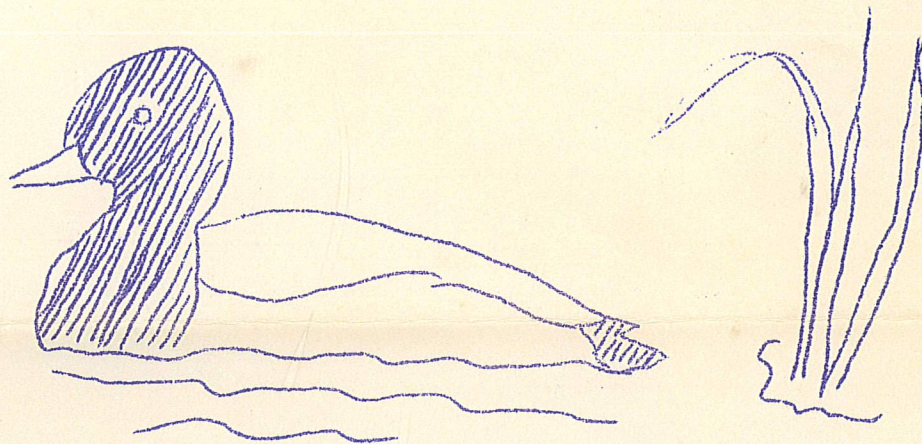


# the lesser Squawk



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## • • • OFFICERS • • •

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## - - - O O - - - PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

No Meeting - No regular Field Trip  
Sunday December 18  
Special Bird Count to Hobcaw Plantation  
For details see page 2  
Saturday December 31  
Annual Audubon Bird Census  
Meet Gregories' Store-Hwys. 17 & 41 7:00 a.m.,

## BIRD MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER ( in the Charleston area )

13 Great-black-backed Gull

1 Common Nighthawk

### Arrivals

18 White-fronted Goose

### Departures

6 Bob-o-link

29 Purple Sandpiper

24 Saw-whet Owl

### Casuals and Accidentals

White Ibis  
Mute Swan  
Fulvous Tree Duck  
King Eider  
Sandhill Crane  
Lapwing  
Baird's Sandpiper

Red Phalarope  
Long-tailed Jaeger  
Snowy Owl  
Burrowing Owl  
Rufus Hummingbird  
Great-crested Flycatcher  
Vermillion Flycatcher

Wood Thrush  
Black and White Warbler  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Hooded Warbler  
Bob-o-link (Dec. 28)  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak



BIRD COUNTS

~~650000~~ December 18 and Saturday December 31.

Although in December we have no regular field trips, this year we will have two bird counts. The Natural History Society has been requested to make a serious and thorough census of the birds of Hobcaw Plantation near Georgetown.

Our President has asked Dr. Norman Chamberlain to take charge of this count as well as the annual Audubon count later in the month.

Participants in the Hobcaw count are to meet in the Mt. Pleasant Piggly Wiggly parking lot at the intersection of Highways 703 and 17 north at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Lunch will be provided at Hobcaw, therefore those planning to attend are asked to contact Dr. Norman Chamberlain 795-2793 or 795-3716 as soon as possible before Nov. 30, Dec. 3. This will be a working trip, but all members are welcome and a good turnout is desired.

Audubon Count

On Saturday December 31 our annual dawn to dark Audubon Mid-winter census will take place. Meet as usual at Gregories' store at 7:00 a.m. where Dr. Chamberlain will assign leaders and groups to the various areas.

This <sup>count</sup> which takes place every December all over the U.S. is sponsored by the Audubon Society and our records are studied with others from all parts of the country and is our biggest and most worthwhile project. Try to come.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP.

Our first long field trip of the season was to Kiawah Island. Twenty-eight members, led by Harry Freeman and Norman Chamberlain, spent a delightful day on the beach and in the woods. It was a bit chilly and quite windy in the early morning, but warmed up nicely by midday. Thanks are due to our leaders for a beautifully organized and well-planned trip, all the vantage points having been carefully surveyed the day before. Some of us not-too-young found climbing a five-foot gate and walking a so-called mile and a half, (I'm sure it was three) to our beautiful lunching place a bit of a job and nursed sore muscles for a day or so afterward, but all declared the trip wonderful. Sixty-one species were noted. Nothing spectacular, but some recently arrived winter residents-Red-throated Loon, Water pipits, Vesper Sparrows and Juncos among others. Those taking part were- (in order of their signatures) Tim Gwynette, Wilhelmina Coleman, Mr. & Mrs. Teague Coleman, Leila W. Miles, Louise M. Button, Elizabeth D. Simons, Louise S. Barrington, Francis Barrington, Peg Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, Dr. & Mrs. J. David Yount, Harry Freeman, Nell Prior, Heriot, Allan, E. R. Cuthbert, Jr., Alice and Calvin Clyde, L. S. Smith, D. B. Smith, Norman Chamberlain, Mr. & Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Retallack, Ruth Clements, Dorothy Glover, Katherine Riegel.

W.M.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

Louise Barrington, in answer to my plea, has sent in the following interesting and valuable observations. Parenthetically, all observations are valuable if we hope to learn anything about the apparent changing bird population.

Sept. 9-10 Veery, Oct. 6 Sapsucker, Oct. 16 Sparrow Hawk, Oct. 29 Virginia Rail, Oct. 30 Summer Tanager, Nov. 1 Hermit Thrush, Nov. 11 Swamp Sparrow, Nov. 13 Vesper Sparrow and Water Pipit.

She also reports the return of the Orange-crowned Warbler to her window feeder on Nov. 10. This is the 20th successive year that an Orange-crown has come to this feeder. This year's bird is more than likely the same one that was there last year as it flew straight to the feeder without stopping to reconnoiter. Most newcomers approach very cautiously.

Julian Harrison reports a Black Rail found in a dazed condition on George St. in the city and brought to him at the College. He took it to Anne Richardson whose skill in the care of sick or wounded birds is well known. She made several sketches of it but was unable to save it. What a shy marsh dwelling bird was doing on a busy city street is anyone's guess!

A Western Kingbird, a fairly uncommon visitor, was seen by the editor on a wire on Folly Beach on Nov. 1 at about the same place where one was seen several years ago.



## SKY-WATCHER

Our sky-watcher, Miss Elizabeth Simons, regrets that due to unusual pressure of work these past few weeks, she is unable to prepare her interesting review of coming events in the heavens. She does say, however, to look for Mercury, of first magnitude, during the first few mornings in December just before dawn. The subject of the Planetarium showing this month will be THE CHRISTMAS STAR? December 19 at 8:00 p.m.

Notes from New Hampshire.

Some of us undoubtedly remember very pleasantly Dr. James Cavanagh who was an active member of our society in 1958-59. When he finished his tour of duty at the Navy Yard he returned to his home in New Hampshire where he now practices medicine. We were delighted this fall to receive the following interesting field notes from him and hope these are only the first of many. He writes as follows: "Went to Isle of Shoals on Sept. 11 where we saw

2 Golden Plovers	1 Pigeon Hawk
1 Western Kingbird	1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
20 Northern Phalarope	1 Prairie Warbler
1 Bectoral Sandpiper	

He also says- Our best birder, Bob Smart saw 1000 Golden Plover fly over a football stadium (which he was sitting in) on Oct. 2 in New Hampton, N.H. J.E. Cavanagh, Jr.

Thank you, Dr. Cavanagh. We are always so glad to hear from our far-away members.

BIRD MOVEMENT.

For many years the early arrival and late departure dates of our migrating birds have been published in the Lesser Squawk each month. Since taking over the editorship of the Squawk, not being an expert, I have used the lists published in the back numbers for current data. These old lists in their turn depended on South Carolina Bird Life for authenticity. Thus, it is easy to see that the information published each month could well be out of date. From time to time vague suggestions as to a "log book" for authenticated observations have been made, but nothing has ever come of it.

There is much valuable material, given at monthly meetings, hidden in the secretaries' note books, which should be extracted and put in a special book or file. At some time S.C. Bird Life must be brought up to date and these records together with Ted Beckett's bird-banding findings would be a great help in that revision. Often people send me, as editor, interesting notes or early dates. They too are lost in the shuffle. Thus it would seem that there should be some one place where all reports are kept and the monthly reports brought into line with latest developments. Can't we do something about it, or are we just interested in looking at birds?

W.M.C.

Plea for '67.

Do you make New Year's resolutions? If so, please resolve to send in a few words now and then to the Lesser Squawk. This is your paper, not the exclusive vantage of the editor, and how I'd love to hear from you! Your remarks need not be about birds. Anything in nature is of interest. (See how I have been put to it this month to fill up a page.) Maybe we could have a question corner. Not that the editor could answer them, but she might possibly find someone who could. Have you seen a queer plant, bird, rock or even worm? Send a description in and see if we can identify it.

The Editor.