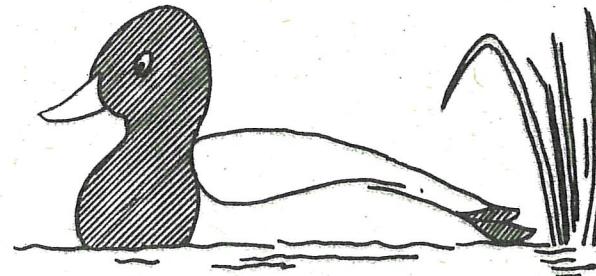


the lesser

Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, January 1975, Volume XXVI No. I

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

Monthly meeting Tuesday, January 14, 1975
Charleston Museum Lecture Hall

PROGRAM

Speaker: John Henry Dick
Topic: Trip to Greenland

FIELD TRIP, SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1975

This month's trip will be to the Santee Wildlife Refuge where ducks and geese should be present in abundance. Dr. Julian Harrison will be the leader for this trip and those wishing to make the trip should meet at the Charleston Museum at 6 a.m. on January 19, 1975.

Carolina Bird Club Winter Meeting will take place Friday, Saturday, Sunday 24th, 25th, 26th January, 1975 at Atlantic Beach, North Carolina (Moorehead City Area). Headquarters: Showboat Motel overlooking Bogue Sound at the foot of the Atlantic Beach Bridge on the Causeway. Manager of Motel Mr. Bernie Dunn, Box 38, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina, Tel: (919) 726-6163.

Accomodations: Showboat Motel has 42 double units-\$12.00 per unit-either single or double occupancy. \$3.00 per person extra in room-under 12 no charge.

Campsites: Salter Path, N. C. Arrowhead Campsites 726-7974

Family Campgrounds 726-2710

Squatter's Campsites 726-3515

Moorehead City Pender Park Campgrounds 726-4982

X Hiways 58 & 24 Vacation Village 326-5123

Restaurants: "Flemings" adjoining the Motel. Good seafood restaurant. Mrs. Lucille Willis, Manager. Open for early breakfast at 6 a.m. Saturday morning - Will pack box lunches.

Registration: Begins at 3:30 Friday afternoon at the Key Club, 2nd Deck of the Showboat Motel.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Membership to the Carolina Bird Club is open to anyone interested in birds, natu-



& Mrs T A Beckett III
Gnolia Gardens Route 4
arleston S C 29407

ral history and conservation. The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. is a non-profit educational and scientific organization.

Dues for students \$2.00
Dues for regular membership \$5.00
Dues for family membership \$7.50

Checks should be made payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., and sent to C.B.C. Headquarters, Post Office Box 1220, Tryon, North Carolina, 28782

Notice

Professor Frank Seabury will offer a course in Micology during the spring semester at the Citadel. The course will be at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday evenings and will cover many aspects of the fungi. The first meeting will be on January 23. One may audit the course or receive graduate or undergraduate credit. For information call 723-0611, EXT. 286.

E. Burnham Chamberlain Research Grant

The Charleston Natural History Society is pleased to announce that an annual grant of \$250.00 will be offered for research into any phase of natural history. This grant will be named in honor of E. Burnham Chamberlain in recognition of his past contributions to the Society and to conservation in general.

Eligibility

All persons having an interest in any phase of natural history. Preference will be given to students, non-professionals (non-science), and members of CNHS.

Application

Applications should be made in writing to the committee chairman,

Dr. John Reed
Department of Biology
The Citadel
Charleston, S. C., 29409

not later than
January 15, 1975

The letter should contain an outline of the proposed project with an indication of how the money will be spent.

Requirements

A written report will be required to be submitted within two months of the termination of the grant; but in any event not later than 15 months from the date of the awarding of the grant. This grant is renewable upon examination and evaluation by the committee of the work completed.

The Sky-Watcher's Guide

All through the year, Earth-bound Sky-watchers follow with fascination the movements of the five naked-eye planets as they apparently travel among the stars. Looking like bright stars, themselves, it takes imagination as well as understanding to accept these heavenly bodies for what they are. Astronomically speaking, they are our nearest neighbors, whose distances can be measured in terms of miles. Having no light of their own, they reflect the light of the nearest star of all, - the Sun, - around which each one, (including the earth), revolves at a different rate of speed. Closest to the Sun is Mercury, making a complete rev-

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
December 3	Red Fox	U.S.Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
7	Palm Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
8	Cooper's Hawk	U.S.Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent
9 and 10	2 Solitary Vireos	Summerville	Edmund Cuthbert
*	9 Lincoln's Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry & Cris Nugent
13	70 Mourning Doves	Porter Gaud	Mrs. Berkely Grimal
	Screech Owl	Citadel	John & Mary Reed
** 14	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Robert E. Lee Blvd.	Julian & Margie
	Immature Bald Eagle	Off I26-Airport	Harrison
	American Bittern	Magnolia Gardens	Margie Harrison
15	Wood Stork	Dawho Bridge	Ted Beckett
		Edisto Island	Edmund and Robert
			Cuthbert

* This Lincoln's Sparrow seems to be the same bird that spent the winter with us last year. It is quite familiar with our area and can be seen daily.

** This Sharp-shinned Hawk flew through the screen on Julian Harrison's porch. After the Harrison's were sure it was not injured it was released.

Ted Beckett also reports many Anhingas, Water Pipits, Goldfinches, two Pigeon Hawks and a Peregrine Falcon at the Garden. He and Stan Langston saw 3 adults and 1 immature Bald Eagles at South Island recently.

Audubon Wildlife Film
Tuesday-January 7, 1975
at Baruch Auditorium

The film "Florida Cypress Santuary Fisheating Creek" by Richard Kern will be shown at 7:30 p.m. - Admission \$1.50.

Richard Kern and nine others purchased 400 acres surrounding a mile of Florida's Fisheating Creek. Their purpose was to preserve the land and its wildlife. This film is Kern's exploration of the land and its creek with film studies of the creek in rain and at night. There is a careful study of dragon flies, spiders and wasps and a sequence on the otter and alligator. Throughout, members of the group of landowners are seen enjoying and sharing the beauty of their land.

For further information call Jack Pratt, Jr. at 883-3656.

Officers

President: Alan M. Bills, 116 Presidents Circle, Summerville, S. C., 29483
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olution in eighty-eight days; next is Venus, running its course in about 225 days; and the third outward from the Sun is our home-planet, Earth, whose slower pace requires a little more than 365 days to complete one revolution. This accounts for the elusive behavior of Mercury, as it appears to change rapidly from an "Evening Star" to a "Morning Star", and for the fact that neither Mercury nor Venus is ever visible overhead in the night sky. Mars, which is twice as far from the Sun as is Earth, takes twice as long to circle the Sun. These are known as the inner planets, spaced apart with fair regularity. An enormous distance, which puzzled early astronomers, separates Mars from Jupiter, the next planet outward, and beyond Jupiter is Saturn, more than twice as far away again.

In January, 1801, an Italian astronomer discovered, through his telescope, a very small body in motion between Mars and Jupiter, and as telescopes were improved through the years that followed, thousands of these bodies were revealed. They are called Asteroids.

Individual asteroids behave rather erratically, sometimes leaving their orbit to move closer to Earth than Mars, and then returning to join their group. One of the largest of the asteroids, Eros, is expected to do exactly that this January, 1975. For months, astronomers have been following it through the large telescopes, and charting the course that it is taking. By the 22nd of the month, it will be of the 8th magnitude, - too faint for detection by the unaided eye, but visible in small telescopes. About 8:00 p.m., it will be located just south of Pollux, the brighter star in Gemini, and quite near it. This will be the closest approach of Eros since 1931, and it will not return this near until 2019. Telescope owners might be able to watch it for a few nights as it travels downward away from Pollux, toward the horizon. In a 24-hour period, it will move about one degree, - a distance equal to about twice the apparent diameter of the Full Moon.

Four of the planets may be seen in the evening sky during January, Venus, climbing higher into view each day following the sunset, will be joined by Mercury soon after New Years Day. Mercury will then be nearer to the horizon, but by the 23rd, it will reach its greatest eastern elongation, at which time it will appear very close to Venus. Jupiter is also in the west, setting about two hours later. On January 6, Saturn will rise as the sun sets, and in the twilight that follows, it may be located just north of east.

Mars is a "Morning Star", visible in the northeast about 5:30 o'clock, shortly before the dawn.

During the hours before midnight, this month, the sky is spectacularly beautiful. Orion, located near the meridian, is standing upright high in the south. About ten degrees east of his right knee is a brilliant star, scintillating with all the flashing colors of a diamond. This is Sirius, the brightest star that can be seen from Earth. It is also called the "Dog Star", because it is the only conspicuous one in Canis Major, Orion's Great Dog. Canis Minor, the Lesser Dog, is located almost 20 degrees northeast of Sirius. The only bright star in this constellation is called Procyon.

Castor and Pollux are northwest of Canis Minor. Pollux, the brighter of the two, is about 15 degrees from Procyon. It is in the vicinity of Pollux that the movement of Eros may be traced through the telescope.

Elizabeth D. Simons

Bird Movements in January

Arrivals

Date Species
7 White Pelican

Date Species
8 Great-Black-backed Gull

Date Species
13 Fulvous tree Duck
24 Snowy Owl

Departures

Date Species
18 Western Kingbird
31 Brant

As you know the above species are rare any time they occur in the Lowcountry. There are very few changes in the bird populations this month. These birds have occurred often enough to establish some sort of pattern in their movements. Those listed below have occurred at least once during January in our area and should be reported if you are lucky enough to see one.

Eared Grebe
Shearwater
Blue-faced Booby
Cinnamon Teal
Harlequin Duck
King Eider
Harlan's Hawk
Reddish Egret
Wilson's Plover
Stilt Sandpiper
Razor-billed Auk
Snowy Owl
Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Vermilion Flycatcher
Great-crested Flycatcher
Purple Martin
Black and White Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Northern Waterthrush
Yellow-breasted Chat
Baltimore Oriole
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel
Green-tailed Towhee
Snow Bunting

Hepatica

Many plants come into growth during our winter months, but not many produce blooms in January. One that sometimes does is Hepatica americana, a plant of rich woods, is rarely found in the coastal plain, preferring the Piedmont and more northern areas. Hepatica americana produces bluish flowers that cluster down among the three-lobed, evergreen leaves.

Under the Doctrine of Signatures plants that bore a resemblance to a human organ were thought to have curative properties for that body part, and the lobed leaves of the Hepatica resembled a liver, hence its generic name. Hepaticas are woodland plants of the North Temperate Zone, and are members of the crowfoot family, Ranunculaceae. In our mountains Hepatica acutiloba can be found blooming in rich, spring-time woods. Its leaves have acute leaves as the specific name implies.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

Observations

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
October 26	2 Blue Geese	Folly Beach	Velja Ciric
November 24	2 Avocets	Moores Landing	Ted Beckett
	27 Blue-winged Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Mrs. Francis Barrington
	29 Brown Creeper	Summerville	Edmund Cuthbert