

# THE ORIOLE

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



VOL. 39

MARCH, 1974

NO. 1

# THE ORIOLE

## EDITOR

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

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

J. Fred Denton; George A. Dorsey; Milton N. Hopkins, Jr.; Harold C. Jones; Richard H. Peake, Jr.

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

Regular .....	\$5.00	Library .....	\$3.00	Life .....	\$ 80.00
Family .....	\$8.00	Sustaining .....	\$8.00	Patron .....	\$100.00
Student .....	\$3.00	Garden Club .....	\$8.00		

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: T. F. Collum, 7 Baltimore Place, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30308

## CONTENTS

FALL WARBLERS IN A SUBURBAN WOODLAND	
Harriett G. DiGioia .....	1
THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN GEORGIA	
Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., and W. Wilson Baker .....	6
AN ACCOUNT OF SIX GOLDEN EAGLE SIGHTINGS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA	
Charles Erwin .....	7
GENERAL NOTES .....	11

## GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded December 13, 1936

Wallace D. Dreyfoos, President	Mrs. W. A. Gibbs, Secretary
Mrs. Norene Boring, 1st Vice-president	Thomas F. Collum, Treasurer
Terry S. Moore, 2nd Vice-president	W. P. Kellam, Librarian

Business Manager: T. McRae Williams, 755 Ellsworth Drive, N. W. Atlanta, Georgia 30318.

# THE ORIOLE

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

VOL. 39

MARCH, 1974

NO. 1

## FALL WARBLERS IN A SUBURBAN WOODLAND

Harriett G. DiGioia

This last fall (1973) was an excellent one for warblers in Dalton, Georgia. From August 22 through October 12, I observed twenty-three species of warblers in the area about my home.

My home is situated on a ridge. In the foundation plantings is a volunteer Elderberry Bush (*Sambucus canadensis*) situated by a window. Any birds in the bush are, therefore, at eye level. Trees playing an important warbler role in our yard are a Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) and a White Oak (*Quercus alba*). To one side we have a bushy area bordering the street consisting of various types of young growth: Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*), Virginia Pine (*Pinus virginiana*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). At the back is a strip of woods—Loblolly and Virginia Pines, Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), Honeysuckle and other growth. On the west is a typical second growth, dry upland woods—Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*), White Oak, Black Oak (*Quercus sp.*), Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Loblolly Pines with a good understory growth. This blends into an area of sapling growth and is bounded on two sides by streets. The back of the woodlot borders on the neighbor's yard; this yard retains its original trees, but the undergrowth has been removed. Back of the neighbor's yard is a very tangled area bordering on the street.

Diagonally across the street, the upland woods continues and drops down the ridge to become a flood plain woods. This bottom area has Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Tulip Tree, White Oak, Black Oak, Sweet Gum, Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), Elm (*Ulmus americana*). The undergrowth is of Alder (*Alnus serrulata*), Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). A creek flows through the area. One side consists of an abandoned, overgrown pasture; another side is formed by a newly cleared business area. Homes with yards also border on the area.



On August 22, I noticed a male Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) singing in the woods to the side of my home (hereafter referred to as the woodlot). I also saw a Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) a little deeper in the woods. An unidentified warbler was also noted, along with a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*) in the Silver Maple Tree. As I usually do not see these birds in the yard except during migration, I felt this was the beginning of some bird movement. I decided, therefore, to keep a warbler watch. The following list of birds is the outcome of this watch.

Many warblers and vireos could not be identified because I was unable to see them clearly or due to lack of time. The main reason was the sheer number of the warblers, vireos and other birds. I simply could not look at them all. I noticed, during the early part of the main migration period, that many warblers were attracted to the Sycamore Tree and fed upon caterpillars found there.

Many species of birds are found in this area - sixty-three species have been seen in the short time I have been keeping records. I feel it pays to preserve some natural areas in a city and suburban area. The land needs to breathe and give a place for birds - especially the migrants - to rest and feed. The Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*), Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) are known to nest in the woods across the street.

Birds listed follow the fifth edition (1957) of the check-list of the American Ornithologists' Union. Plant names are from Radford, Albert, Harry E. Ahles, and C. Ritchie Bell, *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1968.

Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) — Seen in woodlot next to house on August 22, 29 (edge of yard), September 8, 12. Observed in woods across street - August 28 (eating a fat, green caterpillar), 29, September, 6, 7, 11.

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) — In woodlot August 24. In woods across the street August 28.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) — Several seen on two dates feeding on caterpillars in a Sycamore Tree on the creek at

the back of the abandoned pasture. These birds came rather low in the Sycamore, September 21, 25.

Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) — In tangled area in back of neighbor's yard, September 12. One was seen later on this same date in the woods across street. The possibility exists this is the same bird.

Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*) — Seen at 6:00 P.M. in the tangles in back yard between my home and the neighbor's, October 3. A close study, in good light, was obtained of this bird.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) — Fourth most abundant warbler of this period. On September 10 in woodlot, September 11 in tree in bushy area by road, September 12 and October 2 in White Oak tree, front yard; in neighbor's yard, October 12. Woods across street September 20, 25, October 2, 3, 4.

Nashville Warbler (*Vermivora ruficapilla*) — Was seen on October 4 in the tangled area at the back of the abandoned pasture near the creek across the street. A close study, in good light, was obtained.

Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) — Seen one time, in the woodlot, September 10.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) — One time, September 18, in woods across street in the overhanging vegetation of the creek.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) — The most abundant warbler seen in this period. Eight were seen together in a Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) in the yard across the street on September 11 (only mention of this area in this article). September 12 in Silver Maple tree, September 17 in shrubbery in yard, September 18 six were seen together in an Elderberry Bush by a window, September 19 in Elderberry Bush, September 24 in shrubbery, September 27 in woodlot. October 2 in White Oak tree and in neighbor's yard in afternoon and evening. October 8 shrubbery in yard, October 11 Silver Maple tree, October 12 in neighbor's yard. Wooded area across street, September 12; bathing in creek, September 18, 27, October 2, 3, 4.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) — One seen in woods across street October 3.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) — Seen in White



Oak tree, October 1.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) — A good view was obtained of one, September 17, when it stayed in an Elderberry Bush by a window feeding on caterpillars. Also seen in woods across street September 20, 21, 25, October 3. These birds were quite numerous in the Sycamore tree by the creek and came quite low.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) — September 12 in Silver Maple tree. Four were seen in full spring plumage in the White Oak tree October 2. Also seen in neighbor's yard, October 2.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*) — Four were seen bathing together in the creek across street September 11. Also seen in woods across street September 18.

Pine Warbler (*Dendroica pinus*) — Seen three times during this period on September 18 in Pine trees in yard; in neighbor's yard October 1, 2 (evening).

Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) — This bird was seen only one time, September 6, in a damp ditch leading into the creek. My dog put the bird up and it then perched in good light on a log lying across the ditch.

Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) — At creek-side on September 7. September 12 it was seen in damp area of woods across street. Seen again at creek on September 18.

Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) — Seen three times in woods across street, September 5, 6, 7.

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*) — August 29 in the neighbor's yard. In woods across street, September 18, 21.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) — Third most abundant warbler of this period. On August 22, I heard (and saw) a male singing in the woodlot. Heard singing again in woodlot August 29 and again saw the bird. Also seen in woodlot September 8. In woods across street this bird was seen August 28, 29, 31; September 4, 5, 6 (five seen together—one in another part of woods), 11, 18, 25, 27.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) — Only seen once in woodlot

September 8.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) — Second in abundance in this time period. Four were seen in woodlot and in tangled area back of neighbor's yard September 18. Seen in Silver Maple tree September 18 afternoon and evening; also September 19. In woodlot September 27. Noticed in White Oak tree the evening of September 27 and on October 2. Also, seen on October 2 in neighbor's yard. Seen in woods across street September 11, 18, 25, 27; October 2, 3, 4.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank Mrs. R. E. (Anne) Hamilton for suggesting I write this article, for accompanying me on two trips to the woods across the street and for coming once to see the warblers in the Silver Maple tree and the woods next to my home.

1309 Lakemont Drive, Dalton, Georgia

**Table 1.** Data on Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records in Georgia

DATE	OBSERVERS	LOCALITY	SOURCES OF INFORMATION
1911	Hoxie, W. J.	Chatham Co., Wassaw Island	Fargo, W. G. <i>Wilson Bulletin</i> . 46: 169-196. Burleigh, T. D., 1958. <i>Georgia Birds</i> . Univ. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.
5 June 1933	Rossignol, G. R.	Chatham Co., Cockspar Island	Tomkins, I. R. <i>Auk</i> , 51: 253. Male collected.
2 Jan. - 9 Feb. 1943	Gaulding, W.; Norris, R. A.	Tift Co., Tifton	Norris, R. A., and Gaulding, W., Jr. 1944. <i>The Oriole</i> , 9: 8-9. Imm. female collected.
15 May 1955	Collum, Ed and Tom	Fulton Co., Atlanta, West End	Collum, Ed and Tom 1955. <i>The Oriole</i> , 20: 31.
26 June 1955	Robert, H. C.; Teal, J. M.; Odum, E. P., et. al.	McIntosh Co., Sapelo Island	Robert, H. C.; Teal, J. M.; and Odum, E. P. 1956. <i>The Oriole</i> , 21: 37-45.
11 October 1962	Stoddard, H. L.; Neel, L.	Thomas Co., 3 mi. S of Thomasville	Tall Timbers Research Station collection No. 554. Imm. male.
28 May 1966	Baker, W. W. and Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Bechtel	Clinch Co., along Ga. Rd. 187, approx. 5 mi. SW of Homerville	Baker Field Notes
30 June 1966	Wells, L. A.	Muscogee Co., Columbus	Wells, L. A. 1966. <i>Audubon Field Notes</i> , 20 (5): 560.
25 October 1970	Baker, W. W.; Doppson, C. W., Jr.; Hopkins, M. N., Jr.	Evans Co., 1.3 mi. W of Daisy along U.S. Route 280	Observers' field notes
27 November 1970	Davenport, L. B., Jr.; Davenport, Eliz. B.	Chatham Co., north end of Tybee Island at Fort Screven	Observer's field notes

# **THE SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN GEORGIA**

Milton N. Hopkins, Jr., and W. Wilson Baker

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) may occur as a wanderer in Georgia during any month of the year. It should be looked for in open country throughout the state, mainly in the Coastal Plain. Its habit of especially perching on utility lines, apparently its choice perch in this part of the country, makes it readily observable. The ten records of its occurrences in the state do not fall into any recognizable seasonal pattern.

Both sexes have a tail that is considerably longer than the body and the species' almost unique appearance in flight and perching leaves no doubt as to its identity.

The accompanying table lists all known occurrences in Georgia with details of dates, observers, location, and sources of information.

Route 5, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750, and Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.



# AN ACCOUNT OF SIX GOLDEN EAGLE SIGHTINGS IN DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GA.

Charles Erwin

During the winter of 1973-74, the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was seen at least 12 times in Dougherty and other surrounding counties between December 1 and March 17. Six of these sightings occurred in the extreme southwestern corner of Dougherty County and were chosen for discussion because of (1) the thoroughness of the observations, (2) the author's direct knowledge of them either by taking part in the observations personally or by discussing the sighting with those who did, and (3) the relatively small area in which they occurred. They include the first and last sightings in order to verify that the eagles (there had to be at least two birds because one was an adult and one was an immature) stayed in the area for at least 3½ months. Also included are the four sightings which occurred on the day of the Albany Audubon Society's first Christmas Bird Count, December 29. These are important because of the number of witnesses.

On December 1, 1973, at 11:30 A.M., Mrs. J. E. Gordon and I were in a northbound car with a large open area on our right, when a raptor with a buteo-type body was sighted at the far end of the field. Upon viewing the bird we decided that it must be a vulture because of the blackish appearance of the entire body. Our curiosity aroused, we stopped the car and followed the bird in our binoculars as it slowly soared in our direction. It obviously was a buteo and the head was feathered; also the tail was too short and wide for it to have been a Turkey Vulture, and too long and noticeable for it to have been a Black Vulture. As it continued in our direction, we realized this bird was nothing other than the mature Golden Eagle. Before the raptor disappeared from view, it passed almost directly over our heads, and as it did so the sides of the head appeared gold in the noon sun.

An hour before dawn at 6:00 A.M. on December 29, 1973, Mrs. Ada Waite and I were out at the end of a boardwalk at the edge of an open area in the Chickasawhatchie Creek Swamp known as the Wilderness Pond. During the spring months this pond is alive with breeding Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Anhingas, but during the winter (especially during the hour before dawn) it is a quiet place, stirring only with the wind and the calls of Barred Owls, the cries of Wood

Ducks, and the steady breathing of the River Otters. Mr. J. E. Gordon joined us and shared in our surprise when the 50 Black Vultures which had not left their perches in the swamp until 10:00 A.M. the day before (having waited for the wind to pick up), all of a sudden flew up in a mass. There was such a loud noise that we thought the old Bald Cypress limb upon which they roosted had broken under their weight. But the darkness persisted so that we were not able to see what had happened, so we simply forgot about it. A southern swamp at dawn has a way of calming the greatest of crises. But when Mr. Peter Abt and Miss Linda Hiscock arrived, Mr. Abt asked what was that big dark bird sitting on the vulture's roost. It stayed there for over an hour, so close that with the aid of binoculars one could see every little detail, the feathered tarsi, the light area at the base of the tail, a nape simply ablaze with gold, and most of all the tremendous, powerful, and majestic body perching alone on an ancient, weather worn Bald Cypress, high above the water. Four others arrived and saw it: Mrs. J. E. Gordon, Mr. George Waite, and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Holman.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gordon saw another eagle that same day. Only a few hours later as they were heading in for a lunch break before the afternoon birding, they rounded a curve and were able to see the Y-shaped intersection that was expected. But there was also the unexpected, in the form of a Golden Eagle right in the center of the Y. However, as this one flew they were able to tell it was different; the tail, which on the others was uniform with the rest of the body in color, was white except for the dark terminal tail band, and this bird had white areas in the wings. It was an immature, probably the same one seen just a few weeks earlier by Bobby Abt and Cecil Jones.

The Gordons said that the immature eagle flew off to the northeast, which is of added interest considering that the next sighting took place about an hour later a few miles northeast of the Y intersection and was also of an immature. Mrs. Emma Giffen, who has birded in the Albany area for over 25 years, and Mr. and Mrs. James Parsons were returning from the midday lunch break when they spotted the raptor in a tree growing in a small field by the road. They, too, noted the dark terminal tail band on an otherwise white tail, and the white areas in the bird's wings as it flew, this time to the north.

During the course of the afternoon, Kieth Williams and I had become lost in the extensive Chickasawhatchie Creek Swamp. After wading in the shallow water for about an hour, we came upon an old bridge over the Kiokee Creek. We stopped at the edge of the bridge



and, while waiting, I noticed that large numbers of Turkey Vultures were flying just at tree level down the Kiokee. They seemed to be using it as a landmark to find their roosts (it was after 5:00 P.M.). For about five minutes I sat and watched one after another fly by. Then a tremendous bird came over, with a uniformly dark buteo body. In the few seconds in which I was able to see it before it passed out of view, I noted that the wings were held straight out instead of being angled like the Turkey Vulture's and I saw the gold coloring on the sides of the head. At that moment I could almost see how the early Grecians believed in mythology and how the eagle was considered to be Zeus' special bird.

On March 17, 1974, at 7:20 P.M. a carload of Albany Audubon Society members was headed out of this area on their way home when a dark raptor was sighted in an old tree in the middle of a field. Its back was turned to us, hiding the dark front, making it reasonable to assume that the bird was another Red-tailed Hawk, but something just wasn't right. The car was stopped and its passengers (Mr. Peter Abt and his son, Mike, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Gordon, and I) were soon scrutinizing the subject, hoping it would turn around, which it did. The completely dark front, the feathered head, and the golden nape left no doubt in our minds that this was the mature Golden Eagle. When it flew a few minutes later the wingspan appeared tremendous.

The author has attempted to establish that the Golden Eagle was seen with some regularity during the entire winter in a relatively small area by more than 16 people. Of the half a dozen sightings not discussed in this paper, two occurred between the first sighting and the Christmas Bird Count and four occurred after it. There were at least two individuals seen, perhaps more. This area is completely undeveloped and contains a very high Cottontail Rabbit population, which could well account for the presence of eagles.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Mrs. Charlotte Blackshear and Mrs. Helen McOrvey for reviewing this paper and offering many helpful suggestions.

2403 Temple Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707

#### GENERAL NOTES

**FLICKER TRIES TO INCUBATE EGGS ON GROUND** — An interesting anomaly in the breeding behavior of the Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) was brought to my attention by Mr. D. M. McNaull, at Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. On June 21, 1971, he told me there was a female Flicker with its eggs on the ground in the grass at one end of the football playing field of the school. On investigation, I found the bird with three eggs on the ground, located apart from one another, from west to east, 59 inches and 42 inches respectively.

We noticed that this female sat on the eggs at random, one at a time, first on one egg and then on another. We were not able to determine any pattern in this behavior. We wanted to see what result might come of this apparent attempt at incubation, but the affair was ended by the eggs being inadvertently destroyed by a grass-mowing machine in the afternoon of June 22, when we were not present to warn the mowing man of their presence.

George A. Dorsey, Darlington School, Rome, Georgia

**ROSEATE SPOONBILLS IN GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA** — Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) were seen on the north end of Little St. Simons Island between July 4, 1972, and August 28, 1972. They were occasionally seen feeding in tidal creeks and at other times they were seen sitting in the tops of Eastern Red Cedar trees (*Juniperus virginiana*).

Mickey Fountain, Route 1, Box 249-A-1, Pembroke, Georgia 31321

**WHITE-WINGED DOVE AT SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA** — On December 30, 1972, while participating on the Glynn County (Coastal) Christmas Count, the author and Phil Hollar observed a White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) near The Cloister on Sea Island, Georgia. When first discovered the bird was feeding on a lawn in the proximity of a Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). At this time the white along the edge of the folded wing, the heavy body and the lack of a long, pointed tail were noticed. After about 20 seconds the bird flew behind the car from which we were observing and landed on a nearby telephone line. While in flight the bird revealed the large white wing patches and the rounded tail with a small white patch at each corner.



I left the car at this time to keep track of the bird while Phil went in search of the remainder of our party who were birding along an adjacent street. The bird remained perched on the telephone line for about a minute, then flew across a weedy lot and was soon lost from view. Once again the large white wing patches were observed.

About 5 minutes passed before the bird was located again. This time it was perched in a tree about 50 yards south of the first observation. By this time Phil had returned with Bob Manns and Rosemary Smith. Luckily the bird remained perched at a distance of about 35 feet for approximately ten minutes during which time everyone studied it through binoculars and a 15-60X telescope. The bird flew again, displaying the prominent wing patches, and was soon lost from view. Despite further searching that day and next, it was not located again.

There are three previous records of this southwestern bird in Georgia. A specimen was taken near Hoboken, Brantley County, on January 6, 1917 (Burleigh, T.D. *Georgia Birds*. Univ. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.). The second record was a bird which visited the feeder of the late Cecily Masters for about a week during 1962 on Jekyll Island (personal communication). The third observation was that of a bird seen by Helen Tracy on Sea Island in July of 1972 (*American Birds*, 26: 846, 1972). The bird that we saw could conceivably have been this bird although there are no known sightings between July and December.

It was impossible to determine whether this bird represented a wanderer from the dove's range in the western United States or perhaps an extension of the South Florida population which has been on the increase during the past few years. Wherever it came from, it should serve as a reminder to check carefully the doves that we see along the Georgia coast.

Terry S. Moore, Apt. 10-F, 1185 Collier Rd. NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30318

**SPRING HERON RECORDS FOR ATLANTA AND VICINITY** — On March 25, 1972, Jack Carusos and I observed a Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) at a pond on Panthersville Road in DeKalb County (Fink, *The Oriole*, 37:16). Burleigh (1958, *Georgia Birds*, U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.) states about the Common Egret: "Griffin (1941) lists the extreme dates of occurrence for the Atlanta area (excluding the single May record of Greene (1933) on May 20, 1928) as July 9, 1940, and September 29, 1929."

This unusual sighting touched off a discussion of the rarity of spring sightings of herons in the Atlanta area, which caused me to dig into my notes for records of spring sightings of herons in Forsyth County. In the preceding spring (1971) I had seen Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) in Forsyth County on April 13 and May 10. Burleigh states that these birds "are of casual occurrence then" (in the spring) "in the northern part of the state."

My most unusual heron sighting occurred on April 29, 1971. I observed a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) at a watershed reservoir in Forsyth County. Burleigh lists this bird as "A rare summer visitant elsewhere" (other than the coast) "in the state."

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine Street, N.E., Gainesville, Georgia 30501

**THE COMMON LOON WINTERS ON LAKE LANIER** — The Pocket Checklist of Georgia Birds (Denton, J. F. and M. N. Hopkins, Jr. 1969, published by the Georgia Ornithological Society) states that the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is a "spring and fall visitor in the interior." I offer the following seven observation dates to support my contention that it is a winter resident on Lake Lanier: Dec. 23, 1969; Feb. 15, and Dec. 5, 1970; Feb. 7, 1971; Jan. 2, 1972 (with Jack Carusos); Jan. 13, 1972, and Jan. 29, 1972 (with Carusos and C. Aubery).

John M. Paget, 1530 Vine St. N.E., Gainesville, Georgia 30501

**CROW KILLS AND EATS SPARROW HAWK** — On March 3, 1974, I was witness to a bird occurrence of which I cannot find a similar report in any of the references to which I have access. It was about 1:10 P.M. (Eastern Daylight Saving Time) when I noticed some crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), probably six or seven, in a loose group on the ground near Battey State Hospital, Rome, Georgia, in an open area near some abandoned chicken-coop sheds. A Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) flew over and began circling in the air above the chicken-coops, giving its characteristic cries. One crow called loudly, then flew into the top of a tall pine. The Sparrow Hawk continued to circle in the air, calling. After a short while the crow left the tree and flew toward the hawk, maneuvering until it was above and behind the small hawk. Then an uneven chase began, with the crow flying after the hawk, which was dodging away from the crow. The hawk made some unsuccessful movements of attack toward the crow, but soon slowed its flight. The crow came down and with its feet seized the hawk on the back, bringing it to the ground, struggling. Just above the ground the



crow dropped the hawk in order to make a landing, then immediately jumped onto the hawk and gave it several strong jabs with its bill, perhaps breaking the hawk's neck, and killing it. Two other crows then came over, calling loudly. I scared them away to examine the hawk, which I found to be dead.

I immediately telephoned Mr. George A. Dorsey, who wanted to see the hawk. When I returned to get it, one crow was feeding on the hawk, with two others standing nearby on the ground. The carcass had been too spoiled for making a bird skin, and a good many of its feathers were scattered in the wind. Mr. Dorsey confirmed that it was a Sparrow Hawk, and a female.

M. Carlisle Walker, Jr., 1217 Abercrombie Drive, Rome, Georgia 30161

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER SIGHTING** — In Marion County, Georgia, below the fall line, there is a dense, wild swamp bottom formed by three beaver dams in a series. During late May and early June Jim Rutland and I heard the song of the Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*), but were unsuccessful in sighting the bird. Shortly after daybreak on June 23, 1973, we heard the song more clearly and determined that the singing male must be in the area just below the second dam. We found a small clearing adjacent to the densest alder thicket in the swamp and sat still and quiet for a half hour without hearing the song again. We both then began to squeak intensely, and immediately a small form shot out of the thicket and alighted on the lower limb of a sapling almost at our feet. There it was, a Swainson's Warbler in adult plumage so close we did not need binoculars.

The bird sat motionless for a few seconds, then without uttering a sound flew straight as an arrow back down into the impenetrable swamp thicket. Despite our efforts afterwards to afford other birders a glimpse of our little phantom, we neither heard nor saw the bird again.

William D. Matheny, 3728 Armour Ave., Apt. E-4, Columbus, Georgia 31904

**WARBLING VIREO AT COLUMBUS** — Thomas D. Burleigh (1958, Georgia Birds, U. of Okla. Press, Norman) places the Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) on Georgia's hypothetical list by virtue of two sightings: W. W. Worthington at the mouth of the Altamaha River on April 28, 1890; and Dr. Eugene E. Murphey (1937) at Augusta, October 15,

1935. Thomas A. Imhof (1962, Alabama Birds, U. of Ala. Press) treats the species as breeding in the Tennessee Valley and having been recorded in Lee County, which borders the Chattahoochee River just north of Columbus, Georgia.

On September 12, 1973, between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m., I was birding alone near Goat Rock Dam on the Chattahoochee River a few miles north of Columbus. While listening to and observing a singing Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) and two Red-eyed Vireos (*Vireo olivaceus*), I began hearing a strange, though vaguely familiar, lazy, slurred warble. After stalking the sound to a big live-oak tree in the open, I located its source high in the crown; I could not yet see the bird well, but I knew it was a vireo. "Warbling" instantly shot through my brain (I had heard the bird once and seen it twice during the spring of 1950 in Maury County, Tennessee). To my delight the bird began working its way out to my side of the tree. Soon it was feeding leisurely, singing all the while, in the outer leaves no more than 30 feet above my head. The day was balmy and only slightly hazy, the sun was to my back with visibility excellent, and I was able to study my vireo closely. His upper parts were more gray than olive, the faint eye stripe showed no dark border, the undersides were whitish without any tinge of yellow, and the song clinched it. I was looking at a Warbling Vireo, and continued watching it until it left the tree and flew across a ravine into the forest.

I thank L. A. Wells for his aid in the preparation of this article.

William D. Matheny, 3728 Armour Ave., Apt. E-4, Columbus, Georgia 31904

**AN EARLY MARCH BLACKPOLL WARBLER IN THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA** — The Blackpoll Warbler, *Dendroica striata*, is known to be a late spring migrant in southwestern Georgia. The earliest spring record for Thomas County is 11 April (Crawford and Dozier, 1973) and it has been found as early as 7 April in the Ben Hill-Irwin County area slightly to the north of Thomas County (Hopkins, 1973). This seems typical for the southeast as a whole, for Burleigh (1958, p. 536), Sprunt (1954, p. 404), and Imhof (1962, p. 473) all indicate that the earliest this species occurs is the first week of April.

A male Blackpoll was seen on 2 March 1974 on a feeder in suburban Thomasville maintained by Watt. Feeding alone, it was seen daily from then until 12 March when it was collected. A study skin was made.



and was placed in the Tall Timbers Research Station collection with the following data: No. 2782; testes 3.5 mm; weight, 16.8 gms; length, 145 mm; moderate fat.

Considering the early date of this occurrence and the species' usual migration habits, it is likely that this bird was overwintering, rather than migrating early. The relatively mild winter of 1973-74 that would have heightened the bird's chances of survival also suggests overwintering. Though not previously known from Georgia during the winter, it has occurred rarely in the neighboring states of South Carolina and Florida. The 1971-72 Christmas Count, for example, turned up one individual each at Charleston and West Palm Beach (Cruickshank, 1972, pp 288 and 318). Evidently, the Charleston record was the first winter record for the Carolinas (Teulings, 1972). A Blackpoll was noted eight years earlier on the West Palm Beach Christmas Count in 1964 (Cruickshank, 1965, p. 106). Thus, while a winter occurrence of a Blackpoll Warbler in the Southeast is rare, it is not unprecedented, though evidently it is the first such record verified by a specimen.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Burleigh, T. D. 1958. Georgia Birds. Norman, University of Oklahoma Press.  
 Crawford, R. L. and D. Jack Dozier. 1973. Birds of Thomas County, Georgia. Oriole, 38: 13-27.  
 Cruickshank, A. D. (Ed.) 1965. Sixty-fifth Christmas Bird Count. Audubon Field Notes, 19: 85-346.  
 (Ed.) 1972. The Seventy-second Christmas Bird Count. American Birds, 26: 135-550.  
 Hopkins, M. N. 1973. The Birdlife of Ben Hill County, Georgia, and Adjacent Areas of Georgia. MS.  
 Imhof, T. A. 1962. Alabama Birds. College, University of Alabama Press.  
 Sprunt, A. 1954. Florida Bird Life. New York, Coward-McCann and National Audobon Society.  
 Teulings, R. P. 1972. Southern Atlantic Coast Region. American Birds, 26: 589-592.  
 Robert L. Crawford and Charles H. Watt, Jr. Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32303 and 118 Plantation Drive, Thomasville, Georgia 31792.

**Erratum: The Oriole**, Vol. 38, No. 4, p. 37, Table 4, footnote  
 Should read: Pooled t-test -  $H_0: \bar{X}_1 = \bar{X}_2$ ,  $H_1: \bar{X}_1 \neq \bar{X}_2$

#### 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 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 them that might have a bearing on their papers.