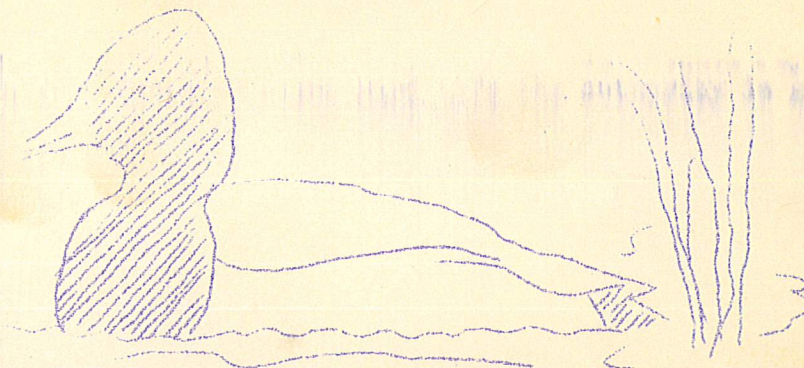


the lesser
Squawk



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• • • OFFICERS • • •

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PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

No Regular Meeting
No Field Trip
Executive Committee 8:00 p.m.
Charleston Museum Office
September 12

BIRD MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER
(In the Charleston Area)

Arrivals

2 Blackpoll Warbler	10 Water Pipit	• 21 Song Sparrow
3 Eastern Phoebe	12 Long-billed Marsh Wren	22 Winter Wren
Magnolia Warbler	15 House Wren	Bewick Wren
4 Shoveler	Catbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Cape May Warbler	17 Red-breasted Nuthatch	Vesper Sparrow
5 Pintail	Gray-cheeked Thrush	25 Northern Phalarope
Redhead (Beckett)*	18 Mallard (Beckett)*	28 Red-eyed Towhee (R. Coleman)*
7 Marbled Godwit	Amer. Goldfinch (Beckett)*	Swamp Sparrow
Wilson's Phalarope	19 Sharp-tailed Sparrow	29 Myrtle Warbler
9 Gadwall (R. Coleman)*	20 Orange-crowned Warbler	30 Lark Bunting (R. Coleman)*
10 Swainson's Thrush	Grasshopper Sparrow	late Black & White Warbler (PR)

Departures

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

Casuals and Accidentals

Leach's Petrel American Flamingo Least Flycatcher Olive-sided Flycatcher
*When the date is not taken from South Carolina Bird Life the authority is given.

BACK TO WORK.

September is here again and winter work and fun just around the corner. Our first program and trip will not take place until October, but on September 12 your executive committee will meet to firm up the year's activities. We think we have some good ones.

No vacation reports have come to the editor's desk, but we are hoping there will be some interesting observations in time for the October Squawk and/or meeting.

FALL MIGRATIONS.

If you examine the list of September arrivals, you will see that many of our winter residents are due to arrive this month: Keep a sharp lookout and see if you can advance any of these dates, and if you do be sure to report it. Rumor has it that a revision of South Carolina Bird Life is being considered and if so, our records could be of help in this tremendous job.

MOCKINGBIRD ?

Has anyone ever seen a mockingbird behaving like a Loggerhead Shrike ? On July 30 my son-in-law, Clayton Seawright of Imman, saw a mockingbird in my yard in Lawton Bluff fly up to a small live oak about 25 feet from my front window, with something in its bill, and after fussing around, impale it on a small, sharp, bare twig. We watched it through 7x35 binoculars for several minutes. After it flew away we investigated and found the hind part of a small tree frog carefully fastened on the twig. Although I hesitate to say so, there is no doubt that the bird was a mocker and not a Loggerhead. This particular little ^{tree} is a favorite stopping place for the several mockers on my place and in the two years I have lived in this location I have never seen a Loggerhead here.

W.M.C.

NEAR-BY BIRDING SPOTS.

Good birding areas within a few miles of the city are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Not too many years ago it was possible to take a quick trip before breakfast to any one of several nearby places. On the way to Folly, on the flats of Sol Legare Island one found nesting shore birds, sparrows and nighthawks. Now big ditches, supposedly for mosquito control, and the relocation of the Folly road have made these marsh flats practically inaccessible. Across the way, Seccessionville was a favorite place for several species of hawks, orioles, Savannah Sparrows and once, an Upland Plover. Also, during spring migrations, large flocks of Bob-o-links were almost sure to be seen. Now it has been turned into building lots and supports a flourishing bevy of new houses. Thus, no self-respecting Bob-o-link would pause there. On John's Island there was a beautiful woodland pond where Ring-necked and Wood ducks, Ibis and Anhingas stayed. It is now so completely choked with vegetation that even if the birds were there they could not be seen. Returning to the mainland, near Red Top, is a pretty slue where Yellowlegs and other shore birds used to congregate. It is empty now. Progressing south, down highway 17 we come to Wallace Pond. The September 1961 issue of the Lesser Squawk lists 45 species of birds seen within two weeks in August at the pond and immediate vicinity. A recent trip to this pond disclosed not even one Gallinule. Where have they gone ? Bee's Ferry Road still gives shelter to warblers, vireos, flycatchers and woodpeckers, but its swamps have been drained or choked with weeds and the Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Egrets and Ibis once common there are gone.

One can still find very good birding across the Cooper and in the Summerville area, but the short trip before the day's work, seems a thing of the past. The City Fathers have promised to build "turn-out" places on Lockward Drive for the observation of water birds. So far nothing has been done. Let's hope they haven't forgotten.

W.M.C.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

On any clear evening in September, from nine to eleven o'clock (E.D.T.), about the best opportunity of the year is afforded for viewing the Milky Way, the hazy band of light which arches the sky from northeast to southeast. Through a small telescope, or even a pair of field glasses, this glow is resolved into innumerable stars too far away to be seen by the naked eye. Only three bright stars are visible at this time. Capella will be just above the northeastern horizon; Deneb, in Cygnus, directly overhead; and blue-white Vega, at the edge of the Milky Way, west of Deneb.

Two Planets will occupy the evening sky, and may be seen as soon as it is dark. During the month, Mars passes through Scorpio, and sets about three hours after the sun. On the 23, it will be three degrees north of the red star, Antares. Saturn rises shortly after sunset, and may be located in the constellation, Pisces.

Later in the month, Venus and Jupiter will dominate the eastern sky about two hours before sunrise. Venus, the more brilliant of the pair, will be revealed through telescopes as a slender crescent. Both planets will be in Leo, not far from the bright star, Regulus. On the morning of September 30 - October 1, this trio will present a spectacular configuration with the waning crescent moon.

Next month, the regular public showings will be resumed at the Planetarium.

Elizabeth D. Simons.

BELLEFIELD ROOKERY

This summer Ted Beckett has been doing banding and research on a recently discovered bird rookery on Pumpkinseed Island in Mud Bay about 15 miles beyond Georgetown. He reports literally thousands of herons, egrets and ibis nesting there on the ground or in low vegetation, there being no trees on the island. The island itself is part of Bellefield Plantation where some of us had a most enjoyable field trip last December, and is, fortunately, difficult to get to, and so perhaps will be undisturbed. Stanley Langston has taken some pictures there and maybe we can prevail on him to show them to us at some future date,.

Ted remarks that it is possible that some of the birds which have deserted the nesting areas of Drum Island have taken up residence on Pumpkinseed, though he has not as yet found birds there which were banded on Drum.

KINGFISHERS

As we cross the many creeks and inlets that flow through our marshes we are almost sure to see kingfishers on the wires above the bridges. In fact, they are a common sight, and in winter their numbers are increased by the migrants from the north, but where do they go in May, June, and well into July? Carolina Bird Life says they nest in burrows in banks or cuts. Our flat Lowcountry is almost devoid of banks, so perhaps they forsake the seashore for the nearby woody creeks in search of good nesting places. Louise Barrington, whose porch overlooks the Stono River where kingfishers are common, sends in these dates of July observations. July 15, 17 to 21 and 29. Who has seen them in May or June and where?

Now that the winter schedule approaches may we remind the members that the Squawk is supposed to be the voice of the Society and not just the meanderings of the editorial mind. Surely there's hidden talent among our members and some of us must have seen an occasional bird, flower or reptile worthy of comment. So let us hear from you.

MEMBERSHIP

Below is a list of our present membership numbering 145. Of these 14 live in other parts of this state or out of the state (3 in Germany) Ten are student members and 14 are from nearby towns or islands. About fifty are active - attend meetings and field trips. Many of our "sleeping partners" have been with us for years and their interest is much appreciated.

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C. Fred Andrus
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Seymore Beckett
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Dr. & Mrs. David Yount
Dr. & Mrs. James B. Martin

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