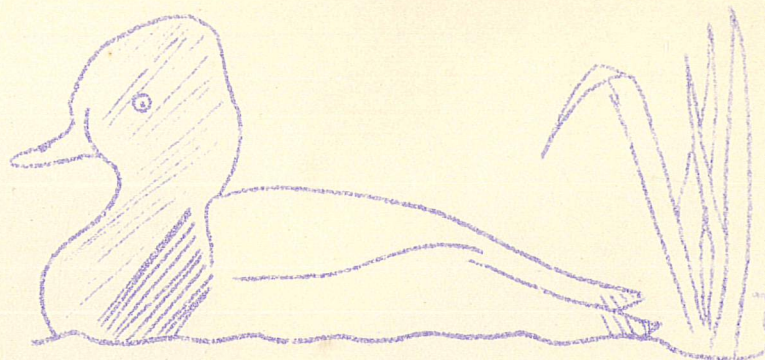


The Lesser Squawk



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OFFICERS

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PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR

Because some of the program arrangements for the coming year still are tentative, a detailed list of speakers and field trips will be deferred until the October issue.

The first activity of the Society during the coming season will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on September 9th at 8:00 p.m. at the Charleston Museum. In October the regular monthly meetings of the Society, at 8:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, will commence. At the October meeting, Dr. D.J. Colguhen will speak on the geology of South Carolina.

SUMMER OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Francis Barrington reports the following observations made during the past summer. A white-throated sparrow appeared at his feeder for approximately one week during the middle of July but has not been seen since. A female redstart appeared during the middle of July, and the same or another was seen about two weeks ago. A black and white warbler has been seen twice during the last week.

Members are reminded that the editor's telephone number is 873-1582 and are urged to report any observations which may be of interest to the Society.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER

Arrivals

2	Blackpoll Warbler	12	Short-billed Marsh Wren	21	Song Sparrow
3	Eastern Phoebe	15	House Wren	22	Winter Wren
	Magnolia Warbler		Catbird		Bewick's Wren
4	Shoveler	17	Red-breasted Nuthatch		Ruby-crowned Kinglet
	Cape May Warbler		Gray-cheeked Thrush		Vesper Sparrow
5	Pintail	19	Mallard	25	Northern Phalarope
7	Marbled Godwit		Sharp-tailed Sparrow	28	Red-eyed Towhee
9	Gadwall	20	Orange-crowned Warbler		Swamp Sparrow
10	Swainson's Thrush		American Goldfinch	29	Myrtle Warbler
	Water Pipit		Grasshopper Sparrow	30	Lark Bunting

Departures

4	Greater Shearwater	14	Orchard Oriole	25	Sooty Tern
8	Gray Kingbird	19	Gull-billed Tern	28	Chuck-will's-widow
	Prothonotary Warbler		Noddy Tern		Swainson's Warbler
11	Louisiana Waterthrush	20	Bridled Tern	29	Bank Swallow
	Blue-winged Warbler	21	Yellow-throated Vireo	30	Trail's Flycatcher

Casuals and Accidentals

Leach's Petrel	American Flamingo	Least Flycatcher	Olive-sided Flycatcher
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POLL OF INTERESTS

Our Society is fortunate in including members whose several interests embrace many facets of natural history. Some sort of tabulation of those interests should be of general interest within the Society and, perhaps, someday will be of interest to posterity.

Each member is requested to list his interests, in order of preference, on the enclosed postal card and to return the card to "The Lesser Squawk". Suggested areas of interest are:

Astronomy
Botany
Conchology
Entomology

Geology
Herpetology
Ichthyology
Mammalogy
Meteorology

Mineralogy
Mycology
Ornithology
Paleontology

Each member should include in his list the topics in which he has a strong interest. Since no rigid, mathematical precision is expected in the tabulation, he should not feel obligated to express his order of preference for all topics in the above list. Nor should he confine his list to these suggested topics if his interests can be described more appropriately by other terms. He should freely append any explanations or qualifying remarks which he considers important in describing his particular interests.

Signatures on the returns are optional. However, they might be beneficial for future reference.

AN OPPORTUNITY LIKELY TO BE MISSED

Hardly can anyone go abroad in our modern communities without an awareness of the manifold physical evidence of "progress." Since a large segment of our society sees "growth percentage" and "percentage increase" as symbols of prosperity and, presumably, some sort of contentment, it is not surprising that almost daily we read of acquisitions of new industries and expansions of old. And almost as frequently we see the felling of some favorite woods for the building of new residential areas.

Old rustic lanes are broadened and covered with asphalt; nesting sites and wintering thickets are destroyed; and haphazard creeks are cut into straight sluices. As more and more the city consumes formerly wild areas, one must go farther and farther afield to observe wild creatures.

One might almost despair of finding any inducement for the study of natural history in such cruelly scarred fringes of the city. Yet, even there opportunities can be found, although they are likely to be missed by the unobservant. A keen eye can discern, in the piles of earth left by the bulldozer and the dragline, probably the most extensive local opportunities for the study of paleontology.

Some twenty-five million years ago, when the Miocene sea covered the area we now call the Lowcountry, remains of millions upon millions of creatures were covered by sediment. This ancient seabed, now a layer of marl, the upper surface of which lies only a few feet below ground in most of the Lowcountry, yields to the paleontologist fossils of mollusks, several species of sharks and rays, some bony fishes, turtles, and a few mammals--mostly of Cetacea, the whale family.

Among fossils found by the author and his wife this summer, all within five miles of their home, were: casts of several species of mollusks, both bivalves and univalves; a crab claw; pieces of coral, one with a worm tube winding across its surface; dozens of shark teeth and vertebra; numerous vertebra of bony fish and one incomplete skeleton consisting of several vertebra and ribs; several barbs and grinding plates from rays; pieces of turtle shell; several ribs and vertebra presumed to be from whales; and one large whale tooth. The upper skull, consisting of the cranium and upper jaw, of a Cetacean was the most interesting find. Probably its owner belonged to the genus Prosqualodon, which preceded Squalodon, the present genus of porpoises. When completely assembled it will be approximately thirty inches long and twenty inches wide. Its assembly from three or four hundred fragments has occupied several fulfilling evenings.

In the Pleistocene overburden several horse teeth were found, reminders of the long history of the horse in the New World prior to its extinction before the coming of Europeans. Nearby was a tooth which has been tentatively identified as that of Hydrochoerus aescopi, an extinct aquatic rodent from a genus now found in South America.

Thus, even in the gashed and gouged acres destined for roads and homes one can find opportunities for the study of natural history. And one need not hesitate to take whatever he finds, for, unless it is rescued by some professional or amateur paleontologist, it will be destroyed.

-Roger D. Lambert

EDITORIAL

Your recently-appointed editor is gifted with a marvelous tendency to store limitless quantities of drivel and is singularly uninhibited about soputing half a ream of it upon any sufficiently inappropriate occasion. Furthermore, he now has that inflexible conviction, common to most fools and all neophytes, that what he is expected to do he must do. Thus you may rely upon it that at the end of each month he will post a newspaper of some three or four pages.

Some portion of that publication will contain timely announcements of activities in which the Society is engaged. Other portions will remind members of migrations of various species of birds and the time of blooming of certain wild flowers. And, if fortune favors the editor, a very considerable portion will comprise descriptions of field observations relayed to him by other members of the Society. But, since such information rarely can be expected to impart sufficient plumpness to the mailing envelopes to satisfy your editor, there can be little doubt that he will continue to add to each issue until the envelopes are satisfyingly hefty.

Either these additions will be enlightening and entertaining features contributed by members of the Society or they will be outpourings from the editor's store of drivel, the wellsprings of which are unlikely to run dry. Let us hope that enough contributions are submitted that we may escape the deluge.

Elsewhere in this issue a poll has been initiated, one purpose of which is discovery of the areas of natural history which have widest appeal within the Society. Perhaps some members who have less than a complete abhorrence of writing can be induced to contribute monthly, or at least seasonal, articles on the most popular topics. A more far-reaching goal is presentation in each issue of varied articles on any subjects about which members may care to write, regardless of their lack of continuity with activities within the Society or with other articles in this paper. Particularly welcome are accounts of any unusual interests and activities.

Obviously your editor is making a blatant appeal for material. Only enthusiastic participation by members of the Society can make "The Lesser Squawk" stimulating.