

occurred during spring and summer, seasons when the human population on the Keys was once considerably lower than at present. Also, Screech Owls are less vocal during winter, and no Screech Owl has been recorded on Upper Keys Christmas Bird Counts since these counts were initiated in 1955. — John C. Ogden, *National Audubon Research Dept., 115 Indian Mound Trail, Tavernier, Florida 33070.*

Orchard Oriole holding food with the feet. — Clark (1973, Bird-Banding 44: 91-99) summarized the records of passerine birds holding food with the feet and suggested that this behavior might be useful as a taxonomic character in certain families. Holding food with the feet has been reported for less than 145 (Clark 1973) of the more than 5000 species of passerines (Mayr 1946, Auk 65: 64-69). Of the 22 North American icterids (AOU Check-list of North American birds, fifth ed., Baltimore, Amer. Ornithol. Union), Clark (1973) lists 6 species as holding food with the feet, including the Northern Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) but not the Orchard Oriole (*I. spurius*).

On 5 October 1976 at the Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Highlands County, Florida, I saw a female Orchard Oriole hold food with its feet. Perched among grape vines (*Vitis* sp.) along the edge of a fallow field, the bird seized a grape with its bill and transferred it to its left foot. Then, while holding the grape against the perch, it picked at the grape with its bill several times. Unfortunately I observed this behavior only once, as the bird was wary and did not remain in view for long.

This type of food holding, "clamping" (Clark 1973), is the most frequent method used by passerines holding food with the feet including 5 of the 6 North American icterids listed by Clark (1973): Northern Oriole, Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*), Boat-tailed Grackle (*Q. major*), Common Grackle (*Q. quiscula*), Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). — Fred E. Lohrer, *Archbold Biological Station, Rt. 2, Box 180, Lake Placid, Florida 33852.*

Report on the 1977 spring meeting. — The 1977 spring meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society was hosted by the Archbold Biological Station and the Highlands County Audubon Society at the Lake Placid Holiday Inn on 22-24 April. Co-chairmen were Fred E. Lohrer and Miriam Beck who along with their local committee received loud plaudits for their skilled planning and management.

Field trips (attended by 164 on Saturday and 110 on Sunday) went to Highlands Hammock S. P., Indian Prairie, ABS, and Fisheat-

ing Creek Wildlife Management Area for regional specialties including Scrub Jay, Swallow-tailed Kite, Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Sandhill Crane, Short-tailed Hawk, and Bachman's Sparrow.

On Friday there was a meeting of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow Recovery Team, and an afternoon meeting of the FOS Board of Directors. In the evening James N. Layne, Executive Director of ABS, gave a fine illustrated introduction to the natural history of Highlands County. A roundup and discussion of members' slides of hard-to-identify species and recent rareties wound up the evening.

At the annual membership meeting the following were elected to two year terms: President, David W. Johnston; Vice-President, John C. Ogden; Secretary, Barbara Kittleson; Treasurer, Caroline Coleman; Directors: W. Wilson Baker, John Hintermister, and Herbert W. Kale II.

Glen E. Woolfenden, Chairman of the afternoon symposium on Scrub Jay studies at ABS, introduced John Fitzpatrick on "Intra-familial and Territorial Fighting"; Jerre A. Stallcup, "Contributions of helpers to breeding"; Tom Bancroft, "Molt in Blue Jays and Scrub jays"; and Bruce Barbour, "Some Aspects of the Vocal Repertory."

Herbert W. Kale II, Chairman of the symposium on cooperative bird distribution studies in Florida, introduced Henry M. Stevenson who gave a progress report on his study of the quantitative distribution of breeding birds in the state; John C. Ogden on a cooperative survey of colonial wading birds; and Gary Pesnell on serial surveys and wading bird utilization of Lake Okeechobee marshes.

Of the 191 registrants, 158 filled the banquet room of the Holiday Inn for the Saturday evening buffet and the interesting slide talk on the Galapagos Islands by Ken Alvarez, Interpretive Naturalist, Florida DNR. — Margaret C. Bowman, *Secretary*.

Acknowledgment.—The following 25 people generously contributed to the continuing success of the *FFN* by reviewing manuscripts published in volume 5: M. A. Byrd, W. D. Courser, J. B. Edscorn, J. W. Fitzpatrick, S. A. Grimes, F. T. Hames, B. A. Harrington, D. W. Johnston, B. A. Kittleson, J. L. Lincer, C. E. Lohrer, F. R. Moore, S. A. Nesbitt, J. C. Ogden, O. T. Owre, W. B. Robertson, Jr., J. A. Rodgers, W. E. Southern, J. A. Stallcup, H. M. Stevenson, P. W. Sykes, Jr., W. K. Taylor, L. H. Walkinshaw, S. White-Schuler, G. E. Woolfenden.—*F.E.L.*

Spring 1978 Meeting.—At the Causeway Inn, Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, on 21-23 April. Host, Tampa Audubon Society; local committee chairman, Susan Bird, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of South Florida, Tampa 33620.

Spring 1979 Meeting.—At Dauphine Island, Alabama, during late April. A joint meeting with the Alabama Ornithological Society. For information write Robert Duncan, 614 Fairpoint, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561.