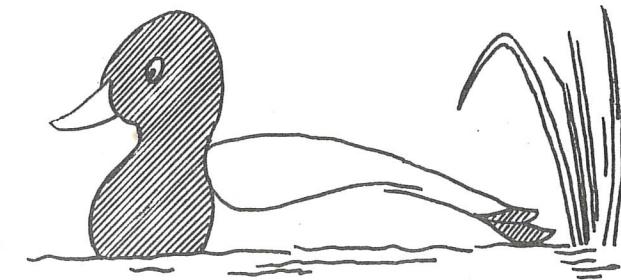


the lesser

Squawk



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Editor: Perry E. Nugent, 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C., 29407, Phone 556-3841
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Jesse L. Griffin, P.O. Box 72, Citadel, Charleston, S. C., 29409

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President: Alan M. Bills, 116 Presidents Circle, Summerville, S. C., 29483
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FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

REGULAR MEETING AT CHARLESTON MUSEUM LECTURE HALL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1974 - 8:00 P.M.

FIELD TRIP
Sunday, February 16, 1974
MAGNOLIA GARDENS

REMINDER

Items for Publication in the Lesser Squawk should be submitted in writing to the Editor by the 20th of the month.

Mrs. J. A. Beckett III
Magnolia Gardens
Route 4
Charleston, S.C. 29407



NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

It is indeed a pleasure to announce that the next regular meeting (Feb. 12) of The Charleston Natural History Society will feature an interesting and informative program by Richard D. Porcher, Jr. As many of you know, Richard is not only our Field Trip Leader, but also serves CNHS as Vice-President of the Chapter. This illustrated talk is entitled:

CAROLINA BAYS: MYSTERIOUS CRATERS OF THE CAROLINA COASTAL PLAIN

The lecture will consider the history, flora and possible origin of these unique formations. I hope you will plan now to attend this unusual program.

Wm. Bruce Ezell, Jr.

FIELD TRIP SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1974

The February field trip will be a half day bird walk at Magnolia Gardens. Meet at the Charleston Museum at 7:00 A.M. Ted Beckett reports large numbers of Robins and Cedar Waxwings arrived January 21. All the common hawks and some ducks, including Fulvous Tree Ducks are currently visiting the garden. Hopefully they will stay for some people watching on the 16th.

For further information call Field Chairman, Richard Porcher (Home 884-9474, Office 723-0611, EXT. 487).

SPICEBUSHES

Soon to flower is a member of the Lauraceae, the spicebush, Lindera benzoin, a shrub of low woods, particularly those that have basic or only slightly acid soils. It is named in honor of Johann Linder, an early botanist of Sweden. The species name stems from an Arabic word meaning incense of Java, referring to the spice obtained from Styrax Benzoin, native to that island. Linderas bark produces an oil akin to oil of wintergreen; its fruit an oil related to camphor; and the leaves an oil similar to the essence of lavender. It is said that these parts can be made into a tea, and that the dried fruit can be used as a substitute for allspice.

A second species is known from S. C., but according to the vascular Flora of the Carolinas it has been found only in Berkeley and Colleton counties in this state. It is listed as rare. There are approximately sixty species in the world, being found primarily in temperate and tropical Asia. One of the most noteable is L. megaphylla, which becomes a small tree. It bears, as its name implies, large leaves, which are evergreen. China is its native heath. From Japan and Korea come L. obtusiloba and L. praecox, both being leaf-losing, small trees.

Edmund Cuthbert

CITADEL BIOLOGY SEMINARS

Wednesday, February 6

Dr. I. S. H. Metcalf, Professor, Department of Anatomy, Medical University of South Carolina
Topic: Olfactory Organs in the Hammerhead Shark

Tuesday, February 12

Dr. Harold G. Hempling, Professor and Chairman, Department of Physiology, Medical University of South Carolina
Topic: The Membrane Functions of Neoplastic Cells

Thursday, February 21

Dr. Byron Ingram, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Clemson University
Topic: Effects of Thermal Discharge on Photoperiodic Responses of Aquatic Insects

Tuesday, February 26

Dr. Luckett V. Davis, Professor, Department of Biology, Winthrop College
Topic: Ecology of Salt Marsh Arthropods

THE QUEEN, DANAS ciliippus, CRAMER, VISITS CHARLESTON

On December 3, 1973, Robert Cuthbert and I were collecting Cucumber Beetles in a broccoli field at the U. S. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory on Savannah Highway. The plants were in full bloom and alive with many insects particularly bees, flies, and butterflies. As we left the field, Robert called my attention to a very dark and unusual butterfly. Since this was a new one to me, I collected it for further study. In the hand it was a beautiful dark brown with black wing margins and numerous white spots on the wings. Its relationship with the Monarch was evident, although it appeared to be another species. On further investigation, with the help of T. L. McFadden, we concluded it was a Queen. On December 4 another specimen was collected as it visited the Tea Plants at the Clemson Experiment Station. A third Queen was seen in the broccoli field on December fifth. Klots in his "Peterson's Field Guide to the Butterflies," says the Queen is a relative of the Monarch and is found in South Georgia, Florida, Gulf Strip, Mississippi Valley North to Kansas and Nebraska. This would seem to make these three beautiful butterflies unique visitors to our city.

Do any readers of the Lesser Squawk have any experience with Queen in our low country? If so, your information would be very interesting to all of the CNHS members.

Perry E. Nugent

BIRD MOVEMENTS IN FEBRUARY

ARRIVALS

1 Purple Martin	10 Rough-winged Swallow
3 Cattle Egret	11 Yellow-breasted Chat
6 Painted Bunting	28 Evening Grosbeak

DEPARTURES

3 White-fronted Goose	15 Golden Eagle
13 Cinnamon Teal	23 Snow Goose
European Teal	? Saw Whet Owl

REPORT FROM CAPE ROMAIN

The waterfowl have dispersed throughout the area except for the Swans and Sea ducks. There are 20 Whistling Swans on Bulls Island. The Sea ducks have moved close to shore as they do about this time each year. Now would be a good time to observe Greater and Lesser Scaup. Black and Surf Scoters, Goldeneye and Old Squaw from shore. Spring migration is beginning with a large increase in Double-Crested Cormorants and Brown Pelicans around the refuge.

A 6 foot porpoise washed up on Bulls Island January 21 and a crew from the Smithsonian will be here January 25 to study it.

THE SKY-WATCHER'S GUIDE

Kohoutek, - farewell! If the writer of these articles were a soothsayer, with perhaps a bit too much imagination, her face would be red with embarrassment, but predictions concerning the comet's appearance were recorded from publications of information given by scientists. At least two members of C.N.H.S. feel certain that they glimpsed Kohoutek in the late evening of January 10. Mrs. Kenneth Donaldson and Mrs. Charles Wilbur, armed with binoculars, went to an open area free of "light pollution" near Mt. Pleasant. Slightly above and to the right of Jupiter, they saw what appeared to be a small bright ball suspended toward the horizon from a narrow net of dimmer light. It was visible only when viewed obliquely. We now look forward to information which the astronauts might offer.

In spite of the re-establishment of Daylight Saving Time, it will be less complicated to continue reference to Sky-watching according to Standard Time, so readers of these articles should make allowances accordingly.

The February skies, on any clear night, present a magnificent display of stars. As soon as it is dark, at the beginning of the month, at least seven stars of the first magnitude, - three of which are even brighter, - are in view. And for those who start sky-watching before dark, Mercury may be seen in the sunset glow. On February 9, Mercury will reach its greatest eastern elongation, remaining above the horizon for about an hour after the sun.

Venus has disappeared from the evening sky, and Jupiter becomes lost in the sun's glare as it sets.

Mars is located near the meridian when twilight ends. Not far from it is the first magnitude star, Aldebaran, also red in color; the two may be distinguished by the fact that Aldebaran twinkles, and Mars shines with a steady light.

High in the east, Saturn may be recognized by its steady, yellow light.

Aldebaran is the "red, angry eye" of the Bull, whose V-shaped face is on the meridian at dark. Slightly northwest of this group are the Pleiades, or "Seven Sisters", - a cluster of very faint stars. The tips of the horns of the Bull are above Orion's head, which will be revealed through binoculars as a triangle of even fainter stars than the Pleiades.

Orion is made up mostly of bright stars. The right shoulder is a red star of the first magnitude, called Betelgeuse, and the left heel is an intensely hot blue-white star which is brighter than first magnitude. This is Rigel. Three stars in a row represent Orion's belt. Dangling from the middle star is a faint blur of light which indicates his sword. The telescope reveals this blur to be a breath-taking nebula of hot gases, which is believed by astronomers to be stars in the making.

Orion's two hunting dogs follow him, each of which contains a bright star. To the southeast is Canis Major, the Greater Dog, which is distinguished by the brightest star seen from earth, - Sirius. Sirius is located in the Dog's throat. Six faint stars represent its head, one front paw, one hind paw, the end of its body, and the tip of its tail. Canis Minor, the Lesser Dog, is located a little to the northeast of Orion. Only one star is bright enough in this constellation to catch the eye. This is Preycyon, a first magnitude star.

One of the horns of Taurus, - the one higher in view, - serves also as a corner of the five-sided constellation, Auriga. Diagonally opposite this is the third star mentioned as brighter than first magnitude. The name of this star is Capella.

TALLY OF CHRISTMAS COUNT 12-30-73

Species	No.	Species	No.	Species	No.
Belted King Fisher	41	Brown Thrasher	65	Common Grackle	639
Yellow-Shafted Flicker	223	Robin	242	Brownheaded Cowbird	18
Pileated Woodpecker	37	Wood Thrush	1	Cardinal	248
Red-bellied Woodpecker	95	Hermit Thrush	14	Rosebreasted Grosbeak	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	Swainson's Thrush	1	Evening Grosbeak	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	24	Eastern Bluebird	39	Purple Finch	43
Hairy Woodpecker	11	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	Pine Siskin	18
Downey Woodpecker	19	Golden-crowned Kinglet	68	American Gold Finch	153
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker	12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	219	Rufous-sided towhee	268
Eastern Phoebe	24	Cedar Waxwing	61	Savannah Sparrow	62
Blue Jay	253	Loggerhead Shrike	6	Grasshopper Sparrow	4
Common Crow	202	Starling	121	LeConte's Sparrow	4
Fish Crow	37	White-eyed Vireo	9	Henslow's Sparrow	4
Carolina Chickadee	102	Solitary Vireo	4	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	9
Tufted Titmouse	49	Black and White Warbler	2	Seaside Sparrow	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	12	Orange Crowned Warbler	3	Vesper Sparrow	15
Brownheaded Nuthatch	66	Myrtle Warbler	1158	Bachmans Sparrow	2
Brown Creeper	3	Yellow-throated Warbler	7	Slate-colored Junco	145
House Wren	13	Pine Warbler	118	Chipping Sparrow	54
Winter Wren	9	Prairie Warbler	11	Field Sparrow	45
Carolina Wren	109	Palm Warbler	1	White Crowned Sparrow	1
Long-billed Marsh Wren	7	Yellow throat	28	White-throated Sparrow	428
Short-billed Marsh Wren	3	House Sparrow	30	Sparrow	428
Mockingbird	56	Eastern Meadowlark	123	Fox Sparrow	59
Catbird	10	Red-wing Blackbird	794	Swamp Sparrow	230
		Rusty Blackbird	5	Song Sparrow	197
		Boat tailed Grackle	359	Total Species	162
		Individuals			12,772

Julian R. Harrison III

This was a fine census and one that all participants can look upon with pride. The 162 species was 15 more than last year. The unusual weather probably contributed to the low numbers of vultures and the absence of ospreys and eagles but may also have contributed to large numbers of perching birds like the thrushes, warblers and sparrows. My experience is that small birds are very active after heavy showers and this certainly was the case in the I'on Swamp area. Some of the most interesting species were: American Bittern, Whistling Swans, Blue Geese, the Hawks, the Rails, Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Pine Siskins and the less common Sparrows.

CITADEL BIOLOGY SEMINARS

The following seminars will be held at 8:00 PM in Duckett Hall Auditorium; Room 101. They are free and open to the public.

Thursday, January 31

Dr. Jay B. Hair, Associate Professor, Department of Economic Zoology, Clemson University
Topic: The Usefulness of Measures of Nitch Width and Nitch Overlap in Analysis of Helminth Communities in Waterfowl

North of Procyon and east of Auriga are Gemini, the Twins, or Castor and Pollux. The brighter of the two is pollux, thought Castor is just slightly less than first magnitude.

If one continues to watch a few hours longer, the Big Dipper will come into full view in the northeast. It will appear to be balanced on the tip of its handle. Polaris may now be located by following the Pointers, the two outer stars in the bowl of the Big Dipper.

Since many people are astir before dawn, these days, those who have a good view of the southeast may be able to see Venus, which rises about an hour and a half before the sun.

Elizabeth D. Simons

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was very encouraged by the turn-out at the last meeting. I hope this continues for future meetings.

I was very disturbed to hear from a resident of Riverland Terrace that children in that area have been shooting birds with B-B guns. I am sure that these young people have not been properly instructed in the protection of our wildlife and more's the pity for them and their parents. I hope that all of you will contact the proper authorities and make certain that the laws concerning protection of birds are strictly enforced, and if the opportunity presents itself, please try to educate these young people and their parents.

Alan M. Bills

OBSERVATIONS

Dec.	6	200 Red Phalaropes	5 mi East C2 buoy, Charleston	Peter Laurie
*	9	Clay-colored Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent
*	16	Clay-colored Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Chris & Perry Nugent
*	25	Clay-colored Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Chris & Perry Nugent
	26	12 Purple Sandpipers	Rocks at Fort Moultrie	Peter Laurie
**		2 ♀ Common Eiders	Off Fort Moultrie	Peter Laurie
**	30	2 ♀ Common Eiders	Off Fort Moultrie	Peter Laurie & Dennis Forsythe
*	31	Immature Clay-colored Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry & Chris Nugent
Jan.	2	6 Snow Geese	Over St. Andrews Center	Perry Nugent
**	6	1 ♀ Common Eider	In surf at Fort Moultrie	Julian Harrison & Perry Nugent
	9	8 Fulvous Tree Ducks	Clemson Experiment Station	Perry Nugent
*	10	Clay-colored Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry & Chris Nugent
	12	Kohoutek	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry & Chris Nugent
***	13	to present Lincoln's Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry & Chris Nugent
	20	Swainson's Thrush	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry & Chris Nugent
		Short-eared Owl	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry & Chris Nugent
		Light Phase. Paracitic	Jager Edisto Beach	Dennis Forsythe

* These Clay-colored Sparrows were observed in good light with 7-10 power binoculars. In each case the bird was sitting on our feeder with one or more Chipping Sparrows. It is possible the observations of December 9, 16, 25 and January 10 were of the same bird. A more detailed report will be in a later issue of the Lesser Squawk.

** I assume there were two Eiders in the Fort Moultrie area and they would be the third and fourth records for the state.

*** This Lincoln's Sparrow is still with us and usually arrives for his evening meal between 5:00 PM and dark. He has been observed in good light with 10 power binoculars at a distance of 20 feet for over 30 minutes at a time. We will have a more detailed account of our interesting guest after he departs. If you would like to see him, give us a call. We would be delighted to have you help confirm our belief that he has all the field marks of a Lincoln's Sparrow.

THE CHARLESTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual Christmas Bird Count was held December 30, 1973 with 43 observers in 10 parties and the following results.

TALLY OF CHRISTMAS COUNT 12-30-73

Species	No.	Species	No.	Species	No.
Common Loon	9	Wood Duck	20	Am Oystercatcher	203
Red-throated Loon	18	Ring-necked Duck	113	SemiPalmated Plover	13
Horned Grebe	35	Canvasback	190	Killdeer	12
Pied-billed Grebe	61	Greater Scaup	100	Black-bellied Plover	62
Red-necked Grebe	2	Scaup ?	60	Ruddy Turnstone	10
Brown Pelican	8	Bufflehead	96	Woodcock	3
Gannet	28	Surf Scoter	600	Common Snipe	61
Double-cr Cormorant	14	Common Scoter	102	Whimbrel	1
Anhinga	3	Ruddy Duck	107	Spotted Sandpiper	1
Great Blue Heron	43	Hooded Merganser	76	Willet	55
Green Heron	1	Red-breasted Merganser	94	Greater Yellowlegs	8
Little Blue Heron	14	Turkey Vulture	10	Dunlin	94
Common Egret	46	Black Vulture	16	Short-billed	
Snowy Egret	18	Shart-shinned Hawk	3	Dowitcher	39
Louisiana Heron	27	Coopers Hawk	4	Western Sandpiper	48
Black-cr Night Heron	32	Red-tailed Hawk	11	Marbled Godwit	6
Yellow-cr Night Heron	1	Red-shouldered Hawk	15	Great Black-backed	
American Bittern	1	Broad-winged Hawk	1	Gull	1
White Ibis	3	Marsh Hawk	17	Herring Gull	350
Whistling Swan	18	Pigeon Hawk	1	Ring-billed Gull	195
Blue Goose	5	Sparrow Hawk	18	Laughing Gull	36
Mallard	231	Bobwhite	21	Bonaparte's Gull	14
Black Duck	77	Turkey	1	Forster's Tern	35
Gadwall	33	King Rail	1	Common Tern	1
Pintail	50	Clapper Rail	36	Caspian Tern	8
Green-wing Teal	190	Virginia Rail	1	Black Skimmer	21
Blue-winged Teal	50	Sora	5	Mourning Dove	293
American Wigeon	104	Common Gallinule	62	Great Horned Owl	5
Shoveler	105	Coot	600	Barred Owl	8