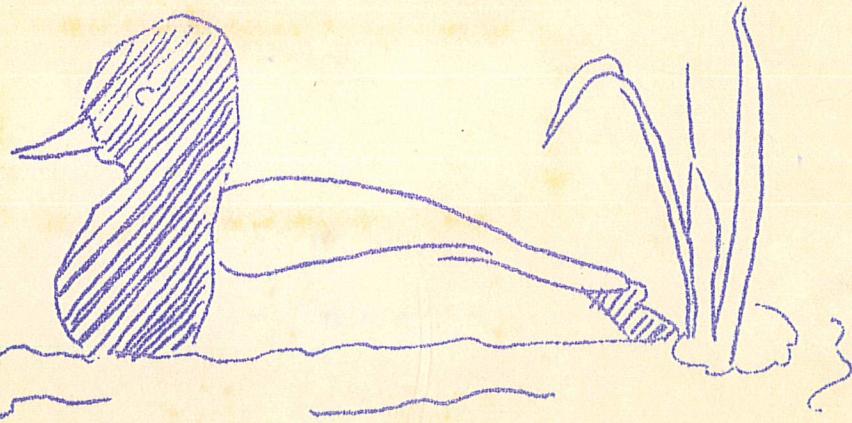


the
lesser
Squawk



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PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

February 11

Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Office Charleston Museum
Regular Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Lecture Room, Charleston Museum

Dr. N. A. Chamberlain: Mud Crabs

February 16

Short Field Trip to Folly Island
Leave S. Windemere Shopping Center at 7:00 a.m.
Leader, I. S. Metcalf

BIRD MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY

(in Charleston area)

Arrivals

1 Purple Martin (Coleman)*
3 Cattle Egret (Chamberlain)*
8 White-tailed Kite

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

Departures

3 White-fronted Goose
13 Cinnamon Teal
15 Golden Eagle

28 Snow Goose
? Dovie

Casuals and Accidentals

Harlequin Duck
Long-tailed Jaeger

Parula Warbler*

Common Redpoll (Mill)²

*Whenever the date is not taken from S.C. Birdlife, the authority is given

Dr. Harry C. Oberholser

Word has reached us of the death in Cleveland, Ohio of Dr. Harry C. Oberholser on December 25. Dr. Oberholser was an honorary member of the Natural History and a close friend of many of our members. His death at the age of 93 will be a great loss to us all.

Migration "Whys"

The "whys" of migrations have always fascinated the writer. We know of many species, either old or young members, of which food cannot enter into the timing of their departure from the nesting areas—the Blue-winged Teal being a good example.

We have on several occasions blamed the failure of seed, mast crops on unusually severe winters for the extension of winter migrations of such birds as the Evening Grosbeak. But upon close examination many times these hypotheses do not always hold up.

In the last few years migration imprints have been advanced to attempt to show another reason for extension of migration ranges, but surely these imprints could not skip some years completely.

In like manner the complete explosive expansion of such species as the Cattle Egret and Fulvous Tree Duck cannot be readily explained. In their case it is not a true migration but an extension of range.

I am just before including the Cinnamon Teal in the above species as far as the winter range goes. The following observations must exclude it from my list of accidentals of S.C.

In the 10 year period of 1950-1960 I managed to sight Cinnamon Teal 3 years. In the following two winters the species was recorded. Thus far this season it has been observed by E.C. Clyde at Effingham on Aug. 30 and here at the Garden several times. In the last observation there were at least 2 males in the flock.

Since the females are indistinguishable from female Blue-wings there can hardly be recorded a sight observation in this sex.

Everyone is urged to take a close look at all flocks of the Blue-winged Teal to see if there may not be a Cinnamon Teal present.

T.A. Beckett, III

Wintering Painted Bunting

Edwin R. Cuthbert, Jr. says in his nature column in The Summerville Scene that a male Painted is for the second year app caring at the feeder of the T.A. Willinghams in Summerville. He reports that it has been seen there since November 20 and seems to be completely happy in spite of cold weather.

Excuse the mistake : The bird of course is the Painted Bunting not just Painted!

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

For a number of years our Society has held an Affiliated Membership in the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. This tie is a natural one. Our Beloved Past President, the late Robert H. Coleman was one of the two South Carolina signers of the Articles of Incorporation of the Carolina Bird Club.

For the benefit of our new members, this affiliation means simply that we have the right to send a delegate with full voting privileges to the annual business meetings of the Carolina Bird Club. The annual club membership is \$2.00. This includes one subscription to The Chat, the quarterly bulletin of C.B.C.

- - - B.R.C.

Some Random Notes from our President.

Iceland Gull at Charleston.

During mid-morning of January 7, 1964 Burnham and Rhett Chamberlain studied a white-winged gull for nearly two hours. The bird was found in a flock of Ring-billed and Herring gulls around the docks near the Shem Creek bridge on Highway 17 just outside of Mt. Pleasant.

Using 8 and 10 X glasses, we watched the bird as it flew nearby, perched many times on piling tops or docked trawlers, and lit on the water (enticed, with other gulls, by bread thrown close in). On a number of occasions we were within thirty to forty feet, with both Herring and Ring-bills close to the apparently all-white bird. Only when at thirty feet, with glasses, could I detect a faint cinnamon spotting on the upper wing coverts, and a slightly soiled breast. Otherwise the bird was wholly white, above below, wings and tail. The legs and feet were flesh-color, tinged with faint purple. The bill appeared entirely black, very close it seemed to grade to horn color at the head.

Direct comparison with immature Herring gulls showed the white bird to be the same size, although the latter appeared a little heavier, or sturdier in build. A distinctly noticeable difference was noted in the beaks of the two ~~birds~~ species. "Our" white bird had a shorter, less heavy bill. Thus, in addition to being wholly white, this smaller black bill separated it easily from the other gulls occurring here. The immature Herring Gulls are small (compared to adults), and thus this white bird of their size was too small to have been a Glaucus Gull. I am convinced it was an Iceland Gull (~~Larus~~ *Larus leucopterus*).

I know of no collected specimens for South Carolina. Ivan Tomkins took an immature ~~specimen~~ ^{specimen} of Savannah, in February, 1941. Perhaps a further check will disclose other sight records.

Our short field trip of January 19 to the Mt. Pleasant causeway was somewhat marred by cloudy, hazy weather during the first hour or so. Despite this fourteen members enjoyed a pleasant morning. Two marbled Godwits and several Oystercatchers were among the birds seen along the causeway. Later, some members saw Yellowlegs and a Sora Rail around a temporary pond near the WUSN TV tower. A still later stop was made at the foot of Broad St., where excellent views were had of a number of gulls, ducks, etc.

Members who attended our last meeting, on January 14, thoroughly enjoyed the good show put on by Ernest Cutts. His account of his Antarctic experiences, illustrated by some unusual and beautiful slides, ranks this meeting as one of the best we've had in some time.

At our January 14 Meeting Mr. Milby Burton invited our members to be guests of The Museum at their showing on January 21 of the CBS film on Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. Those of us, who attended this show, and they were all too few, were well rewarded indeed. There is need for pesticides in agriculture. Likewise, there is equally great need for the protection of wildlife from careless, indiscriminate use of such poisons.