

the letter

SQUEAK



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PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER

October 8
Regular Meeting, Lecture Room Charleston Museum 8:00 p.m.
Speaker, Stanley C. Langston Bird Slides
October 13
Short Field Trip Mt. Pleasant Causeway
Leave Charleston Museum 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Julian Harrison.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER
(in the Charleston area)

Arrivals.

2 Gannet	10 Red-necked Grebe	21 Ring-necked Duck
Redbreasted Merganser	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Henslow's Sparrow
Brown Creeper	11 Common Tern	22 Whistling Swan
White-throated Sparrow	Bonapart's Gull (Coleman)*	23 Long-eared Owl
4 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Solitary Vireo 13	24 Surf Scoter
Kirkland's Warbler	13 Savannah	25 Horned Grebe
Slate-colored Junco	15 Red-throated Loon	LeConte's Sparrow
5 Green-winged Teal	Yellow Rail	26 Snowy Owl
Ruddy Duck (PR?)	16 Snow Goose	Snowy Owl
American Avocet	17 Common Loon	27 Redhead
6 Western Kingbird	Robin	29 Hooded Merganser
7 Canada Goose	18 Hermit Thrush	31 Canvasback
8 Purple Finch	19 Rusty Blackbird	Greater Scaup
9 White-crowned Sparrow	20 Lesser Scaup	Pine Siskin
	? Blue Goose (1st week)	

Bird Movement in October.

Departures.

6 Black Rail	16 Eastern Kingbird	26 Chestnut-sided Warbler
7 Chuck-will's-widow (B.F. Chamberlain)*	17 Wilson's Plover	27 Swainson's Warbler
9 Black Tern	19 Magnificent Frigatebird	28 Upland Plover
Acadian Flycatcher	Elk.-th.-Green Warbler	Least Tern
14 Roseate Spoonbill	20 White-rumped Sandpiper	Cliff Swallow
Summer Tanager	Stilt Sandpiper	Parula Warbler
15 Wilson's Plover	22 Wood Thrush	29 Yellow Warbler
Rough-winged Swallow	Blackburnian Warbler	Kirkland's Warbler
Hooded Warbler	Northern Waterthrush	30 Pectorial Sandpiper
Blue Grosbeak	23 Mississippi Kite	Sandwich Tern
Lark Sparrow	24 Kentucky Warbler	Eastern Wood Pewee
16 Gull-billed Tern	25 Northern Phalarope	? Purple Gallinule
(Field Party)	Black-billed Cuckoo	? Roseate Tern
	26 Great Crested Flycatcher	

Casuals and Accidentals.

Great Cormorant
Sandhill Crane.

Tennessee Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler

Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Clay-colored Sparrow

If the dates are not taken from South Carolina Birdlife the authority is given.

NOTES FROM THE BARRINGTONS.

Francis Barrington sends in an observation of a Hermit Thrush at his feeder in Riverland Terrace on September 13. Sprunt and Chamberlain list October 18 as the early fall arrival date for this bird, so Barry's observation puts the early date back a full month. Also at the feeder a Veery, Sept. 16 and an immature Magnolia Warbler Sept. 17.

Barry also gives a most interesting account of a Parula Warbler defending his right to a full meal at the feeder against a yellow-throated warbler and a tufted titmouse. The Barrington's feeder, just outside their dining room window sets the stage for many scenes of bird activity with yellow-throated warblers, chickadees and an occasional Blue-gray Gnatcatcher playing the star roles among others. At other feeders hanging from trees and on the ground near a dripping pool many birds may be observed throughout the day, among them Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Sept. 8, Red-eyed Vireo (a summer resident which should be with us until November) on Sept. 12 and the Hermit Thrush as noted above.

SOME MOUNTAIN FLOWERS.

From the new editor of Backyard Birding (The Chat) we have these nice observations. From Aug. 12th to 16th, I visited at Lake Summit near Saluda, N.C. and tried to spend a time each day hunting wild flowers and plants of the mountains.

I felt extremely lucky to find a Turkscap Lily, (*Lilium superbum*) with 5 open blossoms, and Carolina Lily (*L. michauxii*), one terminal flower with leaves growing in circles around the stem. Along the Lake Summit road on the banks were dainty little harebells or Bluebells (*Campanula divaricata*) with their tiny blue-violet flowers suspended on threadlike stalks. Around a curve in the road were yellow False Foxgloves (*Aureolaria laevigata*) just coming into bloom with two to four open blossoms. Nearby was the perennial weed of grey-green foliage with yellow and orange flowers, the butter-and-eggs, or common Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*). Wild Hydrangeas (*H. arborescens*) were just beginning to open the tiny flowers that make the showy heads. Under one bush I discovered a small cluster of leaves and two blossoms of Bird's-foot-Violet (*Viola pedata*). Rather late for this to be blooming. (?) In a moist shady grove were some last red flowers of Oswega Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Willie M. Morrison

Mrs. Morrison lists quite a number of others together with a most impressive list of those found on the Isle of Palms and Moor's Landing which we have not room to publish. Thank you Mrs. Morrison !

Sept. 10 Executive Committee Meeting

Oct. 8 Regular Meeting. Speaker Stanley Langston, Bird Slides.

Oct. 13 Short Field Trip Mt. Pleasant Causeway. Leader: Julian Harrison

Nov. 12 Meeting. Speaker Miss Sallie Carrington, Wildflowers of the Smokies, slides.

Nov. 17 All-day Trip to Bellefield Plantation. Leader, Harry Freeman. Reservation .

Dec. No meeting and no trip

Dec. 28 Audubon Bird Census. Leader, Burnham Chamberlain (Saturday)

1969

Jan. 14 Meeting. Speaker, Bob Lutz, Bear's Bluff Marshes and Experiments.

Jan. 17 Short Trip Magnolia Gardens. Leader, Ted Beckett

Feb. 11 Executive Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m. Speaker John Henry Dick. Films.

Feb. 16 All-day Trip Across the Cooper, Boy Scout Trail and Gillard Lake

Leaders Yount and Harrison

Mar. 11 Meeting. Speaker, Dr. Nagel Kangaroo Rats. Films and slides.

Mar. 15 (Sat) All-day trip Bull's Island. Leader Burnham Chamberlain. Reservation

Apr.

Apr. 9 Meeting. Dr. Fassaliotis, Speaker, Nematodes.

Apr. 13 All-day Trip to The Wedge and Wamba Bridge. Leader, Harrison

Apr. 26 (Sat) Spring Bird Count. Leader, Burnham Chamberlain

May 13 Annual Meeting. Election Officers. Program to be announced.

May 18 Short Trip to I'on Swamp. Leader Harrison.

October, perhaps the loviest month in the year, brings the beginning of a new season's activity to the Natural History Society. Above you will find a complete list of the year's programs and field trips. The full program is given at the start of the season so that the members may choose and plan in advance those activities which most appeal to them. While we would like all members to take part in every thing it is obvious that few of us can do so. Keep this list handy and make your choice. Programs and trips for each month will be printed in the Squawk for that particular month well in advance of meetings and trips with time and place of departure for each trip. All members are welcome (and expected) on all field trips. The main purpose of these trips is to help the beginning naturalist to learn the local birds, flowers and other critters. The so-called experts can enjoy adding to their life-lists, but are there for the purpose of helping the beginner, so please don't be shy about joining a group because you think you are ignorant. These trips are for you.

DUES

Also with this issue you will find bills for next year's dues. May we remind you that names of those who still owe last year's dues must be dropped from our rolls if not paid by the December meeting? Please don't let this happen.

Mail your dues to our new treasurer, Miss Ruth Clements, 8 Legare St. Charleston 29401 or bring them to the meeting.

WEST WITH THE YOUNTS.

During the first two weeks of August the Younts went on a natural history expedition across the southern part of the U.S. The major goal was the Chihuahuan desert, which includes Big Bend National Park.

We entered the Chihuahuan desert, as evidenced by spikes of the indicator plant *Agave lechuguilla* (commonly called *lechuguilla*) approximately 10 mi. west of Del Rio, Texas on U.S. 90. At the same time other characteristic desert plants began to appear, including *Ocotillo*, *Cholla*, *Creosote* bush, and many species of *yucca*. The season was too late for cacti to be in bloom, but the century plant (*Agave schottii*) was spectacular. There were a considerable number in bloom in spite of the fact that they bloom only after 40-60 years, then die. There appeared to be enough plants of various ages, however, to insure many blooms each year.

The lower part of the park (around 3000 ft.) was quite hot during the day, but at the camping area in the Chisos Mts. (around 6000 ft.) the high was in the 80's. We could have spent months there profitably, but in our four days we covered about 20 miles of trails, concentrating on birds, plants, and reptiles. Some of the more common birds which we were able to see were Roadrunner, Scaled Quail, Brown Towhee, Acorn Woodpecker, Mexican Jay, Black-chinned Hummingbird (primarily around the Agaves), Cactus Wren, Black Crested Titmouse, White Throated Swift and Swainson's Hawk, plus others with which we were already familiar in the East. The reptiles were not as noticeable, except for the lizards. After waiting out an hour-long downpour in a firewatch cabin near Boot Spring, where we had hiked to look for the Colima Warbler (we arrived too near midday for them to be active) we came across three Texas Alligator Lizards (at different times). These had presumably been brought by the rain, since they are not frequently seen. A Baird's Rat Snake was also caught, identified, and released that day. These finds made up for missing the Colima Warbler.

A botanist would have gotten much more out of the plant life than we did. This ranged from typical desert vegetation in the lowlands to Douglas fir near Boot Spring, around 7500 ft. Particularly interesting was the way the desert (indicated by *lechuguilla*) extended up the south slopes to the ridge where, within a few feet, the vegetation gave way to pine-juniper woodland on the northern slope.

David and Geiger Mount.

SUMMERSVILLE ORIOLES.

Our neighborhood Baltimore Orioles are here and it seems such an unusually early date that I thought it might be of interest to the Squawk. A male in beautiful plumage was seen on Sept. 8 and had been heard during the preceding week. Later in the week a female had arrived and on Sept. 12 two males and a female were quite at home at their old oriole feeder and have been feeding in contentment throughout every day since. This territory is in a triangle from the yard of Mrs. Tom Willingham, Edmund Cuthbert and myself. We had orioles last winter and on other years but never as early as this and, from checking with S.C. Bird Life, it seems quite a record.

The gentle ground doves were such a pleasure while spending two months on Sullivan's Island. There were three nests within sight and the last brood was out of the nest Aug. 30. They fed and drank from my deck porch railing. Also had two horned toads that sometimes disputed the path with me. The tree swallows and purple martins swept by in great flocks gleaning from my dunes.

Louise M. Button

The editor is truly grateful for all these nice observations. Maybe it pays to complain a bit !