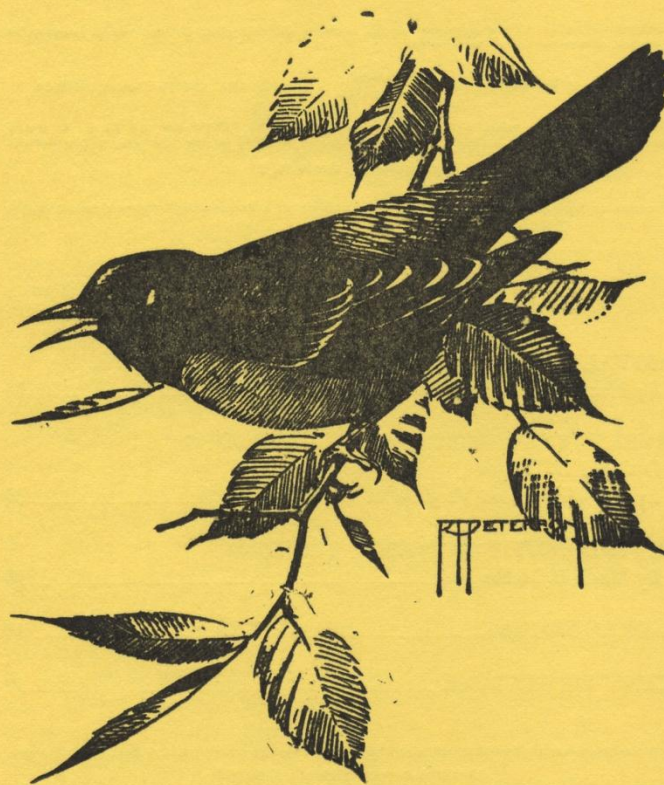


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NO. 3

THE ORIOLE

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REMOVAL OF YOUNG BY ADULT WILLETS

by

Herman W. Coolidge

In The Willets of Georgia and South Carolina (The Wilson Bulletin, Vol. 77, No. 2, pp 151-167, 1965) Ivan R. Tomkins states that the adult Willets attempt to get the young into a nearby marsh as soon as possible. With usual nesting sites this is easily accomplished. Arthur T. Wayne's observations (Arthur Cleveland Bent, Life Histories of North American Shore Birds, Part 2, p 31, 1929) indicate that unusual nesting sites bring about interesting results and, if necessary, the adult birds will at times carry their young between their thighs to a place of safety.

On May 21, 1966, an unusual situation developed near my home at Isle of Hope, Chatham County, Ga. A pair of Willets had selected a nesting site about 100 yards from the river in an area recently cleared of trees and now used as a parking lot for a small church. On the morning of May 21, the adult birds were seen in the vicinity of the nest and obviously were in a highly excited state. Shortly after this period of excitement began, three down-clad young were seen in my back yard about 30 yards from the nest and moving in the general direction of the river. They were closely attended by the adult birds. There is no marsh on the Isle of Hope side of the river, but there is a large marsh area across the river which is about 250 yards wide at this point. This marsh area has been Willet nesting territory for many years. The adult birds were seen flying back and forth across the river, calling constantly. At this time I was watching them from my dock trying to determine the cause for alarm. One of the adults flew over the river in the direction of the marsh. When over mid-stream an object was seen to drop from it and land in the river where it began to float rapidly down stream with the strong ebb tide. Immediately the shrieking and excitement was intensified. Both birds flew low over the floating object many times. It was only then that I realized the adult birds were moving their young to the marsh area and had dropped one. To confirm this, I rowed out to the young bird on the water. The tide was moving it away

and I finally overtook it about one-quarter of a mile from where it had been dropped. It was sitting upright and did not appear to be injured. Both adults were still in the air immediately above it. I picked up the young bird and rowed to the marsh where I left it. The adult birds were still both close by. The young disappeared at once in the high grass and was promptly followed by both adults as the excited behavior came to an abrupt halt.

13 Bluff Drive, Isle of Hope
Savannah, Georgia
May 25, 1966

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA IVAN R. TOMKINS BIRD COLLECTION

by

W. Wilson and Virginia B. Baker

Over the period of 43 years in which he studied the avifauna of coastal Georgia, Ivan R. Tomkins donated 497 bird study skins to the University of Georgia. The total number donated includes 35 families and 141 species. Many of these are rare specimens and state records. The accompanying table lists all of the "record" specimens which he contributed to the University of Georgia collection.

The "non-record" specimens consist primarily of one or a few individuals of each species except those on which he made detailed studies. These include series of specimens of willets (see *The Willets of Georgia and South Carolina 1965*, Wilson Bulletin 77(2): 151-167); purple sandpipers; long-billed marsh wrens (4 races); boat-tailed grackles; Savannah sparrows; sharp-tailed sparrows; and seaside sparrows (2 races).

Tall Timbers Research Station
Route 1, Box 160
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA IVAN R. TOMKINS BIRD COLLECTION (State records only included in this table)

Species	Sex	UG#	IRT#	Date	Locality	Record
Greater Shearwater	—	2091	*	23 Jun 62	Ga. McIntosh Co. Sapelo Is.	2nd State specimen
Greater Shearwater	?	2805	856	19 Jun 58	S.C. Beaufort Co. Hiltonhead Is.	Rare
Glossy Ibis	M	2080	746	16 Aug 53	Ga. Chatham Co. 3 mi. E. Savannah	1st State specimen
Greater Scaup	M	2066	770	21 Mar 54	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st Coastal record
King Eider	?	2067	752	8 Nov 53	Ga. Chatham Co. Vernon R.	3rd State specimen
White-winged Scoter	Imm.	2069	860	7 May 59	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st Ga. specimen
Surf Scoter	M	2068	756	30 Dec 53	Ga. Chatham Co. Wassaw Is.	4th Coll. specimen
Common Scoter	M	2070	787	1 May 55	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	2nd State specimen
Long-billed Curlew	F	1972	865	4 Nov 61	Ga. Chatham Co. McQueen's Is.	Rare—1st recent coll.
Purple Sandpiper	F	1997	681	26 Dec 49	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st State record
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Imm.	2051	692	29 Sept 51	Ga. Chatham Co. 3 mi. E. Savannah	1st State record
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	2052	724	18 Sept 52	Ga. Chatham Co. 3 mi. E. Savannah	2nd State record
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	M	2053	725	20 Sept 52	Ga. Chatham Co. 3 mi. E. Savannah	3rd State record
Long-billed Dowitcher	F	1981	750	7 Nov 53	Ga. Chatham Co. Deptford Is.	3rd State record
Black-necked Stilt	M	2803	682	12 Jul 50	Ga. Chatham Co. Hutchinson's Is.	1st Specimen coll.
Black-necked Stilt	F	1973	922	3 Jun 61	Ga. Chatham Co. McQueen's Is.	2nd Coll. record for state
Wilson's Phalarope	F	2034	861	23 Sept 59	Ga. Chatham Co. Hutchinson's Is.	1st State record
Northern Phalarope	F	2035	407	24 May 33	Ga. Chatham Co. Savannah, in river	1st State record
Glaucous Gull	M	911	691	30 May 51	Ga. Chatham Co. N. Tybee Is.	4th State record
Great Black-backed Gull	M	2071	909	12 Feb 61	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	2nd State specimen
Sabine's Gull	F	2078	890	12 Oct 60	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st State record
Sooty Tern	M	2748	973	Aug 64	S.C. Beaufort Co. Hiltonhead Is.	Rare
Bridled Tern (mummified)	—	2082	685	1 Oct 50	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st State specimens and records
Bridled Tern (mummified)	—	2083	686	1 Oct 50	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st State record
Noddy Tern	—	2081	687	7 Oct 50	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st State record
Yellow-headed Blackbird	M	1723	920	24 Apr 61	Ga. McIntosh Co. Altamaha Wildlife Refuge	1st Coastal Plain, 2nd state
Western Lark Sparrow	M	2239	IRT	2 Mar 63	Ga. Chatham Co. Tybee Is.	1st Ga. record
Lapland Longspur	M	1703	529	24 Mar 35	Ga. Chatham Co. Oysterbed Is.	1st State record
Snow Bunting	M	1705	365	24 Dec 32	Ga. Chatham Co. Oysterbed Is.	Earliest extant State specimen—2 earlier lost

Total number of specimens given to the University of Georgia by Ivan R. Tomkins — 497

Total number of species — 141

* Mummified

** LB Davenport

THE PHILOSOPHY OF IVAN R. TOMKINS

by

Marie B. Mellinger

In addition to the bibliography recently listed in *The Oriole* of the scientific works of Ivan R. Tomkins, it is important to add that he also contributed many articles of general natural history to *Nature Magazine* and other publications. Excerpts from some of these give us an insight into his philosophy of life and his acute interest in and knowledge of many natural history subjects.

From "The Siren Salamander," *Nature Magazine*, March, 1945:

"The variety of the universe is infinite. No matter how well we may think we know any small plot of ground, there is likely to come a time when we will find some strange and unusual creature that has lived there much longer than we. More of the interest fallen to the lot of amateur naturalist comes from discovering some of the things that live within his own circle. For nature exploration, however, most of us must be content with the 'foreign countries' of our own back yard.

"... The knowledge of local outdoor men, however unlearned, is always useful when it concerns the wild things of their community. Theirs is earthy knowledge, gained from close acquaintance, and when the chaff of local legend and tall tales is winnowed out, there remains much solid grain of truth for the interpretation of the more interested student."

From "The Georgian Oyster," *Nature Magazine*, November, 1947:

"It flourished and died in the Eocene, perhaps a million or so years ago. There is little accuracy or use in thus quoting time, except to give a vague idea of the immensity of it."

From "The Snails of Cockspur Island," *Nature Magazine*, May, 1948:

"I look forward to watching them for another quarter-century or so, with pleasant anticipation, without any worry about pecuniary gain or loss, or with any distaste for a lowly, crawling creature, which must live within its bodily limits and progress and prosper the best it can under a variety of difficulties."

From "Tybee's Purple Sandpipers," *Nature Magazine*, November, 1954:

"To the field student of birds, the amateur, I mean, there is high exaltation when a species or subspecies is found that has not previously been known from the locality. Possibly such an incident may not be of too much importance if it is just an accidental occurrence, yet sometimes the happening opens a new door that leads to knowledge of significance, and a fresh outlook on bird migration and distribution.

"... The happening of the purple sandpiper gave much interest to many field trips, and there are things yet to be done, and beyond them will be still others. 'And the verse of a Lapland song is haunting my memory still. A boy's will is the wind's will and the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts.' May our youth be long."

From "Salt Marsh Episode (on mosquitoes)," *Nature Magazine*, May, 1956:

"The naturalist should be a logical man and able to reason without too much personal feeling."

From "Specter of the Lighthouse," *Nature Magazine*, October, 1959:

"To the ornithologist, the great interest lies in the bird itself."

From an ecological summary for *Plant Studies of the Coastal Islands*:

"The absence of something is just as important as its presence."

From *The Birdlife of the Savannah River Delta*, Occasional Publication No. 4, Georgia Ornithological Society, 1958:

"Recorded within these pages are some of the facts uncovered, some of the working hypotheses arrived at, and even some hints of emergent theory on more than a locality basis, resulting from thirty-odd years of going to and fro in the Savannah River Delta. . . .

"During this time there have been changes in the river channels and in the lands bordering on them. Some habitats have expanded; others have shrunk. The observer, too, has expanded in some ways, shrunk in others.

"Had it been possible to develop clearer objectives in the early years, the results might have been better. But too much foresight begets worries, too much hindsight, regrets. I will have nothing to do with either."

Route 1

Hardeeville, South Carolina 29927

GENERAL NOTES

KENTUCKY WARBLER NEST IN CLARKE COUNTY — Burleigh (1958. *Georgia Birds*, U. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla.) states that breeding records for the Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) in Georgia "are not numerous" and describes a nest found at Young Harris as exceptional because it was in a laurel thicket rather than on the ground. Burleigh also notes that, although he saw a parent bird feeding a young bird, he was unsuccessful in finding a nest at Athens. Therefore the following record is of interest. On 31 May 1962 a pair of nesting Kentucky Warblers was observed by Dr. Calvin S. Brown, Hugh Brown, and the writer on Bear Creek in Clarke County approximately a mile south of the Jackson County line. After Hugh Brown flushed one bird from the nest, the other member of the pair appeared and moved about the area, giving an alarm note similar to that of the Hooded Warbler, but more emphatic. The nest was located in a fairly open spot in the river bottom understory in the fork of a small poplar partially covered with honeysuckle vines. For a wood warbler, the nest was rather bulky. It was four feet from the ground and contained four eggs, three with evenly spaced rufous spots on a white field and the fourth with coarsely blotched umber spots on a grayish white field — Richard H. Peake, 342 Milledge Terrace, Athens, Georgia 30601.

RECORDS OF SHOVELLER AND YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON FROM ATHENS — The Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*) is known as a scarce transient in the northern part of the state and as a winter resident south of the fall line. Burleigh (1958. *Georgia Birds*; U. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla.) lists the latest spring transient recorded as April 26 (1932, Griffin, Georgia) and the earliest fall transient recorded as October 8 (1940, Floyd County, Georgia). On August 22, 1965, I watched two Shovellers flying West over Lake Kirota towards the coliseum on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens.

One day earlier, August 21, 1965, I had seen two immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) at Lake Kirota. One was apparently feeding in the shallow water at the west end of the lake and a second was seen perched on a limb in the trees behind the lake — Ronald Pulliam, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

WINTER RECORD OF A BARN SWALLOW AT AUGUSTA — The American Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) is a fairly common spring and fall transient throughout Georgia and is perhaps a rare summer resi-

dent in the state. However, there seem to be no records of this bird east of Arizona in the winter months.

On December 19, 1965, my brother, Joe Pulliam, III, and I were observing waterfowl at Merry Brick ponds just south of Augusta when we spotted a single Barn Swallow high overhead. The bird was evidently searching for insects and only remained in sight for a few minutes — Ronald Pulliam, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

RECENT LITERATURE

HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA, by Frank M. Chapman (1931). Republished by Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N. Y., 1966, paperbound, \$3.00.

Chapman's *Handbook* has long been a standard reference in ornithology for North America, but it has been out of print since the early 1940's and has been difficult to obtain in recent years. Dover Publications has reprinted the second revised (1931) edition in its entirety with a new color chart and in enlarged format. Plates formerly in color are reproduced in half-tone, thus making them largely useless, but otherwise this re-issue appears to be a faithful replica. Here is a good opportunity to obtain a basic reference book at low cost — L. B. D., Jr.

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