

of the game refuge. The Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge was created by executive order on March 30, 1937.<sup>47</sup>

The work of the Georgia Society of Naturalists was finished, almost. Earle Greene was employed as Junior Manager to assist Hopkins at the new Refuge. Lucien Harris, Jr. and other members, including Fred Hebard and Tony Carter, continued to watch over the new preserve. Another proposal to build a scenic highway was squelched in 1940. Tony Carter was transferred from the Savannah Wildlife Refuge to the Okefenokee as Refuge biologist in 1940. He was especially interested in investigating the birds and the ecology of the Swamp. With the help of his wife, he pursued this interest with vigor for two years. John R. Hopkins, Refuge manager and a member of the Society, retired in February 1945.

Members of the Society continued to visit the Refuge and to follow its course of development. As late as 1946, the Society was informed by the Biological Survey that the government had rejected a proposal by a lumber company to purchase and cut the black gum timber in the northern Okefenokee and the one remaining stand of old-growth cypress near Dinner Pond.<sup>48</sup> As a kind of project closure, the Society's *Bulletin* No. 3 was Frederick V. Hebard's *Winter Birds of Okefinokee and Coleraine* (1941) and *Bulletin* No. 4 was John M. Hopkins' memoir, *45 Years With the Okefenokee Swamp, 1900-1945* (1947). The members of the Society continued to be friends and advocates of the Refuge for decades.

Francis Harper also continued to monitor the development of the Refuge. He complained to Biological Survey officials upon receipt of any report or rumor of real or perceived mismanagement. The National Archives files have several letters that begin with sentences such as, "Enclosed is another letter from Dr. Francis Harper."

During the 1940s, the Okefenokee came of age as a place on the national stage. Vereen Bell's articles

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<sup>47</sup>John R. Eadie, History of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, in A.D. Cohen, et. al. editors, *The Okefenokee Swamp: Its Natural History, Geology, and Geochemistry*, Los Alamos, NM: Wetland Surveys, 1984, pp. 2-4. Waycross *Journal-Herald*, March 16, 1936; March 17, 1936; March 21, 1936; March 23, 1936; March 30, 1936; December 1, 1936. Savannah *Morning News*, November 29, 1936; February 2, 1937; February 19, 1937; February 21, 1937. Atlanta *Constitution*, April 4, 1937; April 11, 1937.

<sup>48</sup>Earle R. Greene to Lucien Harris, Jr., March 18, 1938; May 12, 1938; August 22, 1938. Charlton County *Herald*, June 7, 1940; July 19, 1940; August 23, 1940; October 18, 1940. Clinch County *News*, May 10, 1940; Lucien Harris, Jr. to Earle R. Greene, June 28, 1946. Earle R. Greene to John Martin, June 18, 1946. James Silver to USFWS Director, Chicago, June 25, 1946. *Southern Outdoors*, May 15, 1946.