

Oregon Governor Tom McCall's stirring and challenging address at the Sunday Evening banquet, attended by 1000 Audubon members, ended that day's activities. He made this comment: "Man has proved his ability to destroy the land...saving it somehow runs counter to the American ethic of limitless growth and rugged individualism..."

Yet a thousand Audubon members in disbursement all over this land was challenged to return home and carry out the grass roots battle and projects that are the underlying strength of the Audubon movement.

I would like to add this personal observation that was encouraging and personally rewarding. Among the delegates and members were many, many enthusiastic young people, including our twenty-six year old son, Jesse L. Griffin, Jr. from Colorado Springs. We remembered the field trips he was encouraged to take, in his teens, and perhaps that exposure with what he has learned elsewhere, accounts for his interest in the controversial oil shale development issue in the state of Colorado; the Alaskan Public Interest Coalition and strip cities springing up over the state. Parents cannot impress too strongly on their children the fact that very soon the seemingly ceaseless struggle to preserve our nation's natural resources, will become their unrelenting responsibility.

The next Audubon convention, to be held in 1975, will be held in Mobile, Alabama.

Hilda C. Griffin

THE LESSER SQUAWK
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, S.C. 29407



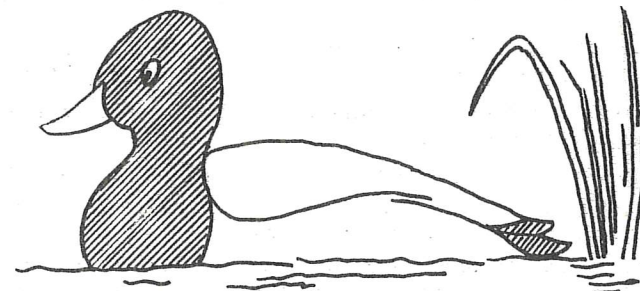
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Squawk



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July - August Field Trips

There will be two all day field trips again this summer. The first trip will be to the Battery Historic Area on Saturday July 21. Meet Richard Porcher at the Charleston Museum at 8:00 A.M. for an interesting botanical tour.

The second trip will be on Sunday, August 19, to the Santee National Wildlife Refuge and Santee caves. It will be another interesting botanical trip led by Richard Porcher and will begin at the Museum at 7:30 A.M.

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1973 - 74

In addition to the officers shown above, the following were as members at large: Perry E. Nugent, W. Bruce Ezell, I. Mayo Reed, Mrs. Jesse L. Griffin, Hans J. Heller, and Mrs. James Ingram.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 13, 1973

The members present were Alan Bills, Richard Porcher, Perry Nugent, Bruce Ezell, and Karen Ingram. The following individuals were designated as committee chairmen for the coming year: Program - Bruce Ezell; Field trips - Richard Porcher; Publicity - Karen Ingram. Julian Harrison will be out representative to the Environmental Coalition again this year.

A suggestion was made that a special committee be established to aid in protecting endangered plant species in our area.

The possibility that with our increasing membership, we may soon outgrow the meeting room of the Charleston Museum. This appeared to be the case when Mr. John Henry Dick presented his slides in March. It was agreed to investigate other meeting places.

A policy regarding attendance at executive committee meetings was discussed and a motion made and passed that a member be allowed no more than three unexcused absences.

The following projects were proposed for CNHS during the coming year:

1. The Society needs to determine what action has already been taken to protect Drum Island as a valuable nesting area and continue its efforts to protect it permanently.
2. The Society could possibly make special grants for research that furthers the interests and purposes of the Society.
3. The bird checklist needs to be revised and printed again.
4. The Society should take a position on environmental issues that are of interest to the public and make our position known.
5. The Society should encourage the construction of the boardwalk in the Wambau Swamp Scenic Area of the Francis Marion National Forest and assist the U.S. Forest Service in whatever ways are appropriate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, let me thank those who bestowed the honor of this office on me. I hope I can live up to your expectations. I shall be calling on many of you for help during the next two years, and I am always open to comments, criticisms, and constructive suggestions on ways to improve the society and on projects which you would like to see undertaken.

The first action of this administration has been to submit application for full chapter status in the National Audubon Society. We have had provisional chapter status for the past two years. I do not foresee any problems since we have more than satisfied the requirements for full chapter status.

Your Executive Committee will be calling on you from time to time to urge you to contact your senators or congressmen concerning various pieces of legislation of importance. Please support us in this effort, because personal letter campaigns are the most effective means of indicating to legislators the feeling of their constituents.

It is the intention of this administration to put CNHS "on the map" in Charleston. I do not believe that many people in the community realize that we even exist. We intend to publicize our activities to the fullest extent to rectify this situation.

Alan M. Bills
President.

REPORT FROM CAPE ROMAIN

The nesting birds and turtles are doing real well this year. There are about 850 Brown Pelican nests on the refuge with an equal number at Devoe's Bank. The Royal terns have 6000 nests at the refuge and 8 - 10,000 at Devoe's. Black skimmers increased their nesting activities and are in excellent shape this year. One exception to this success is the Least Tern. This beautiful bird has had few nests this year.

After our recent storm, Burkett Neely found several Sooty Shearwaters at the refuge and two on Myrtle Beach.

A PRAIRIE FALCON AT MIDDLEBURG PLANTATION

On two occasions in early May, Mr. Edmund Dingle observed a Prairie Falcon near his home. On both occasions it was seen perched in the top of a tall tree and dove, without success, at passing birds. It seemed to be having difficulty adapting to open prairie hunting techniques to our wooded habitat. Perhaps this bird had escaped from a falconer as it was fairly tame. Mr. Dingle also said his Bald Eagles were around, but had no young, and he was concerned by the lack of small birds at Middleburg.

August is a good month for seeing "shooting stars". These are not stars at all, but bits of rock or metal, called Meteors, traveling singly or in groups within the Solar System. Their orbit is very elliptical, extending from a point near the sun to one outward as far as the more distant planets. In mid-August, a large group of meteors will cross the orbit of the earth, and thus many of them will be drawn in by the earth's gravity. Friction with the upper atmosphere causes them to ignite as they speed along, giving the illusion of shooting stars. Since most of them are no larger than a grain of wheat, they are consumed to ashes in the brief moment that they are visible.

Between midnight and 4:00 a.m. is the best time to see the meteors, and the maximum number will appear on August 12. By first locating the Square of Pegasus almost overhead, then following a curve about 20 degrees northeastward, Perseus will be discovered well above the horizon. From this constellation, these August meteors appear to emanate; therefore, they are called the Perseids. Unfortunately, the moon will be almost full, so that its bright light will interfere with some of the viewing, but even so, Sky-Watchers will be rewarded for the effort of the vigil.

Elizabeth D. Simons

THE ALASKA PIPELINE

Formula for Disaster: Senate Pipeline Bill - this is the heading of a News Letter sent to Alan Bills by the "Alaskan Public Interest Coalition". It describes the situation and presents testimony by several individuals, representing a cross section of concerned groups, who feel further study of the alternatives is warranted. We are urged to contact our senators for support of the Mondale-Bayh Amendment to S1081. This amendment is offered by Senators Walter Mondale, Birch Bayh and Floyd Haskell. It would remove authorization of the trans-Alaska pipeline (Title II) from S1081, and substitute provisions restricting any Alaskan oil delivery system until Congress chooses the final route by enacting a new law, to be based on the negotiations with Canada and independent scientific studies by the National Academy of Sciences. The studies would be completed within one year with appropriate public input. Unbiased facts on all alternatives for delivery of Arctic oil and gas are essential for a rational decision. And, significantly, the amendment would also prohibit any export of Alaskan oil to Japan or anywhere else.

The Coalition says: write today, airmail, to both your senators (U.S. Senate, Wash., D.C. 20510). Tell them your views on the Alaska pipeline issue and why careful decision is important to you. Ask them to support the Mondale-Bayh Amendment to S1081. Emphasize that this amendment will not delay delivery of the oil, but will assure a decision the public can trust. Seek their commitment to support this public interest and effort.

Perry Nugent

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

This year the 67th convention of the National Audubon Society was held in Denver, Colorado from June 7 through June 11. The theme was "Public Lands; Our Margin of Environmental Quality". The host: Denver Audubon Society. And what a host they proved to be!

My husband Jesse L. Griffin and I checked in at convention headquarters, Denver Hilton Hotel, on Friday June 8, in time to hear Dr. Elvis Stahr's keynote address that evening. Though our assimilation of his message was a bit sketchy due to a lack of thorough knowledge of all the issues involved, his enthusiasm and dedication to the goals of the Audubon Society was sufficient to carry us enthralled through the next two and one half days.

We viewed spectacular exhibits and films; heard Colorado's Governor John Love and Senator Floyd Haskell, address the Saturday morning session on "Environmental Goals" and "Public lands"; attended panel discussions on National Parks and Wildlife Refuges, meeting the energy development crisis, predator control problems; and took a field trip to Denver Museum of Natural History.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

Since this will be the last issue of the Squawk until September, the present Sky-watchers' Guide will cover events of both July and August. The writer hopes that it may be helpful to "stay-at-homes", and to vacationers with leisure to explore the sky as they travel. Those going east or west, in the same general latitude as Charleston, will see the planets and the constellations exactly as they would at home, but those whose road leads considerably north or south will discover a difference in the positions of the heavenly bodies.

Mercury, the smallest of the planets makes two dramatic appearances during this period of time. The first will be on July 1, when it will share honors with Venus shortly after sunset. The two will be in conjunction above the northwestern horizon, and will set together an hour later. In the days that follow, Mercury will withdraw rapidly into the brilliance of the sunlight, leaving Venus to dominate the evening sky. Three weeks later, Mercury will appear in the northeast as a "Morning Star" about an hour before sunrise. On August 8, it will reach its greatest western elongation, preceding the sun by an hour and a half.

At the beginning of July, Jupiter will rise about 9:30 p.m., and a little earlier each night thereafter. On the 30th, it will reach opposition to the sun, i.e., as the sun sets in the northwest, Jupiter will rise in the southeast. All during August, it will appear steadily higher above the horizon at dark.

About two hours later than Jupiter, Mars will make its appearance, rising in early July at 11:30 p.m., and by 9:30 at the end of August.

Since it was last seen low in the northwest two months ago, Saturn has followed its orbit around the other side of the sun. Now, just before dawn in mid-July, it will appear in the northeast. Along with all the other planets, Saturn is traveling in a counter-clockwise, or east-ward motion, and therefore, it must be looked for earlier each day. By the end of Aug. it will rise at midnight.

In spite of the fact that temperatures in the northern hemisphere grow steadily warmer in the summer, the earth is actually farther from the sun than at any time of the year. On July 4, the distance between the two bodies will be increased by more than one and a half million miles. The earth's velocity, therefore, becomes slower at this time; this is evidenced in the less perceptible shortening of the days after the Summer Solstice than was noticeable in the converse lengthening of daylight last December after the Winter Solstice.

During July, Virgo, Libra, and Scorpius march steadily westward across the southern sky. On the 15th, about 8:00 p.m., Scorpius will be straddling the meridian. Following the Scorpion is Sagittarius, the Archer. This constellation represents the mythical Centaur, - half man, half horse. The Archer's bow is indicated by three stars in a slight curve, apparently aimed at the Scorpion. The tip of the arrow appears just west of the center star of the bow. The haunches of the horse are represented by an irregular four-sided figure east of the bow.

Bootes, containing the fiery-red star, Arcturus, is now west of overhead, followed closely by a faint, but beautiful little curve of five stars known as Corona, the Crown.

The Summer Triangle of bright navigational stars has returned to view in the Milky Way band. The apex of the Triangle is brilliant blue-white Vega, with yellow Deneb almost fifteen degrees northeast of it, and red Altair, about twenty degrees southeast.

In August, as Bootes moves toward its setting in the west, another constellation appears in the east. This is Pegasus, the Winged Horse. The most conspicuous part of this constellation is a large, open square formed by four stars.

BIRD MOVEMENT
ARRIVALS

-----July-----

Mid - Upland Plover
Pectorial Sandpiper
4 Yellow Warbler
7 Tree Swallow
8 Solitary Sandpiper
10 Lesser Yellowlegs
11 Bank Swallow
28 Roseate tern

-----August-----

2 Piping Plover
3 Black Billed Cuckoo
5 Bluewinged Teal
8 Stilt Sandpiper
10 Cliff Swallow
14 Perigrine Falcon
Sorarail
15 Common Snipe
Alder Flycatcher
21 Pintail
Bluewinged Warbler
22 Black Duck
27 Greater Shearwater
Whipper Will
28 Long billed Curlew
Cedar Waxwing
29 Pigeon Hawk
30 White rumped Sandpiper
? Common tern

DEPARTURES

-----July-----

19 Bachmans

-----August-----

16 Black necked Stilt
31 Audubon Shearwater

The numbers or abbreviations before the birds name in this list indicate the earliest known arrival date or the latest known departure date for our area. If you see one of these species before the arrival or after the departure dates listed above, it is worthy of a report to the editor.

OBSERVATIONS

April 28 ♂	Rosebreasted Grosebeak	Dallerton Circle	Perry & Chris Nugent
April 29 ♂	Rosebreasted Grosebeak	I'on Swamp	Perry Nugent
	Least Flycatcher	I'on Swamp	Perry Nugent
May 1	Longbilled Curlew	Andell Creek	P. Nugent & Robert Cuthbert
May 2	Yellow Warbler	U.S. Veg. Breeding Lab	Perry Nugent
May 3	3 ♀ Evening Grosebeaks	Ravenel Drive	Dr. J.C. Hoffman
May 13	♀ Rosebreasted Grosebeak	St. James-Santee Church	Perry Nugent
	Immature Bald Eagle	Wambau Bridge	Perry Nugent
May 15 ♂	Gold Finch	Wadmalaw	Robert Cuthbert
June 10	2 Audubon Shearwaters (dead)	Edisto Beach	Robert, Edmund & Issac Cuthbert
June 12	Man-o-War Bird	Edisto Beach	Norman Chamberlain

The species listed above are uncommon or rare in our area. Some may be rare in one season and common in another. The 3 ♀ Evening Grosebeaks represent a late departure date, which most of the other birds, particularly the Man-o-War, are rare anytime and should be reported when seen. There is room in this column for observations other than birds. Any sighting of an uncommon plant, mushroom, fossil, shell, frog, snake, mammal, etc. would be welcomed.

IN SEARCH OF WILD FLOWERS AND SWALLOW TAIL KITES

It was a nice, sunny morning May 13, as 16 members of CNHS gathered at the Museum eager to begin a trip looking for wild flowers and Swallow tail Kites. The hunt for wild flowers was skillfully led by Mrs. Mary Reed, who took us to a burned over pine forest beside Awendaw Rd. just north west of road 224. Here we saw many interesting plants, including two species of orchids, two pitcher plants, and at least one utricularia. The first orchid was calopogon barbatus, Bearded grass pink, which had finished flowering and was developing seed pods. The second orchid a tall, early flowering Spiranthe or ladies tresses. The pitcher plants were Sanacenia rubra, Sweet Pitcher, and Sarrarenia flava, the common yellow flowered Trumpets of road side ditches. There were two colonies of yellow flowering Vtricutorias in this area, one in several inches of water and the other in loose sandy soil at the bottom of a newly dug fire lane. Perhaps they were separate species, of this unique insectivorous plant, but not wishing to begin the day with wet feet, I chose not to investigate the floating plants.

While we were studying these flowers the woods were filled with background music provided by numerous birds. One Prairie Warbler sat on a pine limb alternating between preening and singing an aria while several of us watched him. The calls of yellow throats, Blackthroated green and yellow throated warblers, yellow billed Cuckoos, Brown Headed Nuthatches, towhees, Creasted Flycatchers, and Blue Grosebeaks made up the accompaniment for this enthusiastic little bird.

Next, we decided to drive along the loop formed by forest roads 224, 223, 202 and Awendaw Rd. As I made the turn onto Road 224, a turkey could be seen running around the far bend. When we neared the spot, no bird was in sight, although 3 members of the party thought they heard it gobble as we botanized the ditch banks.

Further down the road we came to open pine woods that seemed to be a woodpecker heaven. Red headed Woodpeckers were flying back and forth across the road, stopping in nearby trees long enough for everyone to see them. They appeared to be the dominant species in the area altho a few Pileated and Red Cockaded Woodpeckers and a Flicker were around.

The next stop was a low shubby swamp where Magnolia Virginians, Sweet Bay was in bloom. Along the ditches were several colonies of Drosera or Sunder plants, with their sticky haired leaves, primed and ready for an insect dinner. While we were studying the Sundews, a bird began to scold from a black gum tree. After much searching a Hooded Warbler came out, lit on a branch near the road for a split second, didn't like what he saw and promptly flew away, allowing us only a glimpse of a very pretty bird.

Returning to Awendaw Road, we headed to St. James Santee church, or Old Georgetown Road, where we were able to observe Red Cockaded Woodpeckers collecting insects and carrying them to nestholes in pine trees in the church yard. They were obviously feeding young. One male Cockaded put the run on a trespassing Downy Woodpecker, but seemed to tolerate Summer tanagers, yellowbilled cuckoos and many other birds when they were near the next trees. While we were watching for an adult cockaded to reemerge from its nesthole, a large sparrow-like bird flew into a pine across the road. Through 12x power of my binoculars I could see a brown streaked bird with a large grosebeak bill, a white eyeline, and two white wing bars. These are the identifying characteristics of a female Rose breasted grosebeak. One other characteristic that helped in identifying this bird was a dark brown ear patch that contrasted sharply with the eyeline and a whitish throat. Unfortunately, this elusive and shy bird did not stay around long enough for me to show it to the other members of our group.

The highlight for our Botanists at the church was the discovery, by Mrs. Reed, of a colony of green fly orchids, Epidendrum canopseum, on a large live oak.

We arrived at Elmwood campground about 11:40 a.m., ate a quick lunch and hurried toward the bridge over Wambau Creek, hoping the Kithes would be people watching again this time. Unfortunately there were no Swallowtailed Kites around, however numerous other birds were

flitting across the bridge carrying food to their young nestlings hidden in trees along the river bank. Two yellow throats, a Blue Jay, Gnat Catcher, and a Hummingbird were seen carrying goodies into the woods.

A Yellow Crowned Night Heron seemed to have special interest in a particular cypress branch high over the water. He would fly to another tree on the far river bend and in a few minutes, come right back. This aroused the curiosity of Dr. John Reed who studied the herons' activities until he discovered a partially hidden stick platform on the cypress branch. The nest was well camouflaged and it was impossible to see what was in it from our vantage point.

About 1 p.m. two dots were seen high in the air east of the bridge. Through binoculars, the spots were found to be silhouettes of Mississippi Kites. Soon three more dots were discovered. Two were Mississippi Kites, but the third was much larger. This very large black Hawk was first thought to be a Golden Eagle, but after seeing white in the wing linings and considerable study of several books, I believe it was an immature Bald Eagle. In the next hour 8 more Mississippi Kites flew over the trees north and east of the bridge. However none of their larger more spectacular cousins arrived by the time I gave up at 2:30 p.m.

I was a little disappointed by not seeing Swallowtail Kites, but the day as a whole was very enjoyable. Perhaps I was expecting too much, since this was the first time in three trips that no Swallowtails showed up at the bridge.

My first encounter with Swallow Tail Kites was in May 1969, on a trip to this same Wambau bridge led by Dr. Julian Harrison, who told us "the Kites usually can be seen from the bridge between 12:00 - 1:00 P.M." While we were eating lunch, not paying much attention to our surroundings, one very spectacular Swallowtail Kite flew down the bridge 10 feet over our heads. You guessed it! It was 12:45 p.m. At about 1:30 p.m. on the same day, Julian managed to have the same or another Swallowtail fly down the river, under the bridge, up over our heads, and off up stream. It was a fantastic show that I will never forget and would like to know what arrangements Dr. Harrison made for such a view of this beautiful Black and White Hawk.

Perry E. Nugent

Meadow-Beauties

Members of an interesting family of plants, the Melastomaceae, are blooming now. This family is comprised of some 2,000 species, the vast majority being indigenous to the tropics where they grow in wet, warm habitats. Many are shrubs or even small trees; while ours are entirely herbaceous. The name Melastomaceae, from two Greek words, melas and stoma, means blackmouth, an apparent assuasion to the temporary result of eating the fruit of certain of the tropical species.

Our members of the family are all in the genus Rhexia. Their common names are meadow-beauties or deer-grass. Rhexia stems from a Greek word meaning rupture, which refers to the plants punative curative powers. Eight species are known from South Carolina (12 in the U.S.), altho three of the eight are considered to be rare. With the exception of the yellow-flowered R. lutea, the meadow-beauties produce flowers from light purple to pink to almost white. They grow on wet pinelands, savannahs, marsh edges and in ditches. The most common species is R. mariana whose purplish-pink petals now seem to peer from every wet roadside.