

THE BIRDS

September



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PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

No Regular Meeting - No Field Trip

September 14

Executive Committee Meeting 8:00 p.m.

Office Charleston Museum

BIRD MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER

(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

- 2 Blackpoll Warbler
- 3 Eastern Phoebe
- Magnolia Warbler
- 4 Shoveler
- Cape May Warbler
- 5 Pintail
- Redhead (Beckett)*
- 7 Marbled Godwit (Beckett)*
- Wilson's Phalarope
- 9 Gadwall (Coleman)*
- 10 Swainson's Thrush

- 10 Water Pipit
- 12 Sh.-billed Marsh Wren
- 15 House Wren
- Catbird
- 17 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- Gray-cheeked Thrush
- 18 Mallard (Beckett)*
- Am. Goldfinch (Beckett)*
- 19 Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- 20 Orange-cr. Warbler
- Grasshopper Sparrow

- 21 Song Sparrow
- 22 Winter Wren
- Bewick's Wren
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Vesper Sparrow
- 25 Northern Phalarope
- 26 Red-eye Towhee (Coleman)*
- Swamp Sparrow
- 29 Myrtle Warbler
- 30 Lark Bunting
- late Bla. & White Warbler (PR?)

Departures

- 4 Greater Shearwater
- 8 Gray Kingbird
- Prothonotary Warbler
- 11 Louisiana Waterthrush

- 12 Blue-winged Warbler
- 14 Orchard Oriole
- 19 Noddy Tern
- 20 Bridled Tern
- 30 Trail's Flycatcher

- 21 Yellow-thr. Vireo
- 25 Sooty Tern
- 28 Swainson's Warbler
- 29 Bank Swallow

Leach's Petrel	Casuals and Accidentals
Hudsonian Godwit (Teddards)*	American Flamingo
	Least Flycatcher
	Olive-sided Flycatcher

If the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

From the foregoing lists it will be seen that many of our best known and more common winter residents will be arriving this month. In the past a total of 238 species has been recorded for September and one observer reported having seen a total of 87 every September for 6 consecutive years. So, get out your field glasses and see what you can do.

SKY-WATCHER'S GUIDE

Four of the planets may be seen during September. Early in the month, Mars may be located near the western horizon, where it sets about 7:30 p.m. Venus, also, is low in the west at twilight, and it sets about 8:00 o'clock. Saturn is well above the eastern horizon at dark, and for those who retire late, Jupiter may be seen rising in the northeast about midnight the early part of the month, and about 2 hours later during the last week.

The Milky Way glows as a beautiful band of soft light stretched across the sky from northeast to southwest. At this time of the year it is at its best. "Flying" in the midst of it, almost directly overhead, is Cygnus, the Swan. This is not a very brilliant constellation, but it is one of the loveliest. It is sometimes called The Northern Cross, because in shape it is nearly a perfect cross. Deneb, the only bright star of this configuration, marks the head of the Cross, or the tail of the Swan. Three fainter stars in a line run southwest from Deneb, and at right angles with the one nearest to it, two faint stars form the arms of the Cross, or the wings of the Swan. At the edge of the Milky Way, just west of Cygnus, is the blue-white star, Vega. It forms the apex of a triangle, with two very faint stars. "Dangling" southward from one of these are three more faint stars, forming a diamond-shaped figure. The whole group is known as Lyra, the Lyre.

The Autumnal Equinox will occur on September 23. At this time, the earth will be half-way between its summer and winter positions. Each day thereafter, it will appear to swing farther northward around the sun, and the nights will grow steadily longer.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

THERE IS A CASE FOR CAUTION.

"A nationwide campaign is under way to lull the American public into complacency over the dangers involved in the use of chemical pesticides. Behind the quiet, but effective, campaign are chemical manufacturers and agricultural interests (and their spokesmen in government) who would profit from increased use of such chemicals.

A chemical company issues a release pointing that this wasn't a "Silent Spring", and that birds sang despite the dire predictions of the late Rachel Carson. Curiously coincidental was a Congressional committee report acclaiming the value of pesticides and lambasting the critics of their use. These and other actions are aimed "quietly dispelling our fears of contamination of our environment."

Proponents of the use of chemical pesticides, including the lethal and persistent chlorinated hydrocarbons, take the attitude that there is little definite proof of damage, except to wild creatures. So they ask why, within certain limits, people should be so concerned?

The National Wildlife Federation and other leading conservation groups recommend a more cautious approach. We believe human life - and wildlife - is too valuable to risk by the free and indiscriminate use of pesticides until they are proved safe."

The above paragraphs, and title, are taken from an editorial in the August-September number of the National Wildlife Magazine and point up graphically why all nature lovers must be ever vigilant.

W.M.C.

VACATION NOTES

Our honorary member, (a Charlestonian living in Florida), Mr. Francis Weston paid his usual Charleston visit in June. Your editor was so fortunate as to go with him on a morning bird jaunt to the Bees Ferry Road and while we saw or heard only some of the more common warblers, vires and thrushes, and not too many of those, it was a great privilege to serve as escort to our charter member who taught many of our present "experts" most of their birding lore. We look forward to seeing him next summer.

A note from Mr. Weston on his return to Pensacola says, "Bird life seems so scarce this year that my list was the shortest I have ever made on my two-weeks visit to Charleston every summer. Even on my slow transit of the Savannah River Refuge, I saw almost nothing."

The Francis Barringtons have recently returned from an extended western and northern tour. As always, these hardy travelers made this primarily an outdoor trip, stopping at National and State Park camping areas. Leaving in mid-May and returning in early August, they covered some 12,000 miles and report a wonderful vacation. As later on we are to have the pleasure of hearing and seeing all about their trip (see October list of coming attractions) when they will show some of the slides they took en route, it would not do to steal any of their thunder! here, so no mention is made of where they went nor what they saw. But- don't miss that program when it comes.

In August our artist member, Mrs. M. D. Richardson and son Marvin spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Leeberg (many of us remember them most pleasantly when they were our guests on two field trips to Bear Island) in the Poconos Mountain Reserve. Mrs. Richardson exhibited some of her paintings and in addition had a thoroughly delightful time hiking and canoeing through the woods and lakes with no thought of ticks, redbugs or snakes, in 50- temperature. She reports as do most of our vacationers, a disappointing number of birds, especially warblers.

***** Aug. 20

Mrs. B. F. McGuckin writes from Sapphire: "While sitting on the terrace of our friends, the Staats, I saw five male and one female Black-throated Blue Warblers: We had seen one at a time on Wednesday when we were over there but apparently there is a migration going through there now. This may not seem very exciting to you, but I haven't seen B.T. Blue for three years. On our own terrace I have seen Black and White, Parula and a Yellowthroat. Also three immature Rose Breasted Grosbeaks and the rest of the summer birds seen here in the mountains."

Black-throated Blue Warblers are always exciting to me.

W. M. C.

W.M.C

Your editor did not go afield this summer, being busily engaged in her own nest-building in her new environment. Which environment, by the way is adjacent to marshes, woods and fresh water ponds and should be rich in bird life, when and if she has time to look. So far quantities of Red-winged Blackbirds, grackles, both Common and Boat-tailed and a family of Kingbirds is her entire list.

Please accept the editor's apologies for our bird, which seems to be thoroughly "shook up" by the move and has gone into eclipse plumage. I hope he will be all feathered out by next month.