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Editor - Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Court, Roswell, GA 30075
Assistant Editor - Giff Beaton, 320 Willow Glen Dr., Marietta, GA 30068

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CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| ST. CATHERINES ISLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS, 1987-1991 <i>Emil K. Urban</i> | 65 |
| IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKERS REPORTED IN OKEFENOKEE SWAMP IN 1941-42 <i>Robert W. Loftin</i> | 74 |
| CONFIRMED HISTORICAL BREEDING RECORD OF THE PAINTED BUNTING FROM THE PIEDMONT OF GEORGIA <i>Douglas B. McNair</i> | 77 |
| GENERAL NOTES..... | 79 |
| FROM THE FIELD - June-July 1991 <i>Terry Moore</i> | 85 |

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ST. CATHERINES ISLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS, 1987-1991

Emil K. Urban

Thanks to the St. Catherines Island Research Program of the American Museum of Natural History, supported by the Edward J. Noble Foundation, Christmas bird counts have been carried out on St. Catherines Island since 1987. This paper, the first in a series of five-year reports, summarizes the results of the counts undertaken on 17 December 1987, 17 December 1988, 16 December 1989, 15 December 1990, and 14 December 1991. Included are some interesting sightings made during the five-year period and comments on possible population trends.

St. Catherines Island, part of the Golden Isles of Georgia, is located some six kilometers east of the Georgia mainland and 50 kilometers south of Savannah. The island is one to five kilometers wide, 17 kilometers long, and 5,500 hectares in area (excluding its salt marshes). Its habitats include ocean beaches, *Spartina* tidal marshes, rush meadows, pine-oak forests, upland grasslands, wax myrtle and saw palmetto scrubs and savannas (Thomas et al. 1978).

The center of the count circle is on the ocean side of the island at the eastern end of the sandbar in the mouth of McQueen's Inlet at 31°38'N, 81°08'W. The entire island and surrounding waters and marshes are included in the count circle. Thirty-one observers (14-1987, 17-1988, 19-1989, 21-1990, 20-1991) have participated in these counts and generated 58.5 party hours in 1987, 77 in 1988, 67 in 1989, 75 in 1990, and 57 in 1991.

One hundred sixty-five species have been recorded over the five years on the count days, plus two more during the count weeks, for a total of 167 species (cf. 194 species recorded for all Georgia Christmas counts 1982-1990, Moore 1991). The count-day totals ranged from 123 to 134 species and 10,152 to 39,673 individuals (Table 1).

Several species seen during this five-year period are listed as accidental or rare during the winter in Georgia by Haney et al. (1986). Examples include Common Eider (seen by J. Nicholls and B. Winn, 20-25 meters from shore and observed for 15 minutes, second record for Georgia; see Nicholls and Winn 1989), Black Rail (L. Davenport, Jr., two meters away in a tidal marsh, 15 December with previous latest fall record in Georgia 29 October), Wilson's Plover (H. Kale, in a flock of some 200 small plovers), Sandwich Tern (H. Kale, 45-60 meters away on

Table 1. St. Catherines Island Christmas Bird Counts 1987-1991.

| SPECIES COUNT DAY | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|---------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Red-thr. Loon | 7 | 35 | 10 | 16 | - |
| Common Loon | - | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| Pied-b. Grebe | 4 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Horned Grebe | - | 15 | 25 | 11 | - |
| Northern Gannet | - | - | 8 | 12 | 648 |
| Brown Pelican | 108 | 85 | 105 | 113 | 239 |
| Dbl-cr. Cormorant | 1596 | 878 | 990 | 427 | 464 |
| American Bittern | 1 | - | 2 | - | - |
| Great Blue Heron | 36 | 49 | 55 | 36 | 66 |
| Great Egret | 25 | 18 | 56 | 43 | 20 |
| Snowy Egret | 8 | 19 | 33 | 46 | 19 |
| Little Blue Heron | 17 | 26 | 37 | 28 | 19 |
| Tricolored Heron | 23 | 29 | 21 | 41 | 26 |
| Blk-cr. Night-Heron | 17 | - | 7 | 2 | - |
| Yel-cr. Night-Heron | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Nycticorax, sp. | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| White Ibis | 8 | 1 | 15 | 60 | 104 |
| Wood Stork | 14 | 5 | 15 | 1 | - |
| Wood Duck | 10 | 26 | 35 | 2 | 25 |
| Green-winged Teal | - | 7 | - | 2 | - |
| Am. Black Duck | 10 | 4 | 21 | - | 2 |
| Mallard | - | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| Canvasback | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Redhead | 2 | - | - | - | - |
| Ring-necked Duck | 35 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Greater Scaup | 4500 | 1 | - | 6 | - |
| Lesser Scaup | 25500 | 700 | 48 | 150 | 200 |
| scaup, sp. | - | 357 | 3125 | 2417 | 21 |
| Common Eider | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Black Scoter | - | 12 | 6 | 30 | 8 |
| Surf Scoter | 1 | - | 6 | 2 | - |
| White-w. Scoter | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| scoter, sp. | - | - | - | 1000 | - |
| Bufflehead | 19 | 40 | 31 | 140 | 31 |
| Hooded Merganser | 56 | 17 | 75 | 39 | 25 |
| Common Merganser | 2 | - | 12 | - | - |
| Red-br. Merganser | 337 | 23 | 84 | 19 | 100 |
| Ruddy Duck | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Black Vulture | 63 | 102 | 86 | 39 | 94 |
| Turkey Vulture | 65 | 77 | 85 | 35 | 149 |
| Osprey | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Northern Harrier | 4 | 10 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | 2 | - | - | 3 |

Table 1. Continued.

| SPECIES COUNT DAY | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Accipiter, sp. | 2 | - | - | 2 | - |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 8 | 24 | 17 | 6 | 17 |
| American Kestrel | 9 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 21 |
| Merlin | - | 1 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Wild Turkey | 21 | 14 | 46 | 29 | 10 |
| Black Rail | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Clapper Rail | 51 | 29 | 95 | 119 | 263 |
| Virginia Rail | - | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| Sora | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 |
| Common Moorhen | 20 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| American Coot | 14 | 1 | 4 | 2 | - |
| Sandhill Crane | 5 | 15 | 83 | 8 | 2 |
| Black-b. Plover | 95 | 157 | 72 | 204 | 216 |
| Wilson's Plover | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Semipalmated Plover | 436 | 163 | 506 | 73 | 240 |
| Piping Plover | 11 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 5 |
| Killdeer | - | 2 | 13 | 16 | - |
| Am. Oystercatcher | 18 | 6 | 24 | 19 | 20 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 1 | 17 | 20 | 13 | 10 |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 5 | - | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Willet | 90 | 66 | 131 | 86 | 143 |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 10 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 7 |
| Marbled Godwit | 50 | 47 | 10 | 33 | 23 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 193 | 230 | 205 | 182 | 228 |
| Red Knot | 16 | 54 | 20 | 30 | 58 |
| Sanderling | 241 | 392 | 228 | 164 | 164 |
| Western Sandpiper | 54 | 313 | 328 | 106 | 673 |
| Least Sandpiper | 35 | 18 | 4 | 2 | - |
| Dunlin | 700 | 1000 | 1106 | 961 | 1937 |
| peep, sp. | 20 | - | - | - | - |
| Short-b. Dowitcher | - | 2 | 35 | 116 | 15 |
| Long-b. Dowitcher | - | 9 | 37 | 1 | - |
| dowitcher, sp. | 10 | 25 | 123 | 33 | 32 |
| Common Snipe | 3 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| American Woodcock | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| jaeger, sp. | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Laughing Gull | 30 | 26 | 77 | 1290 | 51 |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 1 | 2 | - | 3 | - |
| Ring-billed Gull | 400 | 717 | 455 | 434 | 343 |
| Herring Gull | 114 | 100 | 68 | 202 | 246 |
| Great Blk-b. Gull | - | 4 | 5 | 4 | 11 |
| Caspian Tern | 6 | 5 | 21 | 1 | 17 |
| Royal Tern | 35 | 18 | 20 | 100 | 46 |
| Sandwich Tern | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Forster's Tern | 53 | 115 | 112 | 301 | 320 |
| Black Skimmer | 220 | 35 | 105 | 260 | 383 |

Table 1. Continued

| SPECIES | COUNT | DAY | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|----------------------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Mourning Dove | 34 | 130 | 128 | 92 | 60 | | |
| Common Ground-Dove | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | - | | |
| Common Barn-Owl | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | | |
| Eastern Screech-Owl | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 | | |
| Great Horned Owl | 2 | - | - | 7 | 6 | | |
| Barred Owl | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | 22 | 14 | 35 | 28 | 35 | | |
| Red-h. Woodpecker | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Red-b. Woodpecker | 51 | 21 | 21 | 51 | 29 | | |
| Yellow-b. Sapsucker | 24 | 9 | 21 | 27 | 9 | | |
| Downy Woodpecker | 18 | 14 | 12 | 28 | 17 | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | | |
| Red-c. Woodpecker | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | | |
| Northern Flicker | 29 | 21 | 31 | 40 | 20 | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 17 | 15 | 13 | 33 | 34 | | |
| Eastern Phoebe | 12 | 17 | 10 | 32 | 14 | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | - | - | - | - | 1 | | |
| Tree Swallow | 511 | 6 | 25 | 25 | 1023 | | |
| Blue Jay | 19 | 5 | 12 | 52 | 4 | | |
| American Crow | 55 | 61 | 69 | 50 | 72 | | |
| Fish Crow | 1 | 5 | 14 | - | - | | |
| Carolina Chickadee | 174 | 111 | 126 | 108 | 129 | | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 24 | 35 | 44 | 42 | 101 | | |
| Red-br. Nuthatch | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | | |
| Brown-h. Nuthatch | 55 | 36 | 86 | 67 | 99 | | |
| Brown Creeper | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | | |
| Carolina Wren | 43 | 19 | 22 | 46 | 28 | | |
| House Wren | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | | |
| Winter Wren | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | - | | |
| Sedge Wren | 30 | 10 | 19 | 17 | 12 | | |
| Marsh Wren | 8 | 2 | 12 | 19 | 14 | | |
| Golden-cr. Kinglet | 32 | 41 | 12 | 21 | 19 | | |
| Ruby-cr. Kinglet | 138 | 123 | 191 | 192 | 134 | | |
| Blue-g. Gnatcatcher | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Eastern Bluebird | 60 | 159 | 239 | 64 | 79 | | |
| Hermit Thrush | 7 | 4 | 15 | 50 | 8 | | |
| American Robin | 24 | 4 | 29 | 285 | 50 | | |
| Gray Catbird | 3 | - | 3 | 8 | 2 | | |
| Northern Mockingbird | 13 | 9 | 17 | 25 | 11 | | |
| Brown Thrasher | 3 | - | - | 5 | - | | |
| American Pipit | - | 1 | 5 | - | - | | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 18 | 262 | - | 7 | 5 | | |
| Loggerhead Shrike | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | | |
| European Starling | 32 | 49 | 6 | 12 | 26 | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Solitary Vireo | 9 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 5 | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | - | - | - | 1 | - | | |
| Orange-cr. Warbler | - | 1 | - | 2 | 1 | | |

Table 1. Continued.

| SPECIES | COUNT | DAY | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| Northern Parula | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | |
| Yellow-r. Warbler | 1194 | 488 | 690 | 1097 | 1008 | | |
| Yellow-thr. Warbler | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Pine Warbler | 68 | 58 | 99 | 84 | 202 | | |
| Palm Warbler | - | 8 | 4 | - | 17 | | |
| Blk-and-white Warbler | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | | |
| Ovenbird | - | - | - | - | 1 | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | 11 | 30 | 9 | 16 | 14 | | |
| Northern Cardinal | 45 | 56 | 33 | 99 | 48 | | |
| Painted Bunting | - | 1 | - | - | - | | |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 6 | 10 | 12 | 103 | 15 | | |
| Chipping Sparrow | 1 | 88 | 139 | 22 | 69 | | |
| Field Sparrow | 13 | 25 | 5 | 6 | - | | |
| Vesper Sparrow | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | | |
| Savannah Sparrow | 17 | 71 | 59 | 165 | 45 | | |
| Henslow's Sparrow | 2 | - | 3 | - | - | | |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | 6 | - | 10 | 29 | 4 | | |
| Seaside Sparrow | - | 3 | 5 | 18 | 5 | | |
| Fox Sparrow | - | - | 1 | - | - | | |
| Song Sparrow | 34 | 30 | 54 | 189 | 21 | | |
| Swamp Sparrow | 17 | 32 | 33 | 140 | 15 | | |
| White-thr. Sparrow | 17 | 22 | 62 | 67 | 22 | | |
| Dark-eyed Junco | 6 | 4 | 40 | 4 | 6 | | |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 663 | 807 | 1620 | 862 | 547 | | |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 69 | 27 | 138 | 40 | 54 | | |
| Rusty Blackbird | 18 | - | - | - | - | | |
| Boat-tailed Grackle | 247 | 815 | 204 | 310 | 619 | | |
| Common Grackle | 250 | 59 | 16 | 47 | 228 | | |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | - | 15 | - | - | 2 | | |
| blackbird, sp. | - | - | 1500 | - | - | | |
| Pine Siskin | 1 | - | - | - | - | | |
| American Goldfinch | 28 | 72 | 51 | 4 | 27 | | |
| TOTAL INDIVIDUALS | | | | | | | |
| COUNT DAY | 39673 | 10152 | 15094 | 14359 | 12866 | | |
| TOTAL SPECIES | | | | | | | |
| COUNT DAY | 133 | 133 | 130 | 134 | 123 | | |

Table 1. Continued.

| SPECIES COUNT WEEK BUT NOT COUNT DAY | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Northern Gannet | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Blk-cr. Night-Heron | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Wood Stork | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Green-winged Teal | - | - | 3 | - | - |
| Mallard | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| American Wigeon | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Redhead | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Greater Scaup | - | - | 5 | - | - |
| Surf Scoter | - | - | - | - | 5 |
| Ruddy Duck | - | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Merlin | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Least Sandpiper | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| American Woodcock | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Parasitic Jaeger | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Great Blk-b. Gull | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Great Horned Owl | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Eastern Kingbird | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Fish Crow | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Henslow's Sparrow | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Sharp-tailed Sparrow | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL SPECIES COUNT WEEK, NOT COUNT DAYS | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| TOTAL SPECIES COUNTS | 137 | 136 | 134 | 137 | 133 |

a sand beach, seen five to 10 minutes), Eastern Kingbird (P. Small, five meters away on upland grasslands), Tennessee Warbler (S. Pearson, five meters away in wax myrtle and pines behind a beach dune), Northern Parula (A. and V. Waters, pine-oak forest, seen three minutes), and Ovenbird (K. Bildstein, three meters away on ground, associated with saw palmetto).

The Sandhill Cranes reported during these counts were released by the New York Zoological Society's Endangered Species Survival Program which is located on St. Catherines Island. In addition to sightings of two to 15 in each of the five years, the 1989 count includes a flock of 75 Sandhill Cranes recorded flying over the island in a southerly direction.

The report of 15 Greater Flamingoes for the 1989 count (Drennan, 1991:717) is in error; rather 15 Wood Storks were counted and reported.

These counts have resulted in other interesting observations. For example, in four of five years the number of Northern Gannets varied from 0 to 12 but, in 1991, 648 individuals were seen. In the five St. Catherines Christmas counts no Rock Doves or House Sparrows have been recorded, although these two species were considered to be casual visitors from the mainland throughout the year, at least through the 1970's (Lanyon and Short 1979). Eleven Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were introduced to the island in 1980, and one male was seen at the north end of the island during the Christmas counts of 1987, 1988, and 1990. In 1977, one male and six female Wild Turkeys were re-introduced onto St. Catherines; yearly counts of 39-102 in 1987-1991 suggest that this re-introduction has been successful. Purple Finches, which declined in numbers in Georgia for 1982-1988 (Moore 1989), were not seen during the five years; House Finches have never been reported on the island.

Long-term population trends are not easily discerned in five years of observations. Nevertheless, observations made during these counts support some known long-term trends. For example, only 14 species of waterfowl were recorded during the five years, and this number does not include species such as Northern Shoveler which is considered a common winter resident on the coast (Haney et al. 1986). These numbers probably are indicative of the trend in recent decades of declining waterfowl populations in North America and especially in the Atlantic Flyway (Caithamer et al. 1993). Tufted Titmice at St. Catherines, as elsewhere in eastern North America (Robbins et al. 1989, Askins 1990, Hill and Hagan 1991), have increased in recent years, from 24 in 1987 to 101 in 1991.

European Starlings, following the trend in eastern North America (Robbins et al. 1989), declined in numbers, from 32 in 1987 and 49 in 1988 to six in 1989. Over the last two years (1990 and 1991) at St. Catherines, however, the starlings' numbers have shown an increase.

The numbers of Double-crested Cormorants have gone from 1596 in 1987 to 427 and 464 in 1990 and 1991. Since cormorants recorded on

Georgia Christmas counts have increased in the last several years (Moore 1988), the numbers from St. Catherines' counts probably do not reflect any population trend. Weather or feeding conditions may have kept cormorants away from the St. Catherines coast during the days of the counts.

Moore (1988, 1989) includes Northern Harrier, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-throated Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark as species that have shown long-term declines in the 1980's in Georgia. Data from the five St. Catherines counts present no clear picture of their status.

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Department of Biology, Augusta College, Augusta, GA 30904-2200.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKERS REPORTED IN OKEFENOKEE SWAMP IN 1941-42

Robert W. Loftin*

In searching through files at the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge I discovered documents pertaining to two sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers (*Campephilus principalis*) in the Okefenokee Swamp in 1941-42 that were never published or made public.

The first document reports the sighting of a male Ivory-billed Woodpecker that was seen at close range for a period of several minutes on 5 April 1941 by then refuge biologist Hayden A. Carter and his wife. Notes about the bird were taken at the time of the sighting but the whereabouts of their field journal is unknown.

Both observers were familiar with the Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) having recorded as many as a dozen on a short trip into the swamp. Carter's statement of 11 April 1941 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials is as follows (in part):

"The first impression was one of the great size of the bird. This served to rivet our attention, and the second and third impressions, of the flashing white primary [sic] feathers and the graceful, effortless flight as compared with that of the Pileated, were promptly noted.

When first seen the bird was flying a course parallel with that of our boat, in full view, and at a distance of about forty yards to our left. It held this course for about two hundred yards, then swerved to the right, crossing the Suwanee Canal, and alighted on a tree. The bird seemed to pay no attention to us or to the noise of the outboard motor, which was promptly throttled down to idling speed when the bird was first sighted. It remained on its perch for perhaps a minute, when it dropped away from the bole, glided to a second tree some twenty yards distant, remained there for a few seconds, then flew off into the dense forest of bay trees and burned cypress snags. In the course of five minutes, the bird was seen in flight, perching, gliding, and departing, leaving two thoroughly surprised observers behind it.

There will be some who will doubt this record, but no amount of argument can offset the perfect picture presented by this bird in bright sunlight. Its size, the flashing white wing patches, scarlet crest, its characteristic flight, all add up to a record of a male Ivory-billed Woodpecker, to my complete satisfaction. This is the first definite record of the species in the Okefenokee in 29 years."

* Deceased 13 August 1993. This manuscript was revised editorially in accordance with a reviewer's suggestions.

The second document by Carter addressed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials and a Mr. Hopkins reads in part as follows:

"Just over one year ago I submitted my report on my first record for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Since that time a keen lookout has been kept for these birds, but no others were seen until April 16, 1942. The circumstances of the second record were as follows.

On April 16, with my wife, I made a trip into Billy Bay for the purpose of checking on migrants. We sat down for lunch, listening to the calls all about us, and idly wondering whether the north fork of the canal would bring any better results. At 1 p.m., when the calls were dying out and the other birds were going into their siesta, we heard a peculiar, high, almost nasal call from the south bank of the Canal, where almost complete silence had reigned a moment before. Mrs. Carter immediately recognized it as something new to her, and it immediately brought to mind the sound of the ivory-billed call as heard from Dr. [Arthur A.] Allen's film.

I moved slowly down the bank, watching the spot whence came the call. At first I could locate nothing, but after about five minutes in which the calling was continuously heard, the bird moved around the tree into plain sight. There, in direct sunlight, against a cypress trunk, I saw my first female ivory-bill, and the second record for the species in my entire experience.

The bird was about 70 yards away and perhaps 40 feet above the ground. She perched in view for a full two minutes, picking rather than pecking at the bark, and calling several times while I watched her through the glasses. The black crest, white bill, and white wing patch were clearly defined in the excellent light and there is not the slightest doubt in my mind as to the identity of the bird.

The call of the bird was not loud, but was of such a peculiar timbre that it would probably carry for some distance. It might be described reedy or metallic in sound. There were three to five calls at a time, separated by short pauses. Between calls the picking at the tree could be heard faintly.

It has been ten years since the fire that laid this section of the Okefenokee waste. The territory is growing up thickly, and there are many places in which what seem to be proper conditions for these birds to exist. Protection and the passage of time may restore them to some number as to permit the student to see them almost at will. This is wishful thinking I know. But it is also reminiscent of the policy of our service in regard to this and similar rare species."

Nothing ever came of Carter's reports. The refuge manager, regional director and Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife took no public action on the record.

I believe these two records to be reliable. If there was only the first report of a male, I would reserve judgement. We all know the power of wishful thinking in these cases. It is the details of the second report of the female that I find convincing. That the bird had a black crest is the clincher. Both sexes of the Pileated Woodpecker have a red crest. It is difficult to imagine being mistaken about a detail like that when looking at the bird in full sunlight. Then too, Carter had seen Allen's film and heard the call as recorded on the film.

We must remember the time of the report, 1941-42. This is only 29 years after the last specimen was taken in the Okefenokee and several additional sightings followed. Burleigh quotes F.V. Hebard as stating "Phillips B. Street and I saw a pair of Ivory-bills at the Gap o'Grand Prairie in the Okefenokee on November 30, 1948. There is another report from the west end of the south fork of the Canal. Our Coleraine birds were last recorded late in April, 1948" (T.D. Burleigh, 1958, *Georgia Birds*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK). The Coleraine birds were some that Hebard had under observation outside the swamp near the Camden-Charlton County line in the 1930's (F.V. Hebard, 1941, *Winter birds of the Okefenokee and Coleraine*, Georgia Soc. of Nat. Bull. No. 3).

I think it is important to make the Carter records public at this time. Clearly they should become a part of the scanty record of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Georgia.

University of North Florida, 4567 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32224-2645.

CONFIRMED HISTORICAL BREEDING RECORD OF THE PAINTED BUNTING FROM THE PIEDMONT OF GEORGIA

Douglas B. McNair

The only confirmed breeding record of the Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*) in the Piedmont of Georgia is from Eatonton, Putnam County. On 12 May 1888, Greene Johnson collected a nest with three eggs, which were slightly incubated (MCZ 6835). Johnson stated he saw the adults and described the nest as "of grasses, leaves, rootlets, lined with fine grasses, in small bush on side of road." The three eggs measure 21.0 x 15.0 mm (two eggs) and 19.0 x 15.0 mm (identity confirmed by R.A. Paynter, Jr. and C.W. Thompson). Eatonton is 34 km north of Milledgeville, on the Fall Line.

At Columbia, South Carolina, a Painted Bunting nest with three fresh eggs was collected by B.F. Taylor on 18 May 1888, though he did not specify where the collection site was in relation to the Fall Line (egg collection of Bart Snyder). Taylor stated his identification was certain and described the nest as "of leaves, plants, etc., lined with fine roots placed in cluster of vines three feet high." The three eggs measure 20.2 x 15.2 mm, 19.5 x 15.2 mm, and 19.0 x 15.0 mm (identity confirmed by B. Snyder). This record constitutes the first proof of inland breeding in South Carolina. It is interesting that Taylor's discovery of breeding Painted Buntings in Columbia occurred in 1888, the same year as the nest record in Eatonton, Georgia.

Later, Smyth (1930) found Painted Buntings breeding at one site along the floodplain below Columbia, where they were particularly abundant in 1927. Painted Buntings were subsequently found at other breeding sites in Lexington and Richland counties below or along the Fall Line (Sprunt 1968; McNair, unpubl.), but it was not until 1979 that 5-6 pairs nested in Columbia just above the Fall Line along the floodplain of the Broad River. I saw adults bringing food to nest sites. Adults also engaged in distraction behavior as I approached several probable nest sites. Specific localities were Central Correctional Institute, a water treatment plant, St. Peters Cemetery, residential housing, and a housing project.

It is unclear whether Painted Buntings have nested above the Fall Line in several other areas of Georgia and South Carolina, in the Aiken-Augusta region (Murphey 1937; Denton et al. 1977; Post, pers. comm.), at Macon, Georgia (1-2 pairs probably nested in 1986 and 1990: *Am. Birds* 40:458; *Am. Birds* 44:1126-1127; *Am. Birds* 45:91), and recently in Kershaw County, South Carolina (McNair and Post, in prep.). For the Aiken-Augusta region, Murphey (1937) did state that Painted Buntings were never observed outside the narrow corridor of the Savannah River

Valley, though numerous breeding records have been confirmed from this area in Richmond County, Georgia (see McNair 1986).

In summary, the Eatonton breeding record of the Painted Bunting from the lower Piedmont of Georgia is still unusual because it occurred a fair distance away from the Fall Line and was also away from a major river valley. The only other confirmed or probable breeding records of Painted Buntings in either Georgia or South Carolina at this extreme inland limit of their breeding range have occurred along or just above the Fall Line along several major river valleys.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank R.A. Paynter, Mus. Comp. Zool., Harvard Univ., and Bart Snyder, who provided me with oology data. I thank W. Post and C.W. Thompson for constructive criticism. Reports in *Am. Birds* are not referenced below.

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303 Robinson St., Rockingham, North Carolina 28379.

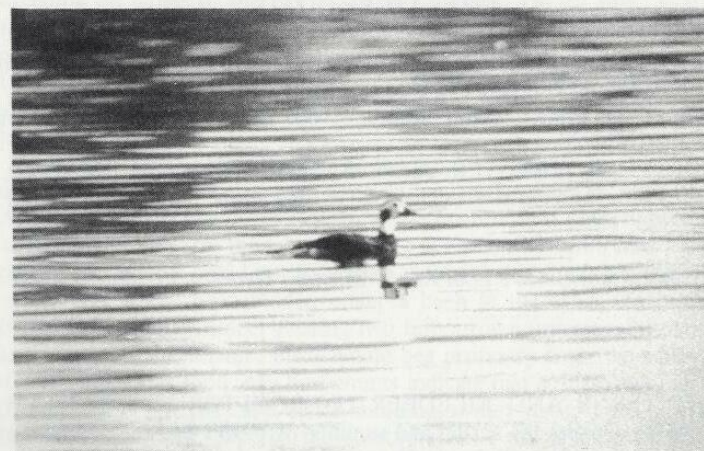
GENERAL NOTES

EARLY OLDSQUAW FOUND IN CLAYTON COUNTY - On 19 October 1991, at about 0900, I observed a male Oldsquaw (*Clangula hyemalis*) on one of the ponds of the E. L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County. Another birding group, led by Jerry Brunner, had also seen the bird just previous to my observation. Several observers were able to see the bird that day and also on 20 October but the bird could not be found on 21 October.

The bird was a beautiful adult male molting from alternate to basic plumage. It was actively diving and sometimes difficult to relocate once back on the water surface. The bird's bill retained some orange-pink coloration on the basal half of the upper mandible. The needlelike tail was also noticeable. The bird had yet to show white scapulars but the dark cheek was already apparent. Giff Beaton succeeded in obtaining recognizable photographs, one of which accompanies this note.

The *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) lists the Oldsquaw as a rare to uncommon irregular winter visitor to the coast but accidental in the interior. The extreme fall arrival date given is 18 November 1965. Therefore, this particular bird was not only the fifth record of the species for the Atlanta area but also a month earlier than any previous sighting for the entire state.

Patrick Brisse, 4960 Gate House Way, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088.



Oldsquaw at E.L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County. Photo by Giff Beaton.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK SEEN IN SUMTER COUNTY - On 16 November 1991, near Cobb, Sumter County, Georgia I observed a hawk which I identified as an Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*). The area in which I was birding was the A and B Farms where Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) and LeConte's Sparrows (*Ammodramus leconteii*) have recently been found.

When I arrived at the A and B Farms at about 1300 I noticed two hawks soaring above the peanut fields. The first bird was definitely a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) but the other was quite different. The first thing I noticed was a broad dark terminal tail band with a distinct white patch toward the base of the tail. The wings and body were basically light underneath but there were dark carpal patches on the wings and dark "fingertips". When I noticed dark "waistcoat" markings across the belly, I began to think this might be one of the forms of Red-tailed Hawk (Krider's or Harlan's) with which I was not familiar. I did notice that the bird did not have dark patagial markings on the leading edge of the wings but decided to consult my field guides for a positive identification when I returned home.

At home, after looking at Dunne et al. (1988) and Clark and Wheeler (1987), I was able to definitely identify the bird as a Rough-legged Hawk and not one of the forms of Red-tailed Hawk. As far as I know, this bird was not reported again from this area. Haney et al. (1986) lists this species as a rare and irregular winter visitor over most of the state from 5 November through 30 April.

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Ellery McClintock, 4712 Pool Road, Winston, Georgia 30187.

LEAST TERNS AND KILLDEER ON ROOFTOP IN CHATHAM COUNTY - During the spring and summer of 1990 I had the opportunity to confirm breeding of Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) on the rooftop of an office/warehouse building in

the Georgetown area of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia. The building was situated between two other warehouse type buildings along a road on which I traveled regularly. In late April 1990, I began noticing both Least Terns and Killdeer in the area but regarded the birds as simply visitors as there was marsh habitat within one mile to the north and east. As the spring progressed, both species persisted in the area and I began to suspect that they were breeding. On 11 June 1990, my suspicions increased when several Least Terns and a Killdeer began some aerial mobbing of an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) that flew over the buildings.

Due to travel and other circumstances, I was unable to make any detailed observations of the birds until 17 July 1990. On this date I observed the birds for approximately one hour in the late afternoon and evening. At this time I was able to confirm the breeding of the Least Terns by observing adult birds carrying small fish to the rooftop. The adult terns would fly in from an easterly direction carrying the fish and calling loudly. They would then circle over the building from one to ten times before alighting and disappearing from sight. Adult terns were almost constantly circling over the building but only terns that came in from the east carried food. At this time I observed only one immature bird that could fly and it appeared to be a first year bird having very little black on the back of the head and dark on the leading edge of the wing and primaries.

Throughout the remainder of the summer months I made several stops at the buildings to observe the terns. There was a minimum of at least four pairs breeding on the roof in question. I could not confirm breeding on either of the two adjacent buildings. On 22 July, I counted four immature birds that could fly, however, I continued to see adult birds carrying food to the rooftop. On 9 August, I counted a minimum of 19 Least Terns in the area. Of these I estimated that at least half were first year birds. It was difficult to get an accurate count as so many birds were in the area.

As for the Killdeer, I observed the typical broken wing act that they display on 21 June. Two adults were on the lawn in front of the buildings. At the time there was a man mowing the lawn with a push mower. The adults would perform their broken wing act when he came into a certain part of the lawn. I could not locate the young at this time, but they (or it) could have easily been hidden under a bush in the area. On 26 July I observed an adult Killdeer feeding two fully grown immature birds on the same lawn. The immature birds would beg profusely from the adult when it came near with food. My best counts indicate that at least two pair were present but, I am not sure which building(s) they used. I am confident, however, that they did use the rooftop(s) as I saw adults leaving the building with the terns throughout the summer.

Both adults feeding young and distraction (or injury feigning) displays are confirmation of breeding by the criteria of the Breeding Bird

Atlas (Hopkins, E.M., Indiana Department of Natural Resources, *Atlas Handbook*, pp. 9-10, 1985). In addition, mobbing behavior indicates a strong possibility of breeding by the Atlas criteria. I am convinced from this evidence that both Least Terns and Killdeer used at least one of the building roofs for nesting.

In the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., 1986, GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10) the Least Tern is considered an uncommon breeder and the Killdeer a common breeder for the state. The breeding habitat for Least Terns is beach, sandbars, dredge spoil areas, cleared lands, etc. (Harrison, H.H. *A Field Guide to Bird's Nests*, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1975). This type of habitat provides areas of sand and shell or rocks where the terns make their nests. Although I could not see the rooftop in question, it is likely that it was covered with gravel, creating the proper habitat for nest building. In addition, Harrison anecdotally mentioned Least Terns breeding on an auditorium roof in Florida.

As man continues to encroach on the natural habitat of many species, we may eventually be left with only those species that adapt to these changes. The Least Tern has historically undergone a decline in numbers and is considered threatened or rare in many areas where it once occurred. The continued existence of this species may depend on its ability to adapt to its changing environment. Documenting breeding successes of this nature are thus important in tracking the success of a species.

David P. Young, Jr., 3020 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001.

MIGRATING BIRDS KILLED AT TV TOWER AT JEKYLL ISLAND

- At approximately 0700 on 28 September 1989 my husband Don and I arrived at Jekyll Island, Glynn County, Georgia. A light misty rain was falling and during the preceding night there had been heavy rain and gusty winds. As we drove past the TV tower on the southwest end of the island, we noted numerous dead birds on the road. We parked and picked up all the birds that were visible on the road and paved parking area around the small building at the base of the tower. We were dependent upon the street lights to see the birds since it was not yet daylight. We were able to gather 156 dead birds.

We took the birds to a nearby house where we sorted them according to species as well as we could. By this time it was light enough outside to further the search for more of the tower kill. Helen Ogren and Anne Wyand went to the tower and picked up an additional 122 dead birds from the grassy areas readily accessible at the base of the tower. We judge that the four of us had searched only about 30-40% of the area under the

tower and its guy wires, the remaining 60-70% was covered with trees, shrubs, vines and marshy areas.

We sorted through the second batch as before and again separated the birds by species. Helen Ogren took numerous photos of the specimens. Table 1 lists the species and numbers of each. The numbers for Ovenbird and Dickcissel were quite surprising. The bird bodies were too rain soaked and/or disfigured from their collisions with the tower and wires to be salvages as study skins. They were therefore transported later to a nearby licensed raptor rehabilitator for their use.

Table 1. List of species and numbers of each species found at Jekyll Island on 28 September 1989.

| Species | Scientific Name | Number |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Virginia Rail | <i>Rallus limicola</i> | 1 |
| Yellow-b. Cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | <i>Catharus minimus</i> | 3 |
| Gray Catbird | <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> | 1 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> | 7 |
| Cape May Warbler | <i>Dendroica tigrina</i> | 4 |
| Blk-thr. B. Warbler | <i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> | 3 |
| Blk-and-w. Warbler | <i>Mniotilta varia</i> | 8 |
| American Redstart | <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> | 16 |
| Worm-eating Warbler | <i>Helminthophila vermivorus</i> | 6 |
| Ovenbird | <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> | 141 |
| Nor. Waterthrush | <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i> | 11 |
| Common Yellowthroat | <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> | 33 |
| warbler (spp.) | | 26 |
| Summer Tanager | <i>Piranga rubra</i> | 1 |
| Scarlet Tanager | <i>Piranga olivacea</i> | 1 |
| tanager (sp.) | | 1 |
| Dickcissel | <i>Spiza americana</i> | 6 |
| Bobolink | <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> | 8 |

Doris Cohrs, P.O. Box 1908, Darien, Georgia 31305.

LATE LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH IN COBB COUNTY - On 25 October 1991 at approximately 0915, while birding at the Cochran Shoals section of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Cobb County, I heard the distinctive call of a waterthrush coming from a small marsh area. I located the bird about 20-30 m away bobbing its tail on a thin leafless branch about 2 m above the ground. Using my binoculars I

immediately noticed a wide, long, white supercilium and white underparts heavily streaked with dark brown. The bird then turned and flew to the ground exposing its undertail coverts which were a buffy color. I could not relocate the bird so decided to try other parts of the Recreation Area.

At about 1230 I returned to this marshy area and was able to relocate the bird. I had excellent views from about 7-10 m with the bird bobbing its tail and calling several times. Again the facial contrast brought about by the white supercilium was quite evident. As I viewed the bird in my binoculars, I noticed the supercilium was a little dingy in the lore region, but a much cleaner white as it went back behind the eye. The supercilium did not narrow behind the eye at all. The bill appeared rather long and thick. The underparts were a clean white with no yellowish tinge of any sort. The white underparts were heavily streaked and appeared to start by mid-throat. The chin and unstreaked portion of the throat were a bright white. There was no patch of color on the flanks of the bird as far as I could tell. The bird then flew off and disappeared from sight. Based on all the above field marks, I identified the bird as a Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*).

Although I did not find the bird on 26 October, I was able to see it again on 27 October. This time I paid particular attention to a field mark mentioned by a Southern California birder. That is, when a Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) bobbed its tail, the motion is up and down as opposed to the bobbing of a Louisiana Waterthrush which moves its tail in a more side to side motion. This bird's tail definitely exhibited this arcing the majority of the time I had it under observation.

As far as I know the bird was not seen after my 27 October sighting. The latest date for the state mentioned in the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds* (Haney, J.C., et al., GOS Occas. Publ. No. 10, 1986) is 23 October.

Joe Harris, 12010 Forestwood Circle, Dallas, Texas 75244.

FROM THE FIELD

June - July 1991

According to the reports received, this was really not that an exciting period in Georgia. I'm sure there were a lot of interesting observations somewhere in Georgia but unfortunately, those reports were never received. Most of our sightings came from birders in Atlanta, Athens, Macon, Columbus and Augusta. Where were the reports from the Albany, Valdosta, Dalton, Brunswick and Savannah areas? This section of *The Oriole* would be much more valuable if all members across the state would consider it their responsibility to report their significant sightings.

Abbreviations used include: ELHLAF - E. L. Huie Land Application Facility in Clayton County, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, and WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

COMMON LOON - Summering basic plumaged birds were seen at Fort Gaines along the Chattahoochee River from 9 to 16 June (two birds) by Ethel Chastain and a single bird was seen at Lake Oconee on 21 June by Dale Davis.

GREATER SHEARWATER - One bird was seen about 45 miles off Savannah during a GOS sponsored pelagic trip on 28 July (Bruce Dralle et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER - Six birds were seen on the same pelagic trip as above. Surprisingly, no petrels were seen.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT - In the Atlanta area the species again attempted to nest at the ELHLAF during June and July. This remains the only reported nesting area for the species in Georgia. Surely there are other areas within the state where the species is nesting.

ANHINGA - Barbara Edwards and Lisa Walcott observed one bird at Macon on 8 June and another was seen at Fort Gaines between 9 and 16 June by Ethel Chastain.

SNOWY EGRET - This species is fairly rare for the piedmont so a bird at the ELHLAF from 18 July through at least 27 July is worth noting (Jeff Sewell, Carol Lambert, Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

CATTLE EGRET - Three birds at Peachtree City on 16 June by Dennie and Pam McClure were very early for the Atlanta area. A count of 58+ near the ELHLAF on 27 July by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller was one of the highest counts ever for the Atlanta area.

WHITE IBIS - Two birds were seen in the Fort Gaines area between 9 and 16 June by Ethel Chastain and an immature was seen with the Cattle Egrets mentioned above near the ELHLAF on 27 July by Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller.

WOOD STORK - Approximately 260 nests at the Millen colony produced 2.7 young apiece for a very successful nesting season (Dan Connelly fide Anne Waters).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - One bird spent the entire summer with the usual Mallards at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse et al.) and another bird came

- to join the Mallards at Ken and Arlene Clark's home at Macon on 10 and 13 June.
- NORTHERN PINTAIL** - A female spent the summer with the Mallards at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse et al.).
- RING-NECKED DUCK** - A male remained throughout the summer at the ELHLAF (Patrick Brisse et al.).
- OSPREY** - There were several sightings during June and July at Blalock Lake near the ELHLAF that would lead one to believe that at least one bird summered in the area. This species is still experiencing a slow increase and is beginning to nest on some inland lakes. Observers are encouraged to document any nestings away from traditional nesting areas.
- MISSISSIPPI KITE** - Reports were received from the Ocmulgee National Monument on 7 June (Barbara Edwards), Hamburg State Park on 13 July (Nancy Iha) and three birds near Lumber City on 27 July (Bruce Dralle).
- BALD EAGLE** - The species was mentioned as having nesting success at Eufaula NWR but it was unclear whether the nesting occurred in Georgia or Alabama (fide Sam Pate). Other reports during the period were from Union County (Dot Freeman) and at the ELHLAF where up to three separate birds were reported (Patrick Brisse et al.).
- SHARP-SHINNED HAWK** - This species is quite rare anywhere in Georgia during the summer so the following observations were of interest: north Gwinnett County on 8 June (Joel Hitt), in the city of Atlanta on 9 June (Georgann Schmalz), near Vienna on 9 June (Dan Guynn), and in Fernbank Forest in Decatur on 12 June (Georgann Schmalz).
- BROAD-WINGED HAWK** - Tom Patterson reported an adult near Dublin on 5 June and an immature in July. At Eastman, Donny Screws recorded one bird on 29 June.
- RUFFED GROUSE** - Harriett DiGioia reported that this species was in lower than normal numbers in the NW Georgia mountains during the period.
- WILD TURKEY** - Harriett DiGioia had the same comment on this species as she had for the Ruffed Grouse.
- VIRGINIA RAIL** - Giff Beaton found two birds in a small marsh near Woodstock on 6 June and on 29 June Giff and Terry Moore called one of the birds into close range. This species is probably more regular as a summer resident than we realize since few observers sash their way through some of our piedmont wetlands during the summer.
- PIPING PLOVER** - Two birds were seen at Jekyll Island on the rather early date of 27 July by Bruce Dralle et al.
- BLACK-NECKED STILT** - At least 41 were seen at Andrews Island near Brunswick on 1 June by Joel Hitt. The species may have nested there but no further reports were received during the period.
- RED KNOT** - Two birds were seen at Jekyll Island on 27 July for a fairly early date (Bruce Dralle et al.).
- WESTERN SANDPIPER** - Rather uncommon for a piedmont location were the following sightings from the ELHLAF: one bird on 16 July (Patrick Brisse), three on 21 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert), and one on 27 July (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** - The best count at the ELHLAF was 25+ on 27 July (Patrick Brisse and Terry Miller).

- STILT SANDPIPER** - The only report received was a single bird at the ELHLAF on 20 July (Bruce Dralle).
- SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** - At the ELHLAF two birds were seen on 14 July (Patrick Brisse), one on 16 July (Patrick Brisse) and one on 21 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).
- WILSON'S PHALAROPE** - One bird was found in Laurens County on 27 July by Tom Patterson.
- POMARINE JAEGER** - One bird was found on Jekyll Island's South Beach on 27 July by Bruce Dralle et al. Summer sightings of any species of jaeger in Georgia are almost unheard of.
- GULL-BILLED TERN** - A good count of ten was reported from Andrews Island on 1 June by Joel Hitt.
- LEAST TERN** - At least 50 pairs were reported from Andrews Island on 1 June by Joel Hitt but no further information later in the period shed any light on whether the birds had any success nesting.
- COMMON GROUND-DOVE** - A bird at Hamburg State Park on 13 July must have been close to the northern part of its range (Nancy Iha).
- WHIP-POOR-WILL** - This species continues to be found in areas that were once only the home of its near relative, the Chuck-will's-widow. On 7 and 13 June a bird was heard at the Beaverdam WMA Area in Laurens County by Tom Patterson. Also on 7 June, another bird was heard near the Big Creek Bridge at Clark Hill Reservoir by Anne and Vernon Waters. On 8 June Joe Greenberg heard a bird in Washington County and a final report was a bird at the Piedmont NWR on 9 June by Jerry and Marie Amerson.
- WILLOW FLYCATCHER** - Four birds were singing on 8 June at their colony site in Greene County (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey).
- EASTERN PHOEBE** - Anne and Vernon Waters commented that this species appears to be definitely on the increase as a nesting species in the Augusta area.
- HORNED LARK** - This species was recorded in the Dublin area on 27 June and 2 July (Tom Patterson). Please refer to the note by Patterson (*Oriole* 56:43-44) for more information on this suspected nesting in Laurens County.
- BANK SWALLOW** - The only reports for the period were from the ELHLAF with single birds on 14, 16 and 27 July (Patrick Brisse).
- CLIFF SWALLOW** - During the period eleven nests were reported under the US 278 bridge over Lake Oconee and two pairs were reported from northern Greene County (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey et al.).
- FISH CROW** - This species is now well established in the Atlanta area during the summer months with many reports from local lakes and parks. However, no nesting records have been documented so far for the Atlanta area.
- WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH** - A bird found near Keller (Chatham County) on 9 June by Joe Greenberg would appear quite rare at that location during this time of year.
- HOUSE WREN** - A bird heard near Stockbridge on 2 June during a Breeding Bird Survey was the first one recorded on that survey in the fifteen years the observer has been conducting it (Terry Moore). Around the ELHLAF six were still being reported on 28 July (Jeff Sewell and Carol Lambert).

- SOLITARY VIREO** - Birds close to the southern edge of their nesting range were two adults and one young in Haralson County on 23 June (Paul Raney) and adults and one young at Lawrenceville on 16 June (Joel Hitt).
- BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** - Two singing birds were reported from the Dawson Forest area on 23 June by Paul and Joan Sykes.
- CERULEAN WARBLER** - The only reports were of single birds near the ELHLAF on 27 July and near Stone Mountain on 31 July (Patrick Brisse).
- BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER** - One bird near Macon on 8 June may have been a rare local breeder (Barbara Edwards and Lisa Walcott).
- WORM-EATING WARBLER** - Like the previous species, a bird found at Watson Springs in Greene County on 22 June by Paul Sykes may have been a rare local breeder.
- OVENBIRD** - This species may still be hanging on as a breeding bird in the Atlanta area as evidenced by birds in north Gwinnett County on 8 June (Joel Hitt) and 25 June at Roswell (Terry Moore).
- SCARLET TANAGER** - Every year this species appears to be found in more interesting areas. Reports were received from Madison, Clarke and Greene counties (Paul Sykes and Peter Yaukey et al.), from Manchester Hills near Columbus (Peggy and Fred Spencer fide Sam Pate) and at Piedmont NWR on 9 June (Jerry and Marie Amerson).
- BACHMAN'S SPARROW** - Anne and Vernon Waters found this species nesting at the Clark Hill WMA on 7 June.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW** - Three birds were found near Lincolnton on 12 June by Anne and Vernon Waters. At Dublin, Tom Patterson reported large numbers nesting during the period. Joel Hitt found four birds near Duluth on 20 June but the fields had just been mowed so nesting success was questionable.

Terry Moore, 13000 Bucksport Court, Roswell, Georgia 30075.

A Statement of Policy

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