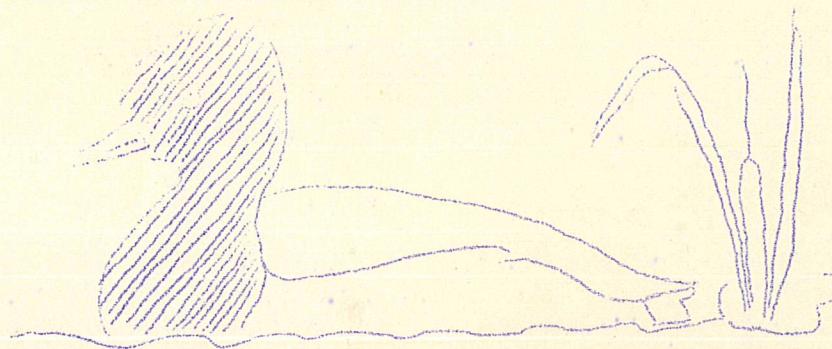


the Larch

# Squawk



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## • • • OFFICERS • • •

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## PROGRAM FOR MAY

May 14

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Program  
Lecture Room Charleston Museum 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Albert Sanders, Reptiles.

May 19 (Sabbath) (Sunday)

Short Trip: Bee's Ferry Road, Parts of Caw Caw Swamp.  
Leave Piggly Wiggly Jct. Hwy. 17 and Edgewater Park Road  
6:30 a.m. Leader: W. M. Coleman.

## BIRD MOVEMENTS IN MAY

### Arrivals

3 Bank Swallow  
Bicknell's Thrush  
4 Black Tern  
5 Wilson's Petrel  
White-rumped Sandpiper

5 Baird's Sandpiper  
Wilson's Phalarope  
Common Tern  
Noddy Tern  
Wilson's Warbler

12 Magnificent Frigate-bird  
17 Northern Phalarope  
19 Audubon's Shearwater  
? Least Flycatcher

### Departures

1 Canada Goose  
Black Duck  
Green-winged Teal  
Ruddy Duck (PR ?)  
Red-eyed Towhee  
2 Slate-colored Junco  
Pectoral Sandpiper  
Hermit Thrush  
5 House Wren  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Ring-necked Duck  
White-tailed Kite  
8 Grasshopper Sparrow  
9 Peregrine Falcon  
Golden Plover  
10 Ruby-crowned Kinglet

10 Savannah Sparrow  
11 Hooded Merganser  
Stilt Sandpiper  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Blackburnian Warbler  
Vesper Sparrow  
12 Gr. Black-backed Gull  
13 Common Loon  
14 Sora  
Roseate Tern  
Myrtle Warbler  
15 Whit-winged Scoter  
Short-billed Marsh Wren  
Ovenbird  
16 Pigeon Hawk

18 Red-throated Loon  
19 Gadwall  
Upland Plover  
Swamp Sparrow  
20 Wilson's Snipe  
Lesser Yellowlegs  
Northern Raven  
22 Piping Plover  
Northern Waterthrush  
24 Veery  
26 Red Crossbill  
27 Purple Sandpiper  
28 American Scoter  
29 Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
31 Sparrow Hawk  
17 White-throated Sparrow

Sooty Shearwater  
Great White Heron  
Audubon's Caracara

Casuals and Accidentals.  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Tennessee Warbler

Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Dickcissel  
Western Tanager

AN INVITATION.

Dear Mrs. Coleman:

While I am a member of the Natural History Society, I don't participate to a great extent except for the meetings and then only occasionally. It occurred to me, however, some of our members may be interested in going with me on daily trips during the weekends. I do a great deal of surf fishing in such ordinarily inaccessible spots as Cape Romain area, Bull's Island, Capers' Island, Deveaux Bank, Edingsville, and occasionally the Islands around Beaufort. In many instances, I leave early in the morning and return in the evening, although there are times I may go only for half a day.

I have a 18' Boston Whaler which is rugged, but safe. Generally, I carry my two boys, dogs, lunch and beverages.

If you think some of the members would be interested in accompanying me on some of these trips, I would appreciate them giving me a call at the South Carolina National Bank, 723-8311. I would only have room for one or possibly two at the most.

As you know, this time of year the weather is unpredictable and occasionally we run into squalls which can have lightning, wind and rain in them. I would remind any one interested in going of this because the boat has no cover.

Very truly yours,  
J. Stewart Walker.

This is a truly generous invitation and some of us, I am sure, will be glad to accept. Not too many to swamp the boat, it is hoped!

OBSERVATIONS.

Miss Frances Brewster reports a Prothonotary Warbler in Middleton Gardens on 5 April. She also reports having seen what appeared to be a Curlew Sandpiper on the Mt. Pleasant Causeway on March 29. Miss Brewster is one of our new members and a fine birder with long experience in the north. In spite of her qualifications, we must take this observation as interesting, but not a definite record, as, although Pough in Audubon Water Birds, says, "this Asiatic species is occasionally encountered in North America" South Carolina Bird Life puts it in the hypothetical list, saying that it has never been taken anywhere in the southern part of the U.S.

It may be well to say here, for the benefit of our many new members, that a rare bird must be observed by at least two qualified persons before it can be accepted for our permanent records. So if you see anything unusual, which is entirely possible, dash to the nearest phone and ask one of our experts (Burnham Chamberlain, Ted Beckett, Harry Freeman, Edmund Cuthbert to name a few) to rush to the spot and confirm your identification. Another interesting report along these lines comes from Dr. Alan Bills of Summerville. His note follows.

Dear Mrs. Coleman:

On March 17, my wife spotted what she thought was a Pine Grosbeak on our feeder in the morning: I confirmed this sighting later on that same day. The bird was a male in full plumage and was apparently eating sunflower seeds. He was on our feeder together with 5 or 6 Chipping Sparrows, so we were able to compare his size and to eliminate the possibility of his being a Purple finch. He was at least 2X the size of the sparrows. My wife and her father sighted him again on March 18, but we have not seen him since.

Sincerely, Alan M. Bills.

## Observations Continued.

The Pine Grosbeak is rare in this area, but was definitely identified on a bird count two years ago, thus making Dr. Bill's observation quite probable. I fear that the so-called experts are a very skeptical breed, so be sure to get some one to back up your sighting of a rare species.

Francis Barrington says that on the morning of April 10 he saw a large flock of Common Loons alight on the Stono River just off the end of his dock. He counted between 90 and 100 birds, apparently sitting out a heavy fog before continuing what must have been their northward migration.

On April 18 an Orchard Oriole was seen and heard in my yard on Lawton Bluff and on

Oriole

April 19 the first Kingbird arrived in the same yard. (Dix editor)

## SPRING BIRD COUNT.

Where was everybody? At 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, as scheduled, seven members waited until 7 o'clock for our usual number of 20 or 25 eager bird watchers to start the Spring Bird Census in vain. Then Burnham Chamberlain, compiler, with Ruth Clements set forth for Porcher's Bluff; Ernie Cutts and David Yount for Cain Hoy, Willow Hall and adjacent areas and Wilhelmina Coleman, Frances Brewster and Richard Gingrich hied forth to beat the bushes of Gehren's Bridge, Causey's Pond and Moore's Landing. The resulting total of 101 species for the day's work was disappointing, but the best we could do with so few to cover so large a territory.

At McGee's woods the Coleman group was joined by a pleasant young couple from Aikin who were also bird watching. They thought they had heard a Bachman's Warbler, but careful search disclosed Pine Warblers only. We missed several ordinary birds which we thought we should have seen. No Indigo Buntings or Blue Grosbeaks, but we did have one unusual record, fortunately verified by Burnham Chamberlain who joined the Moore's Landing group at the end of the day. There we saw, close in shore, what we finally decided had to be a White-winged Scoter. This is an off-shore bird and should not have where it was. It was possibly hurt or covered with oil, as it made no attempt to Fly. Also at the Landing we saw a Pigeon Hawk, not rare, but becoming increasingly uncommon.

The weather all day was sunny and warm and we seven had a thoroughly rewarding day. Sorry you missed it!

W.M.C.

## CAROLINA BIRD CLUB.

The Carolina Bird Club had its spring meeting at Mt. Pleasant on April 26, 27 and 28. Your editor was absent from the city attending the Wildflower Pilgrimage at Gatlinburg, Tenn., on that week-end and thus has no first-hand knowledge of the C.B.C. meeting. It is reported, however, that 146 members were on hand and that 146 species of birds, including Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites were observed.

Officers for the coming year were elected and the meetings and field trips seem to have been a great success.

The Gatlinburg pilgrimage also was very fine and in spite of an attendance of 700 the tours and talks were so beautifully organized that over thirty groups went on their way without a hitch. Many beautiful mountain blossoms were identified and the early morning bird walk revealed goldfinches, scarlet tanagers and rose-breasted grosbeaks. Of course these do not count for local records, but it was a joy to see them once more in the beautiful Smokey Mountains.