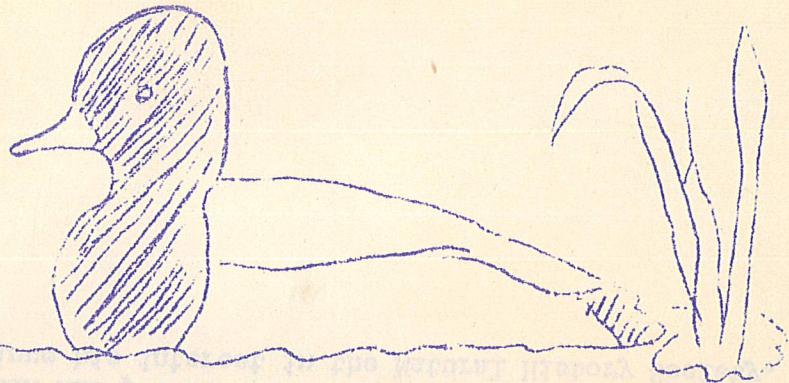


the lesser Squawk



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• • • OFFICERS • • •

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Executive Committee: Mrs. F. Barrington, T. A. Beckett, III, E. L. Blitch, III, B. R. Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain, Mrs. R. H. Coleman, I. S. Metcalf, I. S. H. Metcalf, Ernest A. Cutts and John M. Horlbeck.

- - - 0 0 0 - - - PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

!!! No Regular Meeting !!!

September 10
The Executive Committee will meet at 8:00 p.m.

The Office, Charleston Museum

Saturday, September 21

Morning Botany Field Trip (All members invited)
Leave Charleston Museum at 7:30 a.m.
S.C. Highway 41 towards Cainhoy
Leaders: Mrs. F. Barrington and Mrs. R. H. Coleman

BIRD MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER

(In the Charleston Area)

Arrivals

2	Blackpoll Warbler	10	Water Pipit	21	Song Sparrow
3	Eastern Phoebe	12	Short-billed Marsh Wren	22	Winter Wren
	Magnolia Warbler	15	House Wren		Bewick's Wren
4	Shoveler		Catbird		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
	Cape May Warbler	17	Red-breasted Nuthatch		Vesper Sparrow
5	Pintail		Gray-cheeked Thrush	25	Northern Phalarope
	Redhead (Beckett)*	18	Mallard (Beckett)*	28	Red-eyed Towhee (Coleman)*
7	Marbled Godwit		Amer. Goldfinch (Beckett)*		Swamp Sparrow
	Wilson's Phalarope	19	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	29	Myrtle Warbler
9	Gadwall (Coleman)*	20	Orange-crowned Warbler	30	Lark Bunting (Coleman)*
10	Swainson's Thrush		Grasshopper Sparrow		Late-Black, White Warbler (PR)

* If the arrival or departure date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life, the authority is given

DEPARTURES

4 Greater Shearwater	12 Blue-winged Warbler	21 Yellow-throated Vireo
8 Gray Kingbird	14 Orchard Oriole	25 Sooty Tern
Prthonotary Warbler	19 Noddy Tern	26 Swainson's Warbler
11 Louisiana Waterthrush	20 Bridled Tern	30 Trail' Warbler
	Casuals and Accidentals	
	American Flamingo	
	Hudsonian Godwit (Teddards)	

*The Hudsonian Godwit was seen on Hunting Island Sept. 1, 1961 by Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Teddards
Be on the lookout for another record of this rare bird this fall!!

PUBLICATION

With this issue the Lesser Squawk enters into a new phase of its existence. For many years Ted Metcalf, one of our early editors, has, after hours, run off each issue on the Citadel machine. His absence at vacation time has presented quite a problem. It has long been a dream of past-president Ted Beckett and past-editor Robert Coleman that the society possess its own machine. They felt that thus many items of interest to the society could be printed, as well as making the publication of the Squawk an easier task. At a special meeting of the executive committee it was voted to purchase such a machine in memory of Robert as soon as a permanent editor and a proper place to house it could be found, and a committee was appointed to look into the possibilities. Now that an editor and space have been secured the machine has been purchased and duly installed. This September issue is our first publication on the new machine and once more your patience is asked for an unskilled worker.

Many thanks to Ted and Peg Metcalf for their long and careful work in bringing the Squawk to press all these many years.

Thanks are also due to Edwin Blitch for taking vacation time to run off the August issue and to the Charleston Museum for the use of its machine.

ATTENTION BOTANISTS

Last year's extra field trips especially designed for the botanically minded seemed to meet with such approval that the executive committee has decided to repeat the experiment. The fall trip planned for Saturday, Sept. 21, before the start of our regular activities, will be across the Cooper River, up highway 41 toward Cainhoy and 'points west', an area rich in bog and pineland plants. While this is planned primarily for the flower lovers, all members are cordially invited.

Theoretically it is a morning trip, starting at 7:30 and home by 12:00. However, some may bring a 'snack' and stay a little longer.

BRING INSECT REPELANT:

RESIGNATION

Edwin Blitch, III, our energetic Vice-president, has resigned as Curator of Zoology at the Charleston Museum to take a position as teacher of Biology at St. Andrews High School. Edwin has done a fine job at the Museum and we regret his decision to make zoology his hobby rather than his profession. We wish him the best of luck in his new work and hope he will continue his interest in the Natural History Society.

-John K

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CAMPING MAKES POSSIBLE

A long trip such as the Barringtons have just been privileged to enjoy, - to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and many places of note on the way there and back. Camping and getting one's own meals is the answer to stretching a very meager budget to cover the seemingly impossible. Admitted, camping has its inconveniences and even its difficulties, but it also develops adaptability (if not to changing environment such as is said to have had a part in man's survival through the ages) at least to changing surroundings and conditions from night to night. But with the reward so great - TRIP vs. NO trip - all effort seems trivial. Following are a few camping experiences which never could have been equaled on the nights spent in motels.

Always, before leaving a camping area in State or National Park or Forest, we try to look for something of special interest or beauty peculiar to that locality. At Red Rock Canyon State Park in Oklahoma great bird activity proved to be Cliff Swallows busy at all stages of homemaking - gathering mud from a meadow pool, plastering it up on the red (really red) rock of the canyon wall, some birds incubating on completed nests, others feeding young - the closest and most complete experience we have ever had with Cliff Swallows.

At Palo Duro Canyon State Park (Indian term meaning 'hard wood') in the Texas Panhandle we were getting dinner at the out-door fireplace and also giving attention to the spectacular clouds and thunderheads gathering and completely surrounding the walls of the canyon which completely surrounded the spacious camping area. The canyon walls were receding rather than overhanging and this gave us an unobstructed view of all points of the compass. The Ranger came around to warn of high winds to accompany the approaching storm, necessary advice for some of the tenters. But, snug in our car after dinner and ready for the night, with curtains hung but pulled back for observation, we happily enjoyed the magnificent display. My notes, jotted at the time, now read something like this. Wonderful cloud effects, billowing, rampaging. Vivid lightning from zenith to canyon rim. Thunder, loud and crashing and reverberating from wall to wall in muffled tones till another crash started the sound effects all over again. Sheets of wind-driven rain. And then, just before darkness would have made it impossible, a rainbow arching almost overhead from rim to rim. But even that was not the end. An hour or so later, moonlight and calm over all the canyon and quiet camp. Just suppose we had been cooped-up in a motel that night!

On another occasion we were camping on the bank of rocky, turbulent Beaver Creek in Fish Lake National Forest in Utah. Just before dinner we saw a pair of Water Ouzels flying, teetering, and "dipping". We saw the location of their nest, true to form on a ledge, under an overhanging rock, not far above water. Next morning when the light was better we watched for activity at the nest, but evidently it had only recently been selected for the birds were not at home.

Often we recall these things and many others that we would have missed had we been able to sleep more often in closed-in-motel-comfort.

L.S.B. August 1963

THE COMSTOCKS

A card from the Rock Comstocks gives change of address from Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. to 806 Penola Dr. Richmond, Va. Rock is in the National Park Service, so we suppose this means another transfer.

The Comstocks were active of C.N.H.S. in its early days. Rock served as Vice-President and Kay as Treasurer. Kay was the originator and first editor of the Lesser Squawk, so we owe her much!

Good luck in your new job Rock and Kay. Let us hear from you.

Our pleasure from having converted a screened porch into a glassed-in sitting room turned to dismay as birds continued to break their necks against the seven picture windows. Drawing the shades seemed to make the illusion of space even more magnetic. My husband finally painted designs with white shoe polish on the dark outer sides of the shades and the slaughter terminated immediately.

Because we're convinced that the alternative to employing insecticides on our thirty-five acres is defoliation of the trees and shrubbery, plus disappearance of the grass (which would certainly result in damage to wildlife of all kinds except snakes and roaches that boast an ability to adjust to any adversity) we continue to spray bug killer as needed. We avoid feeding ground and exercise every known precaution and we're unable to detect any deleterious effects on the bird population so far. I'm confident there hasn't been a single mortality among the English sparrows, cowbirds, blue jays and redwings which appear to have quadrupled since April. This is the first year we've seen juvenile white-eyed towhees, although the adults are present every summer.

I'd like report belatedly, that we had a duckcissel in the yard from February 7 till April 11 of this year. She had no mate and I was unsuccessful in my efforts to promote a romance between her and an English sparrow.

Corinne Pettit.

A.O.U.

The American Ornithologist Union met at the University of Florida in Gainesville on August 12-16, 1963. The Charleston area was represented by Alex Sprunt, Jr. and the writer.

A very tight schedule of 49 papers were read during the six paper sessions, some concurrent. To me one of the most interesting was on the Red-cockled Woodpecker. A new theory was advanced for the use of gum-exuding pines, creating a blaze for homing, making it easier for the bird to find. The very small percentage of young fledged, size of nesting territory, and foster feeding were brought out in the paper. I find it very hard to agree with much of the presentation if applied to the Charleston area.

Many of the individuals present had attended the Wilson meeting in Charleston and all boasted about the hospitality, field trips, friendliness and "necessary libations" offered by the Charleston sponsors.

Mr. Frank Weston was present and his arrival was highly looked forward to many. He sent his regards to all in the Charleston area and his presence helped to make my trip a success.

I highly recommend that anyone taking up any branch of ornithology seriously become a member and try to attend some of the meetings.

T.A. Beckett, III

A New Government Booklet

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A new Government booklet of interest to bird watchers is Ducks at a Distance, full color guide of 24 pages showing all major species of ducks and geese in autumn-migration plumage. Price 25 cents. Order from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402