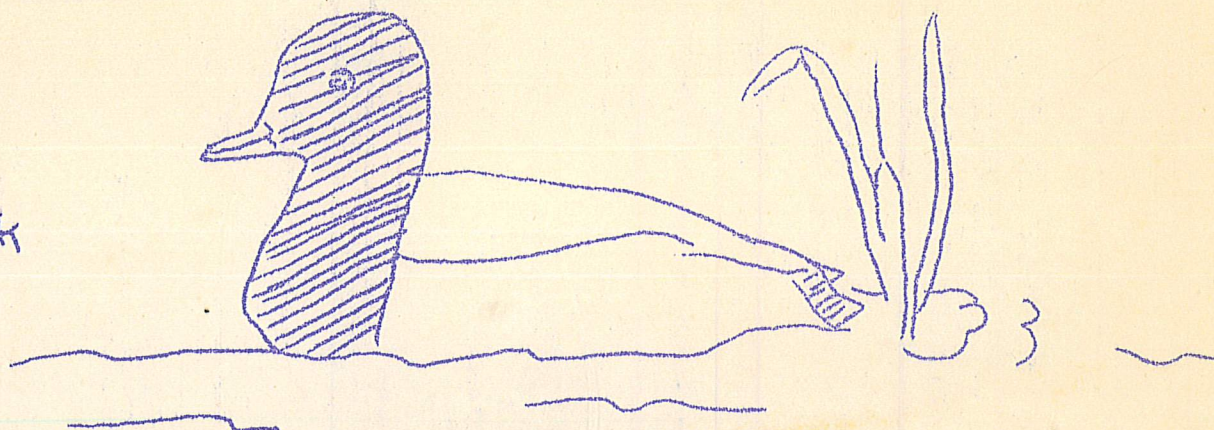


the
lesser
Squawk



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PROGRAM FOR JANUARY

January 10

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

Speaker: Dr. J. Lian Harrison - Frogs

January 15

All-day Field Trip: Camp Seewee and areas East of the Cooper

Museum Charleston Museum 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch

Leader: Ted Metcalf

BIRD MOVEMENT IN JANUARY
(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

7 White Pelican

Departures

13 Fulvous Tree Duck (The Chat)°

14 Glossy Ibis (Metcalf)°

24 Snowy Owl

31 Brant

Casuals and Accidentals

Eared Grebe (Dorn)°

Blue-face Booby

Reddish Egret

Cinnamon Teal

Harlequin Duck

Harlan's Hawk

Great Crested Flycatcher

Vermillion Flycatcher

Purple Martin (Coleman, Chamberlain)°

Northern Waterthrush

Baltimore Oriole (Richardson)°°

Dickcissel

Green-tailed Towhee

Snow Bunting (Coleman)°°

°When the is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given

°° The Glossy Ibis undoubtedly winters on the South Carolina Coast. Specific winter dates are needed.

°° The Baltimore Oriole since the report in '59 has been seen regularly each year and might be counted as a winter resident. Mrs. Louis Miles reports three at her feeder in Summerville Nov. 29. In Summerville also Mrs. Jack Button observed a Snow Bunting in Oct.

SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

On clear nights in January, 1967, the sky will sparkle with especial beauty. In addition to the reappearance of Taurus and Orion, Auriga, and Gemini, each with its share of Brilliant stars, there will be four planets visible between the end of twilight and midnight.

At the beginning of the month, Venus will be seen as an 'Evening Star' near the southwestern horizon for about an hour after sunset. As the month advances, she will remain in view for a longer time during the evenings. Also in the southwest, but much higher than Venus, Saturn may be located shining with a steady, yellow light. It will set between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. While Saturn is still in view, Jupiter will rise north of east. When the bright stars, Castor and Pollux are well above the horizon, Jupiter may be located east of Pollux. Between 11:00 p.m. and midnight, the red planet, Mars, will rise, and remain in view until daylight.

The topic of the January showing of the Planetarium will be 'ARCTIC SKIES IN WINTER'. The date is January 16, and the hour, 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

The Birdies That Call in the Fall Tre-la.

In response to my mournful plea these nice records have been sent in. Many thanks !

Western Grebe.

On November 23 Norman Chamberlain observed a Western Grebe at Fort Johnson. He says the bird was feeding offshore with a Common Loon and several Horned Grebes. The long neck and black-and-white color pattern were striking. It was studied for twenty minutes in a good light with a 30x Binoscope. This bird has been recorded only once before in this area, June 1936. The editor believes that she and Robert Coleman saw one in a creek near the Wando River about 1950, but as the bird flew before we were sure of our identification we did not report it. Thus are records lost !!

Mrs. Leonard Glover sends these interesting notes.

On August 2nd when I returned home from work a red bat was hanging on the garage wall just above the top step. (It was still good day light) The bat was either sick or exhausted because it scarcely protested when Leonard caged it. It was my intent to take it to the museum for positive identification and then release it, but next morning it was dead.

According to the Audubon Nature Encyclopedia, the red bat migrates, is not gregarious, and roosts singly among the foliage of trees rather than in dark places. What is its status here?

Editorial note. The Red Bat is (or was) quite common in the Low Country: Robert Coleman's collection (now in the Museum) has skins taken here nearly every month in the year. It is well to handle sick bats with care, as at least one taken here lately was examined at the Medical College Lab. and found to be rabid. It has been pretty well established that bats, like birds, are victims of insecticides, which may have been the trouble with this Adams Run bat.

Mrs. Glover continues.

As for bird observations, the house wren has been common here this fall. The first one was spotted on October 23, and at least one has been seen on each week end (s birdwalk) since then. This is in contrast to only one record in the previous winters here. Juncos descended 'en masse' on my feeder this past Saturday- November 26th.

Edwin Blitch reports 11 Brown Creepers in the Caw Caw Swamp vicinity November 27. Ted Metcalf saw a Brown Creeper and a Black and White Warbler in his yard at Battery Point early in December and Anne Richardson watched an American Woodcock for 25 minutes probing in the soft mud of her back yard in Avondale on November 23.

Wet But Enjoyable Trip to Hobcaw Plantation.

On 18 December twenty-five members of the Society undertook to make a bird count at the Baruch Foundation's Hobcaw Plantation on Winyaw Bay east of Georgetown. The day was rainy and cool but not too windy. Considering the weather and the difficulty of working unfamiliar terrain, the count was very successful. Total species, 106; total individuals, 3240. Many of the species (e.g. Orange-crowned Warbler) were found only after hard work on the part of the observers. It is not easy to keep looking for field marks on a little bird flitting about in the top of a tree when your feet are wet, your binoculars are fogged up, and rain is trickling down the back of your neck. One species unusual enough to warrant a note in The Chat was found. Ernest Cutts, Ted Beckett, and David Chamberlain found a Black-throated Blue Warbler. This is the third winter record for this species in South Carolina. Wayne collected one near Pinopolis on 6 December 1889 and there is a sight record for one in Lee County on 29 December 1960. We are indebted to Miss Severin for her kind and generous hospitality in providing liquid refreshment and a magnificent "light lunch". Observers were: Francis Barrington, Louise Barrington, Ted Beckett, Louise Button, David Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Jane Clarke, Ruth Clements, Calvin Clyde, Harry Cochran, Teague Coleman, Wilhelmina Coleman, Ed. Cuthbert, Ernest Cutts, Lois Doscher, Nicholas Doscher, Harry Freeman, Timothy Gwynette, Julian Harrison, Stanley Langston, John Metcalf, Ted Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, Leila Miles, Nell Prior, Dory Smith, David Yount.

Norman A. Chamberlain.

Audubon Winter Count-- Also Wet!

What a day - for fish, that is !!!

Twenty-eight members assembled in the wet darkness at Gregories Store at 7:00 a.m. of New Year's Eve and hopefully started out on their various assignments. Their hopes were doomed to disappointment however, as the rain came down steadily all day and, unlike our trip of Dec. 18 to Hobcaw, no blazing fire and delicious buffet lunch awaited us at midday. In spite of birds huddling unseen in the bushes or flitting unidentifiable in the tops of the highest trees we observed 137 species and about 33,000 individuals. Among them four rare species, Brant, Long-billed Curlew, Great Black-backed Gull and a Lark Sparrow. There were also unusual numbers of Oyster Catchers, Dowitchers and Swamp Sparrows. Members taking part were: Francis Barrington, Ted Beckett, Roy Baker, Edwin Blitch, Louise Button, David Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Teague Coleman, Wilhelmina Coleman, Calvin Clyde, Edmund Cuthbert, Ernest Cutts, John Henry Dick, Harry Freeman, Timothy Gwynette, Peter Manigault, Leila Miles, John Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, Ted Metcalf, Nell Prior, Anne Richardson, Elizabeth Simons, Dory Smith, Stan Smith, Mr. & Mrs. David Yount and Arthur Wilcox.

Observations.

Ted Beckett reports 4 or 5 Dickcissels in his nets at Magnolia Gardens on Dec. 26 and Anne Richardson saw one in her yard in Avondale on Jan. 2, also 3 Purple Finch on that same day.

John Henry Dick is said to have seen about 14 Sandhill Cranes, but as the Squawk goes to press the place and date had not been learned. More later !

CHECK LISTS

The Treasurer announces that the new check lists have come from the printer and will be available at the next meeting at five cents apiece.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD BIRDING IN 1967.