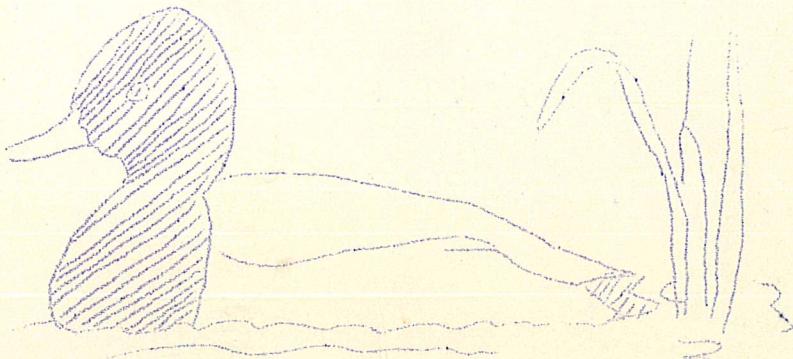


the Lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Natural History Society, December 1937, Vol. XVI No. 6
Editor and Publisher: Mrs. Robert H. Coleman, 774 Ft. Sumter Dr., Charleston, S.C.

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PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

No Meeting or Regular Field Trip

December 30

Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Meet Gregory's Filling Station, Highway 17-7: a.m.

Leader: E. Burnham Chamberlain

BIRD MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER

(in the Charleston area)

13 Great Black-backed Gull
(I.S.H. Metcalf)*

20 Purple Sandpiper

Arrivals 15 White-fronted Goose

1 Common Nighthawk

Departures

3 Yel.-crowned Night Heron
(R. Coleman)*

8 Bobolink

12 Glossy Ibis

? Golden Plover

(Williams et al.)*

Mute Swan

Casuals and Accidentals

King Eider

Dovkie Black-thr. Gray Warbler

Sandhill Crane

Burrowing Owl Yel. Breasted Chat (Cuthbert)*

Lapwing

Rufus Hummingbird Hooded Warbler (R. Coleman)*

Baird's Sandpiper

Crested Flycatcher Bobolink (Dec. 28)

Red Phalarope

Vermillion Flycatcher Western Tanager (Barringtons)*

Long-tailed Jaeger

(Wilcox)* Gray-cheeked Thrush (Cutts)*

Wood Thrush (Cutts)* Rose-breasted Grosbeak

*If the dates are not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

To quote from the Lesser Squawk of December 1935, "From the above lists it will be seen that far more 'Casual and Accidental' records are made in December than those of regular arrivals. Perhaps it would be worth-while to be on the lookout for some of these casual visitors in hopes of establishing regular December dates for some of them. Many birds seem to be changing their habits, so we should be constantly looking for strangers."

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS.

In December the Christmas Bird Census takes the place of our regular field trip. This is a serious count made each year during the holiday season all over the United States by the Audubon Society. Groups of bird watchers go into the woods and fields from dawn to dusk to observe and count the number of species to be found in a given area. Our count this year will be made on Saturday, December 30. We will start, as usual, from the Texaco filling station (Gregories') at the intersection of U.S. highway 17 and S.C. highway 11 at 7:00 a.m. Any member wishing to take part should notify E. Burnham Chamberlain, leader, before that date, to be assigned to a working group.

BELLEFIELD.

Some of our members ~~especially~~ remember with pleasure our trip last December to Bellefield Plantation. This year fortune smiled and 42 members of the society scoured the woods and fields, under sunny skies instead of rain as last year, on what we hope will be our annual bird count for the Baruch Foundation. We met across the Cooper River under a full moon at 6:00 o'clock before first dawn and drove 40 miles or so through the increasing daylight to Bellefield Plantation, where we were greeted by our gracious hostesses, Miss Sevrin and Miss Richmond, and refreshed with coffee and pastries.

Our leader, Harry Freeman, divided us into 9 small groups, and we sallied forth with maps and careful directions to explore the area. We checked 104 species, among them the less common ones were a Bald Eagle, a Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawks, several Red-crochets and Red-headed Woodpeckers. At 12:30 we returned to the house where we compared notes and were served a delicious lunch. After lunch several of us reluctantly turned homeward, while others returned to the field to look for more records.

This was surely a most delightful day from every point of view, and many thanks are due to Miss Sevrin for her gracious hospitality.

W.M.C.

THE SKYWATCHERS' GUIDE.

The December skies, from dark until dawn, are spangled with the greatest number of bright stars to be seen during the year. Added to this splendor, all five naked-eye planets are in view, - three in the evening, and two in the morning. Mars, in Capricornus, sets about 3 1/2 hours after the sun in the southwest. Saturn is high in the south at sunset, and may be viewed until midnight. As Saturn sets, Jupiter may be seen appearing over the eastern horizon in the constellation, Leo. Located just east of Regulus, the planet and the first magnitude star form a shining pair. Venus rises in Virgo about two hours before morning twilight begins, and on the 27th, the waning crescent moon will be to the west of the brilliant planet. During the first few days of the month, Mercury may be seen for about an hour before sunrise, but is soon lost in the solar glare.

Three showings of the "CHRISTMAS STAR" program have been scheduled at the Planetarium: December 18, at 8:00 p.m.; December 20, at 3:45 p.m.; and December 27, 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

BULL'S ISLAND.

We "view with alarm" the account, in a recent Sunday News, of proposed deer hunt by eighty people with guns for ten days on Bull's Island, a supposed Wildlife Sanctuary. Should not our society make a strong protest to the powers that be?

The Editor.