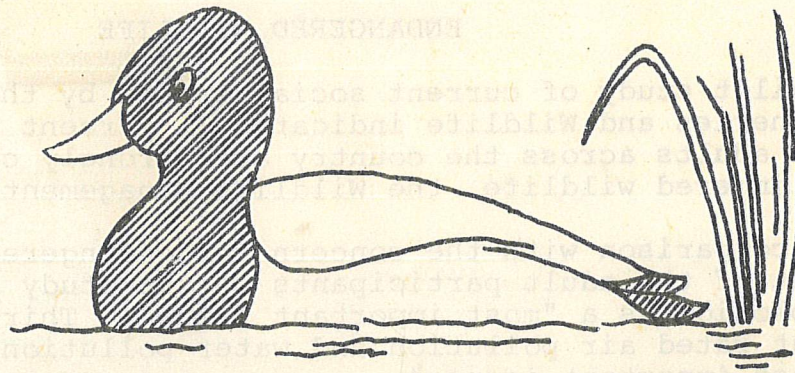


the lesser

Squawk



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OFFICERS

President: Waddell F. Robey, Jr., 3 St. Michael's Alley, Charleston, S. C. 29401.

Vice-President: John G. McDougal, 1 New Town Lane, Charleston, S. C. 29412

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November Activities

John Henry Dick, prominent artist and ornithologist and a member of CNHS, will be the featured speaker at the regular meeting of the Society November 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the lecture room of the Charleston Museum. The topic of Mr. Dick's talk is "Great Inagua and Its Birdlife".

Participants of the annual Bellefield Census are being reminded that the bird count will be conducted November 14 at Bellefield Plantation in Georgetown County. The census, carried out each year for the Belle Baruch Foundation, will be held in lieu of CNHS's November field trip. Participants should meet at 6:00 a.m. Nov. 14 at the Mt. Pleasant Piggly Wiggly. If there are any members who wish to go directly to Georgetown, they should plan to assemble at the Holiday Inn North of Georgetown at 7:15 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. The plan is to be in the field by 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at the Holiday Inn courtesy of the Baruch Foundation.

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

A pilot study of current social issues by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife indicated 11 percent or 14.7 million of the adults across the country are strongly concerned about endangered wildlife, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

In comparison with the concern for endangered wildlife, 14 percent of the adult participants in the study rated the population explosion as a "most important issue". Thirty-seven and 34 percent rated air pollution and water pollution, respectively, as "most important issues".

BIRD MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER

Arrivals

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

Departures

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

SECOND FIELD TRIP

October 17

The second field trip of the current season was a short visit to Mt. Pleasant causeway. The group of Natural History Society members under the leadership of Ted Metcalf left the Charleston Museum at 7:00 a.m. Fourteen members participated. Before reaching the causeway itself, the group made a short sidetrip to a wooded open park in the village, where redstarts, red-bellied woodpeckers and mocking birds were seen, and Carolina wrens and chickadees were heard.

On the concrete embankment of the causeway there were a number of ruddy turnstones, and by means of a spotting scope a number of

water birds were observed, including black skimmers, a single oyster catcher, little and great blue herons, snowy egrets and Louisiana herons. We had the opportunity to observe a clapper rail preening himself (or herself, as the case may be), and there were several Bonaparte gulls and tree swallows flying about. There were also a number of the common birds like fish crows, grackles and the like.

The group was distressed to see the large amount of trash thrown off the causeway on both sides, apparently by some careless fishermen, who think nothing of dropping beer cans over the side, or leaving fragrant fishing bait lying on the pavement. This sort of thing doesn't exactly improve the environment.

About 20 species of birds were observed, and the trip ended at about 9:30 a.m.

I. S. H. Metcalf

IVORYBILL SEEN

Charles H. Callison, executive vice president of the National Audubon Society, has confirmed reports that the Ivory-billed woodpecker, nearly extinct for more than 30 years, has been recently seen and photographed in the southeastern United States.

Mr. Callison stated that efforts are underway to achieve some type of protection for the area in which the sighting occurred.

Although the location of the sighting has not been disclosed publicly, Mr. Callison said the sighting was not made in South Carolina; a state, he said, where the Ivory-bill may still survive.

According to Mr. Callison, the Santee Swamp in South Carolina offers Ivory-bill habitat and "likely harbors a surviving pair" of the birds.

There have been reports of persons hearing Ivory-bill-like calls in the Santee swamp area in recent months, but so far the bird has not been observed.

The Ivory-bill, Campephilus principalis, is the largest of the North American woodpeckers, measuring approximately 21 inches in length. At a glance it somewhat resembles its more commonly seen cousin, the Pileated woodpecker, Dryocopus pileatus. However, the two birds differ in many ways.

Perhaps the best field marks for distinguishing between the two birds are their wings. Both the front "leading" and rear "trailing" edges of the Ivory-bill's wings are white and separated by an irregular, horizontal black bar. The white trailing edges are

very conspicuous when the wings are folded or outstretched. The wings of the Pileated have white only on the leading edges except for a very small amount of white on the outer surface between the leading and trailing edges. The undersides of the Pileated's wings show much white when the wings are outstretched, but only an insignificant amount of white can be seen when the wings are folded.

The male Ivory bill has a flaming red crest bordered largely by black. The crest of the female Ivory bill is black. The crests of the male and female Pileated are scarlet-red bordered for the most part by white. The male Pileated also has a red cheek patch which is absent on the female.

The Ivory-bill has longitudinal white stripes on each side of the neck beginning just below the eyes and extending down the back near the base of the wings. The Pileated also has longitudinal white stripes on each side of the neck but differ from those of the Ivory-bill in that they begin at the base of the bill, encircle the eyes and extend downward to a point below the wings.

Except for their white and red markings, both the Ivory-bill and the Pileated are predominately blackish in color. The calls of the Ivory-bill and the Pileated are distinctively different. The call of the Ivory-bill sounds somewhat like a loud imitation of the call of the white-breasted nuthatch, a sort of nasal "yank-yank-yank". The call also has been described as sounding like a false note on a clarinet and a toot on a cheap tin toy horn. The call of the Pileated resembles that of a flicker, a rather guttural "kuck-kuck-kuck".

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Before the sunset glow fades completely, this month, it may be possible to observe three of the planets in the southwestern sky. Closest to the horizon, Jupiter makes its last appearance of 1971. About five degrees higher, Mercury gives the impression of a first magnitude star, twinkling through the more dense layers of earth's atmosphere; and, shining with a steady brilliance a few degrees still higher, is Venus. On the 23rd, Mercury reaches its greatest distance east of the sun; then a few days later, it will begin rapidly to disappear from view.

Approaching the meridian, Mars, still shining with fiery splendor, may be seen as soon as it is dark; while a little north of east, Saturn will be located about fifteen degrees above the horizon. Saturn may be recognized by its lemon-yellow color.

During the hours before midnight in November, the soft, hazy band of light known as the Milky Way may be seen arching across the sky from east to west. Parading along this path are several well-known constellations. At its westernmost end, approaching their setting are Lyra, the Lyre, with the brilliant blue-white star, Vega; Aquila, the Eagle, with orange-red Altair; and between

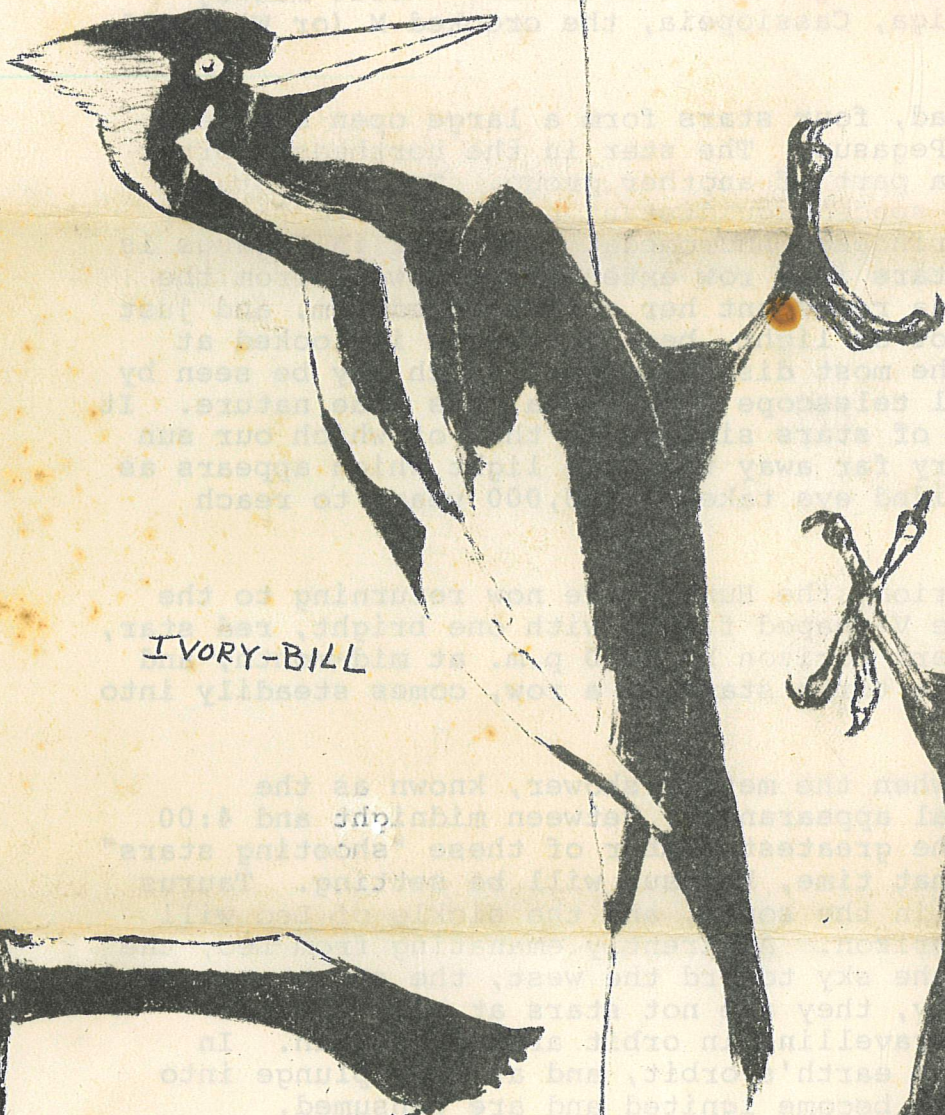
these two, Cygnus, the Swan, also called the Northern Cross. The beak of the Swan, or the foot of the Cross, is pointing downward toward the horizon. The head of the Cross, or the tip of the bird's tail, is indicated by the bright star, Deneb, and between these two, three stars in a row represent the arms of the Cross, or the outspread wings of the Swan, at right angles from the body. At the eastern end of the Milky Way, this month, is a five-sided figure containing one brilliant yellow star -- Capella. This constellation is called Auriga, the Charioteer. About midway between Cygnus and Auriga, Cassiopeia, the crooked M (or W), will be high in view.

Almost directly overhead, four stars form a large open square. This is the Square of Pegasus. The star in the northeast corner of the Square is also a part of another group. Two more stars of the same magnitude, spaced equidistant northeastward from it form the body of the princess, Andromeda. The star in Pegasus is her head. Two faint stars in a row extending eastward from the middle star of Andromeda represent her outstretched arm, and just beyond it is a hazy spot of light, best discerned if looked at indirectly. This is the most distant object which may be seen by the naked eye. A small telescope will reveal its true nature. It is a galaxy, or system of stars similar to that of which our sun is a member, but so very far away that the light which appears as a hazy blur to the unaided eye takes 1,500,000 years to reach our sight.

Taurus, the Bull and Orion, the Hunter are now returning to the night sky. Taurus, the V-shaped figure with one bright, red star, is well above the eastern horizon by 8:00 p.m. at mid-month, and Orion, recognized by the three stars in a row, comes steadily into view following Taurus.

November is the month when the meteor shower, known as the Leonids, makes an annual appearance. Between midnight and 4:00 a.m. on November 16, the greatest number of these "shooting stars" may be expected. At that time, Pegasus will be setting. Taurus and Orion will be high in the south, and the sickle of Leo will be above the eastern horizon. Apparently emanating from Leo, the meteors streak across the sky toward the west, the southwest, or the northwest. Actually, they are not stars at all, but are bits of metal or rock travelling in orbit around the sun. In November, they cross the earth's orbit, and as they plunge into earth's atmosphere, they become ignited and are consumed.

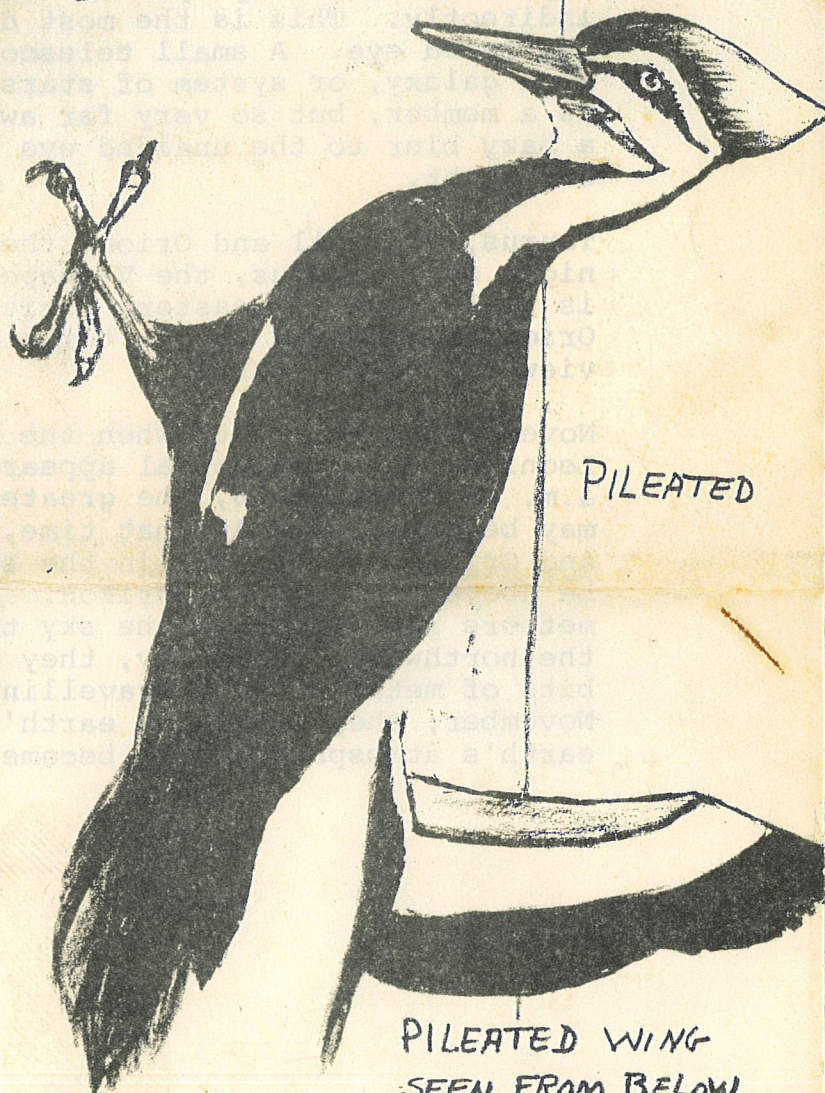
Elizabeth D. Simons



IVORY-BILL

IVORY-BILL WING
SEEN FROM BELOW

F. Smith



PILEATED

PILEATED WING
SEEN FROM BELOW