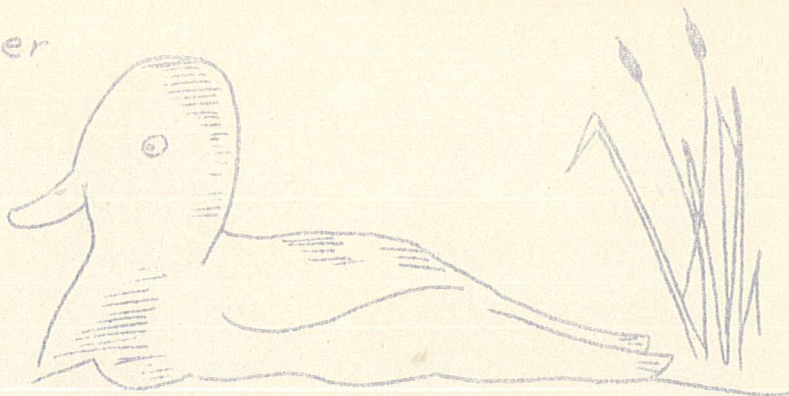


The Lesser Squawk



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PROGRAMS

As is customary, the Society will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Charleston Museum. During the 1970-71 season, meetings will occur from October to May—with the usual exception of December. Speakers who have accepted invitations for the coming season are:

- Oct. 13: Robert M. LaVal, District Ranger, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service. "Efforts to save endangered species in the South Carolina National Forests"
- Nov. 10: John Henry Dick. "Wildlife in the Indian Ocean Islands"
- Jan. 12: J.G. MacDougal. "Wildflowers"
- Feb. 9: Margie Harrison. "Apollo Moon slides and planetarium show"
- Mar. 9: Still open. Will be filled soon.
- Apr. 13: Capt. Dennis M. Forsythe, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Biology, The Citadel. "Bird vocalizing—recordings of bird voices"
- May 11: Julian E. Keil, Associate in Preventative Medicine, Medical University of South Carolina. "Effects of pesticides in humans and marine life"

FIELD TRIPS

The tentative list of field trips includes visits to some "new" places as well as several trips which have become annual events.

- Oct. 11: Mt. Pleasant Causeway (short trip)
 Nov. 15: Bellefield Bird Census (all day)
 Dec. 27: Christmas Bird Count (all day)
 Jan. 16: Santee National Wildlife Refuge (all day)
 Feb. 14: Magnolia Gardens (short trip)
 Mar. 13: Savannah National Wildlife Refuge (all day)
 April: None. Eastern Birdbanding Association meets in Charleston in April and will have trips.
 May 3: Annual Spring Bird Count (all day)
 May 13: Wambaw Creek (all day)

OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Francis Barrington reports the following observations in September:
 2nd, Blue-headed Vireo; 7th, 3 Redstarts and 3 Parula Warblers which tried to scare the Redstarts away; 8th, Hooded Warbler; 8th, Blue-winged Warbler; 13th, Yellow-throat.

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	24 Orchard Oriole	25 Sooty Tern
8 Gray Kingbird	29 Gull-billed Tern	28 Chuck-wills-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

During the two-month recess in the publication of the Lesser Squawk, it is hoped that Sky-watchers have continued their own observations. Vacation time offers the greatest opportunities of the year, and those who may have gone camping where the sky was open and free from artificial lights "had it made". It would be interesting to know whether any members were able to see the Perseids, the meteor shower which occurs every August. That would have been the privilege of those who were awake between midnight and 4:00 a.m., and who had a good view of the east from the 12th to the 14th of the month. On the night of August 16, there was a partial eclipse of the moon. At that time, sun, earth, and moon were in an almost direct line; and as it travelled, the full moon passed through a portion of the earth's shadow.

September's sky presents a very different aspect from that of June. Leo and Virgo have disappeared from view, and Scorpius may be seen low in the west only at the beginning of the month. Venus, "catching up" with Jupiter, sets less than two hours after the sun, and at the end of the month, the two planets will be in conjunction.

Three constellations, each containing a first magnitude star, are now high overhead. Blue-white Vega in Lyra, the Lyre; yellow-white Deneb in Cygnus, the Swan; and red Altair in Aquila, the Eagle, form a large triangle, known as the Summer Triangle.

Running from northeast to southwest is a hazy band of light, best seen in an open area away from artificial lights. This is the Milky Way. A small telescope, or a pair of good field glasses will reveal this to be composed of millions of stars too far away to be seen by the naked eye. Cygnus appears to be flying down the middle of the Milky Way stream, with Cassiopeia to the northeast, and Sagittarius to the southwest. A curve of three stars, with a fourth just west of the middle star, represents the bow of the Archer, and to the east of it, a four-sided figure represents the haunches of a horse, for this strange character was supposed to be half-man, half-horse.

Two fascinating little constellations may be located in the area of the Summer Triangle. Across the Milky Way from Vega is Delphinus, the Dolphin, or Porpoise. This is made up of a diamond and a curve of faint stars. Once discovered, it is not hard to imagine in this group the head and body of the marine mammal as it leaps above the water's surface for a breath of air.

The other group is the smallest constellation seen from the northern hemisphere. Between Altair and the beak of Cygnus, four faint stars form a perfect arrow with tip, shaft, and feathered end. The name of this group is Sagitta.

The Big Dipper is now becoming difficult to see, as it slips down into the haze above the northern horizon.

In the east, the Square of Pegasus is high in view. To the east of this group, Saturn may be located as it rises at 9:30 o'clock at the beginning of the month, and about an hour and a half earlier at the end.

Two more planets may be seen in the early morning twilight. First, Mars will be recognized by its ruddy glow, then later in the month, Mercury will also come into view, perhaps outshining Mars, and even twinkling as its light struggles through earth's dense atmosphere near the horizon.

-Elizabeth D. Simons