

# CHANNELLIZATION FIGHT

Recently, there was a public discussion (as opposed to a public hearing) before the Executive Director of the Water Resources Commission, Claire P. Guess, concerning the proposed channellization of Horse Range Creek in the Orangeburg Water Conservation District. Because of its proximity to Four Hole Swamp (12 miles), this project poses a possible serious threat to the Swamp.

Appearing in opposition to this Soil Conservation Service project were representatives of National Audubon, the three local South Carolina Audubon Chapters, representatives of the Nature Conservancy and two legal counsels. Also present was a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency. The National Audubon position of opposition in general to channellization and also particularly to this project was expressed by Charles F. Callison, Executive Vice-President of National Audubon. As a result of this discussion, the Environmental Protection Agency will require a full and complete impact statement from SCS before a regular public hearing is held.

## THE LESSER SQUAWK

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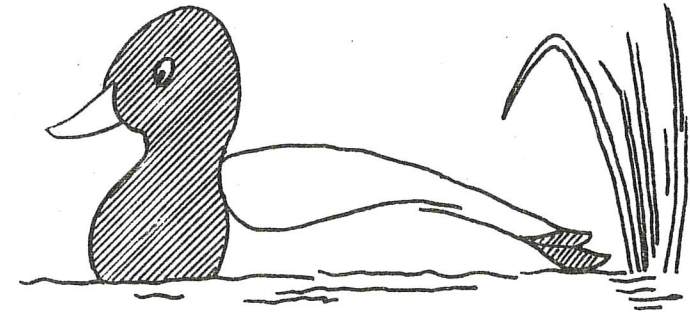
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the lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S.C. by The Charleston Natural History Society, Inc., July, 1972, Volume XXIV No. 7. Editor: Alan M. Bills, 116 Presidents Circle, Summerville S.C. Phone 873-0481; Assistant Editor: Perry E. Nugent, 2860 Savannah Highway, Charleston, S.C. 29407, Phone 556-3841.

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## JULY-AUGUST FIELD TRIPS

A new innovation this year! There will be two summer field trips this year. The first trip will be to the Swamp Fox Trail in the Francis Marion National Forest on Sunday, July 9. Those wishing to take part in this activity should meet at the Charleston Museum at 6:00 AM. This will be an all day trip.

On Saturday, August 12, there will be a field trip to Guilliard Lake in the Francis Marion National Forest. Again, the departure time will be 6:00 AM from the Museum. The leader for both these trips will be the new chairman of the field trip Committee, Richard Porcher. Let's get out and support this new innovation!

## CITADEL BOTANY COURSE

A course listed as "The Vascular Flora of South Carolina" will be offered by the Citadel Summer School during the second session from July 10 to August 11. The instructor will be Richard D. Porcher, Jr., Assistant Professor of Biology at the Citadel and a member of CNHS. Three field trips are scheduled each week. Bull's Island, Carolina Bays in Berkeley County, Four Hole Swamp, Gippy Plantation, Lake Guilliard and the Battery Historic Area along the Santee River, and the Swamp Fox Trail are scheduled for field trips. These trips, plus others that will be scheduled at a later date, are designed to cover a wide variety of plant habitats. Class work will consist of developing skills required to use standard taxonomic keys used in the identification of plants. Various aspects of the natural history of South Carolina as related to the flora will also be covered. For information concerning fees and schedule, interested persons can call the Citadel Biology Department or the Registrar's Office.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

There was an Executive Committee Meeting on June 5, 1972, and the following committees were established: PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Burkett S. Neely, Chairman, John Reed, special assistant; FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE - Richard D. Porcher, Chairman, Ted Beckett, Julian Harrison and another member to be chosen at large; MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Mrs. James R. Ingram, Chairman; PUBLICITY COMMITTEE - Arthur M. Wilcox, Chairman. Mrs. D.L. Fleischmann and Peter Manigault were appointed honorary members of the Executive Committee for the coming year.

## OBSERVATIONS

<u>Sighting</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Female Hooded Merganser	Mt. Pleasant Causway	June 4, 10	Perry E. Nugent
Gray Kingbird	Frapp Island	June 11	Perry E. Nugent
immature Bonaparte's Gull	Mt. Pleasant Causway	June 18	Perry E. Nugent
Parula Warbler	Riverland Terrace on bird feeder	June 4	Francis Barrington

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

On Saturday, June 24, Miss Anne Marie Noe and Dr. Harry W. Freeman saw two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at a distance of 25 feet in the north parking lot of the Huntington Beach State Park. These birds were first seen at 2:00 PM and were observed for about an hour. One was somewhat paler in coloration than the other. This observation was confirmed by 12 of Dr. Freeman's students at about 3:30 PM.

Storm Petrel

At this writing no details are available, but Mr. Jay Schuler of McClellanville has brought in a dead Storm Petrel to the Charleston Museum. Further details will be made available in the next issue of the Squawk.

## THE MOUNT PLEASANT CAUSEWAY

Have you been to the Mt. Pleasant Causeway recently? This road, built on the marsh at the foot of Pitt Street, offers a great opportunity to study shore birds, marsh birds, gulls and terns at close range. Half tide is probably the best time because only the mud flats close to the causeway are exposed for feeding. At this time most of the shore birds, herons, ibis, and gulls are concentrated near the road giving close-up views and allowing many chances to study the differences between each species.

June was a good month for observing the more common summer species as well as some rarer ones. On the evening of the 4th. the water was just low enough to expose flats near the road where many Western, Semipalmated, Least and Spotted Sandpipers were feeding. There was a female Hooded Merganser swimming in the tidal creek to the left of the road, and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron standing in the grass near the water's edge. Several Little Blue Herons including a blue and white second year bird were nearby, and the air was filled with Laughing, Ringbilled, and Herring Gulls, with many Royal and Least Terns. There are always Black Skimmers, Oystercatchers and Brown Pelicans around. One flock of about twenty pelicans was partic-

ularly striking.

Some of the less common birds I observed during June were Common, Gull-billed and Forster's Terns and on the 18th an immature Bonaparte's Gull.

The special feature for the month has to be two Ospreys fishing over open water. They seemed to be carrying their catch to feed young somewhere in the area. I doubt if either bird could eat all of the fish they caught.

If you have a few hours and want some exciting birding, try the Causeway. There is always something interesting like the two Clapper Rails swimming at high tide during the recent storm. They were doing real well, much like a duck.

Perry E. Nugent

## CANNAS

The familiar and thoroughly hybridized cannas of ornamental fame have little known relative whose range extends into coastal South Carolina.

The canna family (Cannaceae, from the Greek, Kanna, meaning reed) is a tropical American group of about sixty species, but the distribution of one species, *Canna flaccida*, extends into the sub-tropics. It occurs along the coast as far as Georgetown County, where there is a large colony of it on Bellefield Plantation.

Its sulphur yellow flowers can be seen in July, if you are fortunate enough to find a swamp or marsh in which it grows.

Edmund R. Cuthbert, Jr.

## NATIVE ORCHIDS OF COASTAL CAROLINA

Much of my collecting time this past year has been spent in search of orchids native to the Coastal Plain. Of the thirty species of orchids listed as native to the S.C. Coastal Plain by the Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas (Radford, Ahles and Bell, 1966), I collected and identified nineteen species as follows: White Fringed-orchid (*Habenaria blephariglottis*), Yellow Fringed-orchid (*H. ciliaris*), Crested Fringed-orchid (*H. cristata*), Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), Rosebud Orchid (*Cleistes divaricata*), Nodding Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*), Grass-leaved Ladies' Tresses (*S. praecox*), Spring Ladies' Tresses (*S. vernalis*), Green Adder's Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*), Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), Grass-pink (*Calopogon pulchellus*), Pale Grass-pink (*C. pallidus*), Bearded Grass-pink (*C. barbatus*), Southern Twayblade (*Listera australis*), Long-horned Habenaria (*H. quinqueseta*), Green-fly Orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*), Autumn Coral-root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*), Spring Coral-root (*C. wisteriana*), and *Eulophia ecristata*.

The latter seven are listed as rare by the Manual, while the Spring and Autumn Coral-root had not previously been reported from the coastal plain at the time of publication of the Manual in 1966. Both Coral-roots are inconspicuous saprophytes (living on decaying organic matter), and are easily overlooked on the forest floor. Their light brown to madder-purple stems make them difficult to see among the leaves. The Green-fly Orchid, our only representative of epiphytic orchids, abounds in Four Hole Swamp, where it can be seen growing perched on hardwood trees as part of the sub-canopy. *Eulophia ecristata* (no common name) can be found in the Pinelands of the Coastal Plain from June through September. This rare orchid has a slender, leafless stem that grows from a thickened corm, and reaches a height of four feet. Several linear leaves arise from the base of the stem. The stem is terminated by a many-flowered raceme of purple-tinged brown flowers. A population of this orchid was found at Belmont Plantation, apparently one of the few things left untouched at Belmont by the politicians.

Richard D. Porcher, Jr.