

the Lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Natural History Society, February 1967. Vol. XV No. 7
Editor and Publisher: Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, 774 Ft. Sumter Dr., Lawton Bluff, Charleston, S.C.

- - - OFFICERS - - -

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PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

February 14

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

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

Planetarium Showing: Miss Elizabeth Simons

SATURDAY, February 18

All Day Field Trip to Bull's Island. Leave Moore's Landing 6:30 a.m.

For details see page 2. Bring or buy lunch.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY

(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

6 Purple Martin

8 White-tailed Kite

28 Evening Grosbeak

Departures

3 White-fronted Goose

13 Cinnamon Teal

23 Snow Goose

? Dov^{kie}

Casuals and Accidentals

Harlequin Duck

Long-tailed Jaeger

Parula Warbler

BULL'S ISLAND.

Once again through the kindness of Mr. Hanckel, Bull's Island is on our list. Because of the tide we shall have to leave Moore's Landing promptly at 6:30 a.m. and the number of passengers is limited to twenty-five (25), so please do not ask to bring guests. If you wish to take the trip send a card to Dr. Harry W. Freeman, 1340 Bluebird Dr. Mt. Pleasant, S.C. 29464 before February 9, giving the number of members in your party. The cards will be numbered as they are received and the first 25 given precedence. Mrs. Mills at the Island serves a delicious hot lunch for \$2.00 and as we have free access to the house and rest rooms it is hoped that a number of members will plan to lunch there. Please indicate on your card if you wish lunch reservations. Dr. Freeman will handle this and payment should be made to him. Please include your address and 'phone number on your card when you make reservation for boat and/or lunch.

FIELD TRIP TO CAMP SEWEE

The day would have been ideal for ducks, for there was plenty of water everywhere. Perhaps the reason we saw so few was that they had better sense than we did. However, a number of other birds were seen in the dripping foliage along roadsides. Nine members met in front of the museum for the Sunday (January 15th) field trip. They visited briefly the Ben Sawyer causeway first, then circled around part of the Willow Hall Road (from Rt. 41), and back to Highway 17 via Gerrin's Bridge Road. On this last, the bridges were about the only parts that were really out of the water. None of us got stuck, but the issue was in doubt more than once!

Thence to the Y.M.C.A. Camp Sewee, off Doar Road where we birded briefly, and lunched in the cars (rain!) The find of the day was a Bachman's Shrew (*Sorex longirostris*) which was discovered by Mr. Yount under a sign which had been blown down. This is, we believe, the third record for the state.

On the way back to town we stopped at Moore's Landing long enough to survey the mud flats and oyster banks, and to investigate part of the McGee property. Birding from under a carport isn't bad when it pours.

Though the rain didn't really let up much the whole day, we saw nearly ninety species, including oystercatchers, godwits, dowitchers and grebes. In addition there were red-cockaded woodpeckers, the brown nuthatch, a brown creeper, and orange-crowned, pine and palm warblers.

Making the trip were: Dr. Freeman, Miss Clement, Mrs. Fugiel, Mr. Yount, the Barringtons, and Mrs. Coleman and Mr. Blitch, as well as the undersigned. SLOSH!

I.S.H. Metcalf, leader.

HILTON HEAD.

On January 20 several of our members attended the mid-winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club on Hilton Head Island. For once, the elements smiled and we had a beautiful week-end on a beautiful island, and renewed acquaintance with co-members from North Carolina and other parts of our state.

About 140 species (birds, not members) were noted and while we saw nothing rare, the Charleston delegation was delighted to see quantities of red-headed woodpeckers, which have become quite scarce in our area lately. Also a definite upsurge of bluebirds en route to the Island. We had morning and afternoon trips under capable leadership and were able to see ocean, shore and wood birds. Both the common and red-throated loons were swimming in the same stretch of water, which gave us not-too-expert observers a chance for comparison. The entire list is too long to print here. Suffice it to say "seeing fine!" Our members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Barrington, Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beckett, Ted, Jane and Alice Beckett, Mrs. Robert Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. William McIntosh, Mrs. M.D. Richardson, Dr. and Mrs. David Yount from Charleston. Mrs. Jack Button and Mrs. Louis Miles from Summerville and Mr. and Mrs. Galvin Clyde from Effingham.

W.M. Coleman.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE .

February skies, always rich in splendor, will this year present all the naked-eye planets during the hours between evening twilight and midnight. During the first week, Mercury will appear in the afterglow following the sunset, and on the 16th, it will ~~not~~ reach greatest eastern elongation, when it will set shortly after 7:00 p.m. At that time Jupiter will rise above the opposite horizon. Venus is climbing steadily higher into view in the west. On February 23rd, it will be in conjunction with Saturn, and the two planets will set about 7:45 p.m. The moon, almost full, will have risen about two hours earlier, at sunset. Mars will rise shortly after 11:00 p.m., at the beginning of the month, and by the 28th, at 10:00 o'clock.

February's special attraction, for those with a clear view of the south, is the brief reappearance of Canopus as it describes its low arc above the horizon. This orange-red star is the second brightest in the heavens. The latitude of Charleston is about the limit of its visibility, since this is one of the stars of the Southern Hemisphere.

The topic of the program at the Planetarium on February 20 will be "A Night on Mt. Palomar!! The hour scheduled is 9:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

OBSERVATIONS .

Louise Barrington reports a woodcock which was in possession of their yard in Riverland Terrace from Dec. 6 to the 16th. Each day it would be flushed from a different part of the soft shrubbery beds until, apparently disgusted by having its mealtime continually interrupted, it took its departure, but not before it had given a fine exhibition of its strange rocking habit.

She reports 3 dickcissels in the bird bath on January 23. Dickcissels also were seen in Anne Richardson's yard in Avondale on January 2 and again on January 28.

Many reports are coming in of wintering Baltimore Orioles. Several in Summerville, 3 in Anne Richardson's yard and others in Effingham and Manning. Keep a sharp lookout. There may be some in your yard. As yet no reports of Evening Grosbeaks. Look for them, too.

Another interesting observation comes to us from Lt. Col. (Ret.) F. M. Probst. Observed at N. Lifchfield Beach, near Pawley's Island, S.C. a male Painted Bunting on January 22. It returned to the feeder on the 23.

HUMMINGBIRDS.

Louise Barrington suggests that we take note of a paragraph in the Backyard Birding column of the December "Chat" which warns of the use of honey to attract hummingbirds. The Chat, quoting from an item in the August 1966 Flower Grower gives these words of caution. "Honey is fatal to hummingbirds. Sugar is recommended in weak solution-1 part sugar to 4 or 5 parts water- no stronger or liver trouble will result!" Just how one can detect liver trouble in a hummingbird nor why sugar which comes from cane or beets is preferable to honey which would seem to be a product of the hummers' own lunch counter, is not stated, but far be it for your humble editor to contradict the experts. From now on sugar it is!