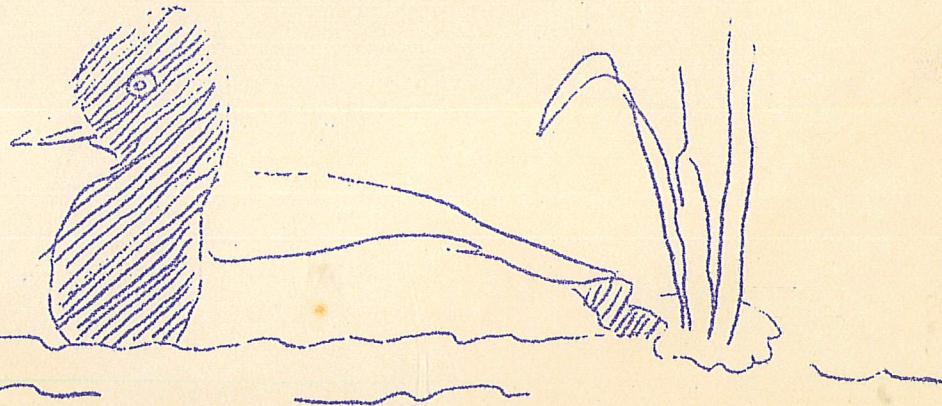


the lesser
Squawk.



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PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER:

No meeting nor field trip scheduled for December
On Saturday, December 28 members will take part
in the annual Audubon Winter Bird Census

BIRD MIGRATION IN DECEMBER
(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

13 Great Black-backed Gull (I. S. H. Metcalf) 15 White-fronted Goose 29 Purple Sandpiper

1 Common Nighthawk

Departures
8 Bobolink

12 Glossy Ibis
(Williams et al.)
? Golden Plover

3 Yellow-crnd Night Heron
(Coleman)°

Casuals and Accidentals

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mute Swan | Dovkie | Black-thr. Gray Warbler |
| King Eider | Burrowing Owl | Yellow-brst. Chat (Cuthbert)° |
| Sandhill Crane | Rufus Hummingbird | Hooded Warbler (Coleman)° |
| Lapwing | Gt.-Crested Flycatcher | Bobolink |
| Baird's Sandpiper | Vermillion Flycatcher | Western Tanager |
| Red Phalarope | (Wilcox)° | (Barringtons)° |
| Long-tailed Jaeger | Gray-cheeked Thrush | Wood Thrush |
| | (Cutts)° | (Cutts)° |

°If the arrival or departure date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life,
the authority is given in parentheses.

The Least Bittern is omitted from the list of departures as T. A. Beckett, III has
found it wintering at Magnolia Gardens for the past two years.

AUDUBON BIRD CENSUS

December, because of preparations for the holidays, is our slack month as far as trips and meetings are concerned, but in spite of that a very important month, because of the annual winter bird count. It will take ^{place} this year on Saturday, Dec. 28, not 29 as printed in the list of the year's activities. (many apologies for the error) As has been the case for many years the workers will assemble at the junction of highways 17 and 41 at 7 a.m. Sat. Dec. 28. Also as in the past Mr. Burnham Chamberlain will be in charge. He is already mapping out plans and forming his groups. Those who will be available should get in touch with Mr. Chamberlain well before that date. As has been said many times before, this is properly our most important serious project. Groups work from dawn till dark-rain or shine-hot or cold. (mostly cold) It is most interesting and good fun, but also real hard work. Last year we observed 136 species and of course hope to better the record this year and so will need plenty of earnest workers. You don't have to be an expert to qualify as each group is headed by an expert who will be glad of extra fingers to point out the game.

MIGRANT RECORDS

This month too we compile summer departure and winter arrival dates. Lists have been sent to those desiring them. They should be in Mr. Ellison Williams' hands by Dec. 10. This is also an important project of the Natural Society and we should like very much to have more than 5 or 6 participants. (a forlorn hope, I fear)

PORPOISES AND GULL

On a bright, sunny, mid-October afternoon three of us were doing a little fishing from a landing on a Wadmalaw Island creek. It soon became evident the porpoises were doing better than we were. On the opposite side of the creek, here some 60 or 75 yards wide, four or five of the animals were busy.

We watched a group "rushing" small fish out of the water onto a rather steeply sloping bank. Four or five times the porpoises teamed up as a group of three (perhaps four at a time) to rush almost abreast onto the mud. Once or twice we could see small fish (perhaps 5-6 inches long) thrown up onto the bank. Then, one of the animals would wait, perhaps half-way out of water, until a fish flopped back down the bank, and near enough to be grasped and swallowed.

Often there was considerable commotion as the feeding porpoises milled about in the shallow water near the bank. Quite obviously in the fishing activities of the porpoises was a gull (I think a Ring-billed) which flew along in apparent attendance on the animals. Two or three times the bird lit within five to fifteen feet of the bank-sliding porpoises. But never near enough, or quick enough, or perhaps bold enough at the right time to snatch a fish before a porpoise got it. One felt however that the gull must on occasion benefit by being on hand at the right moment.

We watched the bird and porpoises as they worked up the creek some 2-300 yards before a bend in the creek hid them from view. -E. B. C.
(2-3 pm, Oct. 16/63. Temp. 82°. Wind SE c. 15 mph)

While our minds are on porpoises the following observation may be of interest. On Oct. 26, the day after our flirtation with Ginny, the editor with her son and his family were watching the water at Folly when they saw several porpoises quite close to shore. They were cruising up and down and apparently enjoying the nice after-storm weather. We were watching them fairly closely when we all at one time exclaimed, "One is white". It appeared several times and while of course we saw only part of the animal, what we saw seemed definitely albinistic. Maybe young porpoises are not dark. The writer doesn't know enough about porpoises to say.

The November Meeting

Those who were so unfortunate as to be unable to attend our November meeting missed an unusually fine program. Mrs. Barrington's color slides were even better than those she has shown in the past and her talk was exceptionally well coordinated with especial emphasis on the natural history aspects of their trip. All in all a most enjoyable evening. Thank you both Barringtons.

NEW MEMBERS

It gives us great pleasure to welcome the following new members

Mr. H. E. Armstrong

Dr. & Mrs. J. B. Harrison

Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Griffin

Mrs. Bella B. King

Mr. Scott W. Hall

Mrs. Ben M. Martin

Mr. Allen Jones

Miss Edmonia Martin

Mr. B. Simms McDowell, Jr.

Nesting Notes from Effingham

Mr. E. C. Clyde, Jr., our member from Effingham, S.C. writes "On Sept. 18 I found a nest of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo with 2 eggs. Both hatched on the 19th." Sprunt and Chamberlain say that the Yellow-billed Cuckoo raises two broods a year and quote Wayne as saying that the second brood is laid in August. Thus it would seem that Sept. 19 is a late record. It should be remembered, however, that Wayne's records were made about forty years ago and Sprunt and Chamberlain was published in 1949. With the increasing number of observers in the field past records are constantly being changed, which why it is so important for our members to keep and report all bird data.

BEAR ISLAND FIELD TRIP

Fortune smiled on us at last and brought a beautiful day for the Bear Island trip. The sky was bright and cloudless, no icy winds blowing in over the water to chill our fingers and noses and make it difficult to hold binoculars steady. A perfect day! There were big flocks of ducks in the distance but not too many in the near-by ponds. We saw 87 species in all including birds of woods and fields as well as water birds. No geese, but at least one Golden Eagle and a number of Pipits, the first to be reported this fall. Thirty-one members and guests in seven cars left Duponts at seven under the leadership of the Chamberlain brothers, who filled in for Ted Beckett unfortunately laid low with flu.

We were particularly glad to have with us these ~~not~~ members of the Pee Dee Bird Club- Mr. E. C. Clyde, Mr. & Mrs. Vivien Cash, Miss Maud McClam and Dr. D. L. McLean. We were also delighted to welcome again Mr. & Mrs. Albert Leeberg, guests of the Richardsons, who made the Bear Island trip with us in the rain two years ago.

The following members and guests also attended:

Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. F. Barrington, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Button, B. R. and E. B. Chamberlain, Mrs. R. H. Coleman, Mrs. Lois Doscher, Mrs. J. L. Griffin, Jesse Griffin, Jr., Mr. Charles Haddock, Dr. & Mrs. J. B. Harrison, Mr. E. R. Cuthbert, Jr., Mr. R. E. Holland, Mrs. L. S. Miles, Mr. John Quinby, Mrs. M. A. Retallack, Mr. & Mrs. M. D. Richardson, Marvin Richardson ~~and~~ and Miss Elizabeth Simons.