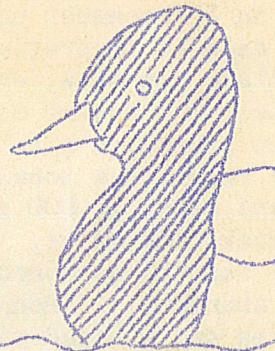


the  
lesser  
Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C., by The Natural History Society, February, 1962. Vol. IX. No. 9  
Editor, Robert H. Coleman, 1229 Old Towne Road, Charleston, S.C.

Publishers, The I.S.H. Metcalfs, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.

• • • OFFICERS • • •

President, T.A. Beckett, III, Magnolia Gardens, Johns Island, S.C.

Vice-president, Ellison A. Williams, 27 Limehouse Street, Charleston, S.C.

Secretary-Treasurer, B.Rhett Chamberlain, Wadmalaw, S.C.

Executive Committee: T.A. Beckett, III, E.A. Williams, B.R. Chamberlain, R.H. Coleman, I.S.H. Metcalf, I.S. Metcalf, Mrs. F. Barrington, Mrs. R.H. Coleman, R.E. Holland and Mrs. J.A. Leland

- - - o o - - -

— PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY —

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MEETING IN FEBRUARY

February 13

The Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 p.m.  
in the Lecture Room, Charleston Museum

February 18

Short Field Trip to the Causeway  
between Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island  
Leave Charleston Museum at 7:00 a.m.  
Leader: I.S.H. Metcalf

BIRD MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY

Arrivals

10 Rough-winged Swallow (Beckett)  
11 Yellow-breasted Chat (Beckett)  
28 Evening Grosbeak (Beckett)

Departures

23 Snow Goose  
? Dovekie

Casuals and Accidentals

Parula Warbler

Common Redpoll (Mills)°°

° Whenever the date is not taken from S.C. Bird Life, the authority is given.  
°° This bird was incorrectly listed last year as the Hoary Redpoll.

Harlequin Duck

Long-tailed Jaeger

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual winter bird census, conducted by CNHS and their friends in co-operation with the National Audubon Society, was held on 30 December under the leadership of Mr. E.B. Chamberlain. The area covered was the same as in previous years -- Bull's Island, the adjacent marshes and waterways, the mainland opposite, extending inland beyond the Wando River. This is an area of approximately 176 square miles. There were 19 observers divided into 6 field parties. The group patrolled a total of about 147 miles by car, 39 miles on foot and 8 miles by boat. They reported a total of 136 species and more than 28,000 individuals. In 1960, 141 species and about 16,000 individuals were recorded. The total this year included 19 species of ducks and geese, 11 of vultures and hawks, 7 of woodpeckers and 7 of herons and egrets. By far the commonest ducks seen were scaups and blue-winged teals. Robins, too, were very abundant. Among the rarities noted were two Swainson's thrushes, two grey-cheeked thrushes and a broad-winged hawk. These species are normally not seen seen in the Charleston area during the winter.

Taking part in the count were: Roy Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Blitch III, E.B. Chamberlain, B.R. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Coleman, R.D. Edwards, Robert Edwards, John Edwards, Peter Manigault, I.S.H. Metcalf, John Norlbeck, Mrs. M.D. Richardson, Newton Seebeck, Miss Elizabeth Simons and A.M. Wilcox.

## !!! THE CINNAMON TEAL !!!

On 30 December, 1961, T.A. Beckett III, took, at Magnolia Gardens, the first specimen of the Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cynoptera Vieillot*) ever to be collected in South Carolina. So far as the Editor knows the only other State record of this far western species is a sight record made by Francis M. Weston on 28 January, 1933, at Cotton Hall Plantation in Beaufort County. The specimen recorded by Wayne (1910) on page 17 of his Birds of South Carolina has since been determined to be a female Blue-winged Teal. Beckett's specimen is an adult male, and there can be no question about the identification. It is understood that the bird will be mounted and placed among a representative collection of ducks taken at the Gardens. For the record, however, the Charleston Museum will have on file color photographs of the mounted and unmounted bird.

Ted is quite sure he saw a cinnamon teal at the Gardens last year, but did not collect it; nor, considering the bird's rarity, did he formally report the sight record.

- - - o o - - -

We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, Jr.,  
156 Ash St., Forest Park, Georgia

Dr. Harry Freeman  
College of Charleston  
Charleston, S.C.

Mr. Peter Manigault  
137 Columbia St.  
Charleston, S.C.

- - - o o - - -

## NOTES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

HOW HIGH A FALL CAN A SQUIRREL SURVIVE? The trees around our place are oaks and as even the smallest branches are quite sturdy squirrels jump from tree to tree with ease. When these squirrels at times become too numerous and start damaging shrubbery, house eaves, etc, I trap them and turn them loose in heavy woods away from our place. One squirrel being liberated immediately climbed a very tall pine tree, then tried to jump

to another pine. Being an oak-trained squirrel he apparently knew nothing about the smoothness of pine needles and the limberness of small pine branches. He made the jump but could not get a grip and down he came from way up high. He hit the ground, covered with leaves and needles, with a thump and bounced a couple of feet into the air. When he hit the ground the second time he was already running and quickly disappeared in the brush apparently not damaged by the high fall.

Another time, in Maine, I saw a gray squirrel chasing a red squirrel in a tall pine tree. He finally worked the red squirrel out onto the end of a long branch where there were no other limbs or trees he could jump to. Rather than let the gray squirrel catch him he hurled himself out into space, landing on the bare ground far below with a hard thud. It must have knocked the wind out of him as he stayed there spread out flat. I did not approach as I was interested to see if the gray squirrel would come down after him. He did not, and shortly the red squirrel got up, shook himself, and scampered into the brush.

Francis Barrington.

Mr. William A. Reid of the Santee Wildlife Refuge, in response to an enquiry from the Editor, writes on 19 December, 1961, as follows: "The Fulvous Tree Duck was seen at the Santee Refuge on Oct 21, 1960. A flock of 14 used the Fort Watson area for about a week, Oct. 21 thru Oct 29. This is the only record in this vicinity. As far as I know none have been killed in this vicinity." He concludes his note by extending a warm invitation to our membership to visit the Refuge. He wanted some of us to join him in the Christmas count at the Refuge; but his date conflicted with ours, and we had to pass up a fine opportunity. Let's hope for better luck in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Mathieson, from Connecticut, friends of our friend Bill Baldwin, report seeing 45 or 50 AVOCETS on 1 December, 1961, at Santee Gun Club. About a dozen were seen at the same place just before Christmas. None were seen, however, on a return trip on 5/6 January.

On 5 January, the Mathieson's watched a male VERMILION FLYCATCHER for 3 or 4 hours at Santee Gun Club. It spent a good bit of time perched on an electric wire near the boat landing.

Contributed by E.B. Chamberlain

Ted Beckett reports that EVENING GROSBEAKS arrived in numbers at Magnolia Gardens on 9 January. Stragling individuals were seen earlier, but the present flock numbers fifty or more. The flock appears to be made up mostly of males.

Although not quite in the 'Charleston area', we are always interested in E.C. Clyde's observations at his bird banding station at Effingham. He reports a SAW-WHET OWL on 6 January. This is his second record this season for this rare species.

EVERY ONE KNOWS how young birds flutter their wings and squeak at their parents when being fed. This ritual becomes so much of a part of feeding that I have often been amused to note young cardinals and thrashers on our feeders feeding themselves yet fluttering their wings and squeaking between bites though their parents had left them on their own and were nowhere in sight.

Francis Barrington

It was a pleasure to have Don Fortenberry, Manager of the Bear Island Wildlife Refuge, with us at both the November and the January meetings.

We were delighted to receive a 'news sheet' from Kay and Rock Comstock at Christmas time telling of their varied and interesting activities during 1961. As most of us know, they are the originators of The Lesser Suawk, and set a permanently high standard for us to aim at. Their letter is too long to be reproduced here, but we would be glad to circulate it among their many friends in CNHS. All of us wish them much health, wealth and happiness in 1962. Their address is 1624 South Rugby Place, Chattanooga 11, Tenn.

Major Peter Gething relays the news that his friend Dr. Leonard Ravenel, of Kingstree, on 11 - 12 January had a large flock of EVENING GROSBEAKS in his yard. All appeared to be males!

#### THE JANUARY ALL-DAY FIELD TRIP

The only disappointment connected with the all-day field trip to Palmetto Plantation on 14 January was the fact that Mrs. John A. Leland, one of the leaders, was sick in bed and unable to go along. Mr. Andrew Du Pré and his son, Hobie, co-leaders, conducted one of the most pleasant and successful trips we have enjoyed. We were invited into Mr. Du Pré's warm and comfortable house and treated as royal guests. The day was cloudy, cold and a bit windy: seeing was not good, but we counted a total 64 species during the morning. This included 16 species of ducks and geese, 4 hawks and vultures and 10 shore birds. The most interesting birds seen were a common bittern, standing on a cake of ice; six Canada geese flying high overhead; a single fulvous tree duck, a first for most - if not all - of the party; a white ibis, flying rapidly to the west; a golden-crowned kinglet, high above us in an old oak tree; a single white-eyed vireo, with a feeble echo of his vigorous summer song. After the party broke up after lunch 12 additional species were added on the way home, making the total for the day 76.

There were 22 members and guests in the party: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, T.A. Beckett III, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Button, Mr. and Mrs. E.C. Clyde, Jr., Miss Betsy Clyde, Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Coleman, J.R. Cuthbert, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H.F. Davis, Andrew Du Pre, John Du Pre, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. McGuckin, Mr. and Mrs. Hanna, Miss Gale Hanna, Mrs. L. S. Miles and Miss Elizabeth Simons.

Here's a sample of a simple system of keeping records of migrant species.

No 202																																
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird Year 1961																																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Jan.																																
Feb.																																
Mar.																																
Apr.																																
May																																
June																																
July																																
Aug.																																
Sept.																																
Oct.																																
Nov.																																
Dec.																																

In January The Lesser Squawk was sent to 60 local members and 35 out-of-town members. In addition, 14 complimentary copies were mailed to Refuge Managers, etc. This gives a total of 109 copies.

For whatever it may be worth: a total of about 232 species of birds have been recorded in February in the Charleston area. Count the number of species you see this month, divide by 232 and, thus, determine your "batting average".