

the lesser

Squawk



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NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Tuesday November 14 - 8:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING AT CHARLESTON MUSEUM

FIELD TRIP - half day - November 11, 1972
Greentree Reservoir - Francis Marion National Forest

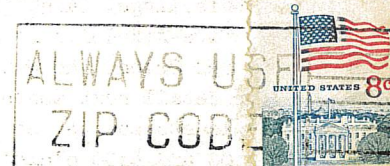
BELLEFIELD BIRD CENSUS - November 19, 1972

The program at the November 14 meeting will consist of a recent movie narrated by Roger Tory Peterson entitled "SO LITTLE TIME". This movie is concerned with the preservation of endangered species of birds and includes some excellent photography.

The half day field trip to Greentree Reservoir on Saturday, November 11, is intended as an alternate trip for those not taking part in the Bellefield Bird Census. Of course, we welcome all who wish to take part. The trip will begin at the Charleston Museum at 1:00 PM.

Those taking part in the Bellefield Bird Census should have already been in contact with Dr. Harry Freeman.

THE LESSER SQUAWK
The Charleston Natural History Society, Inc.
116 Presidents Circle
Summerville, S.C. 29483



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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U.S. FORESTRY SERVICE SURVEY

On behalf of the Atlanta Office of the U.S. Forestry Service, a survey is being conducted to determine the occurrence and status of the following rare, endangered (and possibly endangered) species of birds found to occur in the National Forests and Grasslands of the Southern Region:

Wood Ibis	*Bald Eagle	Limpkin
White-faced Ibis	Osprey	Roadrunner
Roseate Spoonbill	*Prairie Falcon	*Red-cockaded Woodpecker
White-tailed Kite	*Peregrine Falcon	*Ivory-billed Woodpecker
Swallow-tailed Kite	*Greater Prairie Chicken	Scrub Jay
Harlan's Hawk	*Attwater's Prairie Chicken	Common Raven
*Short-tailed Hawk	*Sandhill Crane	*Bachman's Warbler
Golden Eagle	*Florida Crane	*Ipswich Sparrow

The above named species are listed in A.O.U. Check List order. Those preceded by an * are on the present Endangered Species List.

The Southern National Forests and Grasslands are listed below by the states in which they occur. In addition to determining the occurrence of one or more of the above-listed species of birds in any of the Southern National Forests or Grasslands, occurrence within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of any Forest or Grassland will also be recorded.

State	National Forest or Grassland
Virginia	George Washington, Jefferson
North Carolina	Pisgah, Nantahala, Uwharrie, Croatan
South Carolina	Sumter (Long Cane & Enoree Divisions), Francis Marion
Georgia	Oconee (Redlands & Uncle Remus Div.), Chattahoochee (Armchee Div.)
Florida	Osceola, Ocala, Apalachicola
Kentucky	Daniel Boone (& Redbird Div.)
Tennessee	Cherokee Div. of adjoining Nantahala (N.C.), Unaka Div. of adjoining Pisgah (N.C.)
Alabama	Bankhead, Talladega (Talladega Div.), Conecuh, Tuskegee
Mississippi	Holly Springs (& Grenada Div.), Bienville, Despta (& Chickasawhay Div.), Trace (& Tombigbee Div.), Homochitto
Arkansas	Ozark (& Boston Mtn., Lake Wedington, Henry Koen, Sylamore, & Magazine Mtn. Divs.), Ouachita, St. Francis
Louisiana	Kisatchie (& Caney, Winn, Catahoula, Kisatchie, Vernon, & Evangeline Divs.)
Oklahoma	Kiamichie Div. (adjoining Ouachita N.F. Arkansas)
Texas	Cross Timbers (N.G.), Caddo (N.G.)
	Davy Crockett, Angelina, Sam Houston

This survey is being conducted by E. Burnham Chamberlain and David Chamberlain. E. Burnham Chamberlain is Honorary Curator of Ornithology at The Charleston Museum and also a Honorary Life Member of CNHS. Initially, they are interested in the occurrence and status of the Bald & Golden Eagles, and the Peregrine Falcon. Anyone having any observations from 1965-72 is requested to drop Mr. Chamberlain a card (PO Box 3039, Charleston 29407) or call him at 766-4337.

FIELD TRIP TO LITTLE OCEAN BAY

On 17 September 1972 the Charleston Natural History Society went on a field trip to Little Ocean Bay, a "Carolina Bay" located near Bethera in the Francis Marion National Forest. Richard Porcher, a member of the CNHS and a professor at The Citadel, led the trip. Eighteen members and guests attended the trek to the bay. An informal lecture was given by Porcher when the group reached the bay. He discussed some of the features of the bays, such as their elliptical or ovoid shapes, the southeast-northwest orientation of their long axis, the sand ridges which may or may not be present, and the marching and clumping distributions they sometimes exhibit. He also mentioned some of the theories that have been postulated to explain the origin of the bays, but pointed out that no one theory has gained universal acceptance in the scientific world, and thus the Carolina Bays remain one of the most puzzling unsolved geological phenomena in the world today. Following the lecture, the group walked around the southern tip of the bay and along the sand ridge on the southeastern side. Porcher discussed various aspects of the vegetation of Little Ocean Bay and pointed out one of the trees common to the bays, Gordonia lasianthus, the Loblolly Bay. Its large, fragrant, white flowers offered a striking contrast to the evergreen vegetation of the bay.

After the trip around the bay, and after eating lunch, Mr. Nelson Taylor, a District Ranger with the Forest Service, led the group to a nesting site of a colony of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers along Highway 41. No birds were observed near the nest during this mid-day visit since at this time the birds forage for food. However, the accessibility of the nesting sight to Highway 41 will make it easy for birdwatchers to visit the nest during times when the birds are near the nest.

One interesting botanical find was made by Richard Porcher on the way back to Charleston. Along Highway 41, between Huger and Cainhoy, Porcher found a population of Habenaria integra, the Yellow Fringeless-orchid. This is a rare species of Habenaria, similar to Habenaria cristata, the Crested Fringed-orchid. It is distinguishable from the latter in its later time of flowering, not having its lip fringed, and in its dull orange color.

BULLS ISLAND

Shortly after noon, on Sunday, October 22, I observed (three) wood ibis feeding on the south side of House Pond on Bulls Island. A few moments later, as I was walking on Beach Road, toward the lodge, I looked up to see about fifty wood ibis circling overhead. They disappeared toward the west, then, and returned about forty-five minutes later to a point where I could see them from the lawn in front of the lodge. Apparently they were riding on a good thermal updraft, for they sailed for long periods without any visible effort. It was a remarkable display of beauty, since the birds were not very high up.

There is very little water in any of the ponds on the island. There are large numbers of coots on Jack's Creek Pond, and we saw Wood Duck and several small flight of Blue Winged Teal.

Ted Metcalf

OBSERVATIONS

The following have been submitted to the Squawk:

Peregrine Falcon	at the tower in McClellanville	Burkett S. Neely
Bald Eagle (adult)	Pritchard's Cattle Ranch Hwy 17 north	"
Wood Ibis (800+)	Bulls Island Oct. 15-20	"
White-crowned Sparrow (female or immature) possible sighting on Oct. 12 in the backyard of Ted and Peg Metcalf.		

BIRD MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER

The following birds are normally arriving in this area during this month:

Sprague's Pipit	Parasitic Jaeger	Red Crossbill
Fox Sparrow	Old Squaw	Common Merganser
White-winged Scoter	Bufflehead	Saw-shet Owl
Ipswich Sparrow	Golden Eagle	Cinnamon Teal
Common Goldeneye	Rough-legged Hawk	European Widgeon
Snow Bunting	Glaucous Gull	Brant

The following birds normally depart from this area during November:

Gray-cheeked Thrush	Painted Bunting	Magnificent Frigatebird
Purple Martin	Scissors-tailed Flycatcher	Blackpoll Warbler
Cape May Warbler	Red-eyed Vireo	Solitary Sandpiper
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Worm-eating Warbler	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
American Redstart	Indigo Bunting	Veery
Chimney Swift	Yellow-breasted Chat	Sprague's Pipit
Magnolia Warbler		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In response to a suggestion from Trudeth H. Tanner, this section will be devoted to just what the title says. If you have any questions about any phase of natural history or any of the goings on of the Society, please send them to me or call me at 873-0481. I shall then endeavor to contact the appropriate authority in the particular field and I shall print both the question and the answer.

Q. Will Viola pedata thrive in Charleston?

A. I checked with Edmund R. Cuthbert, Jr., and the answer is yes.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

During the first week of this month, sky-watching should begin soon after sunset. The elusive planet, Mercury will then be visible even before the daylight begins perceptibly fading. It may be located a little to the south of the point where the sun goes down, and it will be seen higher above the horizon each evening until November 5, when it reaches its greatest eastern elongation, (its greatest distance east of the sun. After that date, it will rapidly disappear from view as it moves into the glare of the sun.

By the time it is dark, two other planets will be visible, - Jupiter in the southwest, and Saturn a little north of the eastern horizon. Jupiter will set between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., but Saturn will continue to move across the sky, and remain in view throughout the night.

During the month, the Square of Pegasus moves high overhead. By 8:00 p.m. on the 15th, the two stars forming the eastern side of the Square will be just west of the meridian. The one in the northeast corner represents the head of the princess, Andromeda. Two other stars of the same magnitude, equi-distant and extending northeastward from Pegasus, indicate the body and feet of Andromeda. Two very faint stars in a line at right angles northward from the middle star point to a faint blur of light directly on the meridian. This is the most distant object visible to the unaided eye. It is another galaxy, similar to our Milky Way system, but over two million light-years away. A telescope will reveal it as a bright object, in shape like a wheel seen edge-on with the axle showing prominently in the center. It is an awesome thought to realize that, as we look, we are seeing, for the first time, light which left that galaxy perhaps before man appeared on the earth!

The parade of the winter constellations now begins. Perseus, the hero of mythology who saved the princess Andromeda, is located in the Milky Way band just northeast of her. The shape of this large, faint group suggests an old-fashioned letter A. Following Perseus is Auriga, a five-sided figure containing one very bright star, Capella. The Pleiades, Taurus the Bull, and Orion, the Hunter are all now in view in the east. These will be discussed in greater detail next month.

Two planets may be seen in the early morning sky in the east. Brilliant Venus rises between 3:00 and 4:00 o'clock at the beginning of the month, and an hour later at the end. Mars appears in the early dawn light during the first week, but after that, it will rise progressively earlier, so that as the month advances, it may be seen before the morning twilight commences. The orange-red color of this planet identifies it unmistakably.

Elizabeth D. Simons

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"In making the following acknowledgment, I speak for myself and probably many others: Many, Many thanks to Miss Elizabeth Simons for sharing with Lesser Squawk readers her travel experiences and observations of the past summer. Her last two articles in the Squawk was armchair traveling at its best."

"The study of stars has developed new dimensions for me over the years as I have studied Miss Simons' Star Watcher's Guide, and often wish I could see all that she tells us is up there. If she would consent, and all necessary details worked out, could field trips for a study of the stars be arranged?"

Hilda C. Griffin