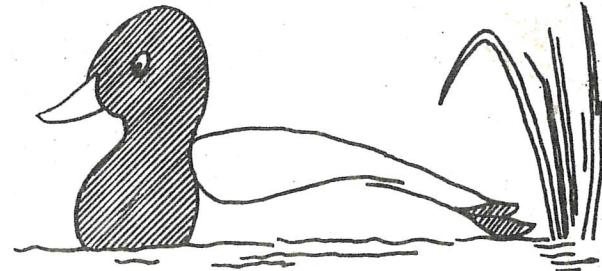


the lesser

Squawk



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MAY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, May 8, 1973 - 8:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING AT CHARLESTON MUSEUM

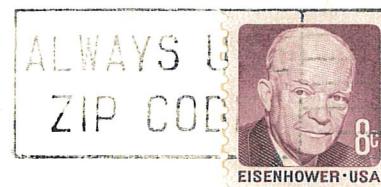
FIELD TRIP - ALL DAY - MAY 13, 1973
WAMBAW CREEK - FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST

The tentative program for this month's meeting will feature Dr. Wayne King, head of the Reptile Department of the New York Zoological Society, who will present a program on the American Alligator.

Also, you are reminded that this is the last regular meeting until the Fall and will include election of new officers and a new Executive Committee. Please try to attend this meeting.

The field trip this month is the traditional pilgrimage to see the Swallow-tailed Kites on Wambaw Creek. The leader for this trip will be Perry Nugent. There will also be a botanizing stop on the way to Wambaw at a secret place to be revealed later by Richard Porcher! So, let's see if we can get out a good crowd for this last regularly scheduled event for this season. Bring a lunch, insect repellent, binoculars and a smiling face!

THE LESSER SQUAWK
THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.
116 PRESIDENTS CIRCLE
SUMMERTIME, S.C. 29483



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Magnolia Gardens
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CBC MEETING

There will be a joint meeting of the Carolina Bird Club and the Wilson Society in Raleigh, North Carolina on May 18, 19 and 20. For further details contact either Ted Beckett or Julian Harrison.

CITADEL SEMINARS

The Citadel Department of Biology will present a research seminar entitled "Comparative studies of primary productivity of phytoplankton and macrobenthic algae." This seminar will be well given by Dr. C. R. Dillion, assistant Professor of Botany at Clemson University. The seminar will be at 8:00 PM in Duckett Hall Auditorium on May 1, 1973. The public is welcome.

NATIONAL AUDUBON NEWS
(From the Audubon Leader)Supersonic Flight Maneuvers over Refuges in North Carolina?

The Federal Aviation Administration has proposed to establish an air combat maneuvering range in the vicinity of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, for use by supersonic aircraft. The maneuvering range would include large parts of both Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge and Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. The areas affected are particularly critical at Mattamuskeet, where a large portion of the North Carolina flock of Canada geese spends the winter. Many local residents depend on goose hunting there for part of their livelihood. There are also flocks of whistling swans.

The FAA is suggesting a dangerously low 5,000-foot elevation for the maneuvers; current height restrictions are at 10,000 feet. The regional branch of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in 1972 wrote to the FAA, giving its suggestions for flight limitation to diminish the disturbance of military overflights, which have long been of concern to the Bureau. The FAA is preparing an environmental impact statement on its new plan and its Atlanta office has stated that a public hearing will be held, probably at the end of April. W. Carlyle Blakeney Jr., new Audubon regional representative, is working on developments and alerting all chapters in the area.

Our Largest Chapter, at the latest tally, is the Michigan Audubon Society, with 3,418 memberships (unlike the way National Audubon totals are reported, that figure counts a family membership as one membership -- not as two members). The Golden Gate Audubon Society was a close second with 3,293; four other chapters had more than 2,000 memberships and, in all, 22 chapters had more than 1,000! (Editor's note: The Charleston Natural History Society has approximately 300 memberships at latest count).

A Warning about Canvassers. Door-to-door canvassers in several cities have been soliciting funds to support "environmental improvement." National Audubon and a dozen other national environmental organizations have jointly disclaimed any connection with the group behind this activity, and have pointed out that only a small part of the funds collected in this way gets spent for the environment.

Wilderness Trips for Youth. Some conservation-oriented back-packing trips in The Colorado Rockies are offered this summer for young people 15-18 years of age by The Wilderness Society. For information on these and the regular adult wilderness trips write Wilderness Society, 4260 East Evans Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80222.

Pinguiculas

The Venus Flytrap, sundews and pitcher plants are well known for their insectivorous natures, but the butterworts, or Pinguiculas, also are able to capture small insects, even if by less elaborate means. Their leaves, with curled edges, are covered with a viscous material that contains proteolytic enzymes which reduce the entrapped creatures to a digestable state.

Thirty-five species have been described, one of which, a Mexican species, has bright red flowers. Three species are found in South Carolina, Pinguicula lutea has butter yellow flowers; the other two, pumila and caerulea, have rich blue flowers. All are found on the damp soils of pine savannas, where their deeply hued flowers, atop short scapes, can now be seen.

Edmund R. Cuthbert, Jr.

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

The bane of Sky-watchers, - Daylight Saving Time - precludes the feasibilty of our group observations until the fall, because satisfactory viewing is not possible during the early evening hours. However, there is "good Hunting" for the individual Sky-watchers on any clear night throughout the year. For the sake of continuity, hours mentioned in these articles always refer to Standard Time; therefore, during the next six months, allowance of an hour's difference, according to the clock, should be made by observers.

During May, Saturn is the only planet readily discerned in the evening sky until after the middle of the month, but on the 30th, Mercury and Venus will appear in conjunction low on the horizon about forty-five minutes after sunset, just north of west.

By the time it is completely dark, Castor and Pollux may be seen approaching their setting, followed by Leo, now west of the meridian. Hydra, the Water Snake, stretches its full length across the southern sky. Its head is located between the two bright stars, Regulus in Leo, and Procyon, which is twinkling above the western horizon. At this time, Crater and Corvus are in the best positions for viewing. If one could travel southward until he reached the tip of Florida, he could see the famous Southern Cross located directly south of Corvus.

Just east of the meridian, high in the south, one first-magnitude star shines with white brilliance. This is Spica, in Virgo, the Virgin. The constellation is rather difficult to see, since, with exception of Spica, it is made up of faint stars, and it sprawls over an area fifteen degrees southeast of Leo. In shape it is like a lop-sided open book extending eastward longer than that which extends westward.

About fifteen degrees northeast of Spica, a brilliant orange-red star shines with fiery beauty. This is Arcturus, in Bootes, the Herdsman. The shape of this constellation suggests a kite extending northeast of Arcturus. This brightest star of the configuration, together with a faint star on either side of it, represents the tail of the kite.

When one faces north, he will see the Big and Little Dippers are now in excellent view, making "fool-proof" the location of the North Star. As Capella, in Auriga, sets in the northwest, another brilliant star appears in the northeast. This sparkling blue-white object is Vega, a sun many times larger and more intensely hot than the sun which makes life possible on this earth.

After midnight, two planets will dominate the sky until dawn. During the first week, Jupiter rises in the southeast about 1:00 AM, followed by Mars approximately a half-hour later. By 5:00 AM, they will be approaching their setting in the southwest, and by 6:00, they will be lost to view. At month's end, Jupiter rises at 11:30 PM, and Mars, at 1:00 in the morning, and their time of setting will be correspondingly earlier.

BIRD MOVEMENT IN MAY

The following birds normally arrive in the Charleston area during this month:

White-rumped Sandpiper	Baird's Sandpiper	Magnificent Frigate-bird
Black Tern	Wilson's Phalarope	Northern Phalarope
Wilson's Petrel	Common Tern	Audubon's Shearwater

The following birds normally depart from this area during May:

Ruddy Duck	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Gadwall
Canada Goose	Orange-crowned Warbler	Upland Plover
Black Duck	Blackburnian Warbler	Red-eyed Towhee
Green-winged Teal	Great Black-backed Gull	Common Snipe
Slate-colored Junco	Common Loon	Lesser Yellowlegs
Hermit Thrush	Sora	Swainson's Thrush
Song Sparrow	Roseate Tern	Piping Plover
Kirkland's Warbler	Myrtle Warbler	Blk-thr. Blue Warbler
House Wren	Scarlet Tanager	Northern Waterthrush
Worm-eating Warbler	American Goldfinch	Veery
White-crowned Sparrow	White-winged Scoter	Pectoral Sandpiper
Robin	Short-bill Marsh Wren	Bobolink
Ring-necked Duck	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Red Crossbill
White-tailed Kite	Ovenbird	Purple Sandpiper
Grasshopper Sparrow	Pigeon Hawk	Yellow Warbler
Peregrine Falcon	Cape May Warbler	American Redstart
American Golden Plover	Chestnut-sided Warbler	LeConte's Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	White-throated Sparrow	Mallard
Savannah Sparrow	Red-throated Loon	Bank Swallow
Hooded Merganser	Magnolia Warbler	Cliff Swallow

The following birds have been seen occasionally in this area, but are not normal visitors;

Sooty Shearwater	Caracara	Wilson's Warbler
White-tailed Tropic Bird	Sandhill Crane	Canada Warbler
Great White Heron	Hudsonian Godwit	Western Tanager
Tennessee Warbler	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Dickcissel

OBSERVATIONS

April 4	Indigo Bunting (Fall plumage)	McClellanville (at feeder)	Nelson W. Taylor
April 17	Painted Bunting	Dallerton Circle (at feeder)	Perry E. Nugent
April 18	Painted Bunting (2 males)	McClellanville (at feeder)	Nelson W. Taylor
April 21	Black-necked Stilts (5)	Bull's Island	Burkett Neely
April 23	Blue-winged Teal (departed)	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
April 24	Evening Grosbeak	numerous reports county-wide	

Ted Beckett has reported that from 10-15% of the eggs in the Pelican nests on Devoes Banks are soft-shelled and hence will not survive.

Burkett Neely has reported that there are about 600 Pelican nests on Bull's Island and one pair of Ospreys nesting.

Observant Sky-watchers may have noticed that, for several weeks past, the Milky Way appeared to have vanished. By 9:00 PM at the beginning of June, it will reappear in the east. This phenomenon, and the return of some of the summer constellations will be discussed in the next SKYWATCHER'S GUIDE.

Elizabeth D. Simons

EDITOR'S NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity to put out a call for a new editor for the Lesser Squawk. I feel that a year and a half is quite sufficient for one person to remain in this position. New blood is needed to keep this publication viable. Therefore, if anyone feels that he or she would like to try their hand at this publication, please make it known to the Executive Committee. I will, of course, put out the last issue for this year in June.

Also, I would like to thank Assistant Editor Perry Nugent for his invaluable work; my wife Dot and Mrs. Louise Button for their untiring assistance in folding, stamping, addressing, etc; and all others who have in any way assisted during the past 16 issues. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and I shall look forward to reading future issues as they arrive in the mail!

Alan M. Bills