

# THE ORIOLE

A Quarterly Journal of Georgia Ornithology; Official Organ of the  
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# THE ORIOLE

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## GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## SPECIES RECENTLY ACCEPTED IN THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GEORGIA BIRDS

The Checklist Committee of the Georgia Ornithological Society

The species listed below were accepted to the Official List of Georgia Birds by the Checklist Committee after preliminary correspondence and discussion, and final decision at its meetings at Jekyll Island 17-19 October 1975. The criteria followed by the Committee in reaching decisions have been published recently (1975. *Oriole* 40: 41). The supporting evidence for the occurrence of each of these species in the state is summarized in the species accounts. With acceptance of these 13 species the Official List now contains 351 species.

The Committee is greatly indebted to John E. Cadle, Curator of the Bird and Mammal Range, University of Georgia, for supplying information on specimens and photographs preserved in that collection. Also, it thanks all other persons who supplied details of records and photographs for our deliberations.

## LIST OF SPECIES

Cory's Shearwater: *Puffinus diomedea*. A specimen was found in a decaying condition on the beach on Cumberland Island, Camden County, 2 Sept 1973 by Joseph Hudick and James Richardson. The specimen is preserved at the University of Georgia; UG 3313.

Sooty Shearwater: *Puffinus griseus*. A female was collected in Altamaha Sound, McIntosh County, five miles ESE of Darien on 31 May 1970 by Fred Shanholtzer. The specimen was prepared by S. Fanning and is preserved at the University of Georgia; UG 3267.

Ruff: *Philomachus pugnax*. This species was first reported in the state by Alma Cooke and Hedvig Cater who studied a bird carefully in Houston County near Warner Robins on 31 Mar 1960 (1961. *Oriole* 26: 2-4). A second occurrence of a bird in the state was at Atlanta 11 July - 3



Aug 1971. The bird was first found by Peg and Mike Einhorn and subsequently seen by many others. Excellent color photographs were obtained by Dan Forster on 3 Aug and the bird's identity confirmed at the American Museum of Natural History. Photographs are on file at the University of Georgia; UG 3276. A third record was of a bird sighted near Omaha, Stewart County, on 1 May 1976 by Terry Moore and John Swiderski (*GOShawk* 3, No. 4, June 1976).

Red Phalarope: *Phalaropus fulicarius*. A male was found near Thomaston, Upson County, on 29 Oct 1970 by Terry Bowles. The bird was identified and reported by Julian L. Dusi and L. A. Wells (1971. *Oriole* 36: 20-21). The specimen is preserved at Auburn University; A-321.

Pomarine Jaeger: *Stercorarius pomarinus*. This easily identified jaeger which occurs regularly in Atlantic waters off the eastern coast has been sighted in Georgia at least five times as follows: two birds in Doboy Sound, McIntosh County, 9 Mar 1958 by John M. Teal (1959. *Oriole* 24: 9); two birds in Doboy Sound 30 Jan 1959 by Herbert W. Kale (1959. *Oriole* 24: 25); a bird on Sapelo Island on 2 Jan 1965 by Herman Coolidge and Milton N. Hopkins (1964. *Oriole* 29: 62-63); a bird off St. Marys, Camden County, 8 Jan 1965 by Richard G. Kuerzi and one on Tybee Island 18 Feb 1965 by Ivan R. Tomkins (1965. *Aud. Field Notes* 19: 369). This species was accepted on the basis of four or more sightings in the state reported by competent observers.

Rock Dove: *Columba livia*. This dove has thrived in a feral state in Georgia for many years but has not been recognized as a part of the avifauna. Following re-instatement of this bird in the list to be counted on Christmas Bird Counts and its inclusion in the *A. B. A. Checklist: Birds of Continental United States and Canada* it has been accepted in the Official List for the State.

Smooth-billed Ani: *Crotophaga ani*. A bird was present on Jekyll Island, Glynn County, 5 Mar - 29 Apr 1974. It was photographed by Joe Brent and reported by Terry S. Moore (1974. *Oriole* 39: 17-18). Photographs are presently in the hands of the Committee.

Alder Flycatcher: *Empidonax alnorum*. Recently the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the A. O. U. divided the Traill's Flycatcher complex into two species: Willow Flycatcher (*E. traillii*) and Alder Flycatcher (*E. alnorum*). (See 32nd Supplement to the A. O. U. *Check-List*. 1973. *Auk* 90: 411-419). Re-examination of specimens of

this complex from Georgia in the National Museum of Natural History by Dr. John W. Aldrich revealed two specimens of *E. alnorum*: a female collected at Young Harris on 12 Sept 1945 (USNM 380,989) and a female collected at Gainesville on 14 Sept 1945 (USNM 380,990), both by T. D. Burleigh. The species nesting in Georgia is *E. traillii*.

Scrub Jay: *Aphelocoma coerulescens*. This species, which was formerly on the Hypothetical List of Georgia Birds, was sighted on Jekyll Island on 27 Oct 1973 by John Swiderski and Terry S. Moore (1975. *Oriole* 40: 1-2). The observers carefully identified the bird and obtained distinctive photographs which are now in the hands of the Committee.

Warbling Vireo: *Vireo gilvus*. This vireo, which is a common summer resident to the north and west of Georgia, has been sighted in the state at least seven times: at the mouth of the Altamaha River 28 Apr 1890 by W. W. Worthington; at Augusta 15 Oct 1935 by E. E. Murphey (see Burleigh, 1958); near Atlanta 5 May 1940 (1940. *Oriole* 5: 20); at Athens 6 May 1967 by J. R. Fatora (Tramer, E. J. 1968. *Oriole* 33: 2-17); at Columbus 12 Sept 1973 by W. D. Matheny (1974. *Oriole* 39: 14-15); at Dalton 23 Apr 1974 by Harriett DiGioia (1974. *Oriole* 39: 32-33) and at Valdosta 25 Apr 1975 by Tenny Griffin (*GOShawk* 2, No. 4, June 1975). This species was accepted on the basis of four or more occurrences in the state reported by reliable observers.

Black-throated Gray Warbler: *Dendroica nigrescens*. A bird was found on Jekyll Island, Glynn County, on 18 Oct 1975 by Charles Erwin (1975. *Oriole* 40: 37-40) and viewed by many G. O. S. members. Several observers obtained distinctive photographs some of which are in the hands of the Committee.

House Finch: *Carpodacus mexicanus*. This finch was first discovered in Georgia at McDonough, Henry County, where several birds visited a feeder between 29 Jan and 4 Apr 1970 (Einhorn, C. M. 1970. *Oriole* 35: 29). John Galli obtained a distinctive photograph of a bird there on 22 Feb 1970 which is on file at the University of Georgia; UG 3265. Subsequently four specimens of this finch were collected at Athens on 25 Feb 1974 by Robert J. Hamilton and are preserved at the University there; UG 3318-3323.

Common Redpoll: *Acanthis flammea*. This species was on the Hypothetical List of Georgia Birds on the basis of sight records at Atlanta and Macon, neither of which was supported by convincing details. On



5-6 Apr 1972 a bird visited a feeder in Brunswick, Glynn County, where it was viewed by Robert Manns and four other observers (1972. *Oriole* 37: 11-12). A photograph showing distinctive details was obtained by Manns and is on file at the University of Georgia; UG 3309.

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## CHANGES IN A SOUTHEASTERN HERONRY

David F. Werschkul

The Cliftonville heronry (32° N 87° W) is located 23.9 km southeast of Brooksville, Mississippi, near the Alabama border. The surrounding habitat is typical eastern Mississippi black belt grassland with islands of deciduous forests. The 2.17 ha heronry is characterized by various oaks (*Quercus* spp.), hickories (*Carya* spp.), elms (*Ulmus* spp.), osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), and green ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). The understory vegetation is dominated by giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), though in parts of the heronry the floor is nearly vegetation free. The heronry is on dry land with an ephemeral creek on its northwestern periphery. The nesting habitat is limited by open fields to the south, north, and east, and by an older stand of deciduous trees to the west. Because of an early practice, stopped during the 1960's, of using the trees as a source of fence posts, the pruned trees have many apical shoots, resulting in low, highly branched trees with many available nest sites. This was probably a factor in the initial selection of the site by herons for use as breeding grounds.

The history of the heronry is not well known, but from discussions with local residents the first use of the site by breeding herons occurred in the late 1940's, most likely by Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*). Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) probably appeared in the mid-1960's. The heronry presently has four species of ardeids nesting: Little Blue Herons, Cattle Egrets, Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*), and Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*). Other species seen in the heronry but not reported as breeding are the Louisiana Heron (*Hydranassa tricolor*) and White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*). This paper compares the results from two studies (1970 and 1975) in terms of habitat changes, species numbers and relative abundance, and certain breeding dynamics of the Cattle Egret and Little Blue Heron.

Summerour (1971) measured nesting tree species diversity and diameter at breast height (DBH), although he did not state his censusing technique. I obtained similar data using a plotless sample with point-centered quarters. Hence, comparisons (Table 1) are tentative, though I feel certain conclusions are justified. The increase in DBH from 1970 (Summerour 1971) to 1975 would be expected. The effects of increased tree size coupled with the cessation of fence post cutting in this heronry on the reproductive biology of herons is likely negative because of reduced protected sites. The only decrease in DBH was for ash (11.43 to 8.09 cm). Ash also decreased in relative abundance from 13% to 1% and



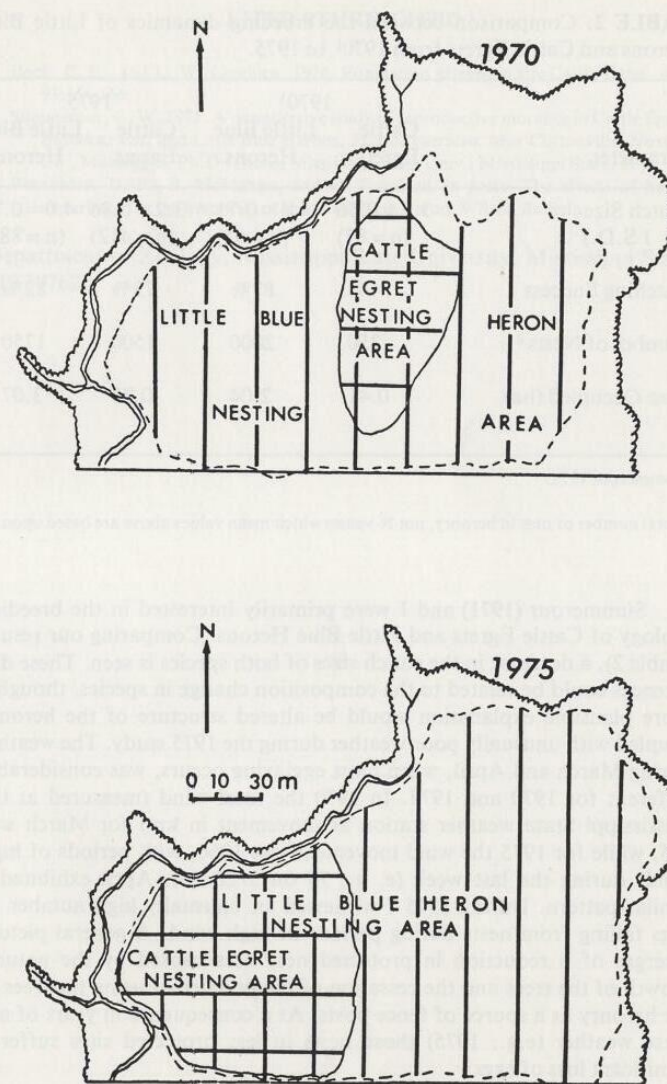
**TABLE 1.** Comparison of the vegetation at the Cliftonville Heronry from 1970<sup>1</sup> to 1975.

Species	1970 <sup>1</sup>		1975	
	% of total	DBH (cm)	% of total	DBH (cm)
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	24	10.54	18	13.35
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	21	11.56	24	12.60
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	13	11.43	1	8.09
<i>Carya</i> spp.	12	11.21	23	11.82
<i>Ulmus</i> spp.	8	9.01	7	9.70
<i>Maclura pomifera</i>	14	7.30	13	8.26
Other	8	-	14	-

<sup>1</sup> Summer 1971.

it was my impression that most of the dead trees at the heronry were ash. The decrease in ash does not represent a major change in habitat because of the similarity in growth form for ash and hickory.

Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons represent 99% of the total number of individuals breeding at the heronry. Figure 1 compares the differences in the nesting areas for both species. The nesting area for the Cattle Egrets increased from 0.41 to 0.72 ha. During the same period the nesting area for the Little Blue Herons remained nearly constant (2.04 to 2.07 ha). The number of Cattle Egret nests increased from 250 to 1500 and the number of Little Blue Heron nests decreased slightly from 2000 to 1750. Nest density at egg-laying for Cattle Egrets increased from 609 nests/ha to 2083 nests/ha and decreased for the Little Blue Herons from 980 nests/ha to 845 nests/ha. Decreased nesting density for heronries which have been disturbed by man has been shown for the Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) in western Oregon (Werschul et. al. in press). The increase in the numbers of Cattle Egrets in the 5-year period is dramatic and, if the trend continues, the possibility exists that other ardeids will be excluded by the overwhelming numerical superiority of Cattle Egrets. Recent evidence from wintering populations in Florida indicates that the Cattle Egret may be reaching the carrying capacity of the southeastern United States (Bock and Lepthien, 1976).



**Fig. 1.** Comparison of the nesting area of the Cattle Egret (vertical lines) and the Little Blue Heron (horizontal lines) at the Cliftonville Heronry from 1970 to 1975.



**TABLE 2.** Comparison between the breeding dynamics of Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets from 1970<sup>1</sup> to 1975.

Parameter	1970 <sup>1</sup>		1975	
	Cattle Egrets	Little Blue Herons	Cattle Egrets	Little Blue Herons
Clutch Size ( $\pm 1$ S.D.)	3.7 $\pm$ 0.56 (n = 87)	4.4 $\pm$ 0.71 (n = 95)	3.2 $\pm$ 0.86 (n = 412)	4.0 $\pm$ 0.79 (n = 889)
Hatching Success	74%	87%	75%	82%
Number of Nests <sup>2</sup>	250	2000	1500	1750
Area Occupied (ha)	0.41	2.04	0.72	3.07

<sup>1</sup>Summerour 1971.

<sup>2</sup>Total number of nest in heronry, not N-values which mean values above are based upon.

Summerour (1971) and I were primarily interested in the breeding biology of Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons. Comparing our results (Table 2), a decrease in the clutch sizes of both species is seen. These differences could be related to the composition change in species, though a more plausible explanation would be altered structure of the heronry coupled with unusually poor weather during the 1975 study. The weather during March and April, when most egg-laying occurs, was considerably different for 1970 and 1975. In 1970 the total wind (measured at the Mississippi State weather station as movement in km) for March was 895, while for 1975 the wind movement was 1066, with periods of high winds during the last week (e. g., 74 on 3/28/75). April exhibited a similar pattern. During 1975 I witnessed an unusually high number of eggs falling from nests during periods of high wind. A general picture emerges of a reduction in protected nest sites caused by the natural growth of the trees and the cessation of the practice of using the trees in the heronry as a source of fence posts. As a consequence in years of adverse weather (e.g., 1975) those nests in less protected sites suffer a significant loss of eggs.

I thank Dr. Jerome Jackson for this advice during the study. The study was in part financed by the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of The American Museum of Natural History.

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### EASTERN GROUND DOVES IN THE GEORGIA PIEDMONT

J. Larry Landers, Robert J. Hamilton and Thomas D. Atkeson<sup>1</sup>

The Eastern Ground Dove (*Columbina passerina passerina*) is a resident mainly of the lower Coastal Plain from North Carolina to Texas and appears to be most abundant in Florida. Burleigh (1958) reported it to be fairly common in coastal Georgia but only accidental in occurrence in more northern parts of the state. It has been reported north of the fall line in Georgia at Rising Fawn (1885), Atlanta (1954), Newton County (1909 and 1911), and Roswell (1920), but apparently has never been reported from the Athens area prior to the fall of 1975.

On October 5, 1976, at 11:15 a.m., one Ground Dove was spotted by R. J. Hamilton and J. L. Landers in Athens. This bird was seen leaving a 3-ha lot, which had been denuded of trees by a tornado in the spring of 1973. Another bird was spotted on November 9 near the Athens Airport by J. S. Carver (1975). On December 10, 1975, seventeen birds were seen on a 280-ha 1-year-old loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) plantation in eastern Walton County. Sightings on these areas prompted a more intensive survey. A return trip to the lot in Athens revealed 5 birds on December 17, and 24 were seen on a 40-ha portion of the pine plantation on December 19. A total of 47 Ground Doves was seen on both areas during about 3 hours and 45 minutes of observation. All but the first of our sightings were made by flushing birds while walking from 2:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. They were most commonly seen in groups of three to eight. Those flushed around 5 p.m. were on or near fallen trees, stumps, or brush, where they appeared to be preparing to roost.

Several other bird species were seen using the young pine stand. Birds most commonly associated with Ground Doves were Savannah sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and White-throated Sparrows (*Zonotrichia albicollis*). Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) and Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) were abundant, occasionally numbering in the hundreds, and Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) were occasionally seen. Other birds sighted less frequently during counts were Eastern Meadowlarks (*Sturnella magna*) and Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*).

Observations were made on plant composition at flushing sites, and six Ground Doves were collected from the pine plantation for the University of Georgia museum and for analysis of crop contents.

<sup>1</sup>School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens 30602.

Characteristics of vegetation on the two areas were similar, as both had undergone only one or two growing seasons since clearing. All Ground Doves were located on sites with a sparse, patchy coverage of common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), dog-fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*), and camphorweed (*Heterotheca subaxillaris*). No Ground Doves were flushed where these 1-1.5 m tall plants grew in dense stands. Ground level vegetation varied, but was fairly open, with noticeable coverage of St. John's-wort (*Hypericum gentianoides*), three-seeded mercury (*Acalypha virginica*), scattered legumes (*Fabaceae*), grasses (*Poaceae*), and other small herbs.

The food in the collected Ground Doves was almost exclusively seeds of three-seeded mercury. The only other plants contributing more than trace amounts to the crop contents were common ragweed and pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*). Little is known of the feeding habits of this species. Martin et al. (1951) listed 21 foods found in 41 specimens from the Eastern Gulf states; the most important foods listed were seeds of dove weed (*Croton* spp.) and paspalum (*Paspalum* spp.). Howell (1924) reported sedges and wood sorrel (*Oxalis* sp.) in two stomachs taken from Alabama. Of the foods found in our analysis three-seeded mercury, pokeweed, dropseed (*Sporobolus* sp.), fleabane (*Erigeron* sp.), and Indian chickweed (*Mollugo verticillata*) were not reported in the literature found. All foods found in our analysis are listed in Table 1.

The abundance of Ground Doves in this part of Georgia may be attributed to a combination of factors. The past two winters in this region have been unusually mild and may have induced temporary range extension. Another factor is the great production of seed foods of a desirable type and size, which is characteristic of early stages of pine stand development.

Johnston (1964) indicates that the Ground Dove tends to be permanently resident wherever it is found. Its very localized distribution suggests that the birds located in this region may have bred in this winter range. Further surveys are needed to locate Ground Doves during the breeding season and during subsequent winters to determine if a lasting range extension is in progress.



TABLE 1. Foods of 6 Ground Doves from Walton County, Georgia.

Item	Occurrence	Percent Volume
<i>Acalypha virginica</i>	6	99.3
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	3	0.4
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	1	0.2
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	6	tr*
<i>Sporobolus</i> sp.	5	tr
<i>Erigeron</i> sp.	3	tr
<i>Panicum dichotomiflorum</i>	2	tr
<i>Panicum</i> sp.	2	tr
<i>Paspalum laeve</i>	2	tr
<i>Croton glandulosus</i>	1	tr
<i>Mollugo verticillata</i>	1	tr
<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	1	tr
Ants (Formicidae)	1	tr

\*Trace amount less than 0.1 percent of the total volume.

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## GENERAL NOTES

RED CROSSBILLS SEEN ON THE OCONEE NATIONAL FOREST, GREENE COUNTY — A male and female Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) were seen in a stand of riverbottom hardwoods (esp. water oak, *Quercus nigra*; sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*) on 20 March 1976 at 0930. While glassing a large flock of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) and Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus*) which were feeding in the upper canopy we spotted the pair of Red Crossbills perching on a small twig at a height of approximately 6 m. They were easily approached and a photograph was taken; however, due to poor light conditions it is not very clear. The pair could not be found during a search of the area on 21 March.

Robert Lochmiller, Q-109 Rogers Road, Athens, Georgia.

OBSERVATION OF WESTERN TANAGER AT ATLANTA — At approximately 7:45 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 1976, I observed from my bedroom window a tri-colored bird with a bright red head, yellow breast, and black wings perched in the top of an oak tree about 200 feet from my apartment building. I was startled at the coloration of the bird and, realizing that I had not seen such a species before, observed as closely as possible with my 7 x 35 power binoculars all of the features of the bird that I could see from where I stood.

During the time that the bird stayed perched in the tree facing me (approximately 25 seconds) I observed its distinctive red head with the red extending into the throat in a V-shape, its bright yellow breast, and its black wings which were folded. When the bird turned its head, the yellow on the upper part of the back was revealed and, with the bird's head in profile, I also observed its bone colored bill. Since it was facing me I was not able to see any markings on the wings. When it flew out of the tree I noted its tanager size and shape.

After it perched in another oak tree about 75 feet from the apartment building I was able to observe the bird at closer range from my balcony for approximately 15 seconds. Again it faced me and I observed the solid red head and throat, the clear, bright yellow breast, the black wings, the pale tanager bill, and the dark eye. There was no mottling on the bird. All of the colors were clear and well defined.

After the bird flew away I immediately checked Robbins "Field Guide to the Birds of Northern America", Petersen's "Field Guide to the Birds", and "The Birds of North America". It was apparent to me that I had seen a Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*).

Eileen Hutcheson, 6558 Roswell Road, N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30328.



**NORTHERN PHALAROPES IN JACKSON COUNTY, GEORGIA** — At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, 1976, Don and Doris Cohrs saw a male and female Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) swimming in one of the ponds at the Wayne Poultry Company in Jackson County near Pen-dergrass, Georgia. The birds did not fly or spin. The Cohrs approached to within sixty feet of them.

The same day at 4:30 p.m. I found the birds at the same spot and also identified them as Northern Phalaropes. The birds permitted me to approach within thirty feet of them. They were in breeding plumage and their light throats and rufous neck patches were easily visible. They would often fly up and circle the ponds, allowing a clear view of their wing stripes and dark legs.

A single bird was seen flying at the same place at 7:30 p.m. on the same day by Louisa Echols, Dan and Sara Hans, Terry Moore, Vaughn Morrison, and Beth Ramsey, and was identified as a male Northern Phalarope. It did not land.

All three of these sightings were made independently of the others and each party made the same identification. At the time a low pressure center was moving through the area from the Gulf of Mexico, which could have been a factor in the birds' appearance.

Burleigh's *Georgia Birds* (1958. U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.) lists only three other records of the Northern Phalarope. They are: May 24, 1933, a female collected at the mouth of the Savannah River; October 3, 1937, a male collected in Grady County; and May 9, 1950, a male taken at Augusta. *The Oriole* has listed three additional sightings: September (no specific date given), 1955, a single bird at Sapelo Island (Vol. 24, p. 12); August 16, 1958, eleven birds at Savannah (Vol. 23, p. 38); and September 12, 1968, a small flock at Jekyll Island (Vol. 33, pp. 50-51). Our sighting appears to be only the third in inland Georgia and the first one north of the fall line.

Billy Russell, 760 Clifton Way, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

**AMERICAN BARN SWALLOWS NESTING IN CHATHAM COUNTY** — While driving to Savannah Beach on Sunday, June 20, 1976, I saw several Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) flying low over the marsh south of the Lazaretto Creek Bridge. The time of year and the number of birds prompted speculation that they might be nesting in the vicinity.

Burleigh in *Georgia Birds* (1958. U. of Okla. Press, Norman, Okla.) records one instance of Barn Swallows nesting in the state: a site on

Wassaw Island in Chatham County reported by Gilbert R. Rossignol prior to 1904.

On the following Sunday, June 27th, a walk about the docks at the east end of the bridge revealed several groupings of young birds and adults perched on utility wires. A short distance away, the underside of the bridge proved to be the nesting site.

The nests were characteristically constructed of mud and grass in the shape of truncated half cones and plastered to the sides of the concrete beams.

On Monday, June 28th, Judge Herman Coolidge visited the site and verified the nesting swallows. He walked about the area and estimated there were at least 15 to 20 nests that held young birds.

On another visit to the site the evening of July 2nd, it was estimated that the colony must have had at least 25 pairs of nesting birds this season. An estimate of the individuals in flight about the immediate area was placed at 35.

Also noted at this time were approximately 15 swallows across the river. They were flying about the underside of the bridge on the west side of the river. It was not checked, but the possibility of more nests on the Savannah side of the bridge was highly likely.

Not uncommon during spring and fall migrations through the coastal plains of Georgia, the Barn Swallow is readily identifiable. However, in the present instance it was not until the birds approached and hovered before landing on the nest that the white spots in the spread tail feathers became apparent.

The colony at Lazaretto Creek appears to be a successful one. The observation that a couple of nests were apparently built upon remains of older nests suggests that these swallows might have nested here the previous summer, possibly in fewer numbers.

It is hoped that after 72 years this most handsome and distinguished of swallows will once again establish itself as a summer resident in Chatham County and coastal Georgia.

Peter R. Schreck, Jr., 512 Hampton Street, Savannah, Ga. 31405

**OBSERVATION OF FLAMINGOS ON THE GEORGIA COAST** — On 9 July 1976 at 11:15 a.m. (EDT), Stuart Gregg and the writer ob-



served three adult American Flamingos on a shoal seaward of Little Egg Island in Altamaha Sound. We were engaged in an aerial survey of the Georgia coastal islands searching for colonies of gulls and terns. The birds were observed from a Cherokee 140 aircraft at close range.

The three flamingos were first noticed in flight over the large sand shoal seaward of Little Egg Island. The shoal was exposed by low tide, and it is assumed that the flamingos were feeding or loafing on the shoal when disturbed by the plane. They were all fully adult birds in good color. They flew strongly and acted like healthy, wild flamingos in every way. We gave chase to the birds with the plane and made several passes over and near the birds. Photographs were taken but as of this writing are not yet available.

The writer has observed American Flamingos throughout their range, both from the air and ground, over a period of 16 years as part of the research effort of the National Audubon Society.

Alexander Sprunt, IV, Research Director, National Audubon Society, 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070.

# FROM THE FIELD — SOUTH GEORGIA

(Fall, 1976)

Milton Hopkins, Jr., reports that 2 Swallow-tailed Kites seen on 15 August 1976 were the first for Ben Hill County. He also saw 2 Greater Yellowlegs on 3 November and a Lark Sparrow on 12 October. Ben Hill County's latest fall record for Sandhill Cranes came when Milton flushed one from a corn field on 30 November. Milton also found a late Mourning Dove nest with two young in a corn field on 30 October. William Dopson saw a very rare Bewick's Wren in Telfair County on 1 November.

Louisiana Herons, uncommon away from coastal areas, were noted by Tom Patterson in Laurens County. He saw one on 14 August, two on 11 September and three on 25 September. Tom saw two Bonaparte's Gulls on 29 August, two Lesser Yellowlegs on 13 November, and also on 13 November, one Red-breasted Merganser and five Ruddy Ducks. The first Laurens County sightings of three species occurred when Tom saw a Sandhill Crane on 13 November, four Horned Grebes on 21 November, and one Herring Gull on 26 November.

Thomas County also had three species added to its local list when Robert L. Crawford saw a Stilt Sandpiper on 24 August, a Common Tern on 26 August, and two Dunlin on 8 November. One of two Laughing Gulls there on 27 September was a banded adult and was collected (specimen to Tall Timbers Research Station).

Charles Erwin noted a Least Bittern in Dougherty County on 15 August and on 18 August found a Least Sandpiper, and both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Joe Kight saw an adult Golden Eagle near Lake Seminole in Decatur County on 14 October and Betty Komarek had a White-crowned Sparrow on her Grady County feeder 9-10 October.

James Miller saw a Purple Finch on 11 November in Columbus and a White-crowned Sparrow there on 15 November. At nearby Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge, he saw a Double-crested Cormorant on 11 November. Sam Pate saw a Cerulean Warbler on 20 September and a very rare Wilson's Warbler and three Canada Warblers all in Harris County on 30 September. Sam saw a Horned Grebe at Callaway Gardens on 18 November.

Cape May Warblers are exceptionally rare fall migrants through southwest Georgia. Thus, the report by Sam Pate and James Miller of 25



of these birds at Cooper's Creek near Columbus on 17 October would be incredible except that that night, five were killed at the WCTV tower (1 mile south of Grady County, Georgia, in Leon County, Florida) and were picked up the morning of the 18th. Only a handful of fall records exists for the Cape May at WCTV and never before had more than one been found on one fall day in the tower's 22-year history.

(Compiled by Robert L. Crawford, Tall Timbers Research Station, Rt. 1, Box 160, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.)

## NEWS AND COMMENTS

### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PURPLE MARTIN COLOR-MARKING

A large-scale Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1975 for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Maryland, and in 1976 for Saxis, Virginia. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (wing tags and/or plastic leg bands) Purple Martins. Please record the color of the band, which leg it is on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock, or established at a nest site. We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd. #2, Laurel, Md. 20811.



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