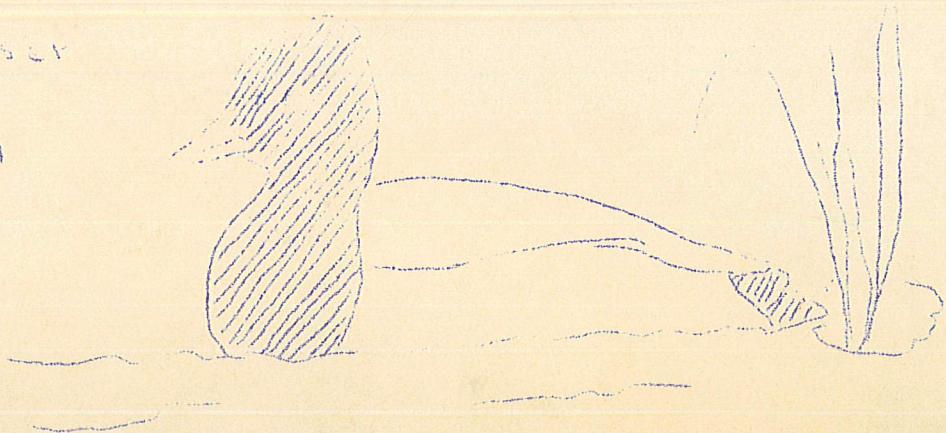


the Lesser

Squawk



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PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

November 14

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

Speaker: Dr. David Yount, Trinidad.

November 19 (Sun.)

All-day Field Trip to Bellefield Plantation

Leader: Harry W. Freeman

By reservation only. For details see page 2

BIRD MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER

(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals

1 Sprague's Pipit	6 Old Squaw	24 Common Merganser
Fox Sparrow	12 Fulvous Tree Duck (Dick)*	Saw-whet Owl
3 White-winged Scoter	16 Bufflehead	28 Common Teal
Ipswich Sparrow	Golden Eagle	European Widgeon
4 Common Goldeneye	17 Rough-legged Hawk	30 Brant
Snow Bunting	19 Glaucus Gull	? Horned Lark
5 Parasitic Jaeger	20 Red Crossbill	

Departures

2 Gray-cheeked Thrush	6 Scissors-tailed Flycatcher	14 Blackpoll Warbler
3 Purple Martin	7 Red-eyed Vireo	18 Solitary Sandpiper
Cape May Warbler	9 Worm-eating Warbler	20 Yellow-bill Cuckoo (Staats)
American Redstart	11 Yellow-breasted Chat	24 Sprague's Pipit
5 Chimney Swift	12 Magnolia Warbler	7 Swallow-tailed Kite
Painted Bunting	14 Magnificent Frigate-bird	7 Wilson's Phalarope

Casuals and Accidentals

Swainson's Hawk	Pomarine Jaeger	Hooded Warbler (R. Coleman)
Sandhill Crane	Northern Waterthrush	Wilson's Warbler

\*When the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

## BELLEFIELD FIELD TRIP-NOVEMBER 19

MEET 6:00 a.m. at the Piggly Wiggly at the intersection of Hwy. 17(N) and the Isle of Palms turn. Lunch will be served at Bellefield (coffee and pastries on arrival) and our hostess must know how many to provide for, so, please notify Harry W. Freeman 1340 Bluebird by mail before November 10 if you plan to take the trip.

## October Program

Through the years we have come to expect an exceptional evening whenever our traveling member, John Henry Dick, has the program, and we were not disappointed this year. His photography of Antarctica, whether of birds, ships or icebergs was superb and his interesting and amusing comments as good as his pictures. He has given us several fine lectures in the past, but this, I believe, was his best.

## October Field Trip.

Despite a rather unfortunately high tide level, which caused some concern among the twenty members and guests who attended the recent short field trip to the Mount Pleasant Causeway, the morning (Sunday, 15 October) was not without its worthwhile features. The group from the city left the Charleston Museum at 8:00; others joined us later at the causeway. Little was seen on the way, nor did we pause on the drive to our destination. Species seen included a very patient and conspicuous Palm Warbler, who obligingly remained in the sun, clinging to marsh grass within a few feet of the causeway, a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and a Seaside Sparrow, as well as a Savannah, just a short distance away. In the air were numerous Tree Swallows, Boat-tailed Grackles and Redwings, an Osprey, and several Louisiana Herons and ~~fff~~ Egrets. We saw many Black Skimmers coming into the Inland Waterway in several large flocks, and a number of Oystercatchers. As the water reluctantly receded from the mud flats and oyster banks, a number of small shore birds were visible, although the light in that direction was unfavorable. Identified there were dowitchers, willets and a Semipalmated Plover. Several terns were seen, doubtfully identified as Gull-billed, Black(winter plumage) and Sandwich and Forster's. Altogether about 26 species were logged.

Those present included three Metcalfs, four Colemans, four Millers, Mrs. Wichman, Mrs. Fugiel, Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Miles, Mrs. Button, Miss Clement, Dr. Lockard, Mr. Cuthbert and Dr. Yount. The field trip season got off to a pretty good start, and the weather was perfect.

I.S.H. Metcalf.

## Contributions from the Members.

## MOCKINGBIRD BEHAVIOR.

I read with great interest Mrs. Coleman's recent report of a Mockingbird impaling parts of a Tree Frog on a thorn in her yard. This report recalled an article by A.J. Berger appearing in the "Jack-pine Warbler" magazine last year. A review in the July '66 "Auk" states Berger's observations were made over a period of 4 years, on captive Mockers, kept in indoor and outdoor aviaries. Birds observed ranged from young just out of the nest to adults. Berger found one "bird extremely aggressive, killing captive Purple Finches, Cedar Waxwings, and Kirtland's Warbler."

Incidentally, I cannot agree with Berger's statement that Wing-flashing is due to an "uneasy state" in the Mockingbird. For years I have been keeping notes on this subject without coming to a conclusion as to the reason for the wing-flashing behavior. I would appreciate hearing from any of our members who have pertinent observations.

E.B. Chamberlain  
Box 3039, Charleston, S.C.

Vacation Notes.

We recently spent a very interesting and enjoyable week (Sept. 4-10) in the mountains about four miles west of Bat Cave, N.C. Most of the week was spent hiking about and peering into rock crevices in search of a recently discovered (1961) species of salamander, Plethodon longicrus, for which the common name Crevice Salamanda has been proposed. Julian Harrison had informed me of the occurrence of this salamander in the area, and suggested that I might be able to extend the range slightly. Luck was with me, for individuals of P. longicrus were found more than four miles from their sole reported range, and at a maximum altitude of 3900 ft., more than twice that reported. One large salamander was also found at the Bat Caves, the type locality. It was amazing that they had escaped detection for so long, since they are a large and handsome species, and were the most frequently seen species with the exception of the Dusky salamanders (Desmognathus). Four live specimens, ranging from very young juvenile to large adult, were taken for an attempt at studying and keeping them in captivity.

David Yount.

Word From Our President.

The editor has requested your present Fuehrer to pen a "presidential message" to Society members.

A "presidential message", like other aspects of community singing, is often dull, pointless, and off key. A president usually talks too much anyway.

Your president this year remembers only too well the words of Abraham Lincoln, who said: "It is better to remain silent and appear a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."

The Bible tells us that Samson slew the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. Your president does not wish to inflict the selfsame punishment upon Society members.

So, my message concerns only two things, briefly.

First, your executive committee has arranged an excellent series of field trips for 1967-68. They should prove of interest to all members. It is our hope that all of you will roll out of bed in the wee hours, chug-a-lug a cup of coffee and come to the woods and fields with us.

And, a covy of outstanding speakers have been persuaded to talk to us at our meetings. You won't want to miss any of them.

Secondly, I hereby enter a plea for more contributions to the official voice of the Society, The Lesser Squawk. The more contributions the better. The editor can't do it all (there have been times when she had to). Possibly the reason she wanted a "Presidential message" was to fill up a hole in this issue.

It has become increasingly evident that the same folk contribute most of the time.

More members should take advantage of this marvelous opportunity to get some free publicity by having their names, observations and thoughts published in the Lesser Squawk.

Winter Visitors.

Ted Beckett sends in this fine list of arrivals at Magnolia Gardens on October 19 and 20. White Throat Sparrows, Myrtle Warblers (Many) House Wren, Winter Wren, Virginia and Sora Rails. Grasshopper Sparrow in his banding trap and a rare visitor, also in the trap, Lark Sparrow. There are only a few records for this sparrow in the state. Your editor was lucky enough to see one on a wire at Folly Beach in 1956.

Ted also reports these ducks on the ponds at the Gardens. American Widgeon (Balldpate) Mallards, Shovelers, Pintails, Gadwalls, Ring-necked and Coots.

The Barringtons report White Throats and Myrtles in their yard in Riverland Terrace on October 24.

## THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Two meteo showers are scheduled for November, one of which should be favorable, and one rather poor for observation this year. On November 5, the Taurids, - will reach maximum activity. Most of these will be seen between Taurus and the Pleiades fairly high in the east about nine o'clock, and they will increase in numbers toward midnight. Since the moon will be full on the 16th, most of the Leonids will be lost in its brilliance on the 17th and 18th. These meteors appear to radiate from Leo between midnight and 4:00 a.m.

Mars is visible low in the southwest for about 3 1/2 hours after sunset. Saturn is high in the southeast at sunset, and therefore it is visible throughout the night. Jupiter rises about midnight in Leo, just east of the bright star, Regulus. Venus reaches greatest western elongation on the 9th, rising about four hours before the sun. Mercury, also, reaches greatest western elongation this month. On the 17th, it may be seen in the east about one hour before the sun.

The topic of the Planetarium showing on November 20 will be COMETS AND METEORS!!

Elizabeth D. Simons

younger

I hold no brief for daylight saving, in fact, (being a ~~ppinger~~ member called me, an old fogey) I don't like it, but as I groped in the dark for my paper these October mornings, the sight of Venus and Jupiter shining ~~like~~ like lamps high in the sky has been beautiful beyond words, and almost recociled me to the change.

The Editor

## GONE WITH THE WIND !

Some of our members may remember a delightful trip a few years ago to a wooded area on Rantowles Creek, just off the road which leads to Sculdam Church and Caw Caw Swamp. Alas, it is no more !

A few days ago I thought to do a bit of birding there. It is unrecognizable. The trees, beautiful live oaks, pines and gums, are gone and the ground plowed up for acres, supposedly for a new developement. One more beauty spot destroyed in the name of progress, and it becomes increasingly difficult for the birders.

## FALL FLOWERS.

We have articles and programs about birds, salamanders and insects, but we shouldn't forget the flowers. Autumn roadsides are now ablaze with gold and purple. Goldenrods, about a hundred species, Golden Asters, Hawkweeds, and the various Sunflowers to represent the gold. Gerardia, late Butterfly Pea, Joe Pye Weed, Ironweed and Blazing Star the purple. The Dodwoods, Sumac, Sweet Gum and Hickory bringing the beautiful autumn foliage of Maroon, crimson and gold. The woods and fields are lovely in October and early November, and though we go to the mountains to see it in all its glory, a trip around the roads of John's Island toward Rockville and Bear's Bluff Laboratory on Wadmalaw will give beautiful foliage enough for anyone.