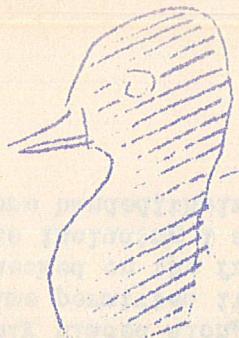


the
lesser
Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Natural History Society, July, 1963, Vol. XI, No. 2

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

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There will be no meetings or programs in July.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN JULY

6 Arrivals

3 Worm-eating Warbler	10 Lesser Yellowlegs	19 Bachman's Warbler
4 Yellow Warbler	11 Bank Swallow	20 Knot
American Redstart	Bobolink	27 Northern Waterthrush
7 Tree Swallow	13 Louisiana Waterthrush	28 Roseate Tern
8 Solitary Sandpiper	15 Pectoral Sandpiper	

Departures

20 Lesser Scaup (Green)*

Casuals and Accidentals

Common Loon	Limpkin	Black-throated Blue Warbler
American Flamingo	Baird's Sandpiper	Myrtle Warbler
Stilt Sandpiper	American Goldfinch	Marbled Godwit (Weston)*

*If the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life, the authority is given. E. B. Chamberlain suggests that the Gadwall and Ruddy Duck, formally listed as casual in July and the Ruddy in August, now be classed as winter residents, breeding sparingly.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee held its regular spring meeting on Tuesday, June 11 to work out programs and field trips for the coming year. The new president, E. B. Chamberlain, presided and under his leadership interesting meetings and trips were mapped out. The full year's program of activities will be printed in the October issue of the Squawk in order that our members may select those subjects which most interest them. However, as in the past each month's program will be published in the current issue. As it was found to be successful last year, a botany trip will again be taken in September, before the start of the regular meetings. Watch for the date and place in the September Squawk.

WILSON CLUB

A letter has been received by our secretary containing resolutions of appreciation from the Wilson Club for courtesies extended to them by our society during their meeting here in May. Those of us who attended the various activities of the club feel that we were well repaid for any slight trouble we may have taken by the opportunity to meet so many well known and delightful bird students. It is interesting to note that on their four field trips a total of 176 species was seen. It was especially gratifying that the list included some rather rare species, such as Fulvous Tree Duck, Swallow-Tailed Kite, Avocet, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel and Snow Bunting.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

A card from the Barringtons from New Mexico says they 'had several nights of camping in Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle. Mississippi Kite and Lark Sparrow two of our best sightings plus the roadside flowers.' We hope for another of their fine travelogues this winter.

Robert Coleman, Jr. has recently returned from a tour of duty in Korea and is now assigned to Ogden Utah. The depot is not far from famous Bear Lake Refuge and the Colemans have already added quite a number of Western birds to their life lists.

Ted Beckett has started a program of bird mist netting and banding and we hope to have notes of his findings from time to time.

KEEP US POSTED AS TO YOUR SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATIONS

EDITORIAL CHANGE

Once again we have a change of editors and this time one who will need all the help she can get. There is plenty of competent editorial talent among our members but spare time seems to be the missing ingredient, and of that ingredient the present incumbent has plenty.

Under Robert's editorship the Lesser Squawk has been a well-rounded paper. Edwin Blitch and Ted Beckett carried on the good work in spite of the pressure of their very busy lives. Now I take over and will do my best to keep up their fine standard. As I belong to the 'hunt and peck' school of typists and my knowledge of punctuation consists of an indiscriminate use of the comma, complete ignorance as to the semi-colon, combined with a fondness for the split infinitive and dangling participle, I hope you will bear with me.

May I remind you, as has been said in the past, that this is your paper and the editor is supposed only to assemble and put into print items that are received from the members. Send all your bits of interesting observations of birds, beasts and things that crawl before the deadline, the 20th of each month, and they will be received with joy.

Wilhelmina M. Coleman, Editor.

DEVEAUX BANK

On June 8 a trip was made to Deveaux Bank to photograph and to check the nesting Terns and Pelicans and to band a few, if large enough.

The group consisted of Mrs. M. D. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Barnett, Mrs. Alfred Woods, Edwin Blitch, Roy Baker and Ted Beckett. The group left the public landing at Rockville at 10:00 in two boats. The water was only slightly choppy and no mishaps occurred in transit.

The Bank was in excellent shape, but several hundred eggs had been washed away by a previous high tide. The Royal Terns seemed to have learned a lesson and were scattered in several colonies on high spots for their re-nesting.

The Brown Pelicans consisted of probably 2000 to 2500 pair and were in all stages of nesting. Starting at the front beach were the largest nestlings and the young decreased in size as one approached the back beach. Finally, adults were found building and incubating fresh eggs. They were closely placed along the ~~back~~ back side of the colony. 125 Pelicans were banded, but had time permitted it could easily have been 1200.

Next the Royal Terns were checked on the front beach. They too varied from fresh eggs to week-old chicks. 98 of the Royals including 1 adult plucked from the air by Edwin Blitch, were banded. 4 Sandwich Terns were banded; their nests being scattered among the Royals.

The Skimmers were just starting to nest, along with a few Oystercatchers, Laughing Gulls, Willets and Least Terns although the writer does not actually recall seeing any Least on the Bank proper.

Two Oystercatchers were banded thus giving a total for the morning of 227 birds. It is for certain that no one who has ever been in a Royal Tern Colony will ever have trouble recalling the literal roar of their distant chatter.

Another banding trip is planned in which from 300 to 500 birds will be banded, weather permitting.

Ted Beckett.

Edwin Blitch reports that he, Ted Beckett and young Ted returned to the Bank on June 22 and banded 29 young Pelicans and 1 adult, approximately 75 Royal Terns, 1 Willet, 25+ Laughing Gulls and about a dozen Gull-Billed Terns. They also saw 3 Marbled Godwits.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS

Ted Beckett has received the following letter and enclosure from Mrs. Leonard Glover.

Dear Mr. Beckett:

I should like to submit the enclosed to The Lesser Squawk in hopes that it will be of interest.

Although I'm not sure of the commonness of these woodpeckers, they are the first I've seen in my few months of birding.

You are doing a good job as editor!

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Leonard Glover) Dorothy Glover.

On April 28th a pair of redheaded woodpeckers appeared on an old snag at the edge of our pasture. In a couple of days, they seemed to have settled down in a black gum near the barn and could be seen there at any time. Occasionally in the very early morning one would be in the back yard on the fence or clothesline posts.

Then, on the morning of May 14th as I took a short bird walk before leaving for work I was very saddened to find one dead at the base of the tree. Judging from its dried condition it had been dead for several days. Examination disclosed no injury. We have used no insecticides of any kind, but I wonder if it could have been in contact with some on neighboring land.

Although I have searched, I cannot find the mate, nor have I seen any other redheaded woodpeckers in the area.

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Thank you Mrs. Glover for your very interesting observation. These Woodpeckers seem to be quite scarce in this area, though they are fairly common in other parts of the state.

W.M.C.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to report that Wilhelmina M. Coleman has consented to take over the editorship of the Lesser Squawk. Our membership is fortunate in having a person of her ability and background in ornithology, botany and mammalogy. Mrs. Coleman deserves, and should get, the whole-hearted backing of us all. This does not mean lip service alone, but pen and paper service. Most members, at least from time to time, are in a position to send in items or comments. This they should do, rather than expect our editor to dig up all the news.

E.B.C.

Members can aid by noting and reporting the number of young seen in broods this season. As T.A. Beckett has reported a marked decrease has been noted in some areas. It is feared continued use of insecticides is causing a drop in fertility and making for abnormal mortality in many cases. We should collect all the evidence we can.

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FIRST NESTS OF THE RUDDY DUCK:

Enforced discomfort is the usual occurrence in my hobby. A practicing oologist can't stand placidly on the bank of a pond and gaze through binoculars. He has to get his feet wet. And his knees, And his hips.

The first nest and eggs of the Ruddy Duck in South Carolina were found May 8, 1963 at Magnolia Gardens through the art of wading.

On that date the water was still a bit chilly, but young Ted Beckett and I eased over the side of our boat and began plowing through the cattails and spike grass in water up to here. We were inspecting the nests of Common Gallinules, Least Bittern and Redwings.

I turned from a Bittern nest holding three eggs and started to make my way out of the 4-foot high spike grass when I spied two white eggs in a dilapidated nest.

It was the Ruddy Duck nest. Close inspection, revealed however, that the nest had been abandoned and the eggs were cold. Apparently desertion had taken place several days previously because the two eggs were nest-stained on the bottom, suggesting that they had not been turned.

This species often prefers to use an old Coot nest to building one of its own. But this nest more closely resembled a last year's Gallinule nest and little or no repairs had been made by the duck. One egg was almost falling through the bottom.

The nest was 6 inches above the water with an outside diameter of 9 inches and made entirely of spike grass stems. The water was 25 inches deep at the nest, which was 15 yards in from open water, and not very well concealed.

There was neither down nor any other material in the nest. The eggs, taken to establish the record, are grayish-white, finely granulated and appear large for the bird, which is usual.

This species normally lays from 5 to 11 eggs which average 2.35 to 2.50 long and 1.70 to ~~2.20~~ 1.80 broad.

About a week later I found a quantity of feathers from the neck of a Ruddy in an old Gallinule nest in another section of the pond. The nest was pushed down into the water on one side, giving a hint that some predator had caught the bird. Since that time I have seen only one Ruddy in the pond.

A pair of Ruddy Duck with young were reported seen at the Bear Island refuge in June, 1959, and two pairs with five young each were seen swimming along single file on Bull's Island by E.B. Chamberlain and Robert H. Coleman on Aug. 18, 1959.

Chamberlain reported that "several pairs" were seen with young on Bull's Island in 1960.

Now the discovery of the nest and eggs completes the establishment of the Ruddy as a new nesting species in South Carolina.

Ernest Cutts. June 18, 1963.

MARTINS IN TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Another nice "filler" from E.B.C. asks the following Question. Has any member evidence of young hatching in a case of Martins nestings in traffic lights? I believe heat from the bulbs would prevent success of such nesting. Incidentally, we think such sites as comparatively recent, but a short time ago Frank M. Weston told me he recalls Martins nesting in the fixtures of the old arc lights in Charleston many years back.

The editor is quite well aware of the many typographical errors. She is not yet too skillful in correcting stencil mistakes, but she hopes to improve with time. Please be patient and "to her faults a little blind".