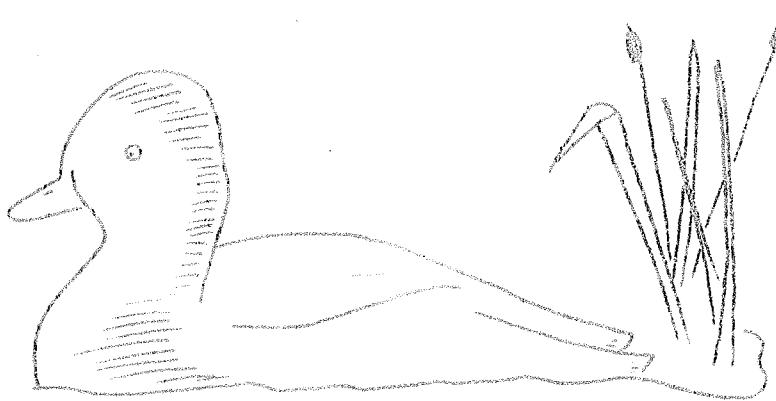


The Lesser

Squawk



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Editor: Roger D. Lambert, 205 Harter Drive, Summerville, S.C. 29483. Ph. 873-1582

OFFICERS

President: Julian R. Garrison, III, 670 Stiles Dr., Charleston, S.C.

Vice-President: Norman A. Chamberlain, 458 Wade Hampton Dr., Charleston, S.C.

Secretary-Treasurer: Alan M. Bills, 221 Forest Circle, Summerville, S.C.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

The regular monthly meeting of the Society will be held at the Charleston Museum at 8:00 p.m. January 12, 1971. Mr. J.G. MacDougal will present slides and speak on wild flowers.

An all-day field trip to Santee National Wildlife Refuge will be held on January 16th. Participants will meet Julian Garrison, leader, at 6:00 a.m. at the Museum. The trip will be made unless the weather is severe. Julian says no common, ordinary, puddle-splashing rain will prevent his going.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB CONVENTION

Registration for the convention will be on Friday, January 22, at 3:30 p.m. at the Museum. Plans for the weekend will be announced at a meeting on Friday night. A slide talk will be presented at that meeting.

On Saturday, the 23rd, two all-day field trips will be made—one to Dixie Plantation (John Henry Dick) and one to Middleburg Plantation (Edward von S. Dingle). People attending the convention will have to choose between the two trips. A box lunch (chicken) can be reserved for the trips by sending \$1.50 to Julian Garrison. On Saturday night there will be a business meeting and another slide talk.

Several short field trips will be made on Sunday, the 24th. One will be to Magnolia Gardens, one to Fairlawn Plantation, and others not yet announced. Anyone who has suggestions for short field trips should contact Julian Garrison.

There will not be a banquet this year.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Dedicated Sky-watchers may be the only ones courageous enough to spend time observing the heavens in January, since the coldest weather of the year is usually to be expected during this month. It may, therefore, come as a surprise to some to learn that on January the third, the earth will be about two million miles closer to the sun than it will be next July. Since the average distance between our planet and its life-sustaining star is 93 million miles, a difference of two million may seem of very little consequence. The consistent tilt of the North Pole of the earth toward the North Star, with the southern hemisphere of the planet receiving the more direct rays of the sun at the present time, is the cause of our frigid weather. In spite of this fact, observers may have noticed that the lengthening of the days since the Winter Solstice is more rapid than the shortening of the days after the Summer Solstice in June. This is proof of one of the laws of nature, for if the earth did not move more rapidly on its orbit at this point, the gravity of the sun would cause the earth to plunge into its fiery depths.

During the evening hours of January, only one planet is in view. As soon as it is dark, at the beginning of the month, Saturn may be seen just about on the meridian, and as the month advances, increasingly westward. However, there is no dearth of bright objects to reward the observer. Seven of the brightest stars in the heavens dominate the sky. They may all be found within or near the edges of the Milky Way band which, at this time, runs from northwest to southeast. By 8:00 p.m. at mid-month, Capella in Auriga is a little north of overhead, and may be recognized by its brilliance and its yellow color. To the southeast and southwest of Capella are two others, one on either edge of the Milky Way: Pollux, also yellow in color, shines southeast, and orange-red Aldebaran, southwest. Pollux is accompanied nearby by its twin, Castor. Shining with a white light, Castor is not quite first magnitude in brilliance. Aldebaran is the "red, angry eye" of Taurus, the Bull. Directly south of Auriga is Orion, the Hunter, now standing upright. There are two very bright stars in this constellation: red Betelgeuse, representing one of his shoulders, and brilliant, blue Rigel, diagonally opposite, his heel. Three bright stars in a row between these two represent his belt. Most brilliant of all the stars is Sirius in Canis Major, the Great Dog. Sparkling with fiery rainbow colors, Sirius may be located just southeast of Orion. Between Capella and Sirius shines Procyon in Canis Minor, the Lesser Dog.

At the beginning of the month, just as Saturn sets, between 2:30 and 3:30 a.m., Mars will rise. About an hour later, first Venus, then Jupiter will appear. As the month advances, Jupiter will draw nearer to Mars. Quite a show will reward early rising Sky-watchers, especially those who own small telescopes, on the 23rd. Just before dawn on that day, Mars and Jupiter will be in close proximity in the claws of Scorpius, and Venus will be a little above the horizon, northeast of Antares, an orange-red star. Directly south of Venus will be the waning crescent moon. Telescopes set on Jupiter will reveal the planet, Neptune, slightly northeast of the great planet. If good weather obtains, therefore, dedicated Sky-watchers will find good hunting in January.

Elizabeth D. Simmons

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas bird count on December 27, 1970, included 156 species and 38,468 individuals, compared with 146 species and 36,850 individuals in 1969. The sea ducks, scoters and scaups were less numerous than usual this year. Other ducks, with a few exceptions, were more numerous than last year. Few unusual sightings occurred. One wood thrush was seen, but others have been seen in winter previously. Possibly a prairie warbler was seen. Terry Moore saw one at Breech Inlet a few days before the count. Twenty-one members of the Society and guests participated.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

PEACHTREE-SEVENTH BUILDING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Pursuant to provisions of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964, (P.L. 88-577; 78 Stat. 890-896; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), a PUBLIC HEARING will be held in the Charleston County Library, 404 King Street, Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina, on January 15, 1971, beginning at 9 a.m. for the purpose of developing information with respect to the desirability of including the Cape Romain wilderness proposal in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The wilderness proposal comprises approximately 28,000 acres within Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge in Charleston County, State of South Carolina. A brochure containing a map of the preliminary boundaries and additional information concerning the proposal may be obtained from the Refuge Manager, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 288, McClellanville, South Carolina 29458, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Peachtree-Seven Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30323.

All interested parties including Federal, State, County and municipal agencies, local interests, and individual citizens, are invited to be present at the above time and place. They will be afforded full opportunity to express their views concerning the proposed wilderness.

Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of the record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing as the record of the hearing will be forwarded for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior. Written statements may either be mailed to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Atlanta, Georgia, 30323 in advance of the hearing, or handed to the hearing officer at the hearing. The Department of the Interior encourages written expression relative to the proposal at any time. However, in order to be incorporated in the official Wilderness Record, all communications should be mailed to the Regional Director at the above address by March 1, 1971.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons known to be interested in the matter.

Signed: C. Edward Carlson
C. Edward Carlson
Regional Director