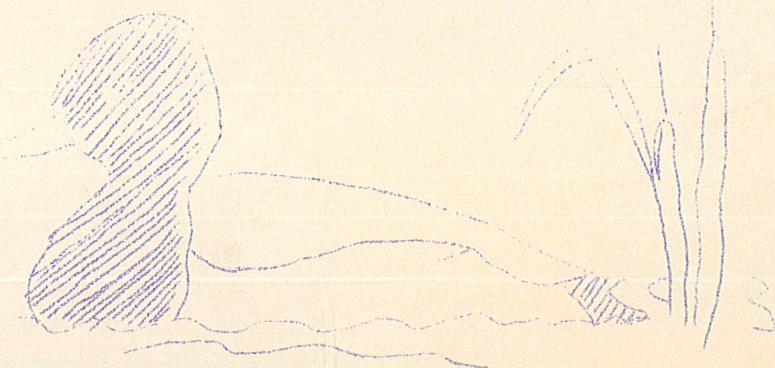


the lesser

Squawk



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PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

No Meeting--No Field Trip December 28 Audubon Christmas Bird Census Meet Gregorie Station Hwys. 17 & 41 7:00 a.m. Leader: E. B. Chamberlain

BIRD MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER

Arrivals

13 Great Black-backed Gull

15 White-fronted Goose

29 Purple Sandpiper

Departures

1 Common Nighthawk

8 Bobolink

12 Glossy Ibis (Williams)°

6 Yellow-crowned Night Heron
(Coleman)°

10 Least Bittern°

? Golden Plover

Casuals and Accidentals

Mute Swan
Fulvous Tree Duck
King Eider
Sandhill Crane
Lapwing
Baird's Sandpiper

Red Phalarope
Long-tailed Jaeger
Burrowing Owl
Rufous Hummingbird
Great-crested Flycatcher
Vermillion Flycatcher

Wood Thrush (Cutts)°
Black-thr. Gray Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Rose-bre. Grosbeak
Bobolink (Dec. 28)

° When the date is not taken from South Carolina Birdlife the authority is given

°° Records now lead us to believe that the Least Bittern is a permanent resident here.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS.

The annual Christmas bird census will take place in the usual area east of the Cooper River on Saturday, December 23. E. Burnham Chamberlain is leader and compiler. He asks those members who expect to take part please to notify him, P.O. Box 3039 Charleston, S.C. 29407 before Christmas, so that he may know how many to count on and arrange the various working teams. Meet at Gregorie's gas station, Highways 17 & 41 at 7:00 a.m. This is a "dawn to dark" project, so bring lunch.

The editor is most ~~thankful~~ to our new member, Mr. James M. Dorn, Jr. for "running off" this and the November issues of the Lesser Squawk on the duplicator at his office at the Baptist College. It was a tremendous help and I am truly grateful.

W.M.C.

OBSERVATIONS.

Francis Barrington reports a single Fox Sparrow at his feeder in Riverland Terrace on November 21 and on November 30 the first sighting of an Orange-crowned Warbler, possibly the same bird which has come to his feeder for many winters.

Mr. B. F. McCuckin says that his grandson saw a Baltimore Oriole in the McCuckin yard in Tradd St. early on the morning of November 30. Mr. McCuckin also saw the bird and was able to give positive identification. Is this the first record of a Baltimore in the heart of the city? They are becoming fairly plentiful in various parts of the county and in Summerville.

MERGER.

At the November meeting of the Natural Society the proposed merger with the National Audubon Society was discussed at some length and many convincing arguments brought forward in its favor. As part of a large group with the influence which the Audubon Society undoubtedly wields, we might work more aggressively for conservation and the protection of our natural resources. On the other hand, the merger means giving up our name and long-time identity as a pleasant social, and at the same time serious study group and an increase in dues from two to ten dollars yearly, which, of course includes the very fine Audubon magazine.

Your editor confesses that she is opposed to the idea. Mostly because of love for the old society, and maybe from an old-fogyish dislike of change, but she realizes that we have many new young members who are ready to go forward as an active working group and perhaps we old timers, who may be about to retire anyhow, should not be a drag on the enthusiasm of the young. So, give the idea careful thought and vote on the enclosed ballot as you believe will best for natural history in our low country. Remember that a vote yes or no is not a vote for or against forming a local chapter of the Audubon Society, but a vote for or against the merger of our society with an Audubon group.

The Editor.

BALLOT

On the next page you will find your ballot. Two are sent where two members ~~of~~ of a family receive only one copy of the Lesser Squawk. Please be sure to send in your vote so that the Executive Committee may know the will of our members.

2 Ballots enclosed