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PROGRAM FOR APRIL

April 11

Regular Meeting Lecture Room Charleston Museum, 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Mrs. M.M. MacLennan. Spring Wildflowers.

April 16

All-day Field Trip to Adam's Run Area. Leader Mrs. Leonard Glover
 Meet Dupont Crossing 6:30 a.m. Proceed south on hwy. 17 to Osborn
 Post Office. Turn right-drive 2 miles to brick house on left.

Bring lunch and insecticide

April 29 (Sat)

Spring Bird Count. Meet 'Gregories' Store 6:30 a.m. for assignment.

(BIRD MOVEMENT IN APRIL

(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

1 Solitary Sandpiper
 Swainson's Warbler
 Yellow Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 4 Cliff Swallow
 Indigo Bunting (Beckett)
 5 American Redstart
 (R. Coleman)
 early Scarlet Tanager

6 Blue Grosbeak	17 Magnolia Warbler
7 Worm-eating Warbler	18 Blue-winged Warbler
Kentucky Warbler	19 Gray Kingbird
8 Sandwich Tern	21 Swainson's Thrush
10 Purple Gallinule	23 Black-billed Cuckoo
Bobolink	24 Chestnut-sided Warbler
12 Black-thr. Blue Warbler	25 Upland Plover (R. Coleman)
13 Gray-cheeked Thrush	27 Kirkland's Warbler
14 Wood Pewee	28 Bank Swallow (Blitch)
mid Gull-billed Tern	

Casuals and Accidentals

Red Phalarope
 Golden-winged Warbler

Bay-breasted Warbler Dickcissel
 Yellow-headed Blackbird Lark Bunting

• • There have been three sightings of the Dickcissel in a fairly wide-spread area West of the Ashley in February and March of this year. Is it becoming a regular visitant?

Departures		
2 Whistling Swan	18 Canvasback	27 Broad-winged Hawk
3 Old Squaw	20 Common Goldeneye	Solitary Vireo
5 Virginia Rail	21 Pine Siskin	Purple Finch
6 Glaucous Gull	Brown-headed Cowbird	28 Whip-poor-will
7 Rough-legged Hawk	(Beckett) ^o	Red-breasted Nuthatch
8 Ipswich Sparrow	22 Water Pipit	Palm Warbler
9 Golden-cr. Kinglet	24 Bufflehead	29 Rusty Blackbird
11 Baltimore Oriole	Winter Wren	30 Pintail
13 Henslow's Sparrow	26 Blue Goose	early Greater Scaup
14 Brown Creeper	Parasitic Jaeger	late Short-eared Owl
Phoebe (Beckett) ^o	Louisiana Waterthrush	
16 Common Merganser	27 Evening Grosbeak	
Robin		

^o Whenever the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

OBSERVATIONS :

Edwin Blitch reports Purple Martins at his place in South Riverview on March 8, and a male Dickcissel singing near Dill's Bluff Road on March 14. Ted Beckett heard a Chuck-wills-widow at Magnolia Gardens on March 3. Early date according to Sprunt and Chamberlain is March 11. He also reports Glossy Ibis on March 12. Ernie Cutts heard Parula Warblers early in March.

MARCH FIELD TRIP.

Maybe some day, once again, we will have a perfect day for a field trip. At least March 18 was beautifully bright and sunny, but thirty degrees in the sun which stayed that way all morning, with a strong wind straight off the ice fields of the North Pole made birding less than ideal. Visibility was wonderful, but the birds were staying under cover.

Ten members braved the icy blasts and drove slowly down the Bee's Ferry Road making stops, peering into bushes and walking down side roads, all in vain until we reached the last part of the road where we found a little gathering of birds which made us feel that all was not lost. The only spring migrants we found were a number of Parula Warblers and after the party broke up Edwin Blitch discovered a Yellow-throated Vireo.

On Wallace Pond was a small flock of American Widgeons (Balldpates) and what some of us were reasonably certain was a Fulvous Tree Duck. It was near, but not with, the Widgeons and its brown sides and long neck seemed diagnostic, but we could not see any white in the tail (another field mark) which made it a bit doubtful. Anyhow, Tree Duck or not, it gave a pleasant finale to our chilly trip. We positively identified 46 species and had a fine social time in spite of the cold. Those attending were: Edwin Blitch, Ruth Clement, Wilhelmina Coleman, Edmund Cuthbert, Kitty Fugiel, Dorothy Glover, Leila Miles, Eileen Rice, Dory and Dan Smith.

W.M.C.

APRIL !!!

April in the Low Country is a time of breath-taking beauty. The woods are a bower of blooms and the air is soft and balmy. Birds and peepers are singing; all nature alive and lovely. Our April trip is to the heart of one of our mysterious swamps and our April program will tell of some of the flowers we should find there. Most of our migrants will have arrived by then and we should see many of them. Don't miss either the meeting or the field trip. Both are exceptional.

THE SKY-WATCHER'S GUIDE.

The appearance of the sky shortly after dark during April may be likened to a panoramic view of the earth from a mountain-top. Just as one may see, from the peak, the valleys which are divided by the mountain, so in the sky at this time, an observer may see the winter constellations retreating in the west, and the heralds of summer appearing in the east. Sprawling across the meridian is Leo, facing west, with the bright star, Regulus on the ecliptic.

Venus is the most brilliant object in the evening sky. It may be seen in the west in early twilight, not setting until 9:00 o'clock at the beginning, and 10 o'clock at the end of this month (Eastern Standard Time). On April 12, a strikingly beautiful sight will be produced by Venus and the crescent moon when they will appear to be near together. Jupiter continues to form an obtuse triangle with Castor and Pollux in Gemini. It will be about 15 degrees west of overhead at dark by mid-month. Mars will reach opposition to the sun on April 15. On that evening, it will rise at sunset, and by dark it may be located near the bright star Spica, in the southeast. Since it will be at the full phase, Mars will appear larger and brighter than at any other time during 1967. On April 22, the moon, nearly full, will be seen just west of Mars. A small triangle will thus be formed by the moon, a planet, and a star.

"STARS OF SPRING" will be the topic of the program at the Planetarium on April 17, at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

TURN-OUTS ON HALSEY BOULEVARD.

At the March meeting, acting on a previous suggestion by Mrs. Metcalf, a motion was made that a letter be written to the proper authorities asking that a water-front paved turn-out be provided on Halsey Boulevard for the benefit of bird watchers. A prompt and favorable reply has been received by the secretary from Mayor Gaillard, enclosing a copy of a letter from him to the State Highway Department asking consideration in this matter. Mayor Gaillard's letter follows:

Dear Mr. Metcalf:

Thank you for your letter regarding pull-off places on Lockwood Drive for the purpose of observing wildlife and taking pictures.

I believe this is an excellent idea, and I will first see if the Highway Department will construct these places for us as the Drive is under their jurisdiction. If the Highway Department refuses, I am sure that the City can do same.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely, J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr.

Mayor.

It is to be hoped that the mayor's recommendation will bring results.

WILSON'S WARBLER.

Edwin Blitch reports that on March 27 he and Ted Beckett saw and heard a Wilson's Warbler at Magnolia Gardens. South Carolina Bird Life lists this bird as a rare transient visitor from May 5 to 17 and in November. Thus this is a most interesting record.