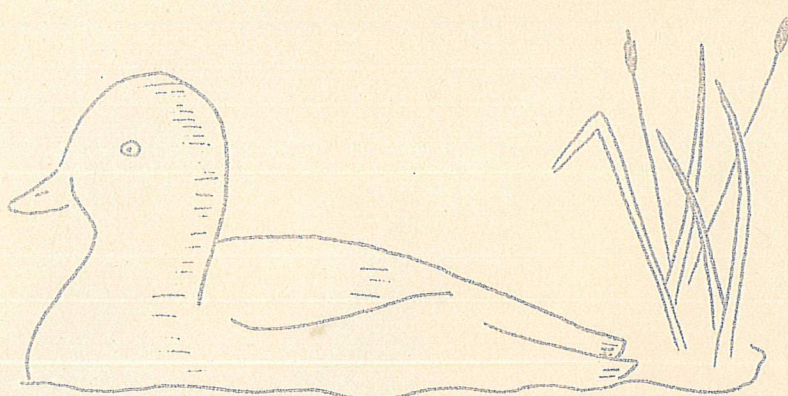


The Lesser Squawk



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OFFICERS

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APRIL ACTIVITIES

The regular monthly meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, April 13, at 8:00 p.m. at the Charleston Museum. Captain Dennis M. Forsythe, Assistant Professor of Biology at The Citadel, will speak on "Bird Vocalizing." The program will include recordings of bird voices.

The annual spring bird count will be on Sunday, April 25. Members of the Society who participated in the count last year have already received reminders. They and any others who are interested in participating this year should call Julian Harrison (795-1694) not later than April 21. He needs a few days to organize the parties to cover the various areas included in the count.

OBSERVATIONS

Julian Harrison reports a sighting of two Swallow-tailed Kites at the crossing of Willowhall Road and Cooter Creek near Awendaw in Charleston County on March 24. Within a few days of that time Ted Beckett saw one at Magnolia Gardens. Julian also reports Prothonotary Warblers feeding at the edge of the lake in Clearview subdivision, James Island, on March 21.

Waddell Robey reports 40 to 50 Avocets on the mud flats of the Ashley River near North Bridge at 12:30 p.m. (low tide) on March 23. This is the same site at which Terry Moore saw five Avocets on February 21. Apparently anyone interested in seeing this species should frequent the area around North Bridge.

MARCH FIELD TRIP

On March 14 ten members of the Society and their guests visited Savannah Wildlife Refuge. The day was clear and sunny. Seventy-five species of birds were sighted including many ducks which had not yet flown north. The group was particularly impressed with the large number of marsh rabbits on the dikes. The Society extends its thanks to the officials of the Refuge for a very enjoyable outing.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

April is not only the month in which many bird migrants return to the Lowcountry: it is also the month in which many spring flowers begin to bloom. Mrs. Robert H. Coleman supplied the list below of flowers seen on a field trip to the Clements' Ferry - Cain Key area in April of 1959. Most of them can be expected to bloom in April this year, with some extending into May and June.

Mrs. Coleman states: "Good descriptions of these and many others blooming at this time of the year may be found in the beautifully illustrated book Wildflowers of North Carolina by Justice and Bell or Wildflowers in South Carolina by Batson, with excellent text but rather poor illustrations, also in our old standby, Flowers of the South, Greene & Blomquist."

Golden Club	- <i>Orontium aquaticum</i>
Yellow-eyed Grass	- <i>Xyroxis juncea</i> (?)
Atamasco Lily	- <i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>
Blue-eyed Grass	- <i>Sisyrinchium</i> (several species)
Iris	- <i>Iris virginica</i>
Leather Flower	- <i>Viorna crispa</i>
Sundew	- <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
Orange Milkwort (Bachelor Button)	- <i>Polygama lutea</i>
Rock Rose or Frostweed	- <i>Helianthemum carolinianum</i>
White Violets	- <i>Viola primulifolia</i> (?)
Blue Violets	- <i>Viola</i> (several species)
Dogwood	- <i>Cornus florida</i>
Wild Azalea	- <i>Rhododendron canescens</i>
Fetter Bush	- <i>Lyonia lucida</i>
Stagger Bush	- <i>Lyonia mariana</i>
Lyre-leaved Sage	- <i>Salvia lyrata</i>
Butterwort	- <i>Pinguicula lutea</i>
Violet Butterwort	- <i>Pinguicula caerulea</i>
Bladderwort	- <i>Utricularia inflata</i>
Cross Vine	- <i>Bignonia capreolata</i>
Bluets	- <i>Houstonia caerulea</i>
Woodbine	- <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>
Sun-honnets	- <i>Chaptalia tomentosa</i>
Red Chokeberry	- <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>
Toadflax	- <i>Linaria canadensis</i>
Red Buckeye	- <i>Aesculus pavia</i>

Editor's note: Would members of the Society be interested in a wildflower field trip next spring? Remember the poll last year showed botany to be nearly as popular as ornithology within the Society.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Sky-watchers will be able to get 1971's best view of Mercury as an "Evening Star" on April 1st in the last of the afterglow following the sunset. It may then be located about 15 or 20 degrees above the horizon, a little north of west. The planet will appear brighter as daylight fades, outshining even the first magnitude stars as they come into view, and it will not set until about 8:00 p.m. Each day thereafter, it will move more into the sun's glare, and a week later, it will probably be lost to view. Saturn is also in the western sky, following Mercury to the horizon an hour and a half later. At midmonth, Saturn sets by 8:30 p.m.

At that time, Leo will be nearly overhead, straddling the meridian. It will be noted that most of the bright stars are now in the western half of the sky. Brilliant Sirius is nearing the southwestern horizon; red Betelgeuse, one of the shoulders of Orion, is directly north of Sirius, exactly in the west; Capella, in Auriga, very bright and yellow is higher above the northwestern horizon; Castor and Pollux, midway between Regulus in Leo, and Capella; and diagonally between Pollux and Sirius is Procyon, the Lesser Dog. High in the east, Arcturus shines with fiery-red brilliance.

If the observer is in an open area away from all bright lights, he may be able to see an interesting group of very faint stars. Between Regulus and Procyon is an irregular circlet, and from it a zigzag line stretches southward and eastward across the sky. This is Hydra, the Water Snake. On the back of Hydra, near the end of the tail, is an uneven four-sided figure which represents Corvus, the Crow. Nearer the center of the back is a triangle, with the base toward the Crow. This is Crater, the Cup. A most fascinating story to explain this strange arrangement of star groups may be found in Greek mythology.

The Big Dipper, now, is high in the northern sky. April is the best month, in this latitude, to see the whole of the Great Bear, of which the Big Dipper is a part. The Bear appears to be walking upsidedown. The bowl of the Dipper is supposed to be the haunches of the animal, and the handle, its long tail. ("Poetic License" is taken with star pictures!) A faint star forming a triangle with the outer stars of the bowl represents the nose. A pair of faint stars southwest of the nose and two other pairs equally spaced in a diagonal line southeastward from the first represent three of the Bear's paws. The other front paw is supposed to be out of view as the animal walks along.

The third planet to be seen in the evening sky this month is Jupiter, which rises about 11:00 p.m. on the first, and by 9:00 on the 30th. In the morning sky, Mars is the first to appear--at 1:30 at the beginning of the month, and a half hour earlier at the end. As dawn is breaking, Venus emerges above the eastern horizon, to continue shining until it is lost in the glare of the rising sun.

-Elizabeth D. Simons

EASTERN BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION MEETING

The forty-eighth annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association will be held in Charleston on April 30 - May 2. This is the first time that the Association has met in Charleston.

Registration will be at the Charleston Museum from 3 to 9 p.m. on Friday, April 30. On Saturday morning there will be two field trips, one to Dixie Plantation (John Henry Dick) and one to Middleburg Plantation (Edward von S. Dingle). A session for presentation of talks and papers will be held Saturday afternoon, followed by a banquet Saturday night. On Sunday morning there will be a field trip to some colonies of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Some changes may occur in the projected list of speakers, but some of those who are expected to be present are:

Robert Pantle - Cornell Nest Record Card Program
 Bob and Liz Tulings - Age Determination by Eye Color
 Earl Baysinger, Chief of the Bird Banding Office - Activities of the Office

Art Wiseman - Determination of Age and Sex of Young Cardinals
Mary H. Clench and Robert C. Leberman - Do Tufted Titmice Migrate?

It is also hoped that a film on nest activities (made through sectioned tree trunks) of Red-headed Woodpeckers in Mississippi will be available.

Members who plan to attend the banquet on Saturday, May 1, should call Ted Backett (766-3462) so that they can be added to the list. An increase in the number of reservations is permitted until just before the banquet, but not a decrease.