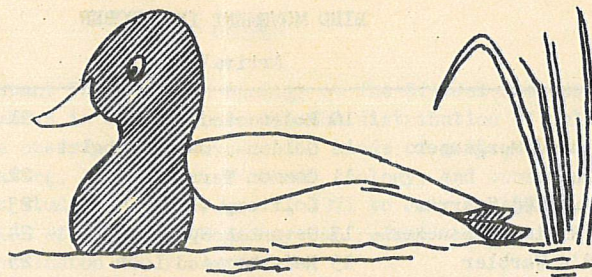


the lesser

# Squawk



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## Officers

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Secretary-Treasurer: Alan M. Bills 221 Forest Circle, Summerville, S.C. 29483

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## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

The first meeting of the 1971-72 season will be Tuesday, October 12 at 8:00 PM in the Charleston Museum. Mr. Robert Manns, Southeastern States Field Representative for the National Audubon Society will present the provisional charter for our new chapter and will speak about the aims and ideals of the National Audubon Society.

The October field trip will be a short trip to the Mount Pleasant Causeway on Sunday, October 17. The leader of this trip will be Dr. I.S.H. Metcalf and those wishing to attend should meet at the Charleston Museum at 7:30 AM.

## FIELD TRIPS FOR 1971-1972

October 17, 1971	Mt. Pleasant Causeway - short trip - leader Dr. I.S.H. Metcalf
November 14, 1971	Bellefield Plantation Bird Census - all day - leader Dr. Harry W. Freeman
December 26, 1971 or January 2, 1972	Christmas Bird Count - all day - leader Dr. Julian R. Harrison III
February 12-13, 1972	Lake Mattamuskeet, Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge, N.C. - weekend trip - leader Waddell F. Robey, Jr.
March 19, 1972	Bull's Island - all day - leader Dr. I.S.H. Metcalf
April 16, 1972	Folly Beach, Sol Legare, Secessionville - short trip - leader Dr. I.S.H. Metcalf
April 23, 1972	Spring Bird Count - all day - leader Dr. Julian R. Harrison III
May 14, 1972	Wambaw Creek, The Wedge Plantation - all day - leader Dr. Julian R. Harrison III



## BIRD MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER

## Arrivals

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

## Departures

6	Black Rail	17	Wilson's Plover	25	Black-billed Cuckoo
9	Black Tern	19	Magnificent Frigatebird	26	Great Crested Flycatcher
	Acadian Flycatcher		Black-throated Green	27	Chestnut-sided Warbler
14	Roseate Spoonbill		Warbler	28	Swainson's Warbler
	Summer Tanager		White-rumped Sandpiper		Upland Plover
15	Wilson's Plover	20	Stilt Sandpiper		Least Tern
	Rough-winged Swallow		Wood Thrush		Cliff Swallow
	Hooded Warbler	22	Blackburnian Warbler	29	Parula Warbler
	Blue Grosbeak		Northern Waterthrush		Yellow Warbler
	Lark Sparrow	23	Mississippi Kite	30	Kirkland's Warbler
16	Eastern Kingbird	24	Kentucky Warbler		Pectorial Sandpiper
		25	Northern Phalarope		Sanwich Tern
					Eastern Wood Pewee

## Casuals and Accidentals

Great Cormorant	Tennessee Warbler	Rosebreasted Grosbeak
Sandhill Crane	Bay-breasted Warbler	Clay-colored Sparrow

## OBSERVATIONS

The following observations have been reported since last June:

Mr. & Mrs. B.F. McGuckin - June 18 - Sullivan's Island Causeway - 19 Wood Ibis and 5 young white Ibis

Dennis M. Forsythe - June 28 - 10-11 Black-necked Stilts - marsh off Spruill Avenue adjacent to the Navy Base dump

Francis Barrington - September 15 male and female Redstarts  
 September 27 catbird and Blue-headed Vireo  
 September 28 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 September 29 House Wren



## HELP WANTED

Dennis M. Forsythe, Assistant Professor of Biology at The Citadel has asked for the assistance of Society members in a project to map the distribution of gulls. If, when gulls in numbers are observed, please note the kinds of gulls, average ratios, location, if they are loafing, anything about their ecology, and send the notes to him at The Citadel. This study runs from June 1, 1971 to July 1, 1972 and they hope to map out the distribution of gulls so that they can reduce the hazard to aircraft in the vicinity of the Charleston Air Force Base.

## FIRST FIELD TRIP

September 19

Undaunted by a heavy morning shower, twenty members, including several new ones, met at 7:30 in front of the Charleston Museum to start on the first field trip of the season. While this was to be primarily a botany trip birding was not scorned and most of us brought binoculars just in case a rare bird should loom up over the horizon.

In spite of the bad start clear skies and bright sunshine greeted us as soon as we crossed the Cooper River. The pine barrens on the way to Moore's Landing and the roadside ditches of highway 41 were our hunting grounds and, thanks to the good help of our botany experts, Edmund Cuthbert and Lucille MacLennan many fall flowers were identified.

Your leader was delighted to have her first glimpse of the beautiful cardinal flower-*Lobelia cardinalis* for which she has searched in vain for many years.

About thirty different species were identified, among them the following.

Partridge Pea----*Cassia fasciculata*  
 Mist Flower----*Eupatorium coelestinum*  
 Blazing Star----*Liatris*, several varieties  
 Horse Mint----*Monarda punctata*  
 Golden Aster----*Chrysopsis graminifolia*  
 Bitter Weed----*Helinium tenuifolium*  
 Jewel Weed----*Impatiens palida*  
 Melanthera hastata----No common name  
 Yellow Crown-beard----*Verbesina occidentalis*  
 Pickeral Weed----*Pontederia cordata*

The trip ended at Quenby Creek where we found the cardinal flower and were enchanted by a huge flock of Tree Swallows whirling and dipping over the waters of the creek.

A most delightful and profitable morning and a good start for 1971-72.

W. M. Coleman



THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Before beginning a discussion of October Sky-watching, the writer would like to describe an experience which she had on the night of September 20, at approximately 10:30 o'clock, Standard Time. A pulsating glow was visible in the northern sky, covering an area about twenty-five degrees in width, centered directly beneath the North Star. Thinking that a huge fire might be in progress at some distance away, she called the News and Courier for information about it, but was told that there had been no report concerning any fire. About twenty minutes later, the glow had completely disappeared, and since none of the news media revealed what the phenomenon had been, the writer believes that she witnessed a display of the Northern Lights. She wonders whether other Sky-watchers shared her unusual experience.

During October, it will be possible to see all five planets before midnight. Established as an "Evening Star" throughout the remainder of 1971, Venus will continue to move in an increasingly better view after sunset, and toward the end of the month it will be joined by elusive Mercury. The two planets will set about two hours after the sun, Mercury disappearing first. Jupiter, also, is in the western sky, setting about thirty minutes later. Mars will reach the meridian about 8:00 p.m., and Saturn will rise two hours after that. These two, therefore, may be observed until dawn.

The Big Dipper, by now, has disappeared from view at this latitude until the early morning hours. However, Cassiopeia is in excellent view, high in the northeast, and is therefore an aid in locating Polaris, the North Star. For new members who may not be familiar with the constellations, it is suggested that they face the direction to the right of the sunset position, half-way between that and the opposite horizon. By 8:00 p.m. at midmonth, Cassiopeia will be high in the northeast. This is a large group of 5 conspicuous stars, in shape like a crooked M. Equi-distant between the middle star of this group, and the horizon is a star of the same brightness, which appears to stand alone. That is Polaris, the star by which unnumbered explorers have been guided through the centuries.

Three very bright stars may be seen in the western segment of the sky. These three, each in a different constellation, form a huge triangle, with brilliant blue-white Vega and yellow Deneb forming the base, and orange-red Altair, the apex, pointing southwestward.

Approximately the same distance above the northeastern horizon, diagonally opposite Altair, a bright yellow star may be seen. This is Capella in Auriga, heralding the approach of the winter constellations.

Elizabeth D. Simons

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