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CONTENTS

THE RECENT NESTING OSPREY POPULATION IN GEORGIA

J. Fred Denton. 41

BIRDS OF THE HIAWASSEE PLATEAU AND SURROUNDING SLOPES: A PRELIMINARY LIST

Joseph M. Meyers 46

MARbled GODWIT AT DALTON, GA.

Harriett G. DiGioia 60

GENERAL NOTES 62

FROM THE FIELD 66

NEWS AND COMMENTS. 71

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THE RECENT NESTING OSPREY POPULATION IN GEORGIA

J. Fred Denton

Henny and Noltemeier (1975) in reporting their survey of Osprey (*Pandion haliaethus*) nests on the North and South Carolina coasts stated "Verified nesting records from Georgia, with one exception, are limited to the Savannah region, which is adjacent to the South Carolina border" and cited Burleigh (1958) as the source of their information. Checking Burleigh's 1958 account one finds that he states that between 1900 and 1920 G. R. Rossignol succeeded in finding 40 occupied Osprey nests on the islands lying off the coast in the Savannah region. Apparently the one exception mentioned by those authors was a nest Burleigh observed in the Okefenokee Swamp on 5 May 1929. However, there were other reliable breeding records reported prior to 1955 which Burleigh failed to mention. They are a nest on St. Catherine's Island 4 May 1913 reported by Ericksen (1919), a nest on Colonel's Island active 1930-34 mentioned by Bassett (1936), a nest on Cumberland Island 3-4 May 1921 reported by Pearson (1922) and six nests found in the Okefenokee Swamp 6 May - 13 July 1912 by Wright and Harper (1913). I. F. Arnow is known to have observed a nest near St. Mary's, but details are lacking.

Henny and Noltemier (1975), in addition to implying that a survey of Osprey nests along the Georgia coast was not warranted, gave an erroneous impression of the breeding Osprey population in the state. The purpose of this paper is to record all Osprey nests that have been observed in Georgia during the past four years, 1973-76, and furnish a baseline for future studies.

Methods

Inquiries were sent to ornithologists, biologists, refuge managers, wildlife rangers, and interested persons living in the coastal area asking them to report active Osprey nests and all known nesting sites. The exact methods employed by each collaborator in locating nests were not stated. However, it is known that some were located during aerial surveys, some some from ground surveys, some by boat exploration, and some from interrogation of foresters, commercial fishermen, and sportsmen. A nest

was considered active if an Osprey was observed attending or sitting on it, or if eggs or young were observed in the nest. Although it is probable that some nests located in inaccessible swamps and not visible from the air were missed, most nests are thought to have been located.

Results and Discussion

The general location and number of Osprey nests active during 1973-76 is shown in Table 1. It is evident that Osprey nests are more or less generally distributed throughout the coastal area of Georgia and also occur in three inland areas, the Okefenokee NWR, Lake Seminole, and on the Ocmulgee River in Pulaski County. The nest at the latter site was found by Game and Fish Biologist Bill Cooper (*vide* R. R. Odom) and was located in the top of a green cypress along the river approximately three miles north of Hawkinsville. Young were fledged from this nest in 1976.

Presently there are no Ospreys nesting on some of the larger islands which probably had nesting birds at some former time. Their absence from Tybee and Jekyll Islands is probably because of the extensive development of these islands but their absence from Skidaway and Cumberland Islands is not as easily explained. In 1976, 50 pairs definitely and possibly as many as 55 pairs of Ospreys nested along the approximately 97 miles of Georgia coast. The nesting density here is comparable to that in the South Carolina coastal area where Henny and Noltemeier (1975) found 111 pairs nesting along a coastline nearly twice that of Georgia.

Whether or not, and to what extent, the total breeding Osprey population in Georgia has decreased in recent years is difficult to determine because of the lack of earlier data for comparison. Tomkins (1958) states that on Little Tybee Island G. R. Rossignol collected eggs from nine nests on 8 May 1907 and from five nests on 11 May 1914. In 1976 there were no nests on this island and only one in 1975, this population having gradually decreased in recent years, possibly as result of disturbance and destruction of nesting sites. Erickson (1919) reported that in 1913 at least 10 pairs of Ospreys allegedly nested on St. Catherine's Island, although he personally examined only one nest. In 1973 Paul R. Spitzer observed nine active nests and in 1974 Hilburn Hillestad (*vide* R. R. Odom) found 11 nests on this island. While only four active nests were reported in 1976, this probably does not indicate a decrease in the island's population, which appears to have remained stable for many years, but rather incomplete coverage of the island that year. Teal (1959) reported that in 1958 five of the 13 nesting sites at the north end of Sapelo and on Blackbeard Islands were active, while in 1976 there were three active nests on Sapelo and one on Blackbeard, possibly

Table 1: Recent Locations of Osprey Nests in Georgia

Locality	Number of Nests	Authority
Tybee Island	None in 1976	H. E. Coolidge & J. P. Davis
Little Tybee Island	None in 1976 1 active nest 1975	R. R. Odom R. R. Odom
Skidaway Island	None in 1976	R. R. Odom
Wassaw Island NWR*	14 active nests 1976†	J. P. Davis
Flora Hammock, Chatham Co.	2 active nests 1976 1 active nest 1975	R. R. Odom R. R. Odom
Pine Island, Chatham Co.	2 active nests 1974	R. R. Odom
Ford Island, Ogeechee River	1 active nest 1974	R. R. Odom
Ogeechee River above Ford Island	1 active nest 1974	R. R. Odom
Colonel's Island, Liberty Co.	1 nest, active 1974, 1975, and 1976	R. R. Odom
Ossabaw Island	None in 1976 1 active nest 1975	Eleanor T. West J. Earl <i>vide</i> R. R. Odom
	1 active nest 1974 1 active nest 1973	R. R. Odom P. R. Spitzer
St. Catherine's Island	4 active nests 1976 11 active nests 1974	Elaine Young H. Hillstad <i>vide</i> Odom
	9 active nests 1973	P. R. Spitzer
Moss Island, Liberty Co.	1 active nest 1976 1 active nest 1975	R. R. Odom R. R. Odom
Harris Neck NWR	2 active nests 1976	J. P. Davis
Private land south of Harris Neck NWR, McIntosh Co.	2 active nests 1976, possibly 3	R. R. Odom
NE Shellman Bluff, McIntosh Co.	1 active nest 1976	W. A. Krissinger
Pine Harbor, McIntosh Co.	1 active nest 1976	Elaine Young
Bellville, McIntosh Co.	1 active nest 1976	Elaine Young
Blackbeard Island NWR	1 active nest 1976	J. P. Davis
Sapelo Island	3 active nests 1976, several other known sites	R. R. Odom & Elaine Young
Little Sapelo Island	None in 1976 1 active nest 1974	R. R. Odom R. R. Odom

Table 1: Continued

Locality	Number of Nests	Authority
Oldnor Island	1 active nest 1975	R. R. Odom
Altamaha River delta, McIntosh Co.	2 active nests 1976, 4 known sites	Elaine Young
Little Saint Simons Island	1 active nest 1976, possibly 2	Elaine Young
	1 active nest 1974	R. R. Odom
Saint Simons Island	3 active nests 1976	Elaine Young
Sea Island	None in 1976	Elaine Young
Jekyll Island	None in 1976	Elaine Young
Little Cumberland Island	None in 1976	R. R. Odom
	1 active nest 1974	B. Hillestad
Cumberland Island	None in 1976	P. McCrary
Varn Cattle & Turpentine Co. lands, Camden Co.	2 active nests 1974	R. R. Odom
Kings Bay area, Camden Co.	8 active nests 1976	P. McCrary & R. R. Odom
Mud River, Camden Co.	2 active nests 1976	P. McCrary
Thiokol Co. land, Camden Co.	1 active nest 1976	Elaine Young
Okefenokee NWR	11 active nests 1976 12 known sites	W. Metzen <i>vide</i> E. Cypert
Lake Seminole, Decatur- Seminole Cos.	3 active nests 1976, several other known sites	J. Kight
	2 active nests 1974	R. R. Odom
Ocmulgee River, Pulaski Co.	1 active nest 1976	B. Cooper <i>vide</i> R. R. Odom

* - National Wildlife Refuge.

† - This count seems high for this island.

indicating a slight decrease in the population in that area. At present, there are no known nests on Cumberland Island, a large island that seems never to have had a sizeable breeding population, although Pearson (1922) reported a single active nest there in 1921. Wright and Harper (1913) reported six Osprey nests in the Okefenokee Swamp in 1912, while 11 active nests were recorded in 1976. This most likely indicates more complete coverage of the swamp this year than was possible in 1912 rather than an increase in the breeding population. On the other hand, the Ospreys breeding on Lake Seminole are a definite addition to the

Georgia population since the lake filled in 1957. My overall impression is that the Osprey population breeding in Georgia has fared better and decreased less in recent years than that breeding farther north, especially on the New England coast.

Acknowledgements

The project reported here has been truly a group endeavor and contains contributions from many collaborators who spent much time and effort collecting data. To all of these individuals listed as authorities in Table 1, I express my sincere appreciation. Special thanks are due Ron R. Odom of the Game and Fish Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, who generously turned over his records of Ospreys nests obtained while making endangered species-non-game surveys during 1974-76.

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BIRDS OF THE HIAWASSEE PLATEAU AND SURROUNDING SLOPES: A PRELIMINARY LIST.

Joseph M. Meyers

This paper originates, in part, from an avian population study of the Blairsville — Wood Grove transmission line and Chattahoochee National Forest. The research project began in November, 1975, and will continue, seasonally, to June, 1978. Recent communications with Dr. J. F. Denton and a search of previous literature encouraged me to compile notes of the birds of this area.

The study area centers upon Young Harris, Georgia, with the transmission line census area beginning approximately 7.5 km (4.5 miles) southeast of the town on Mine Mountain and continuing northeast to its intersection with Route 76, 0.8 km (.5 miles) east of Chatuge State Park. Other areas were censused while traveling between the project census plots. These additional areas included Little Brasstown Gap, Jacksonville, Young Harris, plateau east of Crow Gap, Brasstown Gap, Friendship, and Lake Chatuge in Union and Towns County (U.S.G.S. - Blairsville and Hiawassee, GA & N.C. Quadrangles).

The region surrounding Young Harris is described by Howell (1909). The area studied within this region varied in elevation from 610 to 870 meters (2000 to 2850 ft.) Residential, old field, stream bottom, and pasture habitat were investigated on the plateau. Forest, forest edge, and transmission line bird surveys were conducted on the slopes of Ivylog and Ramey Mountains. The major topographic and habitat types of this region and altitude were present on six avian survey locations. Steep ravines, dry rocky ridges, stream coves, and rolling slopes were the major topographic features.

The majority of my time was spent on the lower slopes of the mountains. One survey was conducted during December, January, and February, 1975-76 (total of six days). The spring migration census was conducted from 5 April to 19 May 1976. Summer breeding birds were surveyed from 25 May to 25 June 1976 and 8 July 1976. Approximately 290 km (174 mi) of transects were completed on 7.2 km (4.3 mi) of transmission line and forest plots.

Howell (1909) and Burleigh (1925-1946) have reported many new records of transient and breeding birds in the area of Young Harris. I intend to supplement and revise their notes which were last published 30 years ago. I will also provide information derived from quantitative surveys on the transmission line, forest edge, and forest within the previously described area. No attempt was made during these surveys to

"search out" specific species. I intend to cover more habitats in the upcoming years and also to investigate the area for species noted by previous biologists and not found in my census areas.

The following list of birds (AOU 1957) and their status are preliminary results of my work in this region.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*): accidental (transient?). During high winds on May 18, 1976, I observed a male scoter resting on Lake Chatuge. The bird was not injured and made a strong 300 meter flight into the 35 knot northerly wind. This species may be changing its normal coastal migration route (De Benedictis, 1976).

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*): fairly common permanent resident. It was more abundant during the winter months and was seen during all seasons.

Sharp-skinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*): uncommon permanent resident. One individual was soaring in the area of the transmission line right of way (ROW) during migration (date unknown).

Cooper's Hawk (*A. cooperii*): uncommon permanent resident. Two individuals were heard and seen on Ivylog Mountain on April 17 and another was seen on Ramey Mountain on May 6.

Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*): common permanent resident. An immature was perched along Rt. 76, one mile north of Young Harris, during January, 1976. Adults perched on trees on the transmission line forest edge during February, May, and June, 1976.

Board-winged Hawk (*B. platypterus*): common summer resident. Two individuals were seen on the transmission line and forest edge on April 19. One passed six meters overhead in the same area on June 12. My presence was of no distraction to this bird which proceeded along the transmission line below the tree canopy.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*): very common permanent resident. This species was flushed on the transmission line forest edge during all winter surveys. Birds were heard drumming beginning April 14 and were flushed on Ivylog and Ramey Mts. during the breeding survey. No nests or young were found.

Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*): fairly common permanent resident. This species was not recorded above the plateau as stated by Howell

(1909). It was heard singing in agricultural areas in the valley during June.

Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*): uncommon permanent resident. One was heard on the transmission line forest edge on February 29.

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*): uncommon resident. This species was recorded once (June) near Lake Chatuge, Friendship. It was heard calling in a mowed field near the lake.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*): uncommon transient. During the winter and early spring the water level of Lake Chatuge is low, thus exposing acres of shore habitat. One individual was recorded on May 16 feeding on this shore.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*): common resident. Doves were recorded singing from January through June. The newly constructed transmission line attracted breeding pairs to the lower slopes, el. 739m (2600ft.)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): fairly common summer resident. A pair was seen on Ramey Mt., el. 732m (2400ft), on May 17 and one was heard a week later at el. 762m (2500ft), 300m from the original sighting. Another individual was heard on Ivylog Mt., el. 838m (2750ft) on May 13.

Owls: No records of any species; however, a large fresh pellet (2 x7 cm) was found under a dead tree on Ramey Mountain on May 26. Periodic checks of this perch revealed the bird had not returned.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*): very common summer resident. This species was recorded in the valley and lower slopes of Ramey and Ivylog Mt. from April to July.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*): fairly common summer resident. A male was observed in a mating flight on June 24 and a female was noted in the same area (Ramey Mt.) on June 10 and 17. It preferred selectively cut areas and forest edges. First arrival recorded on April 20.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*): fairly common permanent resident. Two sightings were recorded during April and May on Brass-town Creek and Lake Chatuge.

Common Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*): fairly common permanent

resident. Several were recorded on the lower slopes of Ramey Mt. during June and on the plateau during winter.

Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*): common permanent resident. This species was consistently seen or heard on Ramey and Ivylog Mt. A group of young birds was seen being fed by an adult on June 9.

Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*): common permanent resident. Burleigh (1958) and Stupka (1963) exclude this species as a breeding bird in the mountains of Georgia and the Smokey Mts. of Tennessee and North Carolina. My work indicated this species is common on the mountains to el. 732m (2400 ft) and most likely is breeding in this habitat; however, I was unable to locate a nest. An individual was censused within 15m of the same point on Ramey Mt. on eight days during April and May. Others were seen from April to June in mountain forest habitats. An individual was also recorded on the plateau on May 23.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus*): fairly common permanent resident. This woodpecker was not recorded during the winter survey, but was heard and seen on numerous occasions during the spring and summer surveys. It was common only in the forest; however, it was not as abundant as the other recorded Picidae.

Downy Woodpecker (*D. pubescens*): common permanent resident. I recorded this species regularly in small flocks of Parids and Sylviids during the winter. It was just as common in the residential areas on the plateau as in the forest during the spring and summer surveys.

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*): common summer resident. The first arrival date was May 5. Pairs were recorded on Ramey and Ivylog Mts. during May and June. One individual was recorded in the valley at Little Brasstown Gap. A nest was located in a martin house on Miner's Gap Road.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*): common summer resident. This species preferred cut forest. One nest was located at Miner's Gap, el. 732m (2400 ft). The nest was under the roof of a vacation home in a cleared forest area. A group of five individuals was recorded in a logged area on Little Brasstown Gap — remaining trees were less than 20 cm DBH (diameter breast height) — on May 13 and 19.

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*): very common summer resident. Very few mountain streams or damp ravines were without a singing male of this flycatcher. It was more abundant on the lower slopes than on the plateau.

Eastern Wood Peewee (*Contopus virens*): common summer resident. This species was usually singing on the transmission line forest edge and was recorded in May and June.

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*): fairly common transient. Three birds were seen feeding over a farm pond along Rt. 76, 1.7 km (1 mi.) north of Young Harris on May 12.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*): uncommon resident. One individual was seen with a group of Tree Swallows on May 12.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*): abundant summer resident. Large flocks of these swallows were recorded on a farm 1.7 km (1 mi.) north of Young Harris. Thirteen were observed there perching on a wire on May 13. Nests were located in a small barn next to the Young Harris Post Office.

Purple Martin (*Progne subis*): fairly common summer resident. I recorded this species near Miner's Gap Rd. It was common in man-made gourd colonies.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*): very common permanent resident. Four fledged birds were fed by their parents from May 26 to the 30th in a planted white pine (*Pinus strobus*) stand near Lake Chatuge. This species was common in the forest during the spring and summer surveys, but was absent during the winter months.

Common Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*): abundant permanent resident. Large flocks of 8 to 23 crows were seen daily on the transmission line and forest edge during June.

Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*): abundant permanent resident. During the winter this species totaled 50% of the bird populations in the forest. It was very common during spring and summer and preferred forest edge adjacent to slash areas.

Tufted Titmouse (*P. bicolor*): common permanent resident. It was more common in the forest than on the plateau.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*): fairly common permanent resident. One or two individuals were recorded on the mountain slopes during each season.

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*S. canadensis*): irregular transient. Only one individual was recorded on December 17 in a small stand of scrub pines (*P. virginiana*) at 732m (2400 ft.) on Ivylog Mt. It has extended its breeding range to North Carolina (Tate, 1975).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): fairly common winter resident. Burleigh (1927) reported the breeding of this species on Brass-town Bald. My records indicate the wren is common in slash and woodland brush during winter and early spring on the lower slopes (670-732m or 2200-2400 ft.); however, none were sighted after April 14. These individuals may migrate up the mountain.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*): common permanent resident. This species was recorded during all surveys. It was one of the few species that nested in the slash of the selectively cleared ROW. It was more common in the lower mountain slopes than on the plateau.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*): fairly common permanent resident. The valley residential areas were the only habitats this species inhabited.

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*): common summer resident. A pair nested in a planted white pine stand near Lake Chatuge (residential area). It was not recorded in the forest or transmission line, probably because of the lack of thick cover.

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*): uncommon resident. This species was recorded once on the plateau on June 24.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*): common resident. It was commonly found in residential areas on the plateau during the spring and summer. None were recorded above 640m (2100 ft.).

Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*): common summer resident. This species was more common on the forest habitat adjacent to open areas on the plateau. It was recorded on the plateau near Lake Chatuge, Crow Gap, and Little Brasstown Gap.

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*): fairly common resident. First arrivals were noted on April 13. All sightings were recorded in the evening on the lower slopes of Ramey Mt.

Veery (*C. fuscescens*): uncommon transient. I noted only two individuals of this species in the transmission line forest edge on April 27, also during evening surveys. This species is a breeding bird only at elevations greater than 976m (3200 ft.) (Burleigh 1927).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*): very common permanent resident. Bluebird nests were common in the residential areas of the plateau. One nest was discovered in a nest box in Jacksonville and an adult was ob-

served feeding a juvenile on a lawn in Friendship on May 25. A mated pair was observed in an open stand of scrub pine along the transmission line (el. 732m or 2400 ft.) on April 15 and 17.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*): Fairly common summer resident. The first arrival date was April 5 in Young Harris. This species was observed on three days during May and June at an elevation of 744m (2440 ft.). It was noted along the transmission line during May and June.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*): fairly common winter resident. This species was seen during each winter survey.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*R. calendula*): uncommon winter resident. No records were taken in my study area; however, a small flock of this species was observed on the summit of Brasstown Bald on April 17.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*): fairly common permanent resident. Small flocks were seen on lawns on the plateau.

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*): common summer resident. This species first arrived on April 14 and was consistently recorded on forest edge and forest census areas through June.

Solitary Vireo (*V. solitarius*): very common summer resident. This species preferred forest habitat and was more abundant than Yellow-throated Vireos. My census indicated a population of 8 breeding birds per 40 ha (100 acres), which ranked this species as the fourth most abundant breeding bird in the forest. It was first observed on April 5. No winter sightings were made.

Red-eyed Vireo (*V. olivaceus*): abundant summer resident. This vireo was the most abundant breeding bird of the forest habitats. My breeding survey indicated 30 pairs per 40 ha (100 acres) in forest edge and 18 pairs per 40 ha in forest interior. One nest was found on May 26 in a small flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) about one meter from the ground on the transmission line ROW. On that date two eggs were recorded; however, on June 6 only one egg remained and on June 8th the nest was empty and abandoned.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*): abundant summer resident. This species was one of the early arrivals on April 5. My surveys indicated this bird preferred forest edge and slash areas. In these habitats 12 pairs per 40 ha were recorded. In the interior forest habitats 7 pairs

per 40 ha were recorded. Young fledged birds were seen being fed by two adults on June 24.

Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*): common summer resident. Three to 13 breeding pairs per 40 ha were recorded in the study area. This species was common only in ravines and coves.

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*): fairly common summer resident. Three singing males were recorded in Little Brasstown Gap (el. 670m or 2200 ft.) from May 25 to the 28 with a small colony of Blue-winged Warblers. The habitat was an old field (abandoned chicken sheds) with sparse trees less than 20cm DBH.

Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*): fairly common local summer resident. The first arrival of this species was noted on May 18 at Little Brasstown Gap. A week later I observed four singing males in this area. My lack of time prevented me from checking for nesting and hybrids.

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*): fairly common summer resident. This species was not recorded above 640m (2100 ft.) and was common southwest of Jacksonville.

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*D. coronata*): common transient. Small flocks were seen during late April and early May on the mountains and plateau.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*D. virens*): uncommon summer resident. Only one of this species was recorded singing on May 16. A few were seen during migration.

Cerulean Warbler (*D. cerulea*): fairly common local transient (may breed). One singing male of this species was recorded at the same location on four days during mid-May. A few were seen on the transmission line forest edge during migration. It is possible that this species may breed locally in this area.

Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*): fairly common transient. First arrivals were recorded on April 23; none were recorded during the breeding survey. Previous records indicate this species breeds above 793m (2600 ft.) (Odum, 1945).

Yellow-throated Warbler (*D. dominica*): common summer resident. Early arrivals of this species were recorded on April 5. It was common in conifers on the plateau and lower slopes to 701m (2300 ft.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*D. pensylvanica*): common transient. A few small groups of this species were noted during migration. Burleigh

(1927) and Odum (1945) found this bird breeding above 845m (2800 ft.). I observed singing males at the summit of Brasstown Bald on July 10.

Blackpoll Warbler (*D. striata*): common transient. It was common in small woodlots on the plateau and on the forest edge on the lower slopes of the mountains.

Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*): abundant summer resident. This species was the second most abundant forest breeding bird. My study indicated 14 breeding pairs per 40 ha. One nest was located along a logging road next to slash. On June 10 it contained two eggs; on the 11, three eggs; and on June 18 it was abandoned (with 3 eggs).

Kentucky Warbler (*Oporornis formosus*): fairly common local summer resident. First recorded on May 5 and later recorded as a breeding bird on forest edge (stream) and slash ROW.

Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*): common resident. This species was seen regularly during April through June. It was not observed in the mountains.

Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*): uncommon summer resident. Only two individuals were seen. Both were in an old field on Little Brasstown Gap during the months of May and June.

Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*): fairly common summer resident. Only four wide-spread records were taken of singing males. Most of these were on the lower slopes.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*): common permanent resident. I found it to be common in Young Harris.

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*): common permanent resident. It was common in pastures on the plateau. On February 28 I noted an all white bird in a pasture at Miner's Gap Trail. The only color was the yellow V-band on the breast.

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*): common permanent resident. The majority of the breeding birds were sighted along the shores of Lake Chatuge.

Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*): uncommon summer resident. On June 11, I noted two singing males engaging in a territorial dispute near the shoreline of Lake Chatuge, Friendship. Further surveys did not reveal a nest although one singing male was heard for two weeks.

Northern Oriole (*I. galbula*): scarce summer resident. Only one record of this bird was made during my survey. On May 26 a male was seen in Jacksonville, but I did not hear it singing.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*): very common resident. It was most abundant in conifers along Lake Chatuge. A few were noted in the mountains.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*): fairly common summer resident; not recorded during the winter. A male was heard and seen in a dispute with another on April 14. Unexpectedly, none was recorded on the plateau.

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*): very common summer resident. This species was the fifth most abundant breeding bird on the lower slopes of the mountains. I recorded from five to ten breeding pairs per 40 ha.

Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): very common resident. It was most abundant on the plateau. One breeding bird was recorded on the forest edge transmission line at 762m (2500 ft.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*): common transient. This species was common during the migration census, but was not recorded during the breeding bird survey. Burleigh (1958) indicates this species breeds above 915m (3000 ft.).

Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*): scarce transient. One individual was seen on the forest edge along the transmission line at 793m (2600 ft.) on May 12.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*): very common to abundant summer resident. This bird was the most abundant bird along the transmission line. My records indicated from 30 to 59 breeding pairs per 40 ha in this area. It was very common on the plateau.

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*): fairly common transient (irregular). An invasion of this species occurred in Georgia this winter. In Athens I saw a flock of 125 individuals for over a week and a regular flock of 25-40 from January 15 to mid-March. Therefore, I expected to see this species in north Georgia. Two flocks were observed (10 and 12 birds) on April 15 and 23 on Ramey Mountain.

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*): fairly common winter resident. Small flocks of three to eight birds were seen on the forest edge

on April 14 and 20 near Ramey Mountain. It was also noted on one occasion on February 14 in the same area.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*): common resident. Small flocks were noted along roadside fences on the plateau during May and June.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*): common permanent resident. A few individuals were noted on the slopes of my study area. These birds were seen in the slash on selectively cleared transmission line ROW treatments. During late May and June they were more abundant on the plateau.

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*): uncommon summer resident. I recorded two singing males at Little Brasstown Gap in an early stage old field on May 13. I heard one in this same area one week later.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*): very common winter resident. This species comprised 90% of the bird populations on the transmission line during winter. Flocks of up to 28 individuals were noted on each survey. Juncos breed on Brasstown Bald (Burleigh 1927). I noted four singing males on the summit on July 10. It was not recorded on the lower slopes or plateau after April 16.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*): uncommon resident. Only one singing male was noted during my study. This individual was in a group of sparse conifers at the Towns County Recreation Area on June 22.

Field Sparrow (*S. pusilla*): common resident. Singing males were recorded on most days during May and June on the plateau from Little Brasstown Gap to Young Harris.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*): uncommon winter resident and transient. Only one individual was noted on the forest edge with a small flock of Dark-eyed Juncos (April 14 and 16).

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*): very common resident. This species was the most common breeding sparrow on the plateau. I located a nest on April 20 with five incubated eggs. The nest was in a small clump of grass on a steep bank three meters from a house trailer in Friendship. The nestlings were hatched on April 29; however, they died during an extremely cold night on May 5 (temperature -2° C, 29° F). Song Sparrows are continuing to expand their breeding range. A nest with two young was located this summer (1976) by Olin Allen at the University of

Georgia baseball field, Athens. I did not note this species during the winter surveys, of limited time, on the plateau.

DISCUSSION

Ninety-two species of birds were recorded on the Hiawassee Plateau and surrounding mountain slopes. Sixty-nine of these birds were presumed to nest in the area. Many species recorded by previous investigators were not noted during this study. I would expect to record additional species in the upcoming years which may have been overlooked during the first study year (Appendix 1).

Some species have become established in this area that were unknown or uncommon in earlier studies. The Red-bellied Woodpecker was not listed as a common Highland Region species by Burleigh (1958). This species has recently invaded the highlands and is fairly common. Howell (1909) indicates that the Red-eyed Vireo was uncommon in this area; however, quantitative data show this species as the most abundant forest bird. The Common Grackle, unknown to Howell and Burleigh, has become a common species.

Quite a few species are still questionable breeding birds. Spotted Sandpiper, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Oriole, and Orchard Oriole were noted only as one or two individual records. These species have, for the most part, been previously recorded as scarce in this area. Their low numbers have made obtaining positive breeding records a difficult task.

The transmission line was constructed in 1975 and cover was sparse (10-20%) on the right of way (ROW) during the first summer (1976). Bird populations on the forest — ROW ecotone were not significantly different ($\alpha = .10$) from the forest bird populations during each of the three seasonal surveys. In the forest there were 90 breeding pairs per 40 ha (100 acres) and on the forest-ROW ecotone there were from 72 to 116 breeding pairs per 40 ha. Indigo Buntings were abundant breeding birds along the forest — ROW ecotone and comprised 30% of the bird populations in that habitat.

The northeast region of Georgia is an important area for monitoring avian range expansion; however, quantitative data on the avian communities of the Chattahoochee National Forest is also an important monitoring device. I am hopeful these data will stimulate interest in this area and encourage other investigators to complete surveys in this region.

Research was supported by the Tennessee Valley Authority. I would like to thank Dr. E. E. Provost and Dr. J. Fred Denton for reviewing and commenting on this manuscript.

Appendix 1. Birds of the Young Harris Area — Previously Recorded (not recorded during this survey).

Species	Status-Source*
Green Heron (<i>Butorides virescens</i>)	summer resident-Howell 1909, Bell 1938
Black-bellied Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	transient-Loftin 1969
American Woodcock (<i>Philohela minor</i>)	resident
Willet (<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>)	transient-Loftin 1969
Black Tern (<i>Chilidonids niger</i>)	transient-Loftin 1965
Parasitic Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	transient-Loftin 1972
Great Horned Owl (<i>Bubo virginianus</i>)	resident
Whip-poor-will (<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>)	summer resident
Common Nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	summer resident-Howell 1909
Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	resident
Eastern Kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	summer resident
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	transient
Least Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax minimus</i>)	summer resident-Denton 1962
Bewick's Wren (<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>)	summer resident-Howell 1909
Gray-cheeked Thrush (<i>Catharus minima</i>)	transient
Cedar Waxwing (<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>)	summer resident
Northern Parula Warbler (<i>Parula americana</i>)	summer resident (local)
Black-throated Blue Warbler (<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>)	summer resident**
Bay-breasted Warbler (<i>D. castanea</i>)	transient
Pine Warbler (<i>D. pinus</i>)	resident-Howell 1909
Prairie Warbler (<i>D. discolor</i>)	summer resident (local)
Louisiana Waterthrush (<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>)	summer resident
Canada Warbler (<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>)	summer resident**
American Redstart (<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>)	summer resident
Summer Tanager (<i>Piranga rubra</i>)	summer resident
Red Crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	irregular
White-crowned Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>)	transient

*Burleigh, 1958, unless noted.

**breeds at elevations above study area (Burleigh 1958)

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MARbled GODWIT AT DALTON, GEORGIA

Harriett G. DiGioia

On August 13, 1976, the day was partly cloudy, hot, and humid, with temperature in the 80s. About 11:00 AM, I decided to take a bird break and went to Thread Mill Lake, near my home at Dalton, Ga. This lake had been drawn down for spillway repairs, exposing the muddy bottom. I had been enjoying the shorebirds congregating there; it looked and sounded like coastal Georgia!

I looked out over the lake from a vacant lot on the east side, to have the sun at my back. Six Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), a few Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*), and Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla*) hunted their favorite haunts for lunch. At the edge of the mud flat, about 150 feet distant, my binoculars took in a brownish shorebird, at the edge of the mud. A Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), I thought. On swinging my glasses back, I looked at the bird again and concluded it was not a yellowlegs and bore closer inspection.

I drove to the home of an acquaintance on the west side of the lake. Her yard was right opposite the bird and I could get within 40 feet. After cautiously working my way onto a sandbar jutting into the water, I raised my 7 X 35 Bushnell binoculars and realized this was, indeed, 'no yellowlegs. Here was a bird I'd never seen before. Checking my bird guide (Robbins, Chandler S., Bertel Bruun, Herbert Zim, Birds of North America, Golden Press, New York City, 1966) I realized that I had a Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) in view!

The bird was brownish in tone, the back tweeded by white, top of head dark, breast feathers a smooth gray. The tail had brown barring and a dark edge showed at wing-tip. The bill was very long and slender, slightly upcurved, reddish from base to middle, black from middle to tip. Legs were slate colored. It probed the mud like a sewing machine and dipped its head into the water up to the eyes. This bird ate as if it were famished. When it flushed, I could see a flash of cinnamon under the wings.

After drinking in the bird and noting a Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) and a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) being mobbed by Common Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), I rushed home and called Anne Hamilton. She agreed to meet me and we took her

15 x 60 Bausch and Lomb scope for better viewing. She backed up my identification. Delano Crowe and Harry White also saw it on August 18. The bird was last seen August 21.

Later, while in Boston, I went to the Museum of Science. Among the exhibitions was an "Encyclopedia of New England Birds" and there, very lifelike, was a mounted Marbled Godwit in the same plumage as "my" bird — a rare opportunity to check fine field points.

To my knowledge, this is the first interior record for Georgia. Burleigh (Thomas D., Georgia Birds, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1958) and Denton and Hopkins, (Pocket Check-list of Georgia Birds, Georgia Ornithological Society, 1969) list this bird as a coastal transient and winter visitor. There have been sightings of this bird in Tennessee.

I did not see the bird after August 13, due to being out of town. Anne Hamilton kept watch and the following paragraph is from her notes. "On August 18, while watching the (Marbled) Godwit, I noticed the bird was preening. It dipped its bill into the water, then touched it to its breast; sometimes to the abdomen. This was done six to eight times. It fed almost constantly, frequently dipping the bill in mud or water up to its eyes. Twice it dipped the entire head in the water up to the nape. I noted cinnamon coloration on top edge of wings as it flew."

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GENERAL NOTES

WILSON'S PHALAROPE AT AUGUSTA — On June 1, 1975, the author and M. Ray Holzworth discovered a male Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor*) in the Merry Brothers Brickyard Ponds at Augusta, Ga. The bird was found in an area where the topsoil had been removed by grading which left several small ponds. It was associating with Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and two White-rumped Sandpipers (*Erolia fuscicollis*). We were able to photograph the phalarope, but the high haze overcast resulted in a blue color shift in the photographic emulsion. The slides, while not realistic, are identifiable as slides of Wilson's Phalarope, especially as one of the author's slides shows the completely white tail of the bird. The slides are in the personal collections of Holzworth and the author.

This is the second record for the Augusta area as Denton & Post (J. Fred & Will, Jr., *Oriole* 28:43-46) reported a single bird on two occasions in Sept., 1962. This also appears to be the first report from the state of this species since 1968 (Dopson, C. William, Jr., & Richardson, James I., *Oriole* 33:41), although a subsequent sighting (Crawford, Robert L., *Oriole* 40:50) has been published.

Gerald E. Knighton, Sr., 304 Kirby Dr., N. Augusta, S. C., 29841.

PINE SISKINS EATING PARROT GRASS — On November 18, 1975, Mozelle and McRae Williams, Norene Boring, Anne Hamilton, and I were birding at Thread Mill Lake in Dalton. The sky was clear and temperature in the 60s.

While birding in the yard of a residence at lakeside, McRae asked me to step over and see a sight he thought a bit unusual. He was looking down into an unused boat slip filled with water and overgrown with Parrot-grass (*Myriophyllum brasiliense*). Upon focusing my binocular, I saw the reason for his interest. Fifteen Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) and two American Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) were busily "grazing" on the Parrot-grass, also known as Parrot-feather.

My interest was further heightened by the fact I had written an article for *The Oriole* (Vol. 39, No. 4) about American Goldfinches eating filamentous green algae (*Spirogyra porticalis*) at this same lake. I had never heard of Goldfinches eating algae, nor could I find a reference to it. Since that time, George Dorsey, upon reading my article, informed me he had seen them feeding on green algae and had mentioned it in an *Oriole* article. Tony Mayeax, manager of the U. S. Fish Hatchery, Cohut-

ta, Ga., also told me he had seen these birds eating algae from the hatchery ponds.

Therefore, I was not unduly surprised to find Pine Siskins and Goldfinches eating Parrot-grass. Both species do feed on green plants — American Goldfinches sometimes being called Lettuce Birds.

McRae and I watched the birds for about ten minutes. They fed quite happily and with gusto on this Parrot-grass, seeming to like it very much. Both species would grasp an individual leaf, breaking it off at the stem node, then proceed to eat the leaf. In the process of feeding, the birds got their feet wet when the tuft of Parrot-grass on which they were eating bent under their weight, ducking their feet under. At other times while walking on the luxuriant growth of this plant, a foot, or feet, would slip through, allowing the bird's feet to get wet. Neither species seemed to mind wet feet!

Occasionally something would startle the birds, although McRae and I could see nothing alarming. The majority of birds would fly up into an overhanging rose bush (*Rosa, sp.*) or into neighboring Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) or Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) trees, only to return to their feeding in a short time. One or two Pine Siskins always stayed behind. The Goldfinches and Pine Siskins fed separately throughout this time period, the Goldfinches on the outer (deeper) portion of the Parrot-grass and the Pine Siskins closer to shore.

Bent (Arthur C., *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows and Allies*, Part I, Dover Publications, Inc., New York City, 1968) does not mention either species eating Parrot-grass or any aquatic vegetation. He does mention both birds feed from time to time on various green plants. Martin, Zim, and Nelson, (*American Wildlife & Plants — A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits*, Dover Publications, Inc., New York City, 1959) make no reference to either species partaking of Parrot-grass or any water-loving plant.

I am inclined to believe these birds were getting their protein needs as well as their greens. Small aquatic insects in various stages of their life cycles, as well as snails, inhabit the Parrot-grass jungle.

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SIGHTING OF AMERICAN AVOCET IN GORDON COUNTY, GA. — In September, 1975, Delano Crowe was working in Gordon County near the community of Nicholsville. On the morning of September 9, a co-worker, Frank Cogburn, came into the office telling the news of see-

ing an unusual looking bird at a pond on Pine Chapel Road. Knowing Frank to be a very observant man, well-versed in the outdoors, Delano thought this bird worthy of attention. Therefore, he and Frank went immediately to the pond.

Neither man had a bird guide nor binoculars and Delano did not recognize the bird. When the bird started feeding, moving its head from side to side — “as if saying ‘No’ ” to quote Delano, he knew the bird to be an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). Delano remembered seeing a TV film showing an Avocet feeding in this manner.

The next day, September 10, Frank and Delano viewed the bird with binoculars and a field guide in hand, making a concrete identification. This bird had grayish long legs, a white body, black wings with a large white bar and a black, thin, long, upcurved bill. Its neck was gray — being in winter plumage. Although other birders went to see the bird, it was never present when the birders were! Delano did observe the bird on and off for ten days. Delano's wife, Doris, was able to see the bird on September 20 — the last time it was sighted.

This is one of the few interior sightings for Georgia. Harriett DiGioia did spot an American Avocet in a wet meadow on Mill Creek Road, Whitfield County, on March 14, 1970, reported in the Dalton Kingfisher, Vol. III, NO. 8 — newsletter of the Cherokee Audubon Society. No further publication of this sighting was undertaken as the bird has its back to her and its upturned bill was not seen. The body pattern was unmistakable. This bird was also in winter plumage.

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and Harriett G. DiGioia, 1309 Lakemont Drive, Dalton, Ga., 30720.

SUMMER RECORD OF YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON IN GREENE COUNTY — Thomas Burleigh (1958. Georgia Birds, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma) states that the Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) is uncommon in the Greene County area, so it should be of interest to record an occurrence of it in August.

On 11 April 1976 an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron was noted stalking among a thick grove of cattails (*Typha* spp.) in a beaver pond located near the junction of Highway 15 and the Oconee River in Greene County. Examination of the pond on previous occasions revealed no additional sightings.

However, on 20 August 1976, another immature bird was observed in the same general location, but on the Oconee River instead of the beaver pond.

In view of these occurrences and the records of other observers, I tend to agree with Norene S. Boring (1976. Oriole 41(1:14) that the status north of the Coastal Plain might be an uncommon summer resident rather than an uncommon summer visitor.

Robert Lochmiller, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

BLACK RAILS IN IRWIN COUNTY, GEORGIA — A first record for the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) in this area was established on 8 Oct 1976 by Milton Hopkins III. He flushed the bird a few meters ahead of a moving corn combine as it was being driven through a corn field approximately two kilometers WSW of Osierfield, Irwin County. His description of the bird fitted the species in all respects although I tended to discount the observation until on 13 Oct 1976 I noted another Black Rail in a corn field approximately two and one half kilometers SSW of Osierfield. Circumstances surrounding both observations were very similar. Both birds were noted in late afternoon, were in corn fields, flushed immediately ahead of the moving machine from dense tangles of Florida Purslane (*Richardia scabra*) and flew weakly, seemingly, short distances before dropping into the purslane. We were not able to put either of the birds into flight again.

After these observations an early frost killed all of the purslane, and although we combined over 100 hectares of additional corn no other rails were sighted. This rail has rarely been recorded in Georgia in migration but is known to pass through the state in fall between 5 Oct (1973) and 29 Oct (1917) (Denton, J. F. et al. 1977. *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*).

Milton H. Hopkins, Jr. R.F.D. 5 Osierfield, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750.

FROM THE FIELD — NORTH GEORGIA

Late Spring-Summer, 1977

AUGUSTA AREA — Out on the mud flats at Merry Ponds, July 16, members on a field trip listed Mississippi Kites, Semipalmated Sandpiper - 3 Spotted Sandpiper - 2; Solitary Sandpiper - 1; Least Sandpiper - 5; Great Egret - 2; immature Little Blue Heron - 29; immature White Ibis - 19.

Clarence Belger, Jeanine Angerman, Fielding Dillard observed the following birds August 13. At Merry Ponds - Semipalmated Sandpiper - 1; Solitary Sandpiper - 2; White-rumped Sandpiper - 1. At the airport 14 Upland Sandpipers were seen.

Merry Ponds yielded White-crowned Sparrow - 6; Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1; Palm Warbler - 1 on April 17 to David Elwonger. At 7:00 PM on May 10, Clarence Belger spotted a Sandhill Crane at Merry Ponds and he watched two Mississippi Kites.

ATLANTA AREA — The June field trip produced Grasshopper Sparrows at Shakerag and Suwanee; Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Willow Flycatcher, Swainson's Warbler along the Chattahoochee River. Jack Carusos sighted a Stilt Sandpiper May 14 along the Chattahoochee River. The bird was carefully studied in the company of five Greater Yellowlegs and establishes the Stilt Sandpiper on the Atlanta area list. Jack and Phyllis Carusos heard a Mourning Warbler at John Ward Swamp May 15. The call was compared with tapes; the bird was not seen.

A very late White-throated Sparrow was viewed by Billy Russell June 6. Along Fairburn Road, a Swainson's Warbler was seen; Vaughn Morrison and Elizabeth Ramsey noted a male Scarlet Tanager June 18. Next day, June 19, another Scarlet Tanager was seen by Terry Moore and Vaughn Morrison. An immature Night Heron was spotted by Mary Ann Neville at John Ward Swamp July 16; a Scarlet Tanager and a House Finch were at Kennesaw July 31. Don and Doris Cohrs report a House Finch at their feeder in East Point June 20 and again on July 31.

The beaver swamp near Shakerag hosted a Blue-winged Warbler seen by Jeff Petit. Don and Doris Cohrs, July 2, spotted Cattle Egret - 1; Great Egret - 6; immature Little Blue Heron - 2; immature White Ibis - 5.

DALTON AREA — Ruth Cox reports a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches raised four young in a maple tree in her yard last May. Nesting of

these birds has been supposed for the area; but, this is the first definite breeding record to my knowledge. July 4 and 23 Anne Hamilton noted a Black-billed Cuckoo in her yard. An immature Little Blue Heron was seen by Jane Parrott at her pond last July. Harry White saw a Golden-winged Warbler August 14 for an early area date; Sharp-shinned Hawk and Rose-breasted Grosbeak August 21 — early date for grosbeak. It does nest in mountains. The hawk was last seen September 6.

Harriett DiGioia — Whitfield County sightings — Black and White Warbler, Camp Maynard, June 14. This falls within the breeding dates and indicates that the bird breeds in the county. No definite breeding record has been established. Two Blackburnian Warblers August 14 - early date; it does breed in mountains; singing House Wren September 6 - early; it is now breeding in state; this seemed a young bird. Frank and Harriett sighted two Red-headed Woodpeckers at the Dalton Golf and Country Club August 28.

The following are birds of interest recorded by Harriett DiGioia on the Cohutta Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest — Murray, Fannin, and Gilmer Counties. Northern Parula Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Dally Gap, July 8; Dark-eyed Juncos gathering food alongside Georgia Highway 2, both flying off in the same direction with food in their bills. This indicates breeding and is one of the few breeding records for the state. A single Dark-eyed Junco was noticed in the same location July 15.

Black and White Warblers, Hickory Ridge Trail, Cohutta Wilderness Area, July 14; Marsh Hawk along Georgia Highway 2 just outside Cisco July 20. This is the second summer sighting known to me. Olive-sided Flycatcher beyond Emery Creek August 3 and in a clear-cut on Grassy Mountain August 6. A pair of flycatchers thought to be these birds was seen briefly beyond Emery Creek August 4. Only a handful of records exist for the state. Willow Flycatcher, Doogan Mountain, August 24; five Red Crossbills beyond Emery Creek August 25.

Gray-cheeked Thrush, Grassy Mountain, August 24, earliest date in state known to me; Red-headed Woodpecker, Doogan Mountain, August 30. Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, four immature Chestnut-sided Warblers September 1, Dick Heady Creek. Earliest date for Tennessee Warbler in state known to me. This was a definite wave of warblers, vireos, Scarlet

Tanagers, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens moving through the trees. A Golden Eagle - first record for the area - was sighted soaring over Doogan Mountain September 9.

Many hawks - Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Broad-winged were recorded, along with Pileated Woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse. An article reviewing the birds seen on the Cohutta Ranger District is being prepared for *The Oriole*.

Early in August, Vernon and Anne Waters and their sons birded in Cloudland Canyon State Park. Blue-winged Warblers were seen and at a campground below 2000 feet elevation, Broad-winged Hawk, Orange-crowned Warbler (very early date), Northern Parula Warbler were observed.

In Clayton, the week-end of May 27-29, Tom and Anne Bailey recorded several Least Flycatchers. They were seen again the next week-end (June 3 - 5) by Anne Bailey, Terry Moore, Mary Ann Vernocy. A Swainson's Warbler was sighted at Rock Eagle State Park by Trina and Vince Jackson May 28. During the week-end of July 15 - 17, a Dark-eyed Junco nest with three young was found by a group birding at Brasstown Bald.

An adult Bald Eagle was at Callaway Gardens August 9 seen by Randy Allen. On a trip to Rock Eagle August 6 Joe Greenburg, Jerry Bruner, Carolyn Krueger found a Black Tern, two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, and a very early Yellow-rumped Warbler. Billy Russell, up at Pendergrass, listed Pectoral Sandpiper, immature Black Tern, 20 Tree Swallows August 7 and 8.

(Compiled by Harriett G. DiGioia, 1309 Lakemont Drive, Dalton, Ga., 30720)

FROM THE FIELD — SOUTH GEORGIA

Spring, 1977

Sam Pate saw 160 White Pelicans at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on 28 April. Farther south in Seminole County, Pate saw 8 Upland Sandpipers on 24 March. At the same site, 9 were counted the next day and 10 were there on 24 April. James Miller saw an early Black-throated Green Warbler at Columbus on 14 March, and from Harris County, Steve Butler noted a Louisiana Waterthrush on 15 March; there also Florence Lynn recorded a Chimney Swift on 13 March and a Wood Thrush on 19 March. Miller had a rare Wilson's Warbler in Columbus on 2 May and earlier in the year counted 250 Bonaparte's Gulls at Lake West Point on 6 February.

In Laurens County, T. K. Patterson reported that the Red-breasted Nuthatch which frequented his feeder the past winter stayed around through 10 April. Patterson flushed 2 American Bitterns on both 13 and 27 March and he recorded several elusive rails this spring: 2 Soras on 13 March, 2 Virginia Rails on 27 March, and a King Rail on 7 and 14 May. He saw an Osprey on 12 March, a Common Loon on 16 April, and noted 3 juvenal Double-crested Cormorants between 10 and 30 April.

Milton Hopkins recorded a Whip-poor-will in Ben Hill County on 4 March and saw 30 Sandhill Cranes there on 22 March. The cranes were his latest spring record for the area. On the west side of Fitzgerald, Mildred C. Green found and observed the county's first confirmed American Robin nest 8-10 March. She said that a pair summered in 1976, but she was unable to locate the nest then. An adult Bald Eagle was seen flying over the Ocmulgee River 30 April by a field party of the Georgia Ornithological Society, then meeting in Fitzgerald. On 15 May, Hopkins saw and heard a Field Sparrow singing in the Okefenokee Swamp near the Suwannee River Sill. The Field Sparrow's breeding status in the southeastern part of the state is uncertain.

From Dougherty County, Ann Gordon reported 7 White Ibis on 15 March and she and Rip Holman saw a Louisiana Heron at Fort Gaines on 31 March.

High counts of Whistling Swans at Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge are continuing: Sam Pate saw 27 there on 19 March.

In Thomas County, Leon Neel saw 3 Common Loons on 5 April and an American Woodcock with 3 young on 6 April. A Semipalmated Plover seen in Thomas County on 25 April by Robert L. Crawford and

Beth Meschinelli was the first local record for that species. A late report was of another local first: a winter record of 8 White Ibis on 3 January by Harriet Hawkins.

A "Snowy Owl" reported from near Doles in Worth County on 22 and 23 February, and recorded in several local and regional accounts, was mis-identified. A feather found at the bird's roost (in a thick growth of pines) was compared to material at Tall Timbers Research Station and Robert Crawford, Charles Erwin, and Noel Wamer all agreed that the feather in fact came from a Barn Owl. This identification is consistent with (1) the bird's roosting habits, and (2) the fact that Snowy Owls were notably lacking in the East and Southeast this past winter (*Am. Birds*, 31:296, 1977).

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

NEWS AND COMMENTS

PASSERINE COLOR-BANDING PROJECT — Birds sighted with color leg bands in the area of Young Harris, Ga. and surrounding Chatahoochee National Forest should be reported to the Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20811. **Report the following information:** Species, color(s) of leg bands and the order they appear on the leg (top to bottom), and location of bird — miles and direction from nearest town or well known location. Thank you, Joseph M. Meyers.

MARTIN BIBLIOGRAPHY — A comprehensive bibliography of the North and South American martins (*Progne* spp.) is currently in preparation. It will include all papers dealing solely or partly with martins, except local annotated checklists. Authors wishing to have material included should send an abstract or reprint to Charles R. Brown, Box 1309, Austin College, Sherman, Texas 75090.

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