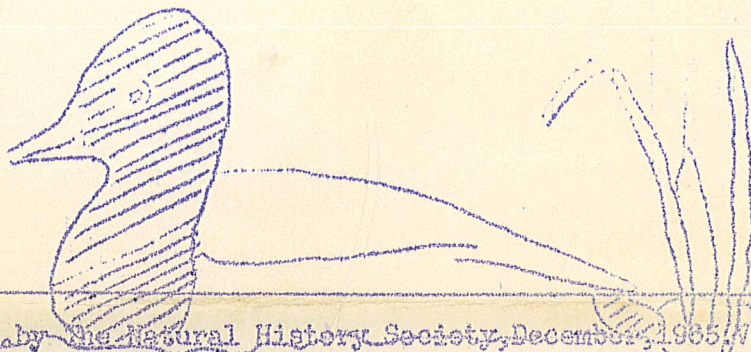


the
lessen
Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by the Natural History Society, December, 1965, Vol. XII No. 6
Editor and Publisher: Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, 774 Ft. Sumter Dr., Lawton Bluff, Charleston, S.C.

• • • OFFICERS • • •

President: Harry W. Freeman, 1340 Bluebird Dr., Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Vice-president: Ernest A. Cutts, 1466 Edgewater Dr., Edgewater Park, Charleston, S.C.

Secretary-Treasurer: B. Rhett Chamberlain, Box 48, Route 1, Wadmalaw Island, S.C.

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

No meeting and no Field Trips in December.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER
(in the Charleston area)

13 Great-Black-backed Gull
(I.S.H. Metcalf)°

15 White-fronted Goose

29 Purple Sandpiper

Departures.

1 Common Nighthawk

8 Bobolink

12 Glossy Ibis

3 Yellow-crowned Night Heron
(Coleman)°

? Golden Plover

(Williams et al)°

Casuals and Accidentals

Mute Swan

Dovekie

Black-throated Gray Warbler

King Eider

Burrowing Owl

Yellow-breasted Chat (Guthbert)°

Sandhill Crane

Rufus Hummingbird

Hooded Warbler (Coleman)°

Lapwing

Gr. Crested Flycatcher

Bobolink

Baird's Sandpiper

Vermillion Flycatcher

Western Tanager (Barringtons)°

Red Phalarope

(Wilcox)°

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Long-tailed Jaeger

Wood Thrush (Cutts)°

Gray-cheeked Thrush (Cutts)°

°If the dates are not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

From the above lists it will be seen that far more "casual and accidental" records are made in December than records of regular arrivals. Perhaps it would be worth-while to be on the lookout for these casual visitors and maybe establish regular December arrival dates for some of them. Also, as the birds seem to be changing their old established habits we should be constantly looking for strangers.

Once again our bird looks a bit strange! Please put it down to "after-holiday rush," and excuse it.

.. The red-faced editor.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count is held each year all over the country at some time between December 22 and January 2. Our society usually makes its count on the first Saturday after Christmas. As that Saturday this year falls on New Years Day the leaders have decided to depart from our Saturday custom hold it on the last permissible day, Sunday, January 2. E. Burnham Chamberlain, as in the past, is organizer and compiler. Those who wish to take part and have not already been reached are asked to get in touch with him.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

The Carolina Bird Club will hold its regular winter meeting and field trip this year in Charleston on January 14-15-16. Full details as to various activities will be printed in the January issue of the Lesser Scaup.

The Charleston Natural History Society is an affiliate of C.B.C. and some of our members belong individually. This is the third time the club has had its winter meeting in Charleston, and it is hoped that we will all make it a memorable one.

SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE.

An Indian name for December is 'Long Night Month'. For some, the connotation may be depressing, but for the space-minded, it means good hunting. By six o'clock, the daylight has entirely gone, and on every clear night, a field rich in splendor is spread out above our heads.

Like a large, sparkling jewel, Venus will be seen shining in the southwestern sky all month, for at least two hours after sunset. It will reach its greatest brilliancy on December 21. Saturn, a little west of south at dark, will set at 11:30 at the beginning of the month, and two hours earlier at the end. Jupiter may be viewed all night long, since it rises at dark, or shortly before. Mercury will appear briefly as a 'Morning Star' in the southeast. It will reach its greatest western elongation, or the greatest distance west of the sun, on the 20th or 21st, about 5:30 a.m.

When we look to the east as soon as it is dark, we welcome the return of the Pleiades, Taurus, and Orion, all well above the horizon. The brilliant star Sirius follows closely during the early evening hours. High in the northeast, Capella shines with a yellow light. 'Dangling' from it, to the south, are two faint stars, forming a small triangle.

When we face north, we find that the Big Dipper is hidden by haze and obstructions, but the W-shaped figure of Cassiopeia is high in view. By using it as a guide, the North Star may be located about midway toward the horizon.

The December program at the Planetarium will be held on Dec. 13, at 8:00 p.m. The topic will be 'THE CHRISTMAS STAR!'

Elizabeth D. Simons,

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

On November 13, (a misty, moist morning), under the leadership of Ted Metcalf, Mr. & Mrs. F. Barrington, Burnham Chamberlain, Miss Ruth Clements, Mrs. R. H. Coleman, Mrs. J. A. King, George Maxwell, Tom Metcalf, Miss Nell Prior, Mrs. L. S. Smith and Ellison Williams, armed with lunch and raincoats, left the Museum for our first all-day field trip of this season to Camp Seewee on the Inland Waterway near Awendaw. The spot was ideal, the company delightful but the birds sulked in the bushes and refused to be counted. Not so the mosquitoes, which descended in thirsty hordes. Tramping over wet leaves and grass we managed to scare up a few myrtles and kinglets and the bright spot of the day was a most cooperative Barred Owl which sat in a small tree and permitted close viewing by all. At shortly before 11 we retreated to closed cars to shut out the mosquitoes, ate lunch and called it a day. On the way home we stopped at Moore's Landing and the beautiful new concrete pier stretching out to low-water mark, allowed us to get a fine view of a large flock of Marbled Godwits and Oyster Catchers, so all was not lost.

In spite of drippy weather and hungry insects we had a fine morning and thanks are due to Ted Metcalf for picking an ideal spot.

W.M.C.