

Shelton -
I have gone to
Beauty Shop - back
about 5:30-5:45.

Ted said you were supposed
to leave the bees so
he could unlock Dallert
to Party piece as tree
is coming to fish
He didn't find keeps
and he come out get
fish. Do make you
wife get home before
he comes. do

THE LESSER SQUAWK
THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, S. C., 29407

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

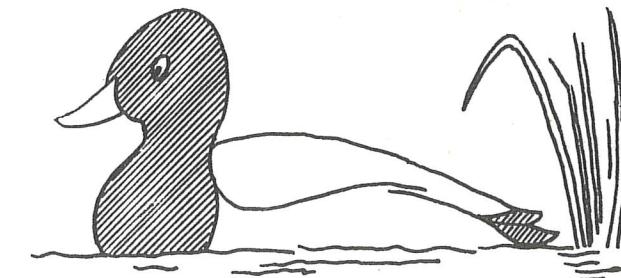
FIRST CLASS MAIL



Mrs Mrs T. A. Beckett III
Magnolia Gardens
Route 4
Charleston S.C. 29407

the lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S. C., by THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC., Your National Audubon Society Chapter, March 1974. Volume XXV No. 3

MARCH ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1974 - 8:00 P.M. AT
THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM LECTURE HALL

Program: Dr. Shelton E. Stewart, Professor and Head of
the Biology Department, Lander College, Greenwood, S. C.

Topic: Herbs, Herbalists, and Folklore

FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY MARCH 16, 1974

The March field outing will be an all day trip to Bull's Island, Saturday, March 16. Boat trips to Bull's Island are now under concession, operated by Romain Tours, Inc. Group rates are \$3.00 per person. To be eligible for group rates, we must sign up in advance for departure times. Two trips have been arranged, one at 7:30 a.m. and one at 9:30 a.m. The group taking the 7:30 boat will depart from Bull's Island for the return trip at 3:00 p.m., and the group taking the 9:30 boat will return at 5:15 p.m.

Reservations will be on a first-call basis. Only 19 persons can be accommodated on each trip. If you are interested in going on this trip, call the Field Chairman (Richard D. Porcher, Jr.: 723-0611, ext. 487). A list for each trip will be tabulated based on a first-call basis.

Meet at Moores Landing in time to depart at the scheduled time. Please have your \$3.00 with you. Each person should bring lunch and other necessities. If you need further information, call Richard Porcher.

Richard Porcher
Field Chairman

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As those who were at the last meeting know it is my intention to appoint a Conservation Committee whose responsibilities will include taking the lead in planning and directing the environmental activities of the chapter; to identify, study and evaluate environmental problems and opportunities; to be alert to the conservation action priorities of the National Audubon Society as set forth in AUDUBON, and to establish local conservation priorities; to bring these to the attention of the chapter, and when advisable, the general public and the appropriate authorities; and to cooperate with government officials in the protection of the environment, and to see that the chapter is suitably represented at hearings and similar functions when appropriate. Three members have already volunteered to serve on this committee and I will take this opportunity to ask that any other volunteers please get in touch with me quickly. The first item which should be considered is the question of Tidelands legislation.

THE BIRD STUDY GROUP

There seems to be enough interest in Bird Study to form some type of group for that purpose. So far 12 people have expressed the desire to participate. Let's meet for a few minutes after the March C.N.H.S. meeting to discuss how we want to set up the study and plan our first trip. Anyone is welcome to join. The only prerequisite is the desire to become more familiar with our feathered friends of the Carolina Lowcountry.

Perry Nugent

REPORTING BEACHED MARINE MAMMALS

Because of the difficulty of studying marine mammals in their natural environment, beached animals often provide the greatest source of information to scientists.

In addition, conservation officers of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department's Coastal Environmental Enforcement District are charged with the enforcement of the federal Marine Mammals Act within the Palmetto State. They are required to investigate all marine mammals deaths for the possibility of foul play.

It is therefore vitally important that all beached, injured or dead marine mammals be immediately reported to the proper authorities. Anyone discovering any disabled marine mammal (including whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals) should contact one of the following:

J. O. Sullivan, Chief, Coastal Environmental Enforcement District
S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
ph. 795-6350, ext. 232

Pete Laurie, Information Officer, S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
ph. 795-6350, ext. 299

Albert E. Sanders, Curator of Natural History, Charleston Museum
ph. 722-2996

Tuesday, March 12

Tuesday, March 19

Thursday, March 21

Wednesday, April 3

Dr. S. E. Stewart, Professor and Head,
Department of Biology, Lander College

Topic: Herbs, Herbals and Folklore
This seminar will meet in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the Charleston Natural History Society at 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Room of the Charleston Museum.

Dr. Charles Blem, Assistant Professor,
Department of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University
Topic: Geographic Variation and Bioenergetics of House Sparrows

Dr. Norman Chamberlain, Professor, Department of Biology, College of Charleston
Topic: Neuston in the Open Ocean

Dr. John D. Costlow, Professor, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort, North Carolina
Topic: Temperature, Salinity, and other Environmental Factors Affecting the Larval Development of Mud-Crabs

OFFICERS

President: Alan M. Bills, 116 Presidents Circle, Summerville, S. C., 29483
Vice-President: Richard D. Porcher, Jr., Biology Dept., The Citadel, Charleston, S. C., 29409

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Jack Pratt, P.O. Box 251, Sullivans Island, S.C. 29482

Members at Large: Perry Nugent, W. Bruce Ezell, I Mayo Read, Mrs. Jesse L. Griffin, Hans J. Heller, and Mrs. James Ingram. Mrs. Daniel Huger

The Lesser Squawk is published by the Charleston Natural History Society
Editor: Perry E. Nugent, 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C., 29407
Phone 556-3841

Assistant Editor: Mrs. Jesse L. Griffin, P.O. Box 72, Citadel, Charleston, S. C., 29409

Items for Publication in the Lesser Squawk should be submitted in writing to the Editor by the 20th of the month.

WE NEED YOUR BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS

The Carolina Bird Club is in the process of preparing a book, "Birds of the Carolina's", and needs good photographs of the following species, as listed in the September-October issue of the C.B.C. News Letter.

Common Loon	Greater Yellowlegs
Horned Grebe	Losser Yellowlegs
Gannet	Purple Sandpiper
Double-Crested Cormorant	Dunlin
Great Blue Heron	Marbled Godwit
Least Bittern	Sanderling
Whistling Swan	American Avocet
Gadwall	Black-necked Stilt
Pin Tail	Great Black-backed Gull
Green-winged Teal	Herring Gull
Northern Shoveler	Ring-billed Gull
Common Goldeneyes	Forster's Tern
Bufflehead	Sandwich Tern
Oldsquaw	Ground Dove
Hooded Merganser	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Red-breasted Merganser	Barred Owl
Swallow-tailed Kite	Short-eared Owl
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Chuck-Wills Widow
Bald Eagle	Common Night Hawk
Harrier (Marsh Hawk)	Chimney Swift
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-Cockaded Woodpecker
Red-shouldered Hawk	Eastern Kingbird
Broad-winged Hawk	Great-creasted Flycatcher
Turkey	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Sora	Least Flycatcher
Semipalmate Plover	Eastern Wood Pewee
Wilson's Plover	Horned Lark
Black-bellied Plover	Cliff Sparrow
Common Snipe	Common Raven
Whimbrel	Common Crow
Upland Sandpiper	Brown Creeper
Spotted Sandpiper	House Wren

Send your slides to: Robert P. Teulings
Route 2
Chapel Hill, N. C., 27514

These should be excellent quality 2 X 2 (35mm) color slides.

Perry Nugent

CITADEL BIOLOGY SEMINARS

The following seminars will be held at 8:00 p.m. in Duckett Hall Auditorium; Room 101. They are free and open to the public.

Wednesday, March 6

Mr. Robert Elder, Biologist
Verona Corporation, North Charleston, S. C.
Topic: Species Composition of Benthic
Macrion-Vertebrates Associated with the
Upper Regions of the Cooper River

PREDATOR POISONS

In response to a request for aid, I took the liberty in telegraphing the Secretary of the Interior to urge him to stand firm on the ban on use of predator poisons on public lands. Any others who would like to let the Secretary know their feelings on the subject, please write or telegraph:

Honorable Rogers C. B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C., 20240

Alan M. Bills

THE BLUE LIST 1974

This list was begun in 1972 as an aid in the "early warning system" for declining species of birds in North America. This list begins where the list of Endangered Species leaves off and includes those bird species suffering population declines over all or part of their range. The following species are those in the blue list of 1973, published in the December 1973 issue of American Birds 26: 932-933, that occur in our area. If you see any of these birds, report your observation to the Editor, The Lesser Squawk, 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C., 29407-Phone 556-3841.

Blue List of Bird Species for the Charleston Area

Red-throated Loon	Sharp Shinned Hawk	American Oystercatcher
White Pelican	Coopers Hawk	Piping Plover
Double Crested Cormorant	Red Shouldered Hawk	Gull-billed Tern
Black Crowned Night Heron	Marsh Hawk	Least Tern
Wood Stork	Osprey	Barn Owl
White Ibis	Pigeon Hawk	Loggerhead Shrike
Fulvous Tree Duck	Sparrow Hawk	Bachman's Sparrow

Fumatory

An interesting flowering plant of February and March is fumatory, Fumaria officinalis, which is found, rather infrequently, in the Lowcountry, growing on soils that are both alkaline in nature and exposed to the sun. It is a winter annual, appearing in late fall as delicate sprays of dissected gray-green leaves. The petals are pink toward the base darkening to deep lavender on the outer edges.

A favored site for fumatory is the ruins of Newington Plantation, which now lies in the center of a field. The mortar and plaster from the former mansion having rendered the adjacent soil alkaline fumatory grows in luxuriant, soft mounds that spread like a glaucous halo about the tumbled walls. Along island roads, where there is an admixture of shells, one occasionally sees this plant.

The name Fumaria stems ultimately from the Greek phumes, meaning smoke which alludes to the common name fumatory. It was called fumatory by medieval people because of an unpleasant odor of smoking earth (fuma terra) which the crushed plant yields. The specific name, officinalis, means of use, in a medicinal or culinary sense.

Growers of herbs will encounter the latter word frequently, i.e. Salvia officinalis, Lavendula officinalis, etc.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

Magnolia Gardens, February 17, 1974

Two Barred Owls greeted Ted Beckett and I as we arrived at the Magnolia Garden entrance at Highway 61 to meet other C.N.H.S. members as they arrived for the field trip. These owls were hooting from trees along side the highway. As the sky got brighter, the fascinating birds could be seen people watching and flying from tree to tree putting on a spectacular show for a large crowd of early birders.

The first act was tremendous, but as Ted led us along a dike to the right of the fork of Garden and Nursery roads, it became apparent we were just beginning to see birds. Those in the lead saw a Green Heron and Painted Bunting as we approached a flooded field. There were numerous Green-winged Teal and Ring-necked Ducks in the air. Most of our party continued around the corner and down the dike between this field and a pond. Those of us who stopped to look over the mud flats around the field were rewarded by a Virginia Rail that crept out of some cat-tails, ran across some alligator weed, and disappeared in some reeds. About halfway along the dike, a large flock of birds erupted from the field including more ducks and a snipe. One bird with long drooping neck, a slow wing beat, feet extending beyond its tail, and tawny brown body was identified as a Fulvous Tree Duck. It flew several laps over our heads before going away.

Next we walked through the garden and along the dike that separates the Duck Pond and the Ashley River. This area is always a good place for birds and today was no exception. There were Long and Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Yellow Throats, Glossy Ibis, Mature and Immature Little Blue Herons, Marsh Hawks, Coots, Gallinules and one American Bittern in the cat-tails. The Bittern is an elusive and seldom seen species. Usually it will fly up after you pass by, scare you to death, and be gone before you calm down enough to study it. This is another example of why birders should watch their back trail. Many birds will let you by them before they move. Several Ward's Herons, a large, pale form of the Great Blue, were feeding on the far shore of the Ashley River.

About mid-morning we were treated to delicious coffee and doughnuts at Ted Beckett's home. This gave us a chance to watch the activity outside the living room window, where several feeders were being visited by many species of birds. One Orange-crowned Warbler made several trips to a suet cake for the bacon fat that had been poured over it. This warbler is by far the most nondescript having no real identifying marks and being olive green above with faint streaks of greenish yellow below. The crown is veiled and seldom seen.

Since birding had been so good all morning, David Huff and I decided to stay after the very interesting guided tour hoping for more and were not disappointed. If you take the first road to the left of the entrance to the nursery for $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, there is a wooded pond on the right with a path leading to it through a large area of container nursery stock and to the left an open field with rows of palms, yuccas and shrubs. On the pond were 4 Blue-winged Teal and 3 Wood Ducks which we studied for several

Equi-distant between Gemini and Leo, a faint blur of light indicates the location of Cancer, the Crab. A small telescope, or good field glasses will resolve this blur into a beautiful cluster of sparkling stars.

In this general area, Saturn is located. To the naked eye, it appears as a bright disc shining with a steady, yellow light, but through a telescope, its actual appearance is revealed, - a sphere surrounded by its rings. The first view that one has of it is a breath-taking experience, never to be forgotten, and each subsequent view is a fresh thrill.

When facing north, Sky-watchers will notice that Cassiopeia is now moving down toward the northwestern horizon, while the Big Dipper is climbing high into view in the northeast. Between these two constellations, the North Star may be located on the meridian. Using this as an unfailing guide, one may with accuracy locate the directions of the compass, and get his bearings in unfamiliar territory.

Elizabeth D. Simons

SPARE THAT TREE

An interesting commentary appeared in International Wildlife magazine, March-April 1974, page 38 from the Wildlife Omnibus section on how trees are being spared in some parts of the world.

A new law has just been passed in Vienna, Austria which requires a builder to replace any tree felled in construction on his property. If there is no space available on the builder's property he must plant and maintain a tree on municipal land for every tree felled from his property.

In Iran the government is penalizing anyone cutting a tree more than four inches in diameter with a three year sentence in prison.

REPORT FROM CAPE ROMAIN

Things are still slow, but there are signs of increased activity with many migratory birds. The Swans are about gone, with one seen in mid February. Pelicans and Black Skimmers are increasing rapidly. There are about 200 each of Snowy Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Herons, Yellow-Crowned Night Herons, and Black-Crowned Night Herons in the vicinity of Upper Summerhouse Pond. If you happen to be on Bull's Island during warm weather alligators may be seen basking in the sun.

F. W. Hahn

Mr. E. Milby Burton informs us of the death of F. William (Bill) Hahn of Greenwood, S. C. on January 22, 1974 after an extended illness. Mr. Hahn was a prominent birder in S. C. He compiled a valuable County Bird List which originally appeared in the Greenwood Index Journal in 1934.