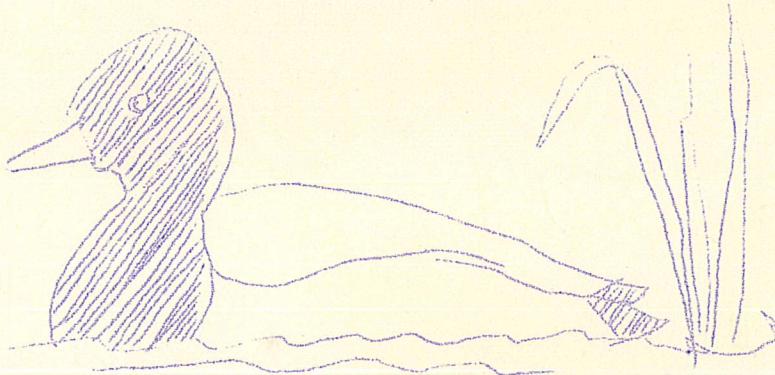


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Squawk



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° ° ° OFFICERS ° ° °

President: Ernest A. Cutts 1466 Edgewater Dr. Edgewater Park, Charleston, S.C.

Vice-President: Julian R. Harrison, III 670 Stiles Dr. Charleston, S.C.

Secretary-Treasurer: Ruth Clements 9 Legare St. Charleston, S.C.

Executive Committee: E. A. Cutts, J. R. Harrison, Ruth Clements, T. A. Beckett, III, W. M. Coleman, E. B. Chamberlain, I. S. H. Metcalf, E. R. Cuthbert, Jr. and S. C. Langston.

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY.

February 11

Regular Meeting Museum Lecture Room, 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: John Henry Dick. Color Films.

February 16

All Day Trip East of the Cooper, Gaillard's Lake

Leader: Julian Harrison

Meet Charleston Museum 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY.

Arrivals.

6 Purple Martin

8 White-tailed Kite

28 Evening Grosbeak

Departures.

3 White-fronted Goose

13 Cinnamon Teal

? Dovkie

Casuals and Accidentals.

Harlequin Duck

Long-tailed Jaeger

Parula Warbler

MERGER.

The Executive Committee of the Charleston Natural History Society met on the evening of January 21 to count the ballots recently sent to the members for their vote on the question: Should the Charleston Natural History Society join with the National Audubon Society to form a new organization to be known as the Charleston Chapter of the Audubon Society.

According to our constitution two-thirds majority of those voting is necessary to make any change in the constitution and thus a two-thirds majority of votes was needed to make this change.

Of our 142 members 80 returned a ballot. The count was as follows: 42 yes and 38 no and one abstaining. As the question did not receive a two-thirds majority the motion was lost and therefore the Society will go as usual.

Feeling that it is desirable to have an active Audubon group in Charleston the Charleston Natural History Society stands ready to help in every possible way (short of union) to form such a group.

1968 WINTER BIRD CENSUS.

The annual Christmas bird count took place on Saturday, December 28 in spite of downright nasty weather in the morning. After lunch the sun came out, but so did the wind! Twenty observers turned in a count of 122 species, a much lower count than for our area, but good considering the bad weather. Those taking part were Noy Baker, Edwin Blitch, Frances Brewster, David Chamberlain, Burnham Chamberlain, compiler, Norman Chamberlain, E.C. Clyde, Teague Coleman, Wilhelmina Coleman, John Henry Dick, Vernon Gerrity, Julian Harrison, Peter Manigault, Ted, Tom, and John Metcalf, Jr. & Mrs. Jerry Nangle, Arthur Wilcox and David Yount.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP.

On Sunday, January 19 what seems to be our usual January was attempted. Francis Barrington, Alan Bills, Louise Button, Wilhelmina Coleman, Edmund Cuthbert and Leila Miles started out in drizzle and fog hoping to scan the dikes and ponds of Magnolia Gardens. We got as far as the Beckett house where we were met by Ted's daughter Anne Updike and her husband Walter, who were to take Ted's place as leaders. They took us into the house where we enjoyed coffee and doughnuts and pleasant bird conversation. Then we decided to be as wise as the birds, who were hiding well out of the rain, and turned homeward. We did see a pretty Purple Finch on the Beckett's feeder, and some saw coots on the ponds. That is the list for the January trip alas!

W.H.C.

JANUARY PROGRAM.

At our January meeting we were fortunate enough to have a most interesting and informative talk by our good friend Bobby Lunz, director of Bear's Bluff Laboratory. He told of his experiments in the breeding of shrimp in specially designed pools and of the possibility of this being done commercially. He illustrated his talk with interesting color slides. He also reminded us of the great value of our marshes as nurseries for young shrimp, crabs and fish and spoke of the danger to some of our most valuable industries if draining and filling of these marshes continues too long. The research he and his co-workers are doing along these lines and his continual fight to protect our water resources is of the greatest importance and should have our active support.

OBSERVATIONS.

Francis Barrington reports Golden Crowned Kinglet at his bird bath on the ground on Jan. 9 and also on that day a Fox Sparrow at his feeder. Purple Finches Jan. 12. A number of Robins much earlier than they usually come to his yard-Riverland terrace.

Anne Richardson had a Baltimore Oriole feeding at his favorite camellia bloom in her yard on Dec. 28 and she had a report from Kenneth Herbert of the Crescent of a Rosebreasted Grosbeak there.

This seems to be a true Evening Grosbeak year, for since reporting those seen in Hartsville the following observations have been sent to the editor. Anne Richardson, flocks varying in size from 2 birds to 11 or 12 all through January. Dory Smith one in her yard on Northbridge Terrace on Dec. 7 and Edwin^W a large flock on the Ft. Johnson road in James Island on Jan. 6. Some have also been seen on Sullivan's Island. The following interesting account comes from Mrs. Richard Falley

A female Eastern Evening Grosbeak just appeared at our feeders December 18 but steadily increased in numbers until Dec. 28th there were eighteen of these attractive birds spending most of each day in our small yard. (2 blocks north of Northbridge on highway 7)

Not listed as a South Carolina visitor I looked up its history in Thomas Robert's "Birds of Minnesota". Found that this northern bird was first reported before the National Council of Natural History Society meeting in New York City, by a Minnesottian in January 1825.

In Minnesota the Chippewa Indians named the bird "Paush Ku da mo" from their verb, paush ka un, meaning, to break. Records told of its love of salt -so- every day a handfull of rock salt is added to an abundant supply of sun-flower seeds. This may account for their long stay- as of January 14 the entire 18 birds are still visitors in our yard all day.

The Minnesota report said that their migratory flights were erratic from year to year and that it was not weather but food supply that brought them down out of Canadian winters.

Hazel Falley

On January 28 Mrs. Falley adds this note: The flock has increased to 22 and is joined by 2 male Purple Finches.

A VISITING STRANGER.

"To a smoker it's a Kent" perhaps, but to a birder it's a thrill - the thrill of seeing in your own baliwick a bird common in another area, but rare in your own, and that was the thrill experienced by Leila Miles, Wilhelmina Coleman and Edmund Cuthbert on January 11 when they went for an imprompture picnic to Edmund's recently acquired acreage on Wadmalaw Island. The weather was definitely on the chilly side, but in spite of that we walked down the "big road" to the Bear's Bluff gate hoping to scare up a few birds. Not finding any we decided to explore the Martin's Point road by car. About a half mile from the main highway going north we stopped to look at a large flock of Redwing Blackbirds, hoping to find a few Rustys among them. We were about to give up the search when Leila remarked that one seemed to have yellow on it. and there in full view was a beautiful Yellow-headed Blackbird. It sat outlined against the sky for some minutes and we were all able to get a good look at it through the binoculars. The yellow-head has been seen a few times in this area, but it certainly cannot be called common. A new bird to add to our life list and such a beautiful one! Hence the thrill !

W.M.C.