

degrees from the sun). The heavy-set body and the outline of the head and bill indicated that it was a scoter, and the presence of a large, off-white cheek-and-gular patch on the otherwise uniformly dark-brown plumage indicated a female or immature male Common Scoter. When it flew I noticed an absence of wing patches, lending further support to my identification.

Although there are records of summering scoters in Florida, there seems to be no earlier fall arrival date for the Common Scoter.—Conrad E. Weiser, 314 Lorene St., Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

### A Swimming Bald Eagle

While on a boat trip from Chokoloskee to Cape Sable on July 18, 1970, with Don Lilley of Macon, Georgia, I saw an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) force a low-flying Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) to drop its fish into the sea some 3-5 miles offshore from the mouth of Shark River. The eagle entered the water and floated with wings and tail "spread-eagled" and head held high as it searched in vain for the fish. The furious Osprey hovered just overhead (south Florida Ospreys are especially combative with eagles), but not until I stopped my boat close by did the eagle finally take off—very heavily—and head for the distant shore, with the screaming Osprey bedeviling it all the way. Eagles sometimes briefly dip into the water after fish, but observers with whom I have discussed this have never seen one actually float on the surface. Comment by others with regard to such behavior would be of interest.—John B. Edscorn, Rt. 3, Box 400, Lakeland, Florida 33801.

### Autumn Singing by Ovenbirds

On Sept. 19, 1970, Paul Fellers, Chester Shaffer, Kris Edscorn, and I twice heard an Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) sing its typical "teeCHUR, teeCHUR, etc." song in Saddle Creek Park near Lakeland. Again, on Sept. 4, 5, and 6, 1972, a newly-arrived migrant Ovenbird in woods at my home near Lakeland came to my "pssh" calling each morning, and with head feathers raised it repeatedly sang in a very "territorial" manner in plain sight at very close range. To date I have learned of no other records of Ovenbirds singing in Florida at any season. If any such instances are known, I would appreciate hearing of them—John B. Edscorn, Rt. 3, Box 400, Lakeland, Florida 33801.

## Obituaries

### Roy Cline Hallman

*Roy Cline Hallman* was a lifelong resident of Florida. He was born at Bartow, April 24, 1894, and passed away in Panama City on December 7, 1972. Roy became interested in birds as a small boy. Like many others of that period, his interest was stimulated by collecting birds' eggs—a hobby he maintained all his life but practiced little after the 1930's.

I met Roy Hallman in March, 1931. The occasion was the publication of his note on the nesting of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) in the palmetto clumps on Anastasia Island. I had never seen a "buzzard" nest, which circumstance Roy generously agreed to change, and promptly did.

This was the beginning of a warm and lasting friendship. My first "expeditions" to the Kissimmee Prairie, Cape Sable, Pelican Island, Gulf Hammock, and other such exciting places were with Roy Hallman. Wayland Shannon was with us on several of these outings, and we frequently met with Donald and Wray Nicholson and Joseph Howell, Jr.

Hallman moved from St. Augustine to Panama City in 1936, after which I saw him much less often, though I did get afield with him there on several occasions, a particularly memorable one being the time he showed me my first nest of the Cuban Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus tenuirostris*), which he had found on a sandy island near Port St. Joe.

Hallman was quick to detect new birds, even those with subtle differences from familiar species. He was not inclined to collect birds regularly, but did not hesitate to do so when the object was a bird not previously recorded in the area. It was his painstaking field observation that led to his adding such obscure birds as the Thick-billed Redwing (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*) and Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) to the Florida list. Hallman published a fair number of his outstanding ornithological records, but we would all be richer if he had been a less modest man.

Roy Hallman is survived by his wife, Mrs. Josephine Hallman, of Panama City.—Samuel A. Grimes, 4627 Peachtree Circle E, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.



### Karl Zerbe

*Karl Zerbe*, artist and teacher, died on November 28, 1972, in Tallahassee. He was born in Germany in 1903, came to the United States in 1934 and to Florida in 1954. At his death he was Professor Emeritus at Florida State University. Members of the Florida Ornithological Society will recall his bird photography, especially his films of hummingbirds of Central and South America. His photograph of White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) on the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge in November, 1958, provided the first proof of the species' occurrence in Florida, and one of the state's first few records of the Eared Grebe (*Podiceps caspicus*) was documented by his camera.

Zerbe's interest in ornithology was also evident in a portfolio of 12 serigraphs, produced by the Le Moyne Art Foundation from a set of bird drawings. He described these as "not species-birds, but very free translations of birds I've seen—in the wild or in the zoo—anthropomorphic birds." This work, completed in 1970, led to a series of large bird paintings, again anthropomorphic, in which he expressed his belief in the interdependency of all life forms.

Professor Zerbe was a long-time member of the Florida and National Audubon Societies and of the American Ornithologists' Union. He is survived by his wife, Marion, a daughter, and 3 grandchildren.—Mrs. Frank H. Stoutamire, 1471 Crestview Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32303.