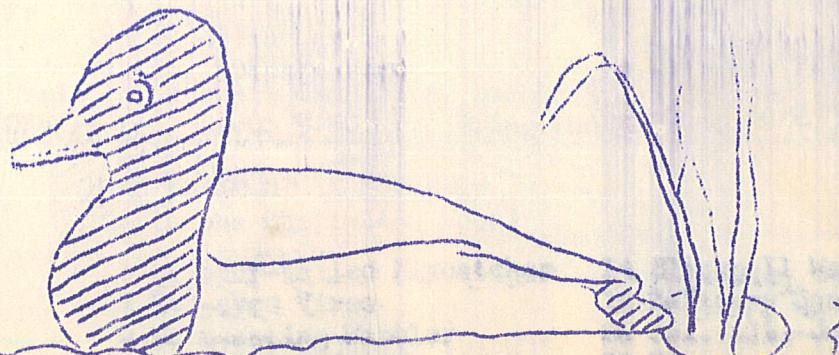


112

lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Natural History Society, November 1965 Vol. XIII No. 5
Editor and Publisher: Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, 774 Ft. Sumter Dr., Lawton Bluff, Charleston, S.C.

*** OFFICERS ***

President: Harry W. Freeman, 203 Haddrell St. Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Vice-president: Ernest A. Cutts, 1466 Edgewater Dr. Edgewater Park, Charleston, S.C.

Secretary-Treasurer: B. Rhett Chamberlain, Rte. 1 Box 48, Wadmalaw Island, S.C.

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

November 9

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

Speaker: John Henry Dick: Birds of the Bear River Refuge, Utah. Slides

November 13

(Saturday)

All day Field Trip to Seewee Y Camp Site. Leader: I. S. H. Metcalf

Leave Charleston Museum 6:30 a.m. Bring Lunch.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER

(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

- 1 Sprague's Pipit
- Fox Sparrow
- 2 Broad-winged Hawk
- (Coleman)°
- 3 White-winged Scoter
- Ipswich Sparrow
- 4 Common Goldeneye
- Snow Bunting
- 5 Parasitic Jaeger

- 8 Oldsquaw .
- 12 Fulvous Tree Duck (Dick)°
- G't Black-Bkd Gull (Dick)°
- 16 Bufflehead
- Golden Eagle
- 17 Rough-legged Hawk
- 19 Glaucous Gull
- Baltimore Oriole
- (The Barrington)
- 20 Red Crossbill
- 24 Common Merganser
- Saw-Whet Owl
- 28 Common Teal
- European Widgeon
- 30 Brant
- ? Horned Lark

Departures

- 2 Gray-cheeked Thrush
- 3 Purple Martin
- Cape May Warbler
- 4 Bl-Throated Blue Warbler
- 5 Chimney Swift
- Painted Bunting

- 6 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- 7 Red-eyed Vireo
- 9 Worm-eating Warbler
- 10 Indigo Bunting
- 12 Magnolia Warbler
- 14 Mag. Frigate-bird
- 14 Blackpoll Warbler
- 18 Solitary Sandpiper
- 20 Yel.-bill Cuckoo (Staats)
- 21 Veery
- ? Swallow-tailed Kite
- ? Wilson's Phalarope

Casuals and Accidentals

Swainson's Hawk

Pomarine Jaeger

Booted Warbler (Coleman)*

Sandhill Crane

Northern Waterthrush

Wilson's Warbler

*When the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.SKY WATCHER'S GUIDE

During the first two weeks of November, the elusive planet, Mercury, may be located near the western horizon in the afterglow following sunset. Each evening, it will appear a little higher until November 12, when it will reach its greatest distance east of the sun. After that, it will rapidly retreat until it becomes lost in the glare of daylight.

Another planet, also, reaches its greatest distance east of the sun, - and for the second time this year. Venus moves progressively higher above the western horizon until November 16, when it will set about 7:45 p.m. This phenomenon, which also occurred in mid-July, is known as the planet's greatest elongation. Venus will remain in the evening sky throughout the rest of the year.

Mars may be located at the beginning of the month a few degrees northwest of Venus, but the brighter planet rapidly outstrips it, and by the middle of the month, Mars will set about 7:00 p.m.

Saturn is high in the southern sky at dark, and may be observed all night throughout the month.

Jupiter rises in the northeast between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. It shines with a steady white light.

The month of November heralds the approach of winter, which will bring back into the sky the greatest number of bright stars to be seen during the year. Between early dark and 11:00 o'clock, the Pleiades, Taurus, and Orion will make their annual debut above the horizon to the east.

At the Planetarium, on November 15, at 8:00 p.m., the topic will be
"THE MILKY WAY, AND BEYOND!"

Elizabeth D. Simons.

" Oceanic Lights"

Speaking of heavenly spectacles, how many of our members saw the awe-inspiring display of oceanic lightning on the night of October 9th? The editor chanced to look toward the south at ten o'clock that night and watched the beautiful and eerie play of light, just over the tops of the trees, for about an hour. There were no flashes nor vivid streaks, but soft wavering lights which seemed to leap from cloud to cloud. The rest of the sky was completely cloudless and quiet and I finally went to bed quite mystified. Was the display a sort of aurora or "southern lights", ships off-shore practicing with searchlights or atom bombs run amuk somewhere? Next morning's paper brought the answer. A violent thunder storm far out to sea. It was an unforgettable sight. W.M.C.

DUES

Once again we bring up the horrid subject of dues. At the October meeting the recommendation of the Executive Committee to increase the dues from one to two dollars annually was adopted. Dues for junior and sustaining members to remain the same. Bills for 1965-66 are enclosed in this issue of the Squawk. Members are reminded those two years in arrears will, regrettably, be dropped from the mailing list. The treasurer reports that about twenty members failed to pay last year's dues. We trust this was from oversight and not from a desire to withdraw from the society. Bring your dues to the next meeting or mail them to the treasurer.

Mr. B. Rhett Chamberlain, Box 48, Route 1, Wadmalaw Island, S.C.

Some Bird Notes.

Mr. Frank Johnson, manager of the Caps Romaine Bird Refuge reports two Avocets on Bull's Island on October 6th, and for several days after. Sprunt and Chamberlain have October 5th as the early date for this rare winter visitant, which makes the 6th an interesting record. This is a very striking bird and easily identifiable, so we should all keep lookout for it. Several years ago three were seen on a pond on John's Island not far from highway 17.

Teague Coleman, while driving on highway 61 between the Bee's Ferry road and Springfield sub-division saw an adult Swallow-tailed Kite. This would seem to be the first record of a Swallow-tail west of the Ashley River for many years, though they have been seen there and are not uncommon east of the Cooper River.

Ted Beckett writes: The Tennessee Warbler is a rare fall migrant in coastal South Carolina. There is only one Spring record for the state and this was a male seen by John Kershaw at Aiken on May 11, 1909 (South Carolina Bird Life, 1949) Wayne attempted to collect one on October 10, 1900 and A.R. Phillips did collect a specimen in the Stark area on October 18, 1942.

The Tennessee Warbler is a high ranging species, apparently entirely insectivorous. The writer netted a specimen on October 7, 1964 and another on October 9, 1965. Both were immature birds caught in nets set along ditches in open fields. It is quite obvious that the birds were passing from one feeding area to another and were entirely out of habitat in flying within five feet of the ground. It is a rather nondescript olive green bird with a dark line running through the eyes. It blends well with the surrounding foliage and would be hard to identify unless close at hand.

A point of interest is that all of the coastal records are within a period of 11 days in the month of October. In all my banding work it becomes more apparent how close to a given date a species arrival or departure date can be predicted, frequently within two or three days, regardless of the temperature or cold fronts.

This leads me to ask all "birders" to be on the alert for this species during the second and third week of October - thus forewarned, good field work should prove this species to much more common than our present records show.

Addenda : Upon examining my copy of Robert M. Mengel's "Birds of Kentucky" I find that the Tennessee Warbler is considered a high ranging bird of the forest in spring migrations. During the fall it is considered much more numerous and resorts more often to "feeding in brushy fields and similar situations".

It may come as a surprise to many that the Tennessee Warbler does resort to brushy ditch banks and the ground in feeding. The two birds I have netted were apparently not out of habitat as previously stated.

T.A. Beckett, III

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

The following six members attended our first fall field trip to the flats at Lockwood Drive and the Mt. Pleasant causeway on Sunday, October 17th. Burnham Chamberlain, leader, Rhett Chamberlain, Edwin Blitch, Miss Ruth Clements, David Chamberlain and Mrs. L.S. Smith. They report a good day and a successful trip with plenty of water and shore birds, though nothing out of the ordinary. A survey was made of the ground around the TV tower just across the Cooper River, as in the past, during migration, many dead birds have been picked up there, among them several strangers to our area, but this time there were no casualties.

Migration Report Blanks.

Migration report blanks are enclosed in this issue to some of our members. Please fill them out and send them to Mr. Ellison A. Williams 27 Limehouse St. not later than December 10. Any one not receiving blanks and wishing to take part in this semi-annual project may have them by applying to the editor.