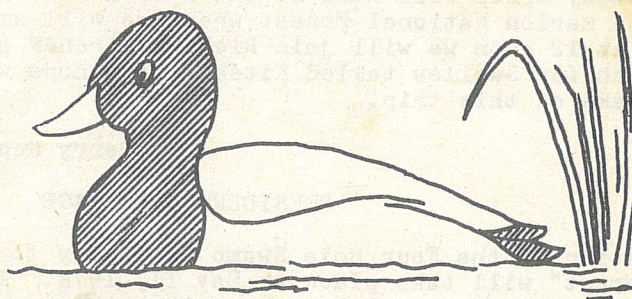


the lesser

Squawk



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Your National Audubon Society Chapter, May 1974, Volume XXV No. 5

MAY ACTIVITIES

MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1974 - 8:00 P.M. AT THE
CHARLESTON MUSEUM LECTURE HALL

Program: Dr. J. Manley Stallworth, Jr.

Topic: Kiawah Island, Its Birdlife and Natural History

The speaker for the last regular program of the Charleston Natural History Society for 1973-1974 will be Dr. J. Manley Stallworth, Jr. Dr. Stallworth is a surgeon who has maintained over the years a strong interest in natural history and wildlife photography. His talk is entitled KIAWAH ISLAND, ITS BIRDLIFE AND NATURAL HISTORY. He is also expected to touch on the ecological effects of the proposed development of Kiawah Island by the Sea Pines Development Company.

Wm. Bruce Ezell
Program Chairman

FIELD TRIP, SUNDAY MAY 19

The May field trip for CNHS will be the annual trek to the bridge across Wambaw Creek at Echaw Road to see the Swallow-tailed Kites. The date for the trip is May 19, Sunday. Any persons interested in looking for wildflowers can meet at the Charleston Museum at 8:00 A.M. This group will then make several stops on the way to the bridge to look for wildflowers, arriving at the bridge at noon. Persons that wish to go directly to the bridge should plan to arrive around noon. Bring lunches. Anyone wanting further details can call the Field Chairman, Richard Porcher: office 723-0611, home 884-9474.

Richard Porcher
Field Chairman

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BIRD STUDY GROUP, SUNDAY MAY 19

The Bird Study Group will meet at the Museum at 7:00 A.M. and go directly to the Francis Marion National Forest where we will study Warblers and other bird species. At 12 noon we will join Richard Porcher and his botanists for lunch and a search for Swallow tailed Kites. Lets hope we can find some buntings and Grosbeaks on this trip.

Perry Nugent

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The dedication of the Four Hole Swamp Sanctuary to be named "The Francis Beidler Forest" will take place on May 11, 1974. I have been invited to represent CNHS at this event. Let us hope that this marks only the beginning of many more opportunities to preserve some of our fast-disappearing, unspoiled natural areas.

Concerning the up-coming elections this month, I hope everyone will take enough interest in these to attend the meeting and give the new slate of officers and members-at-large a large vote of confidence or please propose an alternative slate. We wish to serve you as best we can, but we would like to know that you are behind us.

Alan Bills

BIRD MOVEMENTS IN MAY

ARRIVALS

2 White-rumped Sandpiper	5 Bairds Sandpiper	12 Magnificent Frigatebird
4 Black Tern	Wilson's Phalarope	17 Northern Phalarope
5 Wilson's Petrel	Noddy Tern	19 Audubon's Shearwater

DEPARTURES

1 Canada Goose	11 Vesper Sparrow	Swamp Sparrow
Black Duck	Hooded Merganser	20 Common Snipe
Green-winged Teal	Still Sandpiper	Lesser Yellowlegs
Ruddy Duck	Wilson's Phalarope	21 Swainson's Thrush
2 Slate colored Junco	Evening Grosbeak	22 Piping Plover
3 Hermit Thrush	12 Great Black-backed Gull	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Song Sparrow	13 Common Loon	Northern Waterthrush
4 Kirtland's Warbler	14 Roseate Tern	24 Veery
5 House Wren	Myrtle Warbler	25 Pectoral Sandpiper
Worm-eating Warbler	15 White-ringed Scoter	26 Bobolink
White crowned Sparrow	Short billed Marsh Wren	Red-Crossbill
6 Robin	Gray Cheeked Thrush	27 Purple Sandpiper
7 Ring-necked Duck	Ovenbird	Yellow-Warbler
White tailed Kite	16 Pigeon Hawk	American Redstart
8 Grasshopper Sparrow	17 Cape May Warbler	Le Conte's Sparrow
9 Peregrine Falcon	White throated Sparrow	28 Common Scoter
Golden Plover	18 Magnolia Warbler	29 Cliff Swallow
10 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Red-throated Loon	Mallard
Savannah Sparrow	19 Gadwall	Bank Swallow
11 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Upland Plover	Mid Scarlet Tanager
Orange-crowned Warbler		Goldfinch
Blackburnian Warbler		

OFFICERS

President: Alan M. Bills, 116 Presidents Circle, Summerville, S. C., 29483
 Vice-President: Richard D. Porcher, Jr., Biology Department, The Citadel,
 Charleston, S. C., 29409
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 29482
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 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, The 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.

OBSERVATIONS

DATE	OBSERVATION	LOCATION	OBSERVER
March			
*	1 Parula Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
	2 Louisiana Water-thrush	805 Condon Drive	Mrs. Ted Metcalf
	24 Swallow-tailed Kite	Green Tree Reservoir	Mrs. Ted Metcalf
**	28 Dickcissel	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry & Chris Nugent
*	30 Indigo Bunting	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	Pigeon Hawk	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
***	2 Audubon's Warblers	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	Osprey	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	Osprey	Ben Sawyer Bridge	Perry Nugent
April			
****	5 Lincoln's Sparrow	2260 Dallerton Circle	Perry Nugent
	6 2 baby Horned Owls	Brookgreen Garden	Mrs. Jervey Royal & Mrs. Jack Jager
	2 Bank Swallows	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
***	1 Audubon's Warbler	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
****	10 Baltimore Oriole	Summerville	Robert Cuthbert
	12 Swallow-tailed Kite	Edisto Island	Mrs. Julian Harrison & Martha Hund
	13 Yellow-headed Blackbird	Walnut Hill, John's Island	Arthur Ravenel, Jr.
	1 Audubon's Warbler	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	David & Bobbin Huff & Perry Nugent
	18 Red-headed Woodpecker	2260 Dallerton Circle	Chris Nugent
	21 500 + Goldfinches	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
****	2 Pineskins	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
	9 Baby Wood Ducks	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent
****	29 Water Pipits	U.S. Vegetable Lab.	Perry Nugent

* All birds with one asterisk represent observations prior to the previously recorded early arrival date.

** Chris and I observed this beautiful little yellow-breasted black bibbed sparrow-like bird for 2 minutes while putting the April Squawk together.

*** The Audubon's Warblers listed here were the same ones reported in previous issues of the Squawk. After March 30 we never observed more than one bird and that was a male in full breeding plumage. Since the sight was easily reached by car, I spent many hours photographing this western form of the yellow rumped Warbler. He payed little attention to my car and I have several fair pictures which show most of the identifying characteristics of this warbler. Robert Cuthbert was also able to see the unusual visitor before it departed, shortly after the 13th.

**** The observations with 4 asterisks represent dates close to the latest recorded departure of the species. The Oriole was seen one day prior to the date, the Siskins were on the late date, and the Lincoln's sparrow that was with us since January 13, finally left.

Arthur Ravenel observes "It is not unusual to see 8 to 10 Sparrow Hawks when driving across Edisto Island from Dawhoo bridge to the beach."

If you have any observations that seem unusual to you give me a call or write a short note about them.

Perry Nugent

Traveling With The Griffins, Chapter Two

There is nothing in all the world quite like the Everglades National Park. Approximately 1 million acres of sawgrass swamp, rocky pineland, shallow bay and mangrove estuary shelter a unique profusion of life. Rare and endangered species of animal and bird life survive in its solitude. It is without exaggeration, a wonderland of nature and exists according to staff writer George Kennedy of the Miami Herald, "solely at the sufferance of man".

Readers who have visited the Everglades will appreciate my inability to describe adequately what a full, rich experience a visit to the park can be. Those who have not been are urged to do so for whether we like it or not, such factors as political decisions, population growth in south Florida, urban sprawl and the limits of natural resources - especially water - most surely will affect how much of the park will finally remain and be accessible to the public.

My husband and I entered the park southwest of Homestead in mid-February and drove the 38 miles to Flamingo, stopping along the way to walk the trails and boardwalks and admire exhibits at the half dozen activity centers in between. There was so much to see and positively identify and make a note of for future reference, I was hard put to handle field glasses, bird book and hold onto my hat during the very windy days we spent there. Often forgetting there was no need to hurry, I raced along and missed many things. Jesse is calmer and slower, for which I am thankful, for at days' end it was he who supplied explicit details when we compared notes for our day's write-up. From these jottings I will list our ornithological observations to which we pretty much limited ourselves on this trip and for the sake of brevity, quote from a few entries:

Feb. 22: Trailer traveling is the most! For here we are in a park that furnishes no water, electrical or sewage hookups. Years of primitive camping with Girl Scouts prepared me for my present luxury of self-containment.

Feb. 23: We are staying in an area adjacent to a feeding lake, where the Roseate Spoonbills come and where an osprey sits on its nest in lonely splendor. The Spoonbills so delicately pink in color are beautiful and we are out early and late watching their flights from rookery to feeding areas and back.... This afternoon we went four miles on the Snake Bight Trail, listed on the bulletin board as a "Serendipity Hike". It was either this or the Swamp Tromp? How does one choose? Our hike led us to the shallow waters of a Mangrove forest where in the distance Jesse thought he saw three or four flamingos. Our guide said it was possible. A few escapees from Hialeah are seen occasionally. I was inconsolable - under today's circumstances, my myopic eyes seemed such a curse. Then there was the matter of the Reddish Egret - oh, the birds that get away!

Feb. 24: Sunday - We were up early for juice and coffee before going to sabbath worship. The amphitheater where all nightly programs, camp fire rap sessions, and Sunday services are held, is on a point of land extending down toward Florida Bay. The setting this hour of the morning was perfect. I compared the purpose of the occasion and the beauty of the setting with seeing the rings of Saturn thru Dr. Dominick's telescope at the Wedge Plantation last December. It has all been here a long time - it is I who am new on the scene.

Jupiter now appears in the very early morning sky, rising about 2:30 o'clock at the beginning of the month, and an hour and a half earlier at the end.

Venus continues to shine with dazzling beauty, appearing above the northeastern horizon about two hours before the sun.

Elizabeth D. Simons

Adventure in Learning

A special environmental institute course for teachers will be sponsored by The Citadel during the first session of 1974 Summer School. This program is partially funded by a grant from the Belle Baruch Foundation and is sponsored by the South Carolina Council on Environmental Education. The course is open to individuals who are planning to teach, currently teaching or have taught in the past. Enrollment at The Citadel is limited to 25 participants. This program lasts for three weeks, from 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Students at The Citadel will receive three semester hours of graduate credit in either Biology or Education (course is cross-referenced). The class format is that of a traveling seminar with daily field work throughout South Carolina. All transportation, out of town meals and out of town lodging will be paid by the institute.

If you are interested in learning more details concerning this program, please contact Dr. Wm. Bruce Ezell, Department of Biology, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, 29409 or telephone No. 723-0611, ext. 389.

Wm. Bruce Ezell, Jr., Ph.D.

North American Nest Record Card Program

The CNHS has become a regional center for the North American Nest Record Card Program founded and directed by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This program collects, processes, and stores information on the nesting biology of birds. Cards on all species of birds are sent to the regional center and hence to Cornell where the information is stored on computer tapes and memory discs. And the information is available to any qualified researcher, professional or amateur.

The program began in 1965, and now receives over 20,000 records annually from over 800 contributors in over 100 regional centers. It seeks both historical and current information on bird nests. Several studies, based on program data, have been completed by various persons.

The nest cards are designed for easy transferral of data to computer form. The front side of the card provides for general information about nest and its location; the back side has space for actual observations. Cards based on only one visit to the nest are useful, although their value is greatly increased if they record additional visits throughout the nesting period.

Anyone interested in participating in this program or needing more information please write: Professor Dennis M. Forsythe, Department of Biology, THE CITADEL, Charleston, S. C., 29409

Dennis M. Forsythe

Clematis crispa

A curious and obscure flower that one may find now is that of *Clematis crispa*. The plants, weakly vining, grow in low, decidedly moist woods. The flowers form a flared cup of a lavender hue, and they never appear in the profusion common to their hybrid kin of garden fame. The showy part of the clematis is formed by its sepals, there being no true petals present.

Other species of clematis are found in S. C., but they are primarily plants of the mountains and piedmont; indeed of the several hundred species known, most prefer climates with cool summers.

The word clematis comes from the Greek work klema, meaning vine-branch. A search of books on edible plants listed no references for this genus; however a book on poisonous plants stated that some people suffered a dermatitis from contact with *C. virginiana*.

Edmund K. Cuthbert

THE SKY-WATCHERS' GUIDE

May is a good month in which to locate both the Big and Little Dippers, and to see them in relation to each other. It will be noted that the North Star is the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper. Only one other star in this constellation is of the same magnitude, (brightness), with another slightly less bright. These two stars in the Little Dipper correspond to the "Pointers" in the Big Dipper. If the observer is fortunate enough to be in an area away from bright lights, he may, by moving his eyes back and forth between the North Star and the other two stars already mentioned, be able to discern four faint stars connecting them to form the handle and the bowl. From its present position the Little Dipper appears to be receiving the contents being poured into it by the Big Dipper. During the course of the night, (and also, during the course of the year), the North Star can be seen as a pivot around which the Big and Little Dippers slowly revolve.

Just as the "Pointers" in the bowl of the Big Dipper will help one to locate Polaris, the North Star, so by following the handle, the Sky-watcher cannot fail to discover a very bright, orange-colored star. This is Arcturus, in Bootes, the Herdsman. With the exception of Arcturus, this constellation is made up of rather faint stars. In general, it resembles a kite, with Arcturus at the base.

By continuing southward from Arcturus, the white star, Spica will be discovered quite close to the ecliptic. The constellation of which this is a part is rather difficult to trace, since it is composed of faint stars sprawled out in a form suggestive of a lop-sided, open book. To the ancient Greeks, however, it represented Virgo, the Virgin.

Three planets may now be seen in the western segment of the evening sky, for Mercury has joined the two that have been visible during the past several months. It is too close to the sun to be observed early in May, but by the 15th, it will be above the horizon for about an hour after sunset, and by the end of the month it will remain in view for about two hours. Mars and Saturn have been putting on a "Show" since April 20th, when Mars passed Saturn from west to east. It continues to move eastward, widening the distance which separates the two. At mid-month, Saturn sets about 10:00 P.M., preceding Mars by an hour. The distance between Mars and the earth is also steadily increasing, which is evidenced by the fact that Mars is becoming progressively fainter.

Feb. 25: We had a discussion with the Park ranger and learned that this is the only place in the country where the southern cross and north star can be seen simultaneously. But it has to be very clear, and very early - 4 A.M. A haze on the southern horizon concealed the cross, which was a disappointment, but we settled for gathering coconuts along the bay that had blown down during the night. Am glad I brought my receipt box along - we had fresh pie in the afternoon.

It is impossible not to capture the full, rich excitement of the park considering the interpretive programs conducted by the Park Naturalists. There is so much to discover everywhere one goes. On my way into the information center this morning, an alert ranger called to everyone to "Look - a Magnificent Frigatebird!"

This is a busy place....park interpreters give talks and guided walks; foot trails of various lengths offer wilderness hiking opportunities; sight-seeing boats move in and out of the marina landings. The park bulletin board schedule refers to sunset tram trips; slough slogs; canoe demonstrations; night prowls or star watches; "rap" around sessions, etc. But we must go... having had a splendid authentic wilderness experience.

Sat. March 2: This morning we drove over the Tamiami Trail to Shark Valley, the entrance to the Everglade park's north edge. Here we rode a tram to the observation tower. Enroute the ranger pointed out Ibis. Herons, American Coots, Common and Purple Gallinules, Turkey Vultures, Anhingas, Double Crested Cormorants, to name a few.

April 2: We have spent almost a month in Sarasota waiting for the so-called Red Tide, the term originating in antiquity, to subside so we could get to the beach. It was suggested that we stay a while in Siesta Key, across the bay from Sarasota. There we were to find a white, clean beach, adequate travel trailer facilities, good birding and we found an area scenically attractive as promised but deserted. Tons of dead fish washed up on the beach polluted the water and air and we retreated post haste, appalled at such a problem. We settled instead for spring training baseball games, trips to local museums and shopping malls and a Sunday trip to Myakka River State Park.

April 8: Stephen C. Foster State Park - Okefenokee Swamp: This park named as a memorial to Stephen Foster whose melody "Old Folks at Home", made the Suwannee River famous throughout the world. The brochure describes the 700-square mile expanse of wilderness as a place of "fantastic landscapes, dark-water lakes and forested islands, rich in history and legend, and was once a mud-cup in the ocean's floor, product of an ancient sea."

We spent three days here and hope to return at some future time for 3 weeks or maybe indefinitely. There is nothing new one can say about spring. Season after season, we use the same adjectives to describe its beauty, and they all work very well here as we boated, hiked, bird watched, studied animal tracks, and topped it all off with viewing the constellations in the blackest sky imaginable.

Two years ago my nephew gave me a music box for Christmas. It was shaped like a bird cage and when wound up played "Oh, What a beautiful morning..." A small yellow bird on his perch begins turning and bobbing up and down when the music commences. We made room for this item when we furnished our trailer. Somewhere along the way, we parked for a day or two near a young man with some artistic ability who thought we should exhibit some talisman to identify our mobil home. Forward he painted a small yellow bird on a perch and we became the owners of "Yellow Bird I".

April 18: Today Jesse and I celebrate our 28th wedding anniversary in Monroe, Ga. Yellow Bird is resting under a crab apple tree in my mother's back yard. In June our son and his family will visit us here from Colorado and when they leave, we will open up the map basket to plan the second leg of our journey on which we hope to See American First.

OBSERVATIONS

Feb. 4 Ducks - Assorted species - Savannah Wildlife Refuge
 Feb. 15 Double-crested Cormorants - Long Key
 Feb. 22 Magnificent Frigate bird
 Glossy Ibis, Wood Ibis, Anhingas, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-shouldered Hawk on nest, another circling overhead; Roseate Spoonbills; several Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle, 1 Belted Kingfisher - Everglades
 March 2 American Bittern - Homestead Air Force Base
 March 8 9 Sandhill Cranes - Myaaka State Park
 1 Green Heron - Myaaka State Park
 1 Sparrow Hawk - Myaaka State Park
 April 8 1 Swallow-tailed Kite Stephen C. Forster State Park
 April 9 1 Yellow-Crowned Night Heron - Stephen C. Foster State Park
 1 Rufous-sided Towhee - Stephen C. Foster State Park
 1 Long-billed Marsh Wren - Stephen C. Foster State Park

Hilda C. Griffin

"The Osborn Report"

March 22 The Cattle Egrets have arrived!
 3 Sparrow Hawks on Hwy. # 64 to Walterboro
 March 26 Black and White Warbler
 March 28 Purple Martins (Dorchester Road)
 March 29 4 Sparrow Hawks on power line over pasture
 behind house
 15 White Ibis feeding in swamp
 March 30 5 Sparrow Hawks in pasture
 April 2 9 Wood Ibis
 1 Sparrow Hawk
 1 Shrike at Jacksonboro
 1 Shrike at USDA Vegetable Lab.
 Chuck's Will's Widow calling at dusk
 April 3 1 Red-shouldered Hawk
 1 Sparrow Hawk
 April 10 Chimney Swifts
 April 14 White Ibis; Great Blue Heron; Loon in pond
 April 18 Red-Eyed Vireo
 Hooded Warbler

About March 20 a neighbor, Mrs. Roy Phillips, called to tell me of seeing a Red-shouldered Hawk feeding another. She thought it was a parent feeding a young one because the one being fed was smaller. But she said the plumages were alike. I can find nothing in S. C. Bird Life or in Bent on this action. Is it part of the courtship behavior as in cardinals? Or was it a young bird.

Dot Glover

Birding in I'on Swamp, April 20, 1974

Our first Bird Study trip was to I'on Swamp in the Francis Marion Forest. Nine people including my family, made up the group. The early morning was cool and very windy which limited our birding to listening to numerous songs of White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Crested Flycatchers, Parula, Prairie and Yellow-throated Warblers, Flickers, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Summer Tanagers. The only birds seen by 10 A.M. were many Purple Martins, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows, White Ibis, 2 Cowbirds, one Little-Blue and one Green Heron, and one Summer Tanager. About 10:30 A.M. a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was discovered sitting on the top of a dead bush posing for us. He was there on several occasions during the next 15 minutes causing us to wonder if his nest was near by.

Since birding was so poor we decided to go look for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bluebirds along Willow Hall Road. On the way we stopped to search for a White-eyed Vireo that was noisily calling from a road side thicket and found him sitting on a branch a few feet over our heads. This Olive-colored Vireo has white wing bars, yellowish sides, and yellow ring around a white eye.

At the intersection of I'on Swamp and Willow Hall Roads, we heard the cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk so we hurried out of our cars and discovered 5 Hawks flying overhead. Careful study through binoculars revealed one bird had the rusty fantail and white breast of a Red-tailed Hawk, two had the red shoulders, uniform red under parts and a banded fan tail of the Red-shoulder Hawk, and two slightly smaller hawks had the rusty stripes across the breast, short rounded wings and long slim banded tail of the Cooper's Hawk.

By this time our party had dwindled down to 6, and bird activity had just begun to pick up. Still looking for Red-cockaded and Bluebirds that were never found, we went to a place where 4 woodpecker trees are, but failed to find either species. However, we did see an Arcadian Flycatcher, a Yellowthroat, a Yellow-throated Warbler, and heard a Wood Pewee so our stop was not in vain.

Next we decided to visit a little pond at Willow Hall and Forest Road 230. A Prairie Warbler was singing its loud, distinct rising trill as we neared the pond, so it was decided to find him, if possible. As I put on the brakes to stop, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen gliding out of sight over the trees. Since these magnificent kites supposedly fly at 12 noon we checked our watches and were surprised to find both hands straight up. The Prairie Warbler was still singing his head off and seemed to say "See me if you can." Finally he flew into the top of a 15' Loblolly Pine, puffed out his brilliantly yellow breast and sang some more. We were able to see the black lines on the face and sides, the wingbars, and the rusty stripes on the olive back real well. This is one of the most beautiful warblers and a real thrill to see in its spring plumage. Directly behind and above this little showman, was a Crested Flycatcher who tried to steal the show, with little success, for there is no way that a fellow with so raucous a song and a minimum of color can compete with a professional entertainer decked out in the finest of feathers.

Finally we made it to the pond in time to see a Great Egret and Great Blue Heron depart for the unknown. The Black gum trees were alive with Parula Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers that presented themselves for our inspection. Reluctantly we headed home by way of Kinsey Road where I got another quick look at a Swallow-tailed Kite and we listened to an even greater woodland symphony, which made us wish we could stay for ever.

Perry Nugent