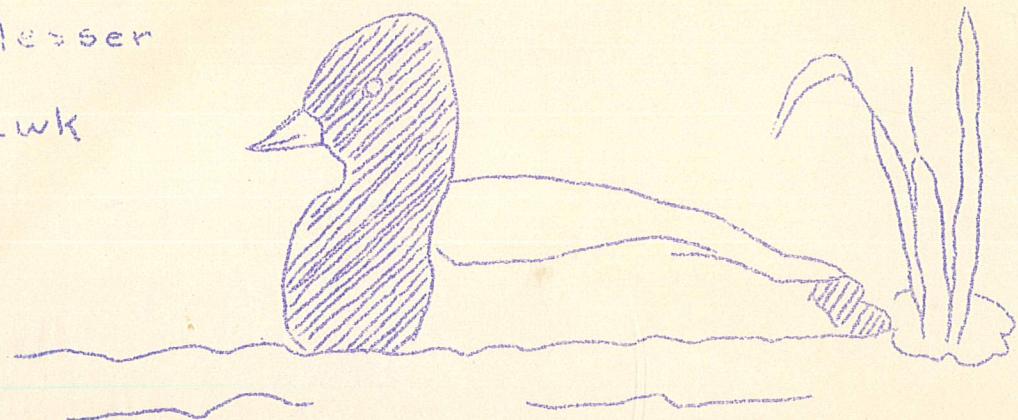


the lesser
Squawk



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PROGRAM FOR MARCH

March 8

Regular Meeting, Lecture Room, Charleston Museum, 8:00 p.m.
Dr. W. T. Batson: Mountain Flora-Color Slides.

March 13-SUNDAY

All Day Trip to Middleburg Plantation. Leader Mrs. M. D. Richardson
Meet Charleston Museum 7:15 a.m.
Bring lunch and insecticide.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN MARCH

Arrivals

3 Least Bittern	15 Red-eyed Vireo
Wilson's Plover	16 American Golden Plover
5 Swallow-tailed Kite	18 Veery
Parula Warbler (Coleman)	18 Louisiana Waterthrush
7 Chimney Swift	19 Yel-Crown Night Heron
Wood Thrush	Yel-Breasted Chat (Beckett)
10 Eastern Kingbird	20 Pectoral Sandpiper
11 Upland Plover	Common Nighthawk
Chuck-will's widow	Blk-thrd Green Warbler
12 Mississippi Kite	21 Painted Bunting
15 Least Tern	22 Stilt Sandpiper
Yellow-thr. Vireo	Gr.Crested Flycatcher

Departures

8 Horned Lark	16 Long-eared Owl
9 European Widgeon	19 Bewick's Wren
16 Red-necked Grebe	21 Yellow Rail
	28 Eastern Phoebe

23 Hooded Warbler
24 Acadian Flycatcher
Northern Waterthrush
26 Easterh Wood Pewee (Beckett)
27 Frothonotary Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Orchard Oriole
29 Black-necked Stilt
Roseate Tern
30 Summer Tanager
31 Black Rail
early Bachman's Warbler

29 Br.-headed Cowbird (Coleman)
Fox Sparrow
30 Redhead

Casuals and accidentals
Lapland Longspur

* When the dates are not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.
 ** It is now pretty well established (by Ted Beckett of Magnolia Gardens) that the Least Bittern is a permanent resident.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, February 12th, twenty-four CNHS members spent a pleasant and profitable day enroute to, and on, Bull's Island. Leaving Moore's Landing at 9 a.m., the Coburg Dairy's yacht "Nadjezda" (wanderer), under Skipper Bill Branch, took our party to Bull's via the Inland Waterway, Price's Inlet and the Narrows.

Despite somewhat unpleasant weather members noted seventy-eight species of birds, several alligators, and a couple of cotton-mouth moccasins. No unusual birds were reported, but it was good to see turkeys, a peregrine falcon, and a red-breasted nuthatch.

Making the trip were David Chamberlain, Charlene Hay, Ruth Clements, Jane Clarke, Dorothy Glover, Dory Smith, B.R. Chamberlain, George Maxwell, N.A. Chamberlain, I.S.H. Metcalf, D.B. Holland, Louise Barrington, Francis Barrington, Louise M. Button, Charles A. Andrus, C. Fred Andrus, E.R. Cuthbert, Jr., Leila W. Miles, Tom Metcalf, Helen Itner, Elizabeth Simons, Nell Prior, Sara Wolfe and E.B. Chamberlain.

Again we are indebted to Mr. R.M. Hanckel for generosity in giving us so pleasant a trip. We extend thanks to him and his competent crew. Nor do we forget the morning and afternoon coffee and cold drinks, served by efficient Steward John Brown.

E. Burnham Chamberlain.

SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

March brings us to the half-way point between winter and summer, when the hours of daylight and darkness are equal in length. Two planets will be visible in the evening sky as soon as the glow of sunset fades: Mercury, sparkling like a jewel in the west, and Jupiter, just west of overhead. Mercury will reach greatest eastern elongation on the evening of the third. Venus will be a brilliant "Morning Star", rising about three hours before the sun.

Those who have a wide view of the western sky, unhampered by bright lights, may be able, on clear evenings, to observe the Zodiacal Light. This is a faint glow that follows the sun, and remains visible for a short while after twilight ends. It is widest at the horizon and tapers upward perhaps halfway to the zenith. It is believed to be the reflection of sunlight from a swarm of meteoric particles that surrounds the sun and extends beyond the earth's orbit. Only during March may this phenomenon be observed in the evening. During September, it appears in the east before sunrise.

The bright stars of winter are moving steadily toward the western horizon. Accompanied by Jupiter, they form a sparkling aggregation; Capella in Auriga, high in the northwest; Castor and Pollux overhead, close to the meridian; Aldebaran in Taurus, farthest west; and Orion with his array of bright stars, followed by Sirius in Canis Major and Procyon, mid-way between Pollux and Sirius.

"THE STARS OF THE ZODIAC" will be the topic of the Planetarium program on March 21, at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

March is a gala month for spring arrivals. Thirty-five species, according our records have made their first appearance in past years, among them the elusive Bachman's Warbler.

Keep your list handy and see if you can break any records. Our planned trip to Middleburg (Mr. Dingle's) plantation on the 13th should produce some of the earlier ones.

W.M.C.

NOTES FROM ADAM'S RUN.

Feb. 2, 1966

Last week there was much interesting and, to me, unusual bird activity at my place.

On the day of the snow, January 27th, a red-bellied woodpecker sampled the small seeds at one feeder, then flew to the window feeder and began eating an apple. The apple had been there for several days untouched. Later I put out a tangerine which was also partially eaten but by what bird, I do not know.

On the 28th and each day since, a brown thrasher has monopolized the feeders but eats only small seeds even though there are suet-seed cakes and fruit there.

On the 30th, the day of the Big Freeze, our place was lashed by an icy NW wind. Where the house forms an ell with the breezeway to the garage, the sun shines throughout most of the day, warming this spot nicely. Here, too, the yard is protected from the wind. About 1PM I noticed a male ruby-crowned kinglet feeding there, hopping over the grass and among the mint plants. His crest was in evidence throughout. Apparently he found it difficult to fly because of the wind, because whenever he rose high enough to be caught by it as it blew over the breezeway he was buffeted terribly. Sometimes he lit in an espaliered pyracantha on the garage or the Burfordi holly at the corner of the house, but mostly he stayed beside the walls. My husband and I stood on the breezeway directly over him for some time. He was entirely unconcerned by our presence nor did the dogs' movements disturb him. Late in the afternoon he flew into the garage, then the utility room, but went out again when my husband passed the door. I put a suet-seed cake in the pyracantha for him to eat, but he did not touch it. He disappeared around sundown and has not returned.

There was a noticeable tameness among the juncos and field sparrows at the feeders on the 30th, and as usual the cardinals were very tame. None of the birds flew far away when I approached to replace the ~~empty~~ seeds.

The suet-seed cakes are great favorites of the jays and mockingbirds and until I made a container for them, they were consumed in a day's time. Using hardware cloth, I formed a sort of basket into which the cake can be slipped. I wired it to the post of the window feeder. A mockingbird's antics were very amusing as he tried to eat in this upright position. Since my primary interest in placing the cake here was to attract the woodpecker, there is no perch except an apple impaled on a nail. The mocker used this slippery foot-hold for a while with much sliding and wing-beating. Then he began standing on the top of the basket and reaching down to the cake, usually on the INSIDE of the basket which left only his tail sticking out! ☺

There has been a pair of cardinals at my feeder since early 1963. Although other pairs occasionally come, none are so tame as these particular ones. The male has at times sung for seeds when the feeder was empty. He will fly to the power line above the feeder and wait until I have finished filling it, then fly down and eat, chipping to call his mate. Once he did not wait for me to leave, but flew down within inches of my face! This same bird fights his reflection in the utility room window year-round. He does not tolerate other cardinals, either male or female, in the vicinity of the feeders. Their offspring have been fed at my window for three summers but have not gained the habit of eating there after they are on their own.

Dorothy Glover.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES AGAIN.

Baltimore Orioles are being observed in this area in increasing numbers each winter. The latest record comes from Mrs. M. D. Richardson who reports that daily, during the week of January 21 two females (or immatures) came to the feeder at her mother's house on S. Palmetto St. in Summerville. As this feeder is across town from that of Mrs. Miles, where 12 birds are still being observed, it would seem that they are part of another flock, and that therefore the Baltimore Oriole may be counted as a regular winter visitor. These birds, like those at the Miles feeder were feeding on cooked hominy.