

THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. XXXII

JUNE, 1967

NO. 2

THE ORIOLE

EDITOR

Leslie B. Davenport, Jr., Biology Department, Armstrong State College, Savannah, Ga. 31406

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

J. Fred Denton, Milton N. Hopkins, Robert A. Norris

THE ORIOLE is mailed to all members of the Georgia Ornithological Society not in arrears for dues. Classes of membership are as follows:

Student \$2.00; Regular, 3.00; Sustaining \$5.00; Life, \$50.00; Patron, \$100.00.
Out-of-State Library Garden Club

Inquiries concerning back issues of THE ORIOLE or OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE G. O. S. should be directed to the Business Manager.

All dues should be remitted to the Treasurer of the Society: Robert Overing, Rt. 2, Chapin, S. C. 29036.

CONTENTS

RECOVERIES OF BLACK SKIMMERS BANDED ON LITTLE EGG ISLAND, GEORGIA

By Herbert W. Kale, II 13

SUMMARY OF THE 1966 GEORGIA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

By C. William Dopson, Jr. 17

GENERAL NOTES 24

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY Founded December 13, 1936

Mrs. R. E. Hamilton, President Miss Mildred Sue McKewen, Secretary
Mrs. E. O. Mellinger, Vice-President Robert Overing, Treasurer
C. William Dopson, 2nd Vice-President W. P. Kellam, Librarian
Business Manager: Louis C. Fink, 620 Peachtree St., N.E., Apt. 913, Atlanta, Ga. 30308

THE ORIOLE

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

VOL. XXXII

JUNE, 1967

NO. 2

RECOVERIES OF BLACK SKIMMERS BANDED ON LITTLE EGG ISLAND, GEORGIA

HERBERT W. KALE, II

During the years 1958 through 1963 numerous nestling Black Skimmers (*Rynchops nigra*) were banded on Little Egg Island, a sandbar located in the mouth of Altamaha Sound, McIntosh County, Georgia, by John M. Teal (in 1958 only) and the author with assistance of personnel from the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island. A detailed description of Little Egg Island was made by Kale, Sciple and Tomkins (1965. The Royal Tern Colony of Little Egg Island, Georgia. Bird-Banding 36:21-27). Trips to the island were usually made in June, July and August of each year except in 1960 when no visit was made in August. Extremely high tides in May, June and July of 1960 destroyed the majority of the eggs and only two nestlings were banded that year. Numerous nests with fresh eggs were present on July 17, however, and since the spring tides in August were of normal height most of those nests probably fledged young by the end of the summer.

Table 1. Number of Black Skimmers Banded on Little Egg Island and number of band recoveries.

YEAR	NUMBER BANDED	RECOVERIES
1958	140* (Teal) 100 (Kale)	3
1959	137	1
1960	2	0
1961	75	0
1962	129	1
1963	243	4
Totals	826	9

*An appropriate number

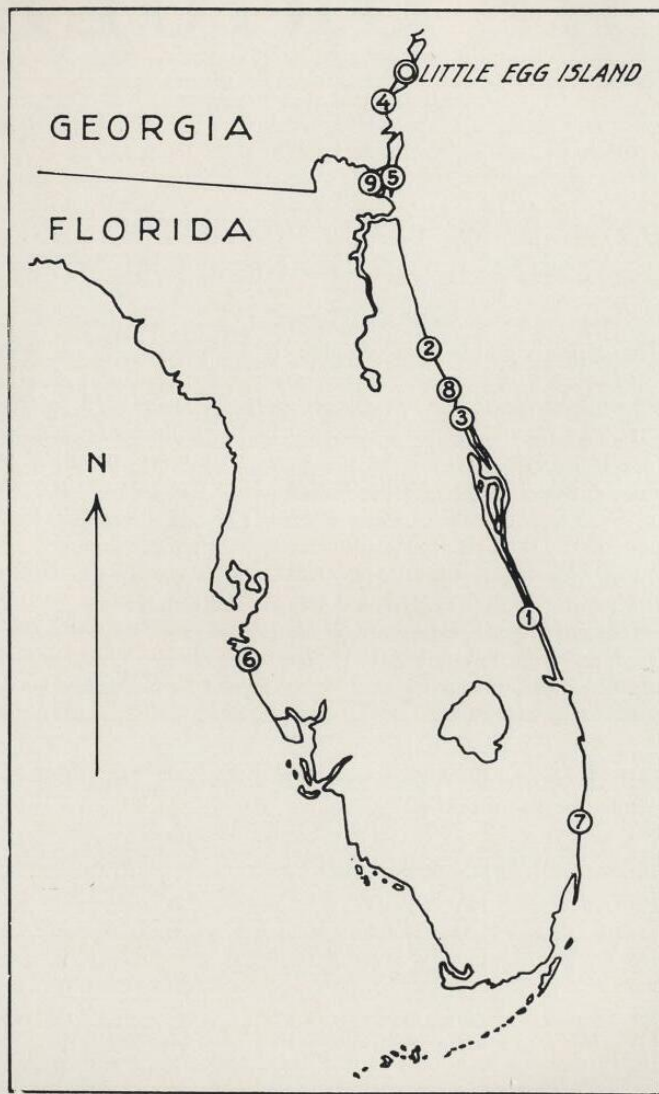


Figure 1. Map of south Georgia and Florida peninsula showing banding site (Little Egg Island) and recovery sites (encircled numbers correspond to numbers in text).

No attempts were ever made to capture adult birds on Little Egg Island, although Teal did capture several adult skimmers early in 1958 in mist nets on Sapelo Island beach, approximately eight miles north of the nesting colony.

The number of skimmers banded each year and the number of recoveries of each year class are presented in Table 1. Figure 1 shows the location of Little Egg Island and each recovery. Recoveries have been designated by a number on the map to correspond with their discussion in the text.

RECOVERIES

The approximate distance (air miles) from Little Egg Island of each recovery appears in parentheses.

1. Banded on 24 July 1958, found dead on the shore of the Indian River, five miles south of Vero Beach, Florida, on 26 December 1960 (225 miles).

2. Banded on 13 August 1958 (by Teal), found dead at Flagler Beach, Florida, on 15 April 1959 (85 miles).

3. Banded 24 July 1958, found dead at New Smyrna Beach, Florida, on 8 February 1963 (120 miles).

4. Banded 28 June 1959, found dead in street at Brunswick, Georgia, on 25 August 1959 (15 miles).

5. Banded 5 August 1962, found dead at Fernandina Beach, Florida, on 17 December 1962 (45 miles).

6. Banded 22 July 1963, found entangled in fishing gear in Sarasota Bay, Florida, on 1 November 1963 (285 miles). It is presumed that this bird was found dead.

7. Banded 22 July 1963, found dead (band with skeleton only) at North Pompano Beach, Florida, in late February, 1964 (320 miles).

8. Banded 10 August 1963, found dead on highway at Daytona, Florida, on 12 September 1963 (105 miles).

9. Banded 10 August 1963, found exhausted at Yulee, Florida, on 25 September 1963 (50 miles). It is presumed that this bird died subsequent to capture.

DISCUSSION

The nine Black Skimmer recoveries reported here represent a recovery rate of 1.1%. I am inclined to feel that this is a rather good band recovery rate for this particular species, although I have not made an exhaustive literature search for comparable records. It is interesting to note that all of the recoveries to date have occurred to the south of Little Egg Island. The Black Skimmer is considered to be a permanent resident along the Georgia coast; apparently, however, there is a considerable southward movement by the young, and possibly by adults, after leaving the nesting colony. Two of the recoveries, one at Vero Beach and one at New Smyrna Beach, were adult birds, two and five years of age, respectively. In addition, all of the Florida recoveries occurred during the non-breeding season.

The greatest flight distance — 320 miles — appears to have been made by the skimmer recovered at Pompano Beach, although the bird recovered in Sarasota Bay may have reached that area by a longer flight: the Atlantic coast — Florida Bay — Gulf coast route. Skimmers have been sighted inland in Florida in the Orlando area, Kissimmee River Valley, and Lake Okeechobee (Sprunt, 1954. *Florida Bird Life*, p. 226); thus, this skimmer could have flown via the overland route.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to John M. Teal for permission to include his skimmer banding records in this paper, and to William Janse for preparation of Figure 1. Over the years numerous individuals have assisted with banding and data recording. I am especially grateful to the following: W. Anderson, S. Austin, A. De la Cruz, L. Gardiner, J. Gentry, S. Griffith, C. Hart, P. Hyypio, I. Kawanabe, E. Kuenzler, N. Lyke, R. MacIntyre, T. Marples, J. McClatchey, J. Mishima, D. Montague, E. Odum, S. Schmittner, G. Sciple, H. Sharp, D. Simpson, J. Smith, I. Tomkins, and R. Williams. This research was supported in part by funds from the Sapelo Island Research Foundation and is Contribution No. 138 of the University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia 31327.

Entomological Research Center
P. O. Box 308, Vero Beach, Florida 32960

SUMMARY OF THE 1966 GEORGIA
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

C. WILLIAM DOPSON, JR.

Eleven counts were conducted in Georgia this year, with a total of 182 species being recorded in the state. The counts were as follows: Athens, Dec. 21, 12 observers, Richard Peake, compiler; Atlanta, Dec. 26, 21 observers, Louis Fink, compiler; Augusta, Dec. 26, 13 observers, J. Fred Denton, compiler; Barnesville, Jan. 2, 6 observers, Tom Collum, compiler; Columbus, Dec. 26, 14 observers, L. A. Wells, compiler; Dalton, Dec. 26, 19 observers, Anne Hamilton, compiler; Milledgeville, Dec. 31, 3 observers, Katherine Weaver, compiler; Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Jan. 2, 13 observers, Leonard Walker, compiler; Pine Mt., Jan. 1, 10 observers, Fred Galle, compiler; Rome, Dec. 30, 12 observers, George Dorsey, compiler; Sapelo Island, Dec. 31, 12 observers, William Dopson, compiler.

Although the information in this summary was taken from *Audubon Field Notes*, Vol. 21, No. 2, the numbers of birds for each species having one hundred thousand or more were rounded to the nearest one thousand. Where the numbers are rounded off the Roman Numeral M was used to represent one thousand. This was done to make it possible for these large numbers to be printed in the *Oriole* in the chart form. 708 Graham Street, McRae, Georgia.

[illegible][illegible]

Winter Wren	Athens	8	53	70	180	46	30	33	3	3	5	2	Sapelo Is.	2
Bewick's Wren	Atlanta	3	109	47	276	16	4	33	2	2	41	7	Rome	3
Carolina Wren	Atlanta	1		18	47	16	4	33	1	1	95	1	Rome	38
Long-b. Marsh Wren	Augusta	3	33	2	101	26	30	46	63	63	41	7	Pine Mt.	20
Short-b. Wren	Augusta	3	33	18	101	80	38	46	1	1	27	75	Pine Mt.	41
Mockingbird	Atlanta	3	109	80	276	16	4	33	2	2	3	12	Pine Mt.	41
Catbird	Atlanta	1		18	47	16	4	33	1	1	129	15,000	Pine Mt.	575
Brown Thrasher	Atlanta	1		80	276	20	38	46	9	9	7	80	Pine Mt.	7
Robin	Atlanta	1		9	5	14	2	46	2	2	32	7	Pine Mt.	31
Hermit Thrush	Atlanta	1		81	46	14	2	46	1	1	9	1	Pine Mt.	58
Eastern Bluebird	Atlanta	1		61	41	26	1	46	1	1	13	9	Pine Mt.	16
Blue-g. Gnatcatcher	Atlanta	1		144	113	80	1	46	1	1	23	23	Pine Mt.	30
Golden-c. Kinglet	Atlanta	1		5	36	1	1	46	1	1	25	25	Pine Mt.	52
Ruby-c. Kinglet	Atlanta	1		76	222	20	1	46	1	1	7	7	Pine Mt.	186
Water Pipit	Atlanta	1		12	10	9	9	46	1	1	10	10	Pine Mt.	19
Cedar Waxwing	Atlanta	1		1223	5000	1295	62	46	1	1	17	74	Pine Mt.	1201M
Loggerhead Shrike	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	6	6	Pine Mt.	15
Starling	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
White-eyed Vireo	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Solitary Vireo	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Black & W. Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Orange-c. Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Parula Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Magnolia Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Myrtle Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Yellow-th. Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Pine Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Palm Warbler	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1
Yellowthroat	Atlanta	1						46	1	1	4	4	Pine Mt.	1

House Sparrow	House Sparrow	75	148	267	309	226	585	4	6	15	797	5
Eastern Meadowlark	House Sparrow	217	176	260	18	452	603	41	300	88	359	117
Red-winged Blackbird	House Sparrow	376	1489	1610	53	899	490	3000M	1400	273	400M	682
Rusty Blackbird	House Sparrow	102	397	16		805	521		2	4	540M	
Brewer's Blackbird	House Sparrow					300	200				70,000	54
Boat-tailed Grackle	House Sparrow	16	2500	50	13	75	685	900M	11	1	1200M	3
Common Grackle	House Sparrow	50	3000	200	34	96	185	300M	36	147	368	76
Brown-headed Cowbird	House Sparrow	123	239	103		175	311	64				
Cardinal	House Sparrow	41	44	4		31	2			67	67	2
Indigo Bunting	House Sparrow					9				28		
Purple Finch	House Sparrow					130	5	6	8	35	196	59
Pine Siskin	House Sparrow	143	249	99	40	171	168	19	25	164	235	103
American Goldfinch	House Sparrow	108	193	75		510	2			2	24	21
Rufous-sided Towhee	House Sparrow	49	51	123		1				2	2	2
Ipswich Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Savannah Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Grasshopper Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Henslow's Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Seaside Sparrow	House Sparrow											
Vesper Sparrow	House Sparrow	4	14	4	13	26	3		27	178	10	29
Slate-colored Junco	House Sparrow	374	668	97	72	1640	170	119	25	510	738	12
Chipping Sparrow	House Sparrow	87	56	5	26	325	36	81	260	218	147	4
Field Sparrow	House Sparrow	295	203	79	7	108	90	164	18	91	364	6
White-cr. Sparrow	House Sparrow	2		1							20	
White-th. Sparrow	House Sparrow	431	725	264	37	557	140	21	23	273	1546	139
Fox Sparrow	House Sparrow	12	14	5	4	4	9		4	33	21	11
Lincoln's Sparrow	House Sparrow	2										
Swamp Sparrow	House Sparrow	63	150	54	2	32	11		1	5	132	54
Song Sparrow	House Sparrow	159	353	134	40	121	56	11	118	32	160	42
Lapland Longspur	House Sparrow			2								
TOTAL SPECIES	House Sparrow	80	68	86	43	93	67	43	82	71	100	144

GENERAL NOTES

A LATE DATE FOR THE BLUE GROSBEAK IN GEORGIA —

On 21 October 1966, a male Blue Grosbeak, *Guiraca caerulea*, was seen several times in the vicinity of Athens, Clarke Co., Georgia. He spent most of the day foraging in the tangled edge of an old field located in the flood plain to the west of the Oconee River, just east of the fire tower, and almost two miles south south-east of the University of Georgia campus. Mist-netting operations were underway at this time with nets set in a feral stand of high-bush blueberry along the west edge of this field. At 0845 on 22 October, an adult male grosbeak was captured. He weighed 17.7g and had a high level of subcutaneous fat. Measurements were as follows: wing (flattened and straightened), 71mm; tarsus, 20mm; and tail 53mm. This bird was banded and released. He was not seen again although banding was continued in this area through 29 October.

Burleigh. (1958. *Georgia Birds*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla.) gives the latest date of observation of this species in Athens as 7 October and the latest date in Georgia as 20 October (Macon). Therefore, the date 22 October apparently constitutes a late date for the Blue Grosbeak in Athens and in the State of Georgia. —Carl W. Helms, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30601.

WHISTLING SWAN IN ATLANTA METROPOLITAN AREA

— On Thanksgiving morning, November 24, 1966, Vaughn Morrison and I were surprised to see a lone Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) on a small lake adjacent to Panthersville Road just south of the old U. S. Honor Farm at Atlanta, Ga. The light gray-brown plumage and pink bill with dark tip identified it as an immature bird.

My wife Peg and I saw the swan again on the 25th and 26th. Using bushes at the edge of the lake as a cover, we were able to approach within 15 feet of the swan before it noticed us and began swimming toward the center of the lake. It was not as wary as might be expected. We phoned several Atlanta Bird Club members and subsequent reports from those who saw the swan indicated it departed about a week after the initial sighting.

Burleigh (1958. *Georgia Birds*. U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.) states that this species, even if searched for, will rarely be seen in Georgia. He refers to two seen on Pine Lake, ten miles southeast of Atlanta on February 25, 1945. Two of these swans also appeared at the Monastery at Conyers, Ga. on December 19, 1962, and were trapped and pinioned. One left

May 3, 1963, and the other left later in the year. This latest sighting is the first reported for the immediate Atlanta area. C. M. Einhorn, 1340 Holly Lane, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

GLOSSY IBIS AND BLACK-NECKED STILT ON CUMBERLAND ISLAND, GA. —

On the morning of April 15, 1967, while fishing on Whitney Lake, a fresh water pond on Cumberland Island, Georgia, my wife and I saw several Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). There was one group of five birds and several times we saw one to three birds flying across the pond.

On the morning of April 16, 1967, while fishing alone on Whitney Lake, I again saw the Glossy Ibis. Again on the morning of May 7, the Glossy Ibis were present at Whitney Lake. According to some of those who live on Cumberland Island, the Glossy Ibis arrive on Cumberland the first part of April every year and remain until fall.

Burleigh (1958. *Georgia Birds*. U. of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla.) lists the Glossy Ibis as a rare transient on the coast with the first recorded specimen collected in 1953 at Savannah.

About 7:30 a.m. on April 16, I noticed two birds, which appeared to have extremely long legs, circling the pond. At one point, they were directly over me and I could definitely identify them as the Black-Necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*). After about five minutes they flew off to the south.

Burleigh (1958. Op. cit.) states that the Black-Necked Stilt is now apparently of accidental occurrence on the coast. He reports that there are no sight records between 1911 and 1950, at which time a specimen was collected at Savannah. *Ed. Note*: Ivan R. Tomkins collected another specimen on June 3, 1961, on McQueen's Island, Chatham Co. (From the Field. *The Oriole*, XXVI (3) :46, Sept., 1961). A. W. Jones, Jr., Sea Island, Georgia 31561.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW HAWKING AT BAT'S —

At dusk on June 29, 1967, I set up nets to catch bats at a house in the small village of St. Clair in northern Burke County, Georgia. The bats (*Nycticeus humeralis*) began emerging in small groups from a crack just below the peak of the roof about 8:55 p.m. As they emerged a Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) swooped down from above the house passing through a group of bats and off to light in a soy bean field about 50 yards away.

In the dim light and because the net partially obstructed my view it was impossible to tell whether the chuck actually caught a bat, but there seems little doubt that it was diving at them. Whether the chuck mistook the bats for large moths or birds, or whether it sometimes includes bats in its diet can only be surmized. Bent's *Life Histories of North American Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Hummingbirds and Allies*, 1940, states that small birds, including hummingbirds, swallows, warblers and sparrows, have frequently been found in the stomachs of Chuck-will's-widows. However, there is no mention of bats being taken by this species. — J. Fred Denton, 529 Henderson Drive, Augusta, Georgia 30904.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

Application for membership may be made to the Treasurer. *THE ORIOLE* is sent without charge to all classes of members not in arrears for dues. Send changes of address, claims for undelivered or defective copies and requests for information relative to advertising, subscriptions and back numbers to the business manager.

All articles and notes submitted for publication and all books and publications intended for review should be sent to the editor.

Original papers in the field of ornithology are published in *THE ORIOLE*. Papers are judged on their contribution of original data, ideas, or interpretations and on their conciseness, scientific accuracy, and clarity.

COPY—Type manuscripts *double spaced* throughout. Underscore scientific names only. Number pages in the upper right hand corner. Arrange contents in this sequence: title page, text, reference, tables, figure legends, and figures. Type your complete address and date of submitting manuscript.

STYLE—The guide for preparation of copy is the *STYLE MANUAL FOR BIOLOGICAL JOURNALS* available from American Institute of Biological Sciences, 2000 P Street NW, Washington 6, D.C., \$3.00. A copy of this manual is held by the editor for use by contributing authors. A postal card request and return postage by you is required for its use.

TITLE—The title should be concise, descriptive, and not more than 10 words in length. Avoid use of scientific names in titles if possible.

FOOTNOTES—Avoid footnotes by incorporating such material in the text.

NOMENCLATURE—Vernacular names should be capitalized in text. They are to be accompanied by appropriate scientific names the first time each species is mentioned. Show reference for long lists of scientific names (i.e., A.O.U. Checklist, 5th ed., 1957).

REFERENCES—When there are fewer than 3 references insert them in parentheses where needed in the text by author, journal, volume, pagination, and year of publication. Three or more references are grouped alphabetically by authors last names under "literature cited".

TABLES—Prepare tables in keeping with size of *THE ORIOLE*. A good table should be understandable without reference to the text.

ILLUSTRATIONS—Illustrations should be suitable for photographic reproduction without retouching. Colored plates will be charged to the author.

REPRINTS—Request for reprints must be sent with original manuscript and are to be paid for by the author.

The *author* is responsible for putting his manuscript in final form for production. Authors should consult colleagues and specialists for review of papers before submission, and check all literature available to him that might have a bearing on his paper.