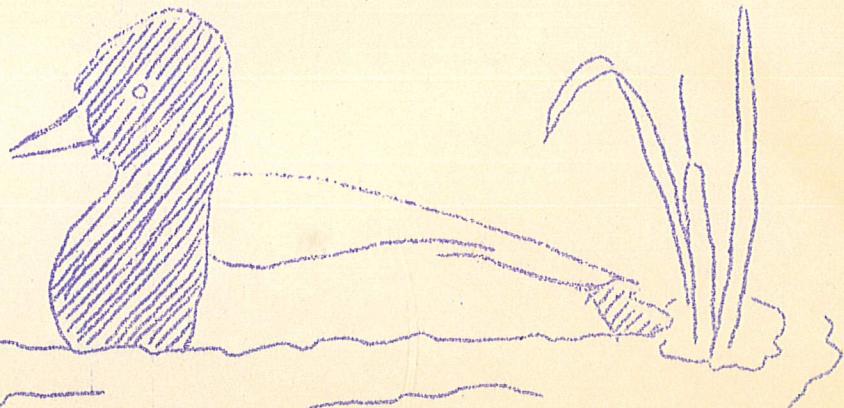


the  
lesser  
Squawk



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○ ○ ○ OFFICERS ○ ○ ○

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

Secretary-Treasurer: B. Rhett Chamberlain, Box 48 Rte. I Wadmalaw Island, S.C.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

February 8

Executive Committee Meeting: Office Museum 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting Lecture Room Charleston Museum 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Gene Waddell, South Carolina Indians

February 12

All Day Field Trip Bulls' Island

Leave Charleston Museum 7:15 a.m.

Wear warm clothing, bring lunch

Leaders: The Chamberlains

See page 2 for details

BIRD MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY

Arrivals

1 Purple Martin (Coleman)°

10 Rough-winged Swallow (Beckett)°

3 Cattle Egret (Chamberlain)°

11 Yellow-breasted Chat (Beckett)°

8 White-winged Kite

28 Evening Grosbeak (Beckett)°

Departures

5 White-fronted Goose

23 Snow Goose

13 Cinnamon Teal

? Dovkie

15 Golden Eagle

Casuals and Accidentals

Harlequin Duck

Parula Warbler

Long-tailed Jaeger

Common Redpoll (Mills)°

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

°° Note that on another page in this issue of the Squawk are accounts of two earlier arrivals of Evening Grosbeaks and a January arrival of Yellow-breasted Chat.

### BULL'S ISLAND

Again this year, through the kindness of Mr. R. M. Hanckel of Coburg Dairy, the Natural History Society will have an all day trip to Bull's Island on Saturday, February 12. While it will not be necessary to make reservations for the trip you are asked to notify Mr. Burnham Chamberlain, P.O. Box 3039, Charleston by Feb 10 so that Mr. Hanckel may know how many to expect.

Bring lunch, or if you prefer, Mrs. Mills at the refuge serves an excellent lunch for \$2. This is served in her dining room and is a welcome haven in case of bad weather. Make your own arrangements with her in advance. The Refuge 'phone is listed under U.S. Government Interior Dept., Fish and Wildlife Service in the Charleston phone directory.

The boat will leave the landing at 8:00 a.m. Be there by 7:45 or meet at the museum at 7:15 a.m. Happy Hunting!

### Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Thirty members and guests of the Charleston Natural History Society in 9 parties made their annual winter bird count on Sunday, January 2. The weather was warm and pleasant, though overcast.

153 species and approximately 50,000 individual birds were recorded. The only unusual species were 1 Shearwater, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak and 1 Stilt Sandpiper. Some common birds, as always, were in short supply. Only 5 House Sparrows, 2 Purple Finches, no Fox Sparrows, no Ground Doves and only 7 Mourning Doves.

Those making the count were, Mrs. Mary Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Barrington, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Blitch, T.A. Beckett, David Chamberlain, B.R. Chamberlain, E.B. ~~McM~~ <sup>Mc</sup> M. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Miss Ruth Clements, E.C. Clyde, Mrs. R.H. Coleman, E.A. Cutts, Devon Garrity, Julian Harrison, John Horlbeck, Peter Manigault, George Maxwell, I.S.H. Metcalf, John Metcalf, Miss Nell Prior, Mrs. M.D. Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Simons, Mrs. L.S. Smith and A.M. Wilcox; J.H. Dick and Stanley Langston.

### CAROLINA BIRD CLUB MEETING

Co-sponsored by the Charleston Museum and C.N.H.S., the Carolina Bird Club held its mid-winter meeting in Charleston, January 14 and 15. In spite of most unfavorable weather the registration numbered 108. Meetings on Friday and Saturday evening took place at the Museum where refreshments were graciously provided by Director Milby Burton. Field trips on Saturday were led to Magnolia Gardens and to the Humphries' Place on lower John's Island. Somehow, about 106 species of birds were found in the continuing drizzle. At each location a warm welcome and hot coffee were received with enthusiasm and special praise went to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Beckett and Mr. and Mrs. William Humphreys.

At the invitation of Mr. John Henry Dick, most of those attending the meeting visited his Dixie Plantation on Sunday morning and followed him into his enclosures of exotic wildfowl and into his studio - wet boots and all.

The local Committee for arrangements appointed by President Freeman was composed of: Mrs. R.H. Coleman, Mrs. M.D. Richardson, Miss Elizabeth Simons, Ted Beckett, E.B. and B.R. Chamberlain. A great number of other helpers go unsung but their works were fully appreciated.

B. Rhett Chamberlain.

## SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

No matter how cold it may be, any clear night during February offers rich reward to those who exchange the warmth of the indoors for a view of the open sky. By 7:00 p.m. at the beginning of the month, Taurus, the Bull is overhead, with his "red angry eye" close to the meridian. Orion, the Hunter is standing upright in a defensive position, followed by Canis Major, the Great Dog, immediately to the southeast. Canis Major may be traced by locating Sirius, which represents the chest of the dog. Two faint stars east of, and forming a triangle with Sirius, indicate the head of the dog, and equidistant to the west a front paw is represented by a bright star. To the southwest of Sirius, a ~~triangle~~ triangle of stars form the end of the dog's body, his tail, and one hind paw.

When Sirius reaches the meridian, an orange-red star will appear above the horizon directly south. This is Canopus, the second brightest star in the heavens, and one of the stars of the southern hemisphere. The latitude of Charleston is just about the most northerly for viewing Canopus, - and February is the only month in which it may be observed to define a low arc before disappearing from view.

When facing north, one may see that Cassiopeia swings around to the northwest, the Big Dipper rises in the northeast, and that the North Star may be located mid-way between these two groups and the northern horizon.

"FEBRUARY SKIES" will be the topic of the public showing at the Planetarium on February 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

SEMI-ANNUAL MIGRATION REPORT.

For the past five or six years Mr. Ellison Williams, chairman of the Migration Record Committee, has done a magnificent job in compiling the arrival and departure data of migrants sent to him by some of our members.

This year, owing to illness, he will be unable to attend to this very tedious job and the records have been temporarily turned over to Mr. E. B. Chamberlain and will appear in some form at a later date. The following members have sent in records of Arrival of Winter Residents and Fall Transients and Departure Dates of Summer Residents and Fall Transients, with a total of about 45 observations. Not a bad showing for 6 members - N.B. we have over 120 members!) Those sending in records are, The Barringtons, David ~~W.~~ Chamberlain, Edwin Cuthbert, Mrs. Dorothy Glover, Mrs. H. S. Pettit, and Mrs. L. S. Smith.

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Williams for his careful work these past years and hope that he will soon be on the active list again.

SOME MORE BIRD NOTES.

Mrs. Louis Miles of Summerville reports 11 Baltimore Orioles at her feeder. Two beautiful males in full adult plumage and 8 others in various stages of development, females or immature males. This is the fifth year Baltimore Orioles have come to her feeder, starting with one male at first and returning each year in increasing numbers. Last year there were 15. Your editor saw them in all their glory last week, and it was an unforgettable sight. Eleven beautiful birds pushing and fussing to get the suet and peanut butter on the feeder. Maybe little birds in their nests agree, but orioles at the lunch counter certainly did not.

Mrs. Philson of Mt. Pleasant reports seeing 7 Evening Grosbeaks in the Freeman yard on Bennet St. the last of December.

The Barringtons have an even earlier record. A "very sluggish" female Evening Grosbeak came to one of their feeders on Oct. 6. It sat for some time, then flew off and did not return.

The Barringtons also report that an Orange-crowned Warbler was at their feeder for the 19th consecutive year, although it was late this year, not coming until Nov. 28.

Mrs. L. H. Jordan of the Isle of Palms reports a male Dick cissel in her yard on Jan. 12 and Mr. T. A. Beckett, III reports a Yellow-breasted Chat at Magnolia Gardens on Jan. 13.

THE LESSER SQUAWK.  
Special

ORNITHOLOGY: THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Ornithology (Biology 234) is open to members of the greater Charleston community. Admission to the course in the case of persons who are not currently students at the College of Charleston is by permission of the instructor. I can be reached by telephone (795-1694 or 795-3716) after 4:00 p.m. during the week. The class is limited to about 15 students. However, several places are still open. Information concerning fees may be obtained from the Dean's Office at the College of Charleston. A limited number of auditors will be accepted. The fee for an auditor is half the usual fee. It should be pointed out also that persons who are not currently students at the College will not be required to go through the regular admissions procedure.

As stated in the summer school catalog, ornithology will be: "An introduction to the biology of birds. Laboratory work will emphasize the identification, classification, behavior and ecology of local species". The course will be conducted at the Grice Marine Laboratory at Fort Johnson on James Island, during the second summer term., (July 17- August 18). Latest date for registration for second term is July 18. Lectures, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.; laboratory, Monday through Wednesday, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Transportation to and from the city can be provided for some students.

Julian R. Harrison  
Asst. Prof. of Biology

Dr. Harrison is the in-coming Vice-President of the Natural History Society and well known to all of us. This is a wonderful opportunity for some of our bird-watchers to become experts, and, incidentally, to have a very pleasant summer occupation.

The Editor.