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THE ORIOLE

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A GREAT WHITE HERON ON JEKYLL ISLAND, GEORGIA — A STATE RECORD

G. FREDERICK SHANHOLTZER AND SHERYL A. FANNING

On 16 June 1970 while with a monthly pesticide monitoring cruise along the Intra-coastal Waterway in Georgia, a Great White Heron (*Ardea occidentalis*) was observed. This bird was standing atop an effluent pipe from a water treatment facility on the west side of Jekyll Island, adjacent to the large state marina under construction there. Mr. Charles J. Durant of the Marine Institute of the University of Georgia on Sapelo Island and the senior writer noted the singularly large size and dimensions of this bird relative to Snowy Egrets (*Leucophoyx thula*) and Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) standing nearby. It was concluded at this time that this was indeed a Great White Heron.

Two days later, on 18 June, a trip by car was made to the same area to photograph and make further visual observations of this bird. The writers, accompanied by Mr. James C. Conyers of the Marine Institute, found it feeding in the same location. Three photographs were obtained, and duplicates and prints were made of the best of these. Verifiable prints and slides have been deposited in the avian collection of the Department of Zoology of the University of Georgia. This record provides the first positive evidence of the occurrence of this bird in the State of Georgia and is a welcome addition to our state list.

The authors wish to express appreciation to Mr. Charles J. Durant and the University of Georgia Marine Institute for cruise facilities. This is a contribution from The Marine Institute, University of Georgia, Sapelo, Island, Georgia 31327.

BIRDS IN DOWNTOWN ATLANTA— SPRING, 1970

LOUIS C. FINK

A previous manuscript (Fink, L. C. 1970. Birds in downtown Atlanta—1969. *The Oriole*, 35(1): 1-9) described 58 species of birds picked up dead or observed at close range in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, in the fall of 1969. The influx of birds followed the construction of a 32-story office building (black — and struck by some birds) and the 26-story white marble building of the Trust Company of Georgia, illuminated with flood-lights on all four sides. Across the street from Trust Company is the 75-foot-square Trusco Park.

The spring migration and early-summer breeding produced 53 species in the same busy metropolitan area. Twenty of these were not seen last Fall, so that the total species list in less than one year is now 78.

Once again, a student at Georgia State University — Tom French — picked up dead birds at the base of the two buildings, prepared skins, and preserved them in the University collection.

The sight records are by the author unless otherwise indicated.

The following list includes observations between January 1, 1970, and July 15, 1970. The order and the common names follow that of the fifth edition (1957) of the Check-list of the American Ornithologists Union. "Specimen — French" indicates that Tom French preserved one or more specimens.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) — Twelve birds seen in the air a quarter-mile south of the area by William W. Griffin on April 1. Not on fall list.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) — One live bird in low shrubs in Trusco Park April 27 and May 10. Also seen flying as late as June 5.

Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) — Specimen — French, April 16. Not on fall list.

Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*) — One bird seen live in Trusco Park April 3 and April 7. On April 21 a bird was captured in the Trust Company garage and released. Possibly the same bird hit the windows of the bank later in the day, but was not harmed. Not on fall list.

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) — This summer resident is common in the downtown area of Atlanta. First record in the bank area is April 23.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) — Flock flying overhead June 5. Not on fall list.

American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*) — Specimen — French, March 3.
Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) — Specimen — French, March 18. Not on fall list.

Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) — Specimen — French, May 18 and May 28. Not on fall list.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) — One live bird in Trusco Park, April 29 (William W. Griffin).

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) — Live bird on pavement in front of bank, March 27 (C. W. Sadler). Not on fall list.

Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) — Specimen — French, April 29 and May 11. Immature bird picked up dead in front of bank, July 2. Four live birds in Trusco Park April 27, remaining until May 14. Ed Hughes observed them eating azalea blossoms.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) — One (and sometimes two) live birds in Trusco Park, March 30 to April 29. Specimen — French, May 11.

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) — Specimen — French, April 20 and April 27. Live bird in Trusco Park April 9 to April 23. On May 11 a bird hit the bank windows, but was not injured (C. W. Sadler.)

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata*) — Live bird in Trusco Park April 10 (C. M. Einhorn.) Not on fall list.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — Live birds in Trusco Park April 6, gathering nesting material April 8, feeding young out of nest May 14.

White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) — Specimen — French, April 2 (two), April 14, April 15, April 16 (two), April 17 (two), April 21, April 22, April 27 (four), April 29, and May 15.

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) — Specimen — French, April 21, April 28, April 29 (six), May 11 (nine), May 15, May 19. On May 2 a dead bird was picked up at the bank and given to Richard Parks.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) — Specimen — French, April 2, April 14 (two), and April 15.

Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — Specimen — French, April 14. Not on fall list.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — Specimen — French, April 21.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — One bird in Trusco Park, April 27. Not on fall list.

Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) — Specimen — French, April 27 (two), April 29 (two), and April 30. Not on fall list.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — Specimen — French, April 20. Live bird in Trusco Park April 27.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) — Specimen — French, April 29.

Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*) — Specimen — French, April 29 (three).

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — Specimen — French, February 17. Not on fall list.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*) — Live bird in Trusco Park April 28 (Ed Hughes), one or two live birds in park daily from April 29 to May 14. Dead bird in front of bank May 1 and May 2 (specimen to Richard Parks); dead bird at bank May 5. Not on fall list.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) — Specimen — French, April 17 and May 7. Dead bird in front of bank June 10.

Louisiana Water-thrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — Live bird in Trusco Park, May 14 and 15; one dead bird in front of bank July 7. Not on fall list.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — Specimen — French, April 29. Not on fall list.

Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — One dead bird at bank April 1; one or more live birds in park daily from April 6 to June 12; female dead in front of bank June 1; males singing June 5 to June 12.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) — Specimen — French, April 27, April 28, and April 30. On live bird in park April 28.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — Specimen — French, April 29.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) — Permanent resident. Observed gathering nesting material and feeding young.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) — Specimen — French, May 14. Not on fall list.

Redwinged Blackbird (*Sturnella magna*) — Specimen — French, March 17 (two). Live bird in park April 2.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) — Live bird in park April 27 and April 30. Two live birds in park May 4.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) — Live birds in Trusco Park — two on May 11, three on May 12, growing in numbers until 25 could be seen perched on nearby buildings in June. One found dead at bank July 16. Not on fall list.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) — One stunned at bank, but recovered May 11 (C. W. Sadler.) Not on fall list.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus*) — Specimen — French, April 27. Live bird in Trusco Park later the same day. Not on fall list.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) — Specimen — French, April 27, April 29 (four), May 6, May 18. Live bird in park May 4.

Common Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) — Specimen — French, April 14 and April 30. Not on fall list.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) — Specimen — French, March 17 and April 17. One live bird in Trusco Park January 16 and again on April 9 and 10.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) — Specimen — French, April 2 (four) and March 17.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savenarum*) — Specimen — French, May 7. One dead at bank, May 2 (specimen to Richard Parks.)

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) — Specimen — French, March 17.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) — One dead bird in front of bank at 7:30 A.M. March 30. One live bird in Trusco Park April 9.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) — One bird stunned by hitting bank but recovered, May 2 (John Padgett).

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) — Six live birds in Trusco Park January 2; remained until May 14, when one was singing. On May 18 the birds were gone from Trusco Park, but one was heard singing in nearby Hurt Park.

Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) — One live bird in Trusco Park, April 27.

Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*) — Two live birds in Trusco Park April 23; one on April 24.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) — Two live birds in Trusco Park April 1; one bird April 9 and 10.

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GENERAL NOTES

SIGHT RECORD OF THE PINE GROSBEAK IN GEORGIA—On November 26, 1967, five male Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator*) were discovered on Eastman Mountain (el. 2,300 ft.) near Tiger, Rabun County, Georgia. The birds were observed for approximately 20 minutes from a distance of 40 feet as they sat quietly in some young, 25-foot tall pines growing in an old pasture.

According to a recent review by Jones (1969. *Chat*, 33:1-2), Pine Grosbeaks have been recorded six times in the Carolinas since the winter of 1961-'62. Three of these records were from South Carolina. Another record reported previous to this period was of two birds observed at Highlands, N. C. on September 13, 1951. It is not too surprising that this bird eventually reached northeast Georgia. — Louis W. Schweizer, 710 Jefferson Dr., Augusta, Ga. 30901.

SIGHT RECORD OF SPRAGUE'S PIPIT IN ATLANTA — On March 15, 1970, I saw a Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*) at the South River Water Pollution Control Plant in Atlanta. Burleigh (1958, *Georgia Birds*, U. of Okla. Press, Norman) gives only one other record for the Atlanta area, a bird observed on February 28, 1953.

The wind was from the northwest and the temperature was 40° F., following a period of warmer temperatures. I was looking over the settling beds of the plant, which are a series of long rectangles of gravel, quite dry because they are no longer used. A few tufts of grass have grown up in the gravel, providing typical habitat for pipits. My attention had been drawn to six horned larks (*Eremophila alpestris*) when I noticed with them one bird with white outer tail-feathers and a pale, striped back. The legs were an intense lemon-yellow, brighter than any of the pictures in the reference works in my library.

I studied the bird carefully from 75 feet with an 8x binocular, but it flew when I tried to get closer. I searched the area for an hour, but never saw the bird again, although the larks remained in view. —Louis C. Fink, 620 Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER NEST ON BLACK ROCK MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA. — Although the Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) is a fairly common summer resident on the higher mountains of Georgia, nests have been found only on Brasstown

Bald (Burleigh, T. D. 1958. *Georgia Birds* U. of Okla. Press, Norman). The finding of a nest May 30, 1970, on Black Rock Mountain, Rabun County, by members of the Augusta Bird Club adds a second definite breeding site. The nest was discovered near the parking area at the entrance to the camp ground in Black Rock Mountain State Park at an approximate elevation of 3,400 feet. It was located about 18 inches from the ground in a wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*). At this time it contained three young 9-10 days old which the parents were attempting to feed. The trees in the vicinity of the nest were fairly mature with a rather low understory of hydrangea and other low shrubs. — J. Fred Denton, 529 Henderson Drive, Augusta, Georgia 30904.

ANOTHER BREEDING RECORD FOR THE WHITE IBIS IN MID-SOUTH GEORGIA—On June 7, 1970, James P. Kilgo and I flew over the Rebecca, Turner County, heronry described by Hopkins and Murton in 1969 (*The Oriole*, 34(1):1-11). From the air we noted at least four adult White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) circling over the colony.

On June 10, 1970, I entered the heronry on foot and located a small breeding segment of the main colony on the south side nearest dry land that contained at least 25 nests of the White Ibis. All nests were in the egg stage and were located in stunted pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) and black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) about eight feet above the water's surface. Most of the nests contained green leaves in addition to sticks.

The main heronry now contains approximately 3,000 nests as compared with a counted 1,800 in 1968. The species makeup is the same with the exception of these White Ibis and two nests of the Common Egret (*Casmerodius alba*), most of the additional increase being in Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*).

Mary M. Hopkins and I watched the heronry through binoculars from a vantage point on the outside and saw White Ibis adults in tall cypress trees over the position where I had located the nests, but nowhere else in the colony. Cattle Egrets were flying over us continually from adjacent farm and pasture land with sticks, grasses, and twigs in their beaks. (I had thought that most of the nesting material was collected within the confines of the rookery itself until this time.)

This additional White Ibis breeding record is one of the few reported from the interior of Georgia. Previously the breeding of this species about forty miles north-northeast of here was reported by Dopson and Hopkins

in 1967 (*The Oriole*, 32 (4): 46-47). Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., Rt. 5, Fitzgerald, Georgia.

POSSIBLE BREEDING OF THE VIRGINIA RAIL AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.—W. A. Griffin and R. A. Parks (1955, Occurrence Extremes of Birds of The Atlanta, Georgia, Region. Atlanta Bird Club) refer to the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) as a rare transient in the Atlanta area. Burleigh (1958, *Georgia Birds*, U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Oklahoma) mentions this species as being a fairly common transient and winter resident on the Savannah River as far north as Augusta and on the coast; elsewhere in the state a scarce transient. Both of the above references mention records of this species in the Atlanta area on November 2, 1948, and September 19, 1950.

Therefore, it was most unusual when two adult Virginia Rails accompanied by two black, downy chicks were found by Bob Manns on June 14, 1970, in a small swamp immediately northeast of the junction of Azalea and Willeo Roads in Fulton County. While the chicks of all American rails are black, those of the Virginia Rails have pied bills. Bob was fortunate in being able to observe the chicks closely and see the black band on their bills.

Bob phoned me late in the afternoon of the same day regarding his find. With a few hours of daylight remaining, my wife and I went to the area mentioned and were lucky to find two adult Virginia Rails with one chick, but were unable to get a good look at the chick's bill. I notified several members of the Atlanta Bird Club, but there were no reports of subsequent sightings. Unfortunately, the swamp was in the process of being filled and this activity may have caused the rails to retreat toward the center of the swamp where they were less likely to be disturbed. C. M. Einhorn, 1340 Holly Lane, N. E., Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

(*Editor's note*: While the observers were probably correct in their identification of the downy chicks, the breeding of this species at Atlanta needs future confirmation, since this site is some distance south of any known breeding localities. JFD).

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

REQUEST FOR GULL REPORTS

During May through July of each year for a five year period, Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: *date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name*. Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.

EAST COAST TERN WATCH

This summer volunteers from Nova Scotia to South Carolina will band young Common and Roseate Terns with a colored plastic band in addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band. The plastic band will be placed on the leg opposite the aluminum. Each province and state will use a different color so that observers can recognize birds from different areas.

Through observations of these color banded birds we hope to gain information regarding the following questions. How far do birds banded from different areas along the coast as well as inland range from their breeding colonies during their post breeding dispersal? Do birds from different areas along the coast concentrate at particular places in the fall? How late are these species seen at different points along the coast?

We are also interested in gaining information on where birds from different areas along the coast winter as well as details as to the movements of these birds on the wintering ground. In the case of first year birds, we would like to find out about their movements throughout the year and during their first two years of life.

The following people will participate in color banding this summer, using the listed colors: Nova Scotia-I.A. McLaren-yellow; Maine-Libby, Hatch, Gobeil-red and white horizontal stripe; Massachusetts-Howard-orange; Connecticut-Procter-green and white horizontal stripe; Lake Erie,

New York-Clark-light blue; Ontario, Canada-Clark-red; Michigan-Hodess-red and yellow horizontal stripe; Western Long Island, N. Y.-Heath, Gochfeld-royal blue; Eastern Long Island, N.Y.-Wilcox and Raynor-black and white horizontal stripe; Gardiner's Island-Duffy-Red, white and blue horizontal stripe; New Jersey-Savell-green; Maryland-VanVelzen-white; Virginia-Byrd-black; North Carolina-Davis, Sussel-green and brown horizontal stripe; South Carolina, Beckett-orange and blue stripe; Great Gull Island, N.Y.-Hays-color combinations using U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band and three color bands, two bands on each leg.

Please watch for color banded terns and send observations to the bander in your area or to:

Miss Helen Hays
Great Gull Island Project
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

We would also like to compile a list of places along the coast where concentrations of Common and/or Roseate Terns can be seen in late summer and early fall. If you know of any such places send them to Miss H. Hays at the above address. Any information you can supply on color banded terns at concentration points along the coast would be of great help.

GREAT BLUE HERON

At the top of an aquatic food-chain, the Great Blue Heron may well be an important indicator species. The Laboratory of Ornithology is planning a nation-wide survey of this species.

The first step will be to compile an inventory of heronries. To this end, we appeal to all readers with knowledge on this point to write to us. Information may be recent or old; detailed or sketchy. Even "I remember seeing a heronry as a boy" is helpful if the site is remembered well enough to locate on a topographic map.

We hope that this inventory will contain the exact locality of the heronry, a general description of the site, and as much history as possible. We hope that this stage of the program can be completed by the winter so that arrangements can be made for census work in the 1972 breeding season.

Please send all reports to Dr. David B. Peakall, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 155 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

SANDERLING

During the autumn migration of 1971, the Long Point Bird Observatory hopes to band and colour-mark several hundred Sanderling at Long Point, Ontario. Information on the movement of these birds away from Long Point will facilitate research presently underway on the energy requirements of their migration. We would appreciate it if everyone sighting these birds would report their observations to:

Long Point Bird Observatory,
269 Beta Street,
Toronto 14, Ontario, Canada.

The following information would be appreciated:

Date and time of observation
Location, including nearest city or town

Colours: note—birds will be coloured on the breast and the abdomen with two of the following colours: red, orange, pink, purple, yellow, green, blue, brown, black, and white (no colour).

Leg that has been banded: this will tell if the bird is an adult or an immature.

Any other information on what other birds are with the marked individuals would be very useful.

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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.

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