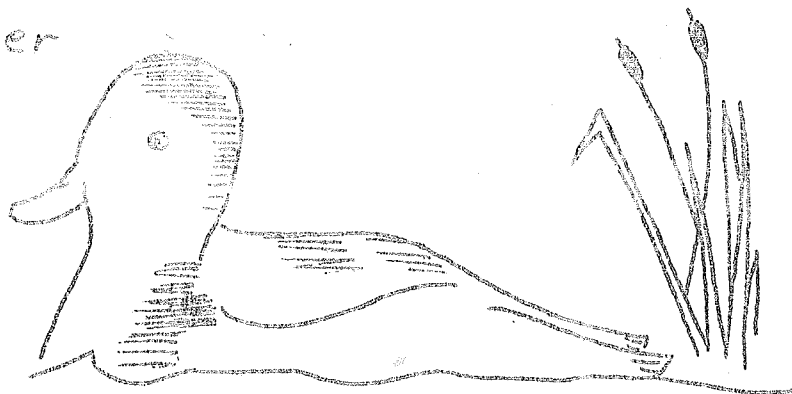


The Lesser Squawk



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NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Society will meet at 8:00 p.m. on November 10th at the Charleston Museum. During the business session members will vote to decide whether Charleston Natural History Society will become a chapter of National Audubon Society. Upon entering the meeting room, each member should obtain a ballot from the secretary. The ballots will be collected and counted after a motion for the vote is made during the business session.

The proposal for association with National Audubon was described in the June, 1970 issue of "The Lesser Squawk" and was discussed at the October, 1970 meeting of the Society. All members are urged to attend the meeting on November 10th and vote on the proposal.

After the business session, John Henry Dick will speak on "Wildlife in the Indian Ocean Islands."

As is the usual practice of the Society during November, no field trip will be conducted. Instead, members of the Society will participate in the annual bird census at Ballefield Plantation. Members who have made arrangements with Harry Freeman to participate in the census will leave the Mt. Pleasant Piggly Wiggly at 6 a.m. on November 15th. Coffee and pastry will be served when the participants arrive at the Holiday Inn in Georgetown. At noon lunch will be served at the Holiday Inn.

OBSERVATIONS

From Adams Run, Mrs. L.M. Glover writes: On October 3rd three catbirds were feeding on *Callicarpa* berries beside my back door. They stayed until the 7th. By then most of the berries were gone.

Thrashers, Mockers, Towhees, and Cardinals also feasted for the ten days or so that the berries remained. Cardinals and Mockers are also feeding on *Pyraecantha* berries.

A Carolina Wren is making himself at home in the garage where spiders and nests of dirt daubers abound in the dark corners.

This morning for nearly an hour there was a heavy concentration of Tree Swallows on the power lines across our pasture. They were solidly packed on both lines from one pole about halfway to the ones on each side of it. Their weight and activity kept the lines swaying. I estimate at least 2,000 birds. When they left, not one Swallow remained.

A pair of Phoebe arrived in the yard on the 19th.

Mr. Francis Barrington has been keeping a record of arrivals of migrating birds in his yard at Riverland Terrace:

17th White-throated Sparrows, Eastern Kingbird
 18th Yellow-throated Warbler, pair of Baltimore Orioles
 19th Myrtle Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 24th Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow
 25th Ruby-crowned Kinglet
 21st Orchard Oriole

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Thirteen CNES members and their guests participated in the short field trip to the old causeway between Mt. Pleasant and Sullivan's Island on Sunday, October 11, 1970. The trip was held earlier in the month than is usual in order to take advantage of favorable tidal conditions--exposed sand and mud flats. Even so, the flats were not exposed until about mid-morning. The pleasant outing was marred only by numerous gnats that persisted throughout our stay. Nothing particularly unusual or noteworthy was seen, but among the birds observed were Marbled Godwits, numerous Oystercatchers, Willets, Skimmers, Turnstones (several of which were feeding on the causeway in close proximity to the observers), Dowitchers, Gull-billed Terns, Clapper Rails, Western Sandpipers, and the usual herons and egrets.

-Julian R. Harrison, III

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

November brings us the first view of the winter constellations, as the stars of summer move toward their setting. The Milky Way arches across the sky from northeast to northwest, curving northward at its highest point. Following along its course, between 9 and 11 p.m. at the beginning of the month, and earlier as the month advances, the observer may locate the Summer Triangle toward the western end, Cassiopeia on the meridian, and three of the winter constellations following from eastward. Next to Cassiopeia is Perseus, the hero who rescued Andromeda. In shape, this group suggests an old-fashioned letter A with the peak pointed toward Cassiopeia, and two graceful curves of stars extending from it, one southeastward, and the other southward, with the last two stars pointing westward. By connecting the second pair of stars south of the peak, one may see the complete letter A. Some people discern in this constellation a bell, for dangling southward just off center from the eastern curve is an irregular line of faint stars which appear to represent the bell clapper. The star next but one to the end of the western side of the A is the eclipsing variable star, Algol, or "Eye of the Dæmon", so-named by the people of ancient times because of its apparent slow winking. Usually, Algol appears as bright as Polaris, the North Star, but every 2 days, 20 hours, and 49 minutes, it loses about 2/3 of its brightness. Then, about 8 hours later, it returns to its original magnitude. In 1783, it was discovered that Algol is a double star, the components of which revolve around a common center of gravity. One of these is much larger, but fainter than the other, and as it moves between our line of vision and its brighter companion, Algol appears to wink.

East of Perseus is the five-sided figure of Auriga, dominated by the brilliant yellow star, Capella, and appearing just above the northeastern horizon are Castor and Pollux, in Gemini, the Twins.

By following the eastern horizon southward from Gemini, the observer will be able to welcome Orion, seen for the first time in the evening sky since last May. Taurus, the Bull, with his "red, angry eye", having preceded Orion, is now located south of Auriga. Andromeda and Pegasus are high overhead, straddling the meridian.

During November, Venus and Jupiter disappear into the glare of the sun, while Mercury appears briefly in the west as an "Evening Star". By 9:00 p.m., Saturn will be near the meridian, and Mars will rise between midnight and 4:00 a.m.

—Elizabeth D. Simons

BIRD MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER

Arrivals

1 Sprague's Pipit	5 Parasitic Jaeger	20 Red Crossbill
2 Fox Sparrow	8 Old-Squaw	24 Common Merganser
3 White-winged Scoter	16 Dufflehead	Saw-shet Owl
Ipswich Sparrow	Golden Eagle	28 Cinnamon Teal
4 Common Goldeneye	17 Rough-legged Hawk	European Widgeon
Snow Bunting	19 Glaucous Gull	30 Brant

Departures

2 Gray-cheeked Thrush	5 Painted Bunting	14 Magnificent
3 Purple Martin	6 Scissors-tailed Flycatcher	Frigatebird
Cape May Warbler	7 Red-eyed Vireo	Blackpoll Warbler
4 Black-throated Blue	Worm-eating Warbler	18 Solitary Sandpiper
Warbler	10 Indigo Bunting	20 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
American Redstart	11 Yellow-breasted Chat	21 Veery
5 Chimney Swift	12 Magnolia Warbler	24 Sprague's Pipit