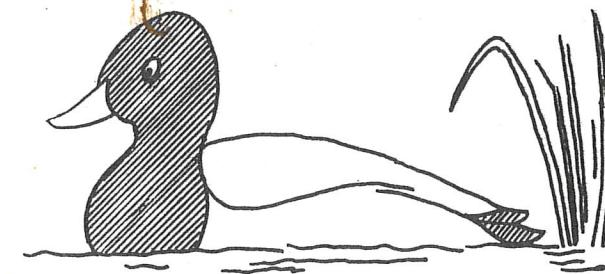


the lesser

Squawk



Published at Charleston, S. C., by THE CHARLESTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, INC.,
Your National Audubon Society Chapter, November 1974, Volume XXV No. 10

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

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

PROGRAM

Speaker: Dr. Richard D. Porcher

Topic: Orchids of South Carolina

FIELD TRIP - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The regular November field trip will be an all day trip to Huntington Beach State Park, Pawleys Island and the North Litchfield area. This is to acquaint CNHS members with the fine birding and beautiful scenery of a very nice section of coastal South Carolina. Meet Julian Harrison in front of the Charleston Museum at 6:30 A.M. for another exciting trip. Those wishing to meet us up there, be at the entrance to the Huntington Beach State Park by 8:00 A.M. The Litchfield - Pawleys area is the scene of one of our Christmas Bird Counts. Last year 23 observers saw 142 species which gives you an idea of the kind of birding you can have there.

BELLEFIELD BIRD COUNT, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24

Those persons who participated in last year's count will be contacted by phone. Others wishing to take part in the Count should contact Dr. Harry Freeman in writing at the Biology Department, College of Charleston, Charleston, S. C., 29402 by November 18. Details will be worked out later and those expressing an interest in participating in the Count will be informed of the time and place to meet for the trip to Georgetown.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has begun and let me take this opportunity to urge each and every one to become more involved this year. We need help, especially in the areas of Conservation, Bulletin and Programs. Let the various committee-chairmen know if you would like to help (Anne Pratt - Conservation; Perry Nugent - Bulletin; John Reed - Programs). You don't have to spend a lot of time, but even an hour

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Magnolia Gardens Route 4
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a month would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to say at this time that we will be presenting one of the Audubon Films in January. You will hear more details in the next two issues of the Squawk. So, please let's support this one presentation!

Alan M. Bills

Bird Movements in November

Arrivals

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
1	Sprague's Pipit	6	Old Squaw	20	Red Crossbill
	Fox Sparrow	7	Gadwall	24	Common Merganser
2	Broad-winged Hawk	12	Fulvous Tree Duck		Saw-whet Owl
3	White-winged Scoter		Great Black-backed Gull	28	Common Teal
4	Ipswich Sparrow	16	Bufflehead		European Wigeon
	Common Goldeneye		Golden Eagle		European Teal
5	Snow Bunting	17	Rough-legged Hawk	29	Brant
	Parasitic Jaeger	19	Glaucous Gull	?	Horned Lark

Departures

Date	Species	Date	Species	Date	Species
2	Gray-cheeked-Thrush	9	Worm-eating Warbler	20	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
3	Purple Martin	10	Indigo Bunting	21	Veery
	Cape May Warbler	11	Yellow-breasted Chat	24	Sprague's Pipit
5	American Redstart	12	Magnolia Warbler		Glossy Ibis
	Chimney Swift	14	Magnificent Frigatebird	?	Swallow-tailed Kite
6	Painted Bunting		Blackpoll Warbler	?	Wilson's Phalarope
7	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	18	Solitary Sandpiper	?	Purple Gallinule
	Red-eyed Vireo				

This column is primarily a guide for C.N.H.S. members although the dates should apply to all migratory birds of the coastal plain and many over the whole state. It has been a feature of the Lesser Squawk for many years and a number of the dates are from observations of our members. There seems to be much confusion about the meaning of the dates and the fact that common and very rare species are included in the list. These dates are the earliest arrivals or the latest departure as recorded in South Carolina Bird Life by Sprunt and Chamberlain unless there is an earlier or later date in the more recent issues of the Lesser Squawk. Any species that we have sufficient data on should be included in this list. A rare but regular visitor is just as important as the most common bird. Several species on the list are common on the coast during one season and inland during another season, therefore, they may be permanent residents but their relative abundance varies throughout the year. The Goldfinch is a good example of this, abundant during the winter and rare during the summer on the coast. Easily recognizable subspecies are found on the list. The Red-eyed and White-eyed Towhees are forms of the Rufous-sided Towhee, the former being a winter visitor and the latter a permanent resident of the coastal plain. One challenge for C.N.H.S. birders is to find and report species before or after the date they have previously been observed. This is one reason for publishing the list. Another is to inform our

14,000 acres for an addition to the existing 49,000-acre Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, on the Virginia-North Carolina border. The addition will safeguard the integrity of the last Mid-Atlantic seaboard wilderness. Land for the current refuge was given to the Conservancy nearly two years ago by Union Camp Corp.

From Florida's Political Front - Monroe County Audubon Society President Jerome V. Shipley, campaigning on a program of sensible growth and environmental protection was elected a County Commissioner. And James F. Redford, prominent Florida conservationist and husband of the late Polly Redford, a long-time Florida Audubon leader, was elected to the Metro Commission, ruling body of Dade County, which includes the City of Miami.

Officers

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THE LESSER SQUAWK is published by the Charleston Natural History Society
 Editor: Perry E. Nugent, 2260 Dallerton Circle, Charleston, S. C., 29407
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Items for Publication in The Lesser Squawk should be submitted in writing to the Editor by the 20th of the month.



Audubon Leader - October 11, 1974

Nat'l Woolgrowers Again Mounting Efforts To Overturn The 1972 Federal Ban On Use Of Poisons To Control Predators On Public Lands; Your Help Needed - The Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior and the White House are facing a renewed attack from the National Wool Growers Association to revoke the 1972 White House Executive Order barring use of poisons to control coyotes and other predators on public lands. The last such attack, in January of 1974, was beaten back only with the help of massive outpourings of mail from conservationists supporting retention of the federal ban.

Now Senators James A. McClure (Idaho) and Clifford P. Hansen (Wyo.) are meeting with members of the NWGA and Interior Secretary Morton. The NWGA has also called upon White House staff. A top-level meeting between the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior and others is anticipated.

\$11.8 Billion Mass Transit Bill May Pass This Session - The mass-transit bill, which last summer appeared to be as sickly as the nation's mass transit system, now seems (as we went to press) to be heading for passage, and with White House approval. It would be the Federal government's first significant long-term commitment to support mass transit, and would provide \$11.8 billion over a period of six years. Of this amount close to \$4 billion would be used to subsidize operating expenses of transit systems, the part of the bill that was most bitterly debated; the remaining money would go to capital expenditures (new equipment, new routes, etc.)

In terms of the nation's immense need, the amounts are still small. Also, conservationists would like to see a substantial part of the money come from the Highway Trust Fund, to be spent on mass transit or railroads instead of highways. Nevertheless, almost \$12 billion for transit could mark a turnaround in transportation thinking and recognition of its importance in terms of energy conservation.

Oil Shale Plan Withdrawn By Oil Company - Colony Development Operations, a joint venture of Atlantic-Richfield Oil Co., Shell Oil Co., and Ashland Oil has withdrawn its plan for development of the "nation's first commercial shale-oil plant," blaming an unstable economy and lack of a clear-cut mandate for oil in a national energy policy. Dr. Stahr, Audubon President, has long contended that the U.S. government has been putting too much emphasis on oil shale as a major energy source; he has cited the severe environmental problems it would cause, the vast amounts of water it would need in an arid land, and the poor economics of sinking vast sums of money in a high-risk, potentially low-yield source. Now industry is beginning to act of its own accord.

Bulletin: - Russell E. Train, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, has ordered an "immediate ban" on production of aldrin and dieldrin, two dangerously harmful pesticides that are still used on corn and some citrus crops. These two chemical cousins of DDT are already under EPA suspension procedures (see Leader Aug. 16, 1974); the latest action is a step closer to a complete ban in which sale and use would be prohibited.

Energy And Your Car - "Weight and Engine Size: How They Affect the Cost of Your Car," is a pamphlet filled with interesting background information that explains graphically just how much energy standard-size cars guzzle compared with compact models. Copies are \$1.80 each from the San Diego Ecology Centre, Box 16177, San Diego, Ca., 92116.

Bright Outlook For Dismal Swamp - The Nature Conservancy, with backing from Aetna Life and Casualty, has purchased two parcels of land totaling more than

readers when to start looking for each species. You should expect to find very few specimens of a species at the beginning or end and considerable more during the middle of their visit to the Lowcountry.

Perry Nugent

The Sky-Watchers' Guide

Two of the planets are in the evening sky, this month. By the time it is dark, Jupiter will be near the meridian, high in the south. This is the last month for the best viewing of the giant planet, and the observer is offered a rare opportunity to see the shadows of two of its satellites crossing the face of it at the same time. Between 11:00 p.m. on November 13th and 2:00 a.m. on the 14th, one of the little moons will travel from left to right, and by 1:15 a.m. a second one will appear in view. At that hour, Jupiter will be low in the west.

By 8:00 p.m. at mid-month, Saturn will rise in the northeast. Its brightness will increase during the month, because Earth is "catching up" with it, thus diminishing the distance between the two. The planet is located in the middle of Gemini, south of the brighter star, Pollux.

Mercury is once more in the morning sky, reaching its greatest western elongation on the 10th. On that day, it will rise about an hour and a half before the sun.

By 8:00 p.m. on the 15th, (an hour later on the 1st, and an hour earlier on the 30th), the Summer Triangle will make its last appearance for this year, with Altair approaching the western horizon, and Vega and Deneb a little higher in the northwest. Pegasus is just past the zenith, with Andromeda's head right on the meridian. Two more stars of the same magnitude, or brightness, extend northeastward from the head, representing her body and feet. Extending northeastward from the body are two faint stars, suggesting an outstretched arm. Just beyond the arm is the most distant object that can be seen by the naked eye, - if the observer's eyesight is good, - and if the viewing is clear. This is the famous Nebula in Andromeda. To the unaided eye, it appears as a faint blur of light; through a telescope, its true nature is revealed. It is an "island universe", or galaxy similar to the one of which the Solar System and all visible stars are a part. The distance between that galaxy and ours has been found to be over two million light-years! In other words, we are seeing the light that left it more than two million years ago, - and light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles a second!

Cassiopeia, the crooked "W", is on the meridian in the northern part of the sky, and bright Capella shines high in the northeast. Between these two, and not far from Andromeda, is Perseus, the constellation that is shaped like a graceful, old-fashioned letter A.

In the east, the bright constellations of winter are beginning to appear. Taurus is well above the horizon, and Orion will soon be in good view.

Next month, at this time of evening, these constellations will be high enough to display their spectacular beauty.

For the benefit of beginning Sky-watchers, it may be in order to explain a few of the terms which are frequently used in these articles. In alphabetical order, they are as follows:

DEGREE - This is a unit of measurement used on a curved area. Since the earth

is round, (although imperceptible from almost any given spot on its surface), the sky appears rounded above it. A complete circle measures 360 degrees. Therefore, from opposite horizons, e.g., north and south; or east and west, the distance is 180 degrees. A good yardstick for measuring the apparent distances between objects in the sky is that between the "Pointers" in the Big Dipper, - 5 degrees. However, because at this time of year, and from the latitude of Charleston, they are not visible, a substitute may be found in Cassiopeia. Each two of the brighter stars of this constellation are also five degrees apart.

ELONGATION, EAST or WEST - Since the planets Mercury and Venus are both nearer to the sun than is the earth, they are always to be seen in the direction of sunset or sunrise. As they follow their orbits, when either one reaches a point farthest from the sun, that point is its greatest elongation. In the evening sky it is the eastern elongation: in the morning sky, it is the western elongation.

MERIDIAN - An imaginary line running from north to south, dividing the sky exactly in half, Polaris, the North Star, is always to be found very close to the meridian.

ZENITH - The point in the sky directly above the observer's head.

Elizabeth D. Simons

Mount Pleasant Causeway, October 13, 1974

This causeway is always a good place to watch birds and today was no exception. The tide was high and going out when we arrived which turned out to be an advantage for studying sparrows. First several Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen clinging to the top of marsh grass blades so we could see the gray ear patch which is surrounded by orange stripes which creates an attractive triangle within a triangle effect and the dark cap that helps identify the species. Next a Seaside Sparrow got up on the grass. This sparrow has a dark gray head and body with a yellow spot before its eye and a white jawline. For those of us who find sparrows difficult to identify this was a good chance to learn the characteristics of two of them.

There were many Forster's Terns in winter plumage. Their caps are reduced to an eyeline at this time of year.

As the tide continued to go out isolated sections of mudflats and sandbars were exposed which soon began to fill with feeding shorebirds. Ruddy Turnstones had been feeding along the causeway all morning, but now, joined Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers on the exposed flats. Willets, Marbled Godwits, Dunlins and Dowitchers were probing the bottom in shallow water. At the waters' edge and the nearby flats Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers were scurrying about picking up breakfast. One Spotted Sandpiper spent several minutes searching among the rocks at the end of the road. This small sandpiper seems to be propelled by a tail which bobs continuously as the bird walks. There was one Lesser Yellowlegs that spent the morning probing the mud without showing the slightest interest in us.

The Heron family was well represented with several specimens of Great Blue, Little Blue and Louisiana Herons seen, along with some Great and Snowy Egrets.

Both Glossy and White Ibis flew overhead although none fed in the marsh on this

The Osborn Report

September 21	A huge spiral of Wood Storks over pond late P.M. riding a thermal. Estimate 30-35 birds		
September 24	Flock of Wood Storks feeding on dead fish in pond. Estimate 30-40 birds, some immature		
September 25	7 Wood Storks of which 3 were immature		
September 30	Cattle Egrets		
October 7	Cattle Egrets		
October 13	Falcon shaped bird about size of crow. Could it have been Peregrine? I was driving on busy highway and it had vanished by the time I stopped.		
October 14	Mid-day at pond Alligator lazily swimming at our feet (1½'-2' size)		
	Phoebe	Starlings	Flicker
	Pileated Woodpecker	Mockingbird	Red-bellied Woodpecker
	Flock of Catbirds (5 or 6)	Hairy Woodpecker	Blue Jay
	Bluebirds	Carolina Wren	Titmouse
	Immature Little Blue Heron	Cardinal	
October 17	Song Sparrow		
	Shrike		

Dot Glover

Audubon Leader - September 27, 1974

Conservationists Urged to Buy Duck Stamps - Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, has urged all conservationists to participate in the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Program and help purchase wetland habitat for migratory waterfowl. Established in 1934, the program requires all hunters to buy "duck stamps" from their local post office at \$5.00 each. Over 2-million acres of wetlands have been purchased from duck stamp revenues. The 1974 program is now being expanded so that everyone will be able to buy the stamps and help safeguard North American waterfowl. The stamp is one-and one-half by one inches and depicts a wood duck in flight. Artists wishing to submit a drawing for consideration as next year's stamp should write the Office of Audio Visual, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. 20240

Wilderness Anniversary - It's been ten years this month since the Wilderness Act creating the National Wilderness Preservation System was signed by President Johnson. In those ten fruitful years, the system has grown from nine million acres and 54 national forest areas to 91 units totaling some 11 million acres. Now, over 100 wilderness proposals, including 80 million acres of Alaskan Federal lands, are awaiting Congressional consideration for wilderness protection. (See July 1974 Audubon)

Save the Eagles.- The 7-Eleven Food Stores, in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, has launched "Save A Living Thing," a project to educate the public about endangered wildlife and raise money to establish a 835-acre refuge for the bald eagle along the Missouri River in South Dakota, winter home for 15% of the lower 48 states' bald eagles. One cent from the sale of each of 7-Eleven's special endangered species cups of its Slurpee drink will be contributed to the refuge, which will become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Contributions may also be sent to Department Eagle, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., NW, Washington, D. C. 20036

occasion. Observations of birds of Prey were confined to one Marsh Hawk that flew over the distant marsh and an Osprey that fished the tidal creek to the left of the causeway.

This was a nice short trip which was made more enjoyable by the active participation of the 15 C.N.H.S. members and guests that were present.

Perry Nugent

Callicarpa

Callicarpa americana, better known as beauty-berry, which is a literal translation of its generic name, is not an uncommon plant in the Lowcountry. Its purple berries are conspicuous now, where one finds the rich loams that this plant prefers, but there are a few plants of this species that produce white fruit, which is indeed a startling sight. Roger Lambert has found a small colony of these white-berried plants growing along a ridge in the Santee River Swamp in Georgetown County, and there is at least one plant hidden in the midst of an overgrown Summerville lot.

Callicarpas, of which there are only a few species, are deciduous members of the verbena family. All normally produce fruit in the lilac-purple color range and in some areas they are grown as ornamentals. There are noteable species from western China and Japan. Callicarpa americana is native to the southeastern U.S. and the West Indies. Another species, C. dichotoma, is found in the mountains of North Carolina and northward.

Edmund R. Cuthbert

Observations

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
Sept 8	Redstart	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
Sept 15	Catbird	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
Sept 25	Orange-crowned Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
Sept 30	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
	Veery	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
October 5	Swamp Sparrow	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
October 6	Many Redstarts	Magnolia Gardens	Ted Beckett
	40 Parula Warblers	Fairlawn Plantation	Ted Beckett
	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Sullivans Island	Rosalie Simons
October 8	Yellow Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
October 9	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
October 11	4 Robins	U.S. Veg. Breeding Lab.	Perry Nugent
October 13	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Robert E. Lee Blvd.	Julian and Margie Harrison
	Black and White Warbler	Robert E. Lee Blvd.	Julian and Margie Harrison
	Pine Siskin	Sullivans Island	Rosalie Simons
October 15	15 Common Scoters	Charleston Harbor	Bill Elliott
	Female Baltimore Oriole	2260 Dallerton Cr.	Perry & Cris Nugent
October 17	Parula Warbler	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington
October 18	Scarlet Tanager	Riverland Terrace	Francis Barrington

Date	Observation	Location	Observer
October 19	White-throated Sparrow Hermit Thrush Golden-crowned Kinglet Yellow-throated Vireo Goldfinches	Riverland Terrace Riverland Terrace 2260 Dallerton Circle 2260 Dallerton Circle Magnolia Gardens	Francis Barrington Francis Barrington Perry Nugent Perry Nugent Ted Beckett
October 20	Female Black-throated Blue Warbler Black and White Warbler 7 Parula Warblers 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 3 Red-eyed Vireos	U.S. Veg. Lab. U.S. Veg. Lab. U.S. Veg. Lab. U.S. Veg. Lab. U. S. Veg. Lab.	Perry Nugent Perry Nugent Perry Nugent Perry Nugent Perry Nugent
October 21	Many Wilson's Snipes	Magnolia Gardens	Drayton Hastie and Ted Beckett
October 22	Black-billed Cuckoo Water Pipit Baltimore Oriole	U.S. Veg. Lab. U.S. Veg. Lab. Riverland Terrace	Perry Nugent Perry Nugent Francis Barrington
October 26	3 White-winged Scoters	Pitt St. Bridge	Pete Laurie

Ted Beckett also reports many Shovelers, Mallards, Wigeons, and Gadwalls have arrived at Magnolia Gardens.

Observations from North Litchfield-Pawleys Island

Date	Observation	Location
June 11	3 Lesser Yellowlegs	Tidal Marsh Huntington Beach State Park
July 7	Common Loon-winter plumage with badly eroded flight feathers. Died after three days on Brookgreen Waterfowl Pond	Beach, Pawleys Island
July 18	Purple Gallinule-First seen but also seen frequently later-last time with two chicks	Fresh water pond Huntington Beach State Park
July 21	Black Tern-first migrants of 1974	Fresh water pond Huntington Beach State Park
July 23	Seaside Sparrow-first migrants of 1974	Tidal Marsh Huntington Beach State Park
August 10	Worm-eating Warbler	Woods, Brookgreen Garden
August 17	Avocets (8-10) flying over	Fresh Water pond, Huntington Beach State Park
August 20	Black and White Warbler	Woods, Brookgreen Garden
August 23	Solitary Sandpiper	"Youth" fountain Brookgreen Garden
August 28	Marbled Godwit-first migrant of 1974	Causeway Huntington Beach State Park
Sept. 5	Wilson's Warbler-female or immature	Home at North Litchfield Beach
Sept. 13	Long-billed Curlew	Tidal Marsh Huntington Beach State Park
Sept. 17	Bald Eagle Immature	U.S. 17 at Baruch Plantation
Sept. 19	American Redstart-first migrant	Home at North Litchfield Beach
Sept. 19	Magnolia Warbler-first time in yard	Home at North Litchfield Beach
Sept. 25	Stilt Sandpiper	Tidal Marsh Huntington Beach State Park

Frederick M. Probst