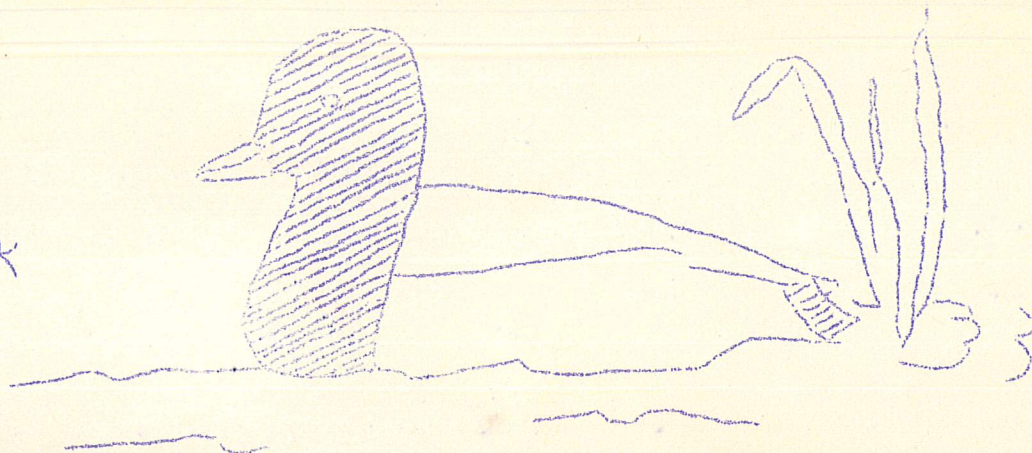


The
Lesser
Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Natural History Society, March 1967. Vol. 15, No. 8
Editor and Publisher Mrs. Rob't H. Coleman, 774 Ft. Sumter Dr. Lawton Bluff, Chas'n, S.C.

222 Officers***

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PROGRAM FOR MARCH

March 14
Regular Meeting, Lecture Hall, Chas'n Museum 8:00 P.M.
Dr. G. Robert Ianz: Marshlands
March 18, (Sat)
Short Trip: Bee's Ferry Rd. Meet DuPont Crossing
7:00 A. M. Leader: W. M. Coleman

BIRD MOVEMENT IN MARCH
(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

3 Least Bittern	15 Yellow-throated Vireo	23 Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Plover	Red-eyed Vireo	24 Acadian Flycatcher
5 Swallow-tailed Kite	16 American Golden Plover	Northern Waterthrush
6 Parula Warbler	18 Veery	27 Prothonotary Warbler
7 Chimney Swift	Louisiana Waterthrush	Blackburnian Warbler
Wood Thrush	18 Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Orchard Oriole
10 Eastern Kingbird	20 Pectoral Sandpiper	29 Black-necked Stilt
11 Upland Plover	Common Nighthawk	Roseate Tern
Chuck-wills-widow	Black-thr't. Green Warbler	30 Summer Tanager
12 Mississippi Kite	21 Painted Bunting	31 Black Rail
15 Least Tern	22 Stilt Sandpiper	
Early Bachman's Warbler	Great Crested Flycatcher	

Departures

8 Horned Lark	16 Long Eared Owl	29 Brown-headed Cowbird
9 European Widgeon	19 Bewick's Wren	Fox Sparrow
16 Red-necked Grebe	21 Yellow Rail	30 Redhead
	28 Eastern Phoebe	

Casuals and Accidentals

Lapland Longspur

ARRIVALS IN MARCH

March starts the spring migration with a bang, bringing 34 summer residents and transients during the month. Over the past ten or fifteen years twenty-four of these birds, including both kites, have been seen by your editor in the Bee's Ferry Road area where our March field trip will take place. The early arrival date of 13 of them is after our trip day, but maybe if we look hard enough we can push back some of these dates. Let's hope Jupiter Pluvius will stay behind a blue sky on that day! Note that this trip will be on a Saturday instead of the usual Sunday.

OBSERVATIONS

Ted Beckett has evidence that the Least Bittern is here throughout the winter. Perhaps this bird should be taken off the March arrival list.

The Metcalfs report a male Dickcissel at their feeder in Battery Point on February 9. Anne Richardson reports at least 8 sightings of Baltimore Orioles since her first observation in December. They have been feeding on insects or nectar from the flowers of a Rev. John Bennett camellia bush near her window in Arcadian Park. They apparently do not care for any other camellia blooms, and speaking of Baltimore Orioles, Peg Metcalf saw a beautiful male in the editor's front yard on Lawton Bluff on February 17. Alas, the editor missed it!

A Black-backed Gull was seen en route to Bull's Island at the time of the Christmas count and Julian Harrison reports one seen on the Mt. Pleasant Causeway February 10.

Edmund Cuthbert writes in The Summerville Scene of a tour of the Santee Wildlife Refuge in January where he saw "hundreds of Canada Geese, a few Snow and Blue Geese, numerous ducks, and in nearby fields Pipits and various sparrows. How about a field trip there next winter?"

The following letter comes from Mr. E. F. Johnson, manager of Cape Romaine Refuge.
Feb. 20

Dear Mrs. Coleman:

An item that might be of interest to you is that eleven White Fronted Geese were seen on Annandale Plantation just north of McClellanville today. My Assistant, Mr. Ernest Rauber and Refuge Clerk Jimmy Utsey were at Annandale on a duck banding assignment and came upon the flock of geese feeding in one of the pastures on the plantation. The employees observed the White Fronts from a short distance with binoculars for quite some time and were quite certain of identification. Their detailed description of the geese included the tell-tale yellow-orange feet, white patch on the front of the face and black bars on the belly.

In addition during the past month the personnel at Santee Refuge near Summerton have caught and banded one White-Fronted goose with a cannon net during their normal Canada goose banding program.

Sincerely yours,
E. F. Johnson, Refuge Manager.

Sprunt and Chamberlain in South Carolina Bird Life puts this goose in the hypothetical list, saying as 1947 only one specimen from South Carolina was available for examination, which the Annandale observation extremely important.

P.S. Makes

Feb. 25 Dory Smith reports that a Baltimore Oriole has been enjoying cold honey at her feeder in Northbridge Terrace since Feb. 20

BULL'S ISLAND FIELD TRIP:

Twenty-nine members gathered at Moore's Landing at 6:30 a.m. on the morning of February 18, and shortly thereafter boarded Mr. R.M. Hanckel's boat for the trip to Bull's Island. It was a very delightful hour's trip and much interesting birding was done along the way despite the overcast conditions. We arrived at Bull's Island, made the plans for lunch and the field trip. One part with Mr. Metcalf took out on the Old Fort Road anticipating reaching the south end of the island going all the way around Jack's Creek pond and returning Light House Road. They reached the south end of the island and the rains came down. They returned on Old Fort Road. Birding was good until the rain came.

Another party went down Summer House Road and were forced to return before they reached the end.

A third party headed straight for the beach. The Barringtons, who went part of the way on the Summer House Road and cut to the beach, were met with rain when they arrived at the beach, but did not let this discourage a two-mile walk in the rain. Edwin Blich made the entire trip around the south end of the island and returned having had good birding, but thoroughly soaked. He sighted the Blue Goose. All parties returned to the Dominick House for a delightful dinner prepared by Mrs. Mills. The rain actually began to fall at 11:00 and was still going strong at 2:00 so we decided to board the boat and return to Moore's Landing, arriving at about 3:30. The total count for the day was 89.

Harry W. Freeman.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE .

In spite of unpredictable changes in temperature during March, spring will officially commence on the twenty-first of the month, at 2:37 a.m. At that moment the earth will reach the point exactly midway between its winter and summer positions on its orbit around the sun.

In the afterglow following the sunset, Venus may be seen high above the western horizon. Since it will not set until after dark, those who possess telescopes may have an opportunity to see it in the gibbous phase, with 86 percent of its face illuminated.

Saturn will be visible only briefly at the beginning of the month, low on the western horizon, before it is lost in the sun's glare.

Jupiter, however, is in fine view, high in the east at dark. It is located in Gemini, forming an obtuse triangle with Castor and Pollux. It will cross the meridian about two hours after sunset at mid-month.

At the beginning of the month, Mars will rise about 10:00 p.m., in eastern Virgo. It is located about 30 degrees south of the orange-colored star, Arcturus.

The opportunity for a telescopic view of Uranus will present itself this month. The slightly fainter than fifth magnitude planet may be located in Leo, on the ecliptic south of Denebola, the star that marks the Lion's tail. This should be well-placed for viewing by 9:00 o'clock, even at the beginning of the month.

'The Moon and the Tides' will be the topic at the Planetarium on March 20, at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons

SOUTH CAROLINA MAMMALS.

Just off the press is Contributions from the Charleston Museum No. XV South Carolina Mammals, edited by E. Milby Burton, written by Frank S. Colley, mainly from material and specimens from the collection of the late Robert H. Coleman, and illustrated by Priscilla M. Colley. The book is nicely gotten up, well written with language easily understood by the unlearned reader, with no sacrifice of scientific data. Unfortunately the rather poor illustrations are not up to the general excellence of the book. It is inconceivable to this writer how one could, from live specimens in many cases, such unlikelike representations of the really beautiful little creatures which inhabit our woods and fields.

Wilhelmina M. Coleman.