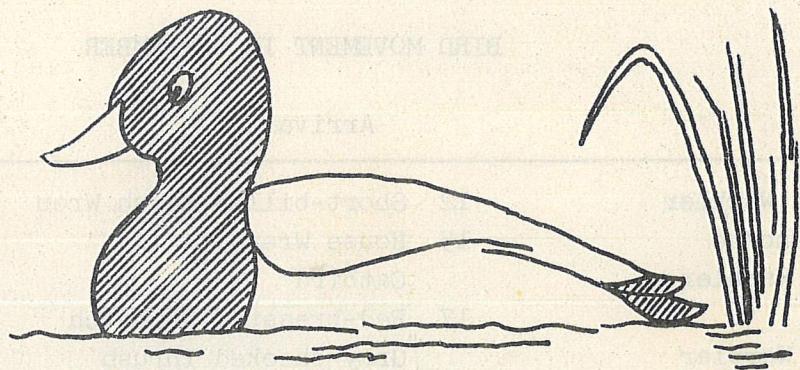


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Squawk



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OFFICERS

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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

The first field trip of the year will be on Sunday, September 19. The trip will be into the Francis Marion National Forest and will be primarily a search for wild-flowers. The leader will be Mrs. R.H. Coleman and those wishing to take part should meet at the Charleston Museum at 7:30 AM. This trip has been designated as a short trip which means that it will last only until 10:00 or 10:30 AM. Of course, those who wish to linger longer are certainly welcome to do so. Be sure to bring insect repellent along!

Since many new members may not be familiar with field trip policies, it may be well to review these here. On short trips, it is customary to wait only 5 minutes after the appointed time before leaving on the trip. On all day trips, the waiting period is 10 minutes. As mentioned previously, short field trips last only until 10:00 or 10:30 AM to permit those who wish to return in time for church. All day trips usually involve organized activities until lunchtime, after which members are free to do whatever they wish.

There will be an Executive Committee meeting on Monday, September 27, at 8:00 PM at the home of Mr. Waddell F. Robey, Jr., 3 St. Michael's Alley, Charleston. Robert Manns, Southeastern States Representative for National Audubon, will attend to discuss channellization. Several other suggested conservation projects will be discussed.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's official! CNHS is now an Audubon Chapter, and with this issue we extend our welcome to all those National Audubon Society Members living in Berkeley, Dorchester and Charleston Counties. We hope to see all of you at our meetings and please plan to attend our first field trip on the 19th of this month.

One of the objectives of our expanded Society this year will be to undertake, and pursue to conclusion, a worthwhile conservation project. During its September meeting, the Executive Committee will consider several of these projects. Their recommendations and final selections will be presented at the October meeting. If you have a project suggestion, please let Alan Bills or myself know before September 27.

Robert Laval, our Vice-President, has been transferred to Oklahoma. We are pleased to learn of Bob's new responsibilities, but we regret losing him from the Society and we especially regret losing a very capable Vice-President. A special nominating committee has been appointed and is chaired by Julian Harrison. The committee plans to have a candidate for presentation at the October meeting. A special election will be held at this meeting.

Waddell F. Robey, Jr.

FALL WILDFLOWERS

Too many plants flower in September to include them all in this brief article, but a few of the less common deserve mention. Perhaps the most spectacular is Thalia dealbata which bears huge leaves and small blooms on a tall, slightly arching panicle. The petals are a deep purple and the seed pods have a pale blue, waxy coating. Thalia is rare in South Carolina being found only in a few swamp margins in the southeastern section of the coastal plain.

One of our rarest shrubs Sageretia minutifolia also blossoms in September. This curious plant is known in South Carolina from only a few shell banks and sandy hammocks in Beaufort and Charleston Counties. It has bright green, opposite leaves and is armed with short spines. It gives a first and very superficial impression of a pyracantha growing decidedly out of place.

A third, very little seen plant in this immediate area is Gentiana villosa which produces a cluster of greenish-yellow flowers. This not very showy gentian is a plant of upland woods and is apparently much more common in piedmont North Carolina. The specimen familiar to this writer was found on the high bluff of the Santee River near Jamestown.

Edmund R. Cuthbert, Jr.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

At a speed of more than twice that of the astronauts' vehicle soon after lift-off, the earth has been steadily curving its way around the sun, and since the Summer Solstice, on June 21, it has covered a fourth of its orbit. On September 23, at sunrise, it will reach a point exactly mid-way between the Summer and the Winter Solstices. On that day, the hours of daylight and darkness will be equally divided. Hence, this is known as the Autumnal Equinox, when Autumn officially begins in the northern hemisphere. The sun will rise directly in the east, and set directly in the west, reaching the meridian at noon approximately 60 degrees above the southern horizon.

During the month, four of the planets may be viewed in the evening sky, and two of these continue in sight until daylight. As twilight deepens after sunset, Mars is to be seen well above the eastern horizon, and Jupiter, in the western half of the sky. During the last week, Venus becomes visible after sunset, disappearing from view about an hour later. Saturn rises about 10:30 o'clock, and after crossing the meridian in the early morning hours, remains in view until it is lost in the brightening of the dawn light.

Elusive Mercury is once more a "Morning Star", reaching its greatest distance west of the sun on September 11. It will then rise more than two hours before the sun, and may continue to be visible for at least a week afterward.

September is the month when the Milky Way is best seen during the hours before midnight, if viewed from any vantage point free of artificial light. It spans the sky from northeast to southwest.

In the early mornings, September is also a favorable time for Sky-watchers to discover the Zodiacal Light. Again, it should be emphasized, that success depends upon clear weather and freedom from artificial light. If the viewer will first locate Leo in the eastern sky, then let his eye sweep the area from the horizon up toward the bright star, Regulus, he may detect a faint wedge of light. This should take place between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. Since, at this hour, the Milky Way has disappeared from view, one may be sure that he sees the Zodiacal Light. It is caused by the reflection of sunlight from a vast swarm of particles revolving about the sun nearly in the plane of the earth's orbit.

Elizabeth D. Simons

WANT-AD

This issue of the Squawk was thrown together hurriedly by your Secretary-Treasurer and President due to the lack of a permanent editor. This is an appeal to any member of the Society who may be interested in taking on the assignment as editor of the Squawk. It should be made clear that this position involves only the actual editing of the newsletter and not the publishing and mailing. This will be handled in future by commercial printers. Therefore, any would-be editor please contact either Alan Bills or Waddell Robey, soon!